

Success Story – DM, Narayanpet

The Water Journey of the youngest district in the country – Narayanpet

Narayanpet, a border district between Telangana and Karnataka, has a heritage of Step wells coming from the Chola Dynasty. Most of the stepwells are a religious structures, thus more than 200 of them have been well preserved. The two major dams of the district cover only 2 mandals, rest of them being rain fed.

The efforts of the district administration have resulted in tremendous results even in a short span of 5 months due to people participation. At the helm of these efforts is the DM of the District Ms. Hari Chandana Dasari. Migrant workers have been provided with gainful employment opportunities. Extensive work has been done in construction of farm ponds, fish ponds and forest trenches to conserve water. Almost 3000 farm ponds have been built up, fish farmer's cooperative societies have been formed and 76 fish ponds dug. All 200 stepwells have been identified and revived.

Technical resources have been received from the administration. Religious institutions have been connected with to bring forth the religious significance of the stepwell structures. The works are being done under MNREGA with the help of SAHE and Aakarma foundation and along with water conservation works heritage retention and preservation of historical aspect of the stepwells is being done.

The revival of heritage water bodies involves survey and documentation of topographical field survey, classification of water bodies on the basis of various factors. Then 3D maps of the landscape are made from the gathered data. The architectural and structural history of the tank is traced out along with their socio-cultural connections.

The role and efforts of district administration has invoked immense Community Participation not only due to water works and the benefits it shall bring to the general public but also due to the religious connect of the works being undertaken. A pilot project is being undertaken in which five stepwells in the district are to be revived holistically with Community Centric Conservation Approach, involving conservation architects and involving students and women to form an organic link with water bodies. Cultural linkages are being emphasised and the locals are being invested in step well protection.

The efforts of the District administration have been well appreciated by the Government as well as all stakeholders, and aim to make the district Narayanpet as the **Model District of Rain Water Harvesting under Catch the Rain Campaign.**

