

# Water Conservation and Pollution in Rural Society – A Study

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**Abstract-** Water is a priceless natural resource. It is that natural drink, without which life is not possible. Human history depends on the availability of water. Water is essential for the survival of human life. Human civilization has originated and developed near water sources. Water is one of the basic and five elements of Indian philosophy. Water is used for many necessities of life such as drinking, bathing, cooking, storing plants, making energy etc. Water is an invaluable natural resource for human life. Water is essential for the survival of human life. Although water is available in unlimited quantities in the world, the distribution and proper conservation of usable water is a problem. About 70 percent of the earth is water, only 2.7 percent of this water is fresh water, which is necessary for the existence of life of living beings.

**Keywords-** Water, invaluable natural resource, human life, distribution, conservation, civilization

## INTRODUCTION

At present water pollution is a serious problem. To overcome this, it is necessary that the general public, government and scientists all have to understand their responsibility, scientists have to find simple solutions to get rid of water pollution. Awareness has to be created among the rural people, only then the problem of water wastage and water pollution can be overcome. Water is a priceless natural resource. It is that natural drink, without which life is not possible. Human history depends on the availability of water. Water is essential for the survival of human life. Human civilization has originated and developed near water sources. Water is one of the basic and five elements of Indian philosophy. Water is used for many necessities of life such as drinking, bathing, cooking, storing plants, making energy etc.

Although there is an unlimited reservoir of water in the world, the distribution of usable water and its proper conservation is a problem.

Water is such a natural resource, which is used by all living beings, but the role of human in its use is prominent. About 70 percent of the earth is water, only 2.7 percent of this water is fresh water, which is necessary for the existence of living organisms. Only a smooth system of potable water can keep civilization alive. Our sages have called it nectar and have given many instructions to keep it pure and holy.

Nature has provided 70 percent water in the human body and 70 percent water in the earth. Water is the ultimate truth of life. There is a total of 84.4 crore dhan km (84.4 million dhan km) of clean water available in the earth. It takes several thousand years for the earth's surface water and groundwater to collect. When water is used in large quantities, some of the fresh water reserves get collected in the form of ice, lakes and ponds in the form of underground water. Still, the use of clean water should be done thoughtfully. Because it is the safe fund of nature and disturbing the natural water balance leads us directly to destruction. The form and quantity of fresh water available in the world are shown in the following table.

## QUANTITY OF WATER IN KILOMETRES

S.No.	Place	Quantity of Water in Kilometres
1	Water in the form of ice and glacier	24,000,000
2	Lake, pond etc. Water	2,80,000
3	Water from rivers and springs	1,200
4	Water in the form of moisture in the soil	85,000
5	Underground water	60,000,000
6	Earth's total amount of clean water	84,366,200

(Environmental Resource Management and Environmental Pollution, p. 10)

India receives 4000 cubic km of clean water every year from rainfall. Out of this, 700 cubic km of water evaporates and returns to the atmosphere. 2150 cubic km remains in the form of moisture in the soil and 1150 cubic km gets absorbed in the soil and gets into the underground water reservoir. Thus, only 1150 cubic km of fresh water remains on the surface of the land every year.

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About 80 percent of India's population lives in villages. Rural environment, rural population, rural life, rural social system and rural problems are different from urban social system. More water is used for domestic use in urban areas than in rural areas. Agriculture is the main occupation of the village. Therefore, most of the water consumption in the villages is done in agriculture. Therefore, to give priority to pure drinking water in villages, the Drinking Water Mission has been placed under the Ministry of Agriculture. Now it is necessary to clarify here that what is pure water. That water is said to be pure water which is free from disease germs, in which chemical elements (excess fluoride, salinity, excess iron, arcanic, nitrogen etc.) are not present. 4 Free from odor and color and without unpleasant taste. If it is not so, then it will be called polluted water, which is not fit for drinking by living beings.

Due to the lack of knowledge of polluted water in the villages of India, washing clothes near drinking water sources-wells and ponds, bathing with soap, washing utensils, bathing animals etc. pollutes. For this it is necessary that such information should be given in the villages that due to such pollution of drinking water can cause dangerous diseases like jaundice, polio and filariasis. Care should be taken before using drinking water, otherwise polluted water can adversely affect our health.

The quality of water mainly depends on the following factors:

1. The higher the amount of biological oxygen demand in water, the worse that water is.
2. The higher the amount of soluble oxygen in water, the better it will be.
3. Bathable water shall be considered which has at least five milligrams of dissolved oxygen per litre of water and three milligrams of biological oxygen demand.

Although water is available in sufficient quantity, but the misuse, over-use and mismanagement of water has created a situation of water scarcity in many areas. The problem is getting worse due to over-exploitation of underground water sources. Officials also admit that pollution levels are higher at bathing ghats and at ghats adjacent to crematoriums than at other places.

In 1977, the United Nations organized a water conference to consider the importance of water pollution and the availability of drinking water in the world. In this conference, for the first time, the topic of drinking water problem and sanitation was separated from other water issues and it was suggested that a decade with realistic standards of water quality and quantity to provide water to urban and rural areas, if possible by 1990. Policy adoption programs should be done.<sup>5</sup> The conference approved that every country should make national plans and programs for community water supply and sanitation, giving priority to the population in need of water, so that the real goals of covering the population by April 1, 1991 can be obtained.

The World Health Organization established the United Nations Environment Testing System Coordination Centre in May 1979. Water and air quality testing is being done in this program. Under water testing, Jams Water 300 Inch Centres were set up on rivers, lakes and ground water sources. The project is being implemented through the regional offices of the World Health Organization.<sup>6</sup>

The rural population of India which is about 60 percent. The Drinking Water Mission has been placed under the Ministry of Agriculture, giving priority to providing pure drinking water in the villages for them. The simplest and most effective way to remove water pollution is to make proper use of dirty water. If dirty polluted water is treated a little, then it can be used to

make methane gas, which can also be used for irrigation.

Following measures can be taken to prevent water pollution in villages-

1. Rural public should be made aware about the danger of water pollution by giving information about the sources of water pollution, the harm caused by it and the measures to make the laws made to prevent water pollution effective.
2. Drinking water should be kept covered.
3. In order that the water of wells, ponds, lakes, rivers etc. is not polluted, it should be banned from shedding half-burnt carcasses in the rivers around the village or bathing animals in them.
4. Clean utensils should be used to draw water from water sources.
5. Contaminated water, sewage etc. coming out of the house should not be allowed to directly mix in rivers and ponds.
6. To protect the well water from pollution, garbage, cut hair, havan-worship material etc. should not be put in it, potassium permanganate or bleaching powder should be added to it once in a month.
7. Environmental education should be included as compulsory education at primary and middle level.

It is clear from the above study that whatever be the reason in the present time, the problem of water and water pollution is becoming serious. To overcome the problem of water pollution, it is necessary that the general public, government and scientists all have to understand their responsibility. Water pollution problem cannot be solved by spending crores of rupees by the government, people will also have to make efforts in this direction. Scientists have to find simple solutions to get rid of water pollution. Voluntary organizations, workers and volunteers of N.S.S.N.C.C. will have to come forward and help in preparing public opinion to stop water wastage and water pollution. By making people aware of water wastage and water pollution through radio, television and advertisements, measures will have to be told to stop it. Awareness has to be created among the rural people through posters, street plays, slogans, anmol vachan etc. Lest the laws related to water become mere laws, they