



October, 2019 Issue.

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*Activities taken-up by IWP in October, 2019 are as follows:*

- I. *Youth Fellowship for Water Champions Program.*
- II. *Increasing finance access to women social entrepreneur for small water enterprise to improve public health.*
- III. *Capacity Building of Local Urban Bodies in Rajasthan on Integrated Urban Water Management to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.*
- IV. *Community resilience to water induced disasters and climate change: A study and documentation of good practices in selected river islands of Brahmaputra River Basin, Assam.*
- V. *25<sup>th</sup> Regional Council Meeting in Bhutan on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October.*

## I. YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FOR WATER CHAMPIONS PROGRAM

IWP with its network partner Centre for Youth is undertaking the above activity as part of its CORE activities. Main objectives of this activity is to develop youth with a keen environmental awareness and consciousness on water concerns while focusing on developing water smart solutions. In the month of October, 2019, The Fellowship team has followed up and supported the fellows in preparing their final draft reports and final draft communication & documentation collaterals. The edited and final designed bio-sketches of the fellows were shared with the partners and the university/ college's department heads of the respective fellows.

### Activities Scheduled for November 2019

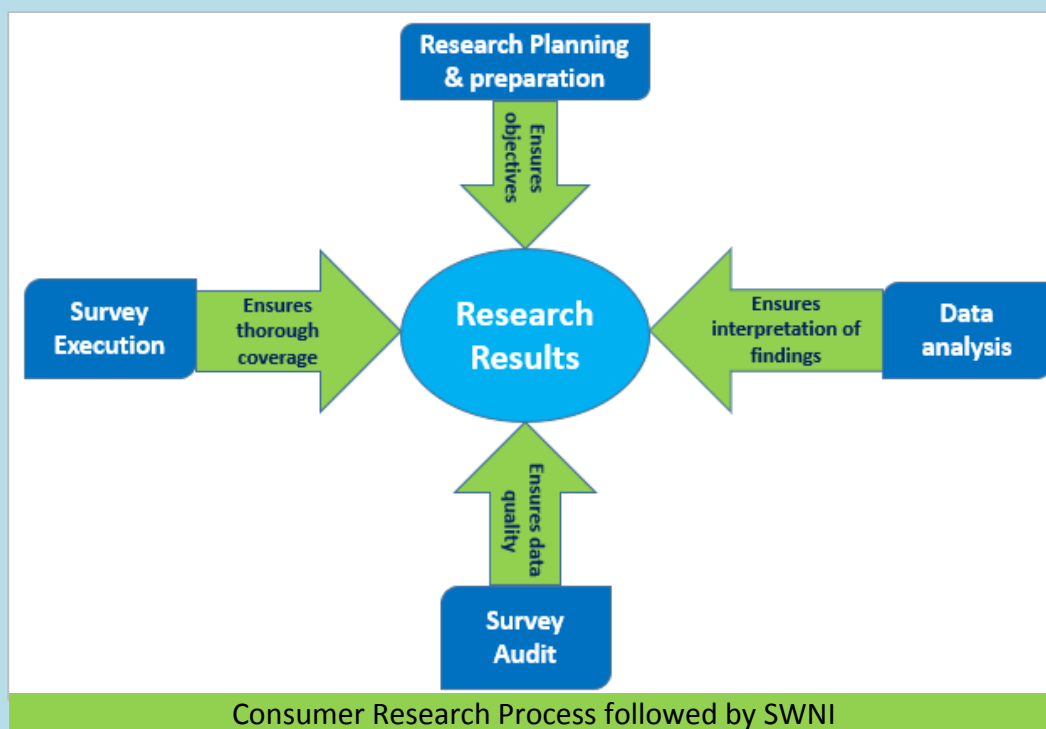
- Third and Final Concluding Progress Mapping Workshop will be organized for the fellows to present the final communication & documentation collaterals and the final report. The workshop is now planned as the last mile event for the fellows to share their final work (after approval from non-profit partners) before the concluding ceremony.
  - Meetings with the university/ college's department heads of the fellows will be held in this month to inform them about the projects being undertaken by the fellows. The team will apprise them of the final report and communication collaterals being produced by their respective students.
- Non-profit partners will also be reached out in this month to facilitate the submission of the final report and communication documents by the fellows with their inputs and approval.

