

# AWARENESS OF WATER CONSERVATION AMONG SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ENSURING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN WATER HARVESTING

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**Abstract-** ‘Water’ is one of most important earth resources and its conservation is at the top of the curriculum in today’s green-conscious world. Learning the value and importance of conserving the earth’s resources should be practiced from the childhood days. School level is the base of any kind of social and mental development of a student. Learning the water harvesting process at this age will definitely be inherited in their future life. So if a student incorporates the thoughts and techniques for water conservation mainly rainwater, rather than wasting it then it will become a success pillar in the modern society.

**Index Terms-** Rainwater harvesting; School; Society; Water conservation

## I. INTRODUCTION

The term “**Water conservation**” includes the rules, strategies and actions made to manage fresh water as a sustainable resource, to protect the water environment, and to meet present and future human demand.

In Indian literature monsoon is described as the season of love and life, but once the rains disappear the whole country become dry as a desert, life become difficult. Tropical country India enjoys monsoon in a wider way but vagaries of monsoon and unequal distribution of rainfall creates a huge crisis. On the other hand climatic changes are one of the biggest treat in present scenario. In spite of higher average annual rainfall (1170mm) as compare to global average (800mm) (1), India faces recreating drought in some of its parts. (2) This situation is emerging as 20<sup>th</sup> century’s socio-economical playground prominently. Though climatic change is a present day phenomena but Indian history provides a long evidence of water conservation from ancient period. If we look towards our tradition we can find out that civilization with small human settlements

coming up on the banks of rivers and streams. Because water is not only a hydrological element but it’s a necessity for human life. In this context water conservation for future is not today’s concept; it’s related when a life begin.

## II. IMPORTANCE OF WATER

Some essential points are given below where the word water creates its own importance in our life:

- 1. It protects our heart:** It is clinically proven that drinking a huge amount of water could help avoid heart attacks.
- 2. Gives a boost to our brain:** Doctors suggested to intake 2 litres of water daily which can provides the brain much needed oxygen to perform at optimum levels.
- 3. It also helps to save money:** Drinking water can be a cheap alternative in the place of costly soft drinks.
- 4. Helps us to lose weight:** Drinking water has the capability to increase your metabolic rate, thus helping your body’s ability to burn fat easily.
- 5. Keeps us alert from tiring situation:** Our life is very fast now days so tiredness due to dehydration is very common but to keep us active, drinking water is better option rather than intake any other costly health.(3)

## III. IMPORTANCE OF WATER IN SCHOOLS

Water finds its use in several activities in school such as, for washing hands, for watering the garden, for washing rooms, for drinking purpose, in laboratories and for preparing food in the canteen and kitchen. The above mentioned activities are not possible without using a drop of water in the

school. So it is very obvious that each and every school use a lot of water to solve these daily affairs.

**How to make the school students aware of conservation of water?**

Spreading awareness and creating responsibility about Water Conservation among the school student is the first step. Now days most of the students are very much tech friendly so through video, and social networking site the consciousness can be spread-out. On the other hand where the school student are not very much familiar with this kind of modern technology, the awareness can be spread out through seminar presentation, model preparing competition etc...(4)

**To reduce water miss-use in the school, the following steps need to be followed:**

It is necessary to control the miss-use of water in schools. To follow the right path of water conservation, increase awareness among students regarding the concept of water conservation is very important along with this conduct competitions for students e.g., posters, slogans. Put up symbols in all classrooms which can inspire water conservation concept among students. Convey the idea of using planned amount of water in the place of unnecessary use is also be encouraged. Turn off any needless flows in washrooms and kitchens. (5)

IV. WATER CONSERVATION MEANS

Water conservation means using our water judiciously and caring for it properly. Since without water we cannot survive, it is our responsibility to know proper steps regarding water conservation and how we can help our future generations for their survival. To relish the welfares of having pure, clean water, we must help conserve water properly so that human being may continue to enjoy these benefits. (6)

**What is RAINWATER HARVESTING?**

Rainwater harvesting is a technique which can refer to the collection of rainwater, mostly on a roof, from where it flows freely through a pipe to a reservoir.(8) It is a proper management of rain water which was previously wastage due to lack of knowledge.

**Why rainwater harvesting becomes a solution to solve water scarcity in school?**

In school areas where water supply is problematic due to lack of water supply pipe lines or pumping facility or water resources are scarce, rain

harvesting is the best option to solve this problem. It decreases the use of municipal water in washrooms and some basic needs in school campus like laboratory or kitchen. Rainwater harvesting can provide clean water-supply for the school for certain periods. Especially, when pipelines are expensive or in dry seasons when water accessibility does not fulfil the desired want.

**Participation of students to collect rain water in school**

- ❖ School student can also be motivated to start **ROOFTOP GARDENING** using harvested rain water. One hand plant helps to clear off some of the school's carbon emissions; on the other hand they can also reduce the amount of sunlight reflected back into the atmosphere from the roof that helps to reduce the need for air-conditioners in hot weather and in schools where fans are not available for get rid off local temperature. It increase hydrological cycle in school areas .(7)
- ❖ Another way they can also conserve water that is to put in place a rainwater harvesting system to **COLLECT AND STORE RAIN WATER FOR RE-USES**. In flood prone area, this system is beneficial for the school to manage water flow within the school premises. It can be used for irrigation on the roof-top garden.(8)

V. CONCLUSION

There are only two words "Water" and "conservation" but its impact in present scenario is vast. Drop by drop conservation of water by each of us can save a big amount of water that can be used to meet up societal need. We must all make changes in our lifestyles that will change the course of our water and its quality which can be start from our school days. Junior school student can easily develop rooftop gardening where senior student in arts section can prepare the awareness programme among their friends. One the other hand science students can be involved to prepare model of rainwater harvesting and established it in school. If we all do our part in conserving water, we can make a huge difference for the environment.

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