

Note on the Initiation Workshop

The elected representatives of the Gingee Town Panchayat, felt that **“Restoration, Conservation and Management of the surface water water bodies and harnessing the surface run – off as the key aspects that would lead to the increase in per capita water availability in Gingee Town panchayat of Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu”**

The elected representatives of the Town Panchayat along with the general public and Government officials while sharing their views in the initiation work shop organized in Gingee Town Panchayat (GTP) to initiate the scientific study titled “Strategy for increasing per capita availability of water for Gingee town, Tamilnadu”, felt that there are about 20 -30 water bodies within the Town Panchayat limits which at present is not in good shape. The water bodies if rejuvenated will improve the groundwater status in and around GTP.

The study taken up under the auspices of The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and implemented Jointly by the Centre for Water Research (CWR), Sathyabama University, Chennai and The DHAN (Tank) Vayalagam Foundation, Madurai – a non profit voluntary institution involved in evolving community managed institutions for restoration, conservation and management of water resources in the country.

Due to very poor water supply system in GTP in the past, even the posting of Government officials in GTP was considered as punishment posting. The situation has improved over the past two decades due to the improvement in the public water supply system which is based mainly from the infiltration galleries constructed on the banks of Thenpennaiyar River situated at a distance of about 55 Km from GTP limits. However, the present public water supply system was able to meet only about 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) - covering a population of 21,251(2001 census) - as against the norms of 70 lpcd. But the population in GTP is increasing at a rapid rate of 25% (decadal growth) causing a drastic increase in population density from 684 per sq.km in 1951 to 1823 per sq.km in 2001. The projected population for the periods of 2021, 2031 and 2041 are 30,453, 36,456, and 46,641 respectively. This will have a severe impact on the public water supply system which will have to be increased by about 220% from the present status.

In the above context, the study undertaken jointly by the CWR and DHAN gains lot of significance. The objective of the study is to

- Assess the present status of per capita water availability
- Study the tanks in the study area
- Study the surface runoff pattern in the study area
- Study of water table conditions and fluctuations in the study area
- Identify favourable zones for recharge in the study area
- Recommend strategies to augment surface water and groundwater

The 18 months project is expected to deliver the following :

- Measures to augment the inflow into the tanks in GTP

- Measures for Instream flow augmentation
- Locations and structures for artificial recharge in and around GTP
- The estimated potential from
 - Surface water
 - Groundwater
- Diversion from the stream

The project implemented with the scientific inputs from the water experts of CWR, Sathyabama University combined with the strong grass root experience of DHAN is expected to improve the per capita availability of water to the population of the GTP.