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## **II. INCREASING FINANCE ACCESS TO WOMEN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR FOR SMALL WATER ENTERPRISE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH**

IWP with its network partner Safe Water Network India (SWNI) is undertaking the above activity as part of its CORE activities. Objectives of this activity is to develop an evidence base that Safe Water Enterprises (SWEs) run by women social entrepreneur or self-help group are sustainable and bringing livelihood and dignity to them as well as reduction in water borne disease and public health improvement. In the month of October, 2019, IWP with its partner SWNI have undertaken the following activities:-

Based on the interview undertaken for 28 women SHGs across 6 iJal stations in Medak district and 4 iJal stations in Warangal district of Telangana. The data analysis and validation were done by the research team in Delhi Head Office.



Further, as per the research plan, study team is in the process of interacting and collecting insights from the women associated with other water players in the sector (organizations not-for-profit / for-profit engaged in providing safe drinking water). The idea is to conduct a Comprehensive study to measure women empowerment through drinking water program.

The research team is currently receiving feedback from few sector players. Once all sector players send their case histories, the same shall be synthesized and reported in the November monthly report. Based on the inputs from the field study and results, the team will complete the final report by December.

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### **III. CAPACITY BUILDING OF LOCAL URBAN BODIES IN RAJASTHAN ON INTEGRATED URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT (IUWM) TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

IWP with its network partner ICLEI South Asia is undertaking the above activity as part of its CORE activities. The objective of this activity is to support development of smart and sustainable cities with respect to water management. All the project activities have been completed in October 2019 and draft final report will be submitted by ICLEI South Asia to IWP in November, 2019 for review and comments/suggestions.

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### **IV. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO WATER INDUCED DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A STUDY AND DOCUMENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICES IN SELECTED RIVER ISLANDS OF BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER BASIN, ASSAM.**

This activity is being undertaken by IWP in association with its network partner, Aaranyak. The team planned to do the work in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Dhubri District. During preliminary discussion with the DDMA held in the first two weeks of August, the Project Officer (Disaster Management) of Dhubri District suggested another site called the Chalakura Char, which was more suitable for this study than the Majher Char because in Majher Char not much floods have occurred in the last 5 years due to shifting of channels of the Brahmaputra river surrounding the Char and therefore it offers little opportunity at present to learn about the diverse sources of vulnerability of the people. Majher Char is difficult to communicate due to lack of availability of regularly running passenger boats. On the other hand the Chalakura Char is highly vulnerable to floods and the inhabitants exhibit an array of coping strategies for survival in the island.

The team visited Chalakura Char on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and conducted a Focus Group Discussion near a Middle English School. There were about 20 people in the group including the President of the Chalakura Village Panchayat Mr. Tamijjuddin Ahmed, the Village Head (Gaon-Burha), about 10 young boys, 5 middle aged persons and 5 women. The survey, with help from two local Field Assistants, was conducted by the study team to assess the physical landscape, demographic information, vulnerability scenario, livelihood study water and sanitation and gender issues by using participatory research techniques, mainly Key Informant Interview and Focus Group Discussion. Mapping of the study site using remote sensing and GIS techniques and analysis about how the area of the char has varied over the time in the last two decades was also carried out.

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## V. 25<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN BHUTAN FROM 19<sup>th</sup> TO 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2019.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Regional Council meeting was held in Bhutan from 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Ro-Chog Pel Hotel, Thimpu, Bhutan. Eighteen participants including the Senior Network Specialist for South Asia of GWPO, Regional Chair, Country Chairs, Regional Council members and the Country Coordinators attended the meeting. The Annual Regional Council meeting is a statutory meeting organised by the Regional Secretariat for setting strategic directions, define projects plans and to evaluate the progress. Mr. Debnath Shaw, RC member of GWP South Asia from India and Dr. Veena Khanduri, Country Co-ordinator cum Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership attended the meeting. The meeting was scheduled for two days. On the first day four sessions were held, the first session was introductory session which was led by Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Regional Chair, GWP South Asia. The second session was based on reports and CWP updates. During the third session discussion was held on GWP Strategy 2020-2025 & three year GWP SAS Work Plan. The fourth session was based on Reports and updates including CWP updates including presentation of key elements of 3 year work plan, introduction of GWP SAS 2020 work plan and budget and presentation and discussion of GWP SAS Annual Regional Assessment Grid 2019.

On the second day, two session were held. The first session was based on GWP SAS Governance in which discussion was done on accreditation re-check, Regional Programs, Upcoming Asia Pacific Water Summit in 2020 and strengthening and sustainability of CWPs. Second session was based on administration discussion like retirement of country chairs/RC members/new appointments. Decision of venue of next RC meeting and appointment of auditors for 2020 etc. The concluding remarks were given by Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Regional Chair.



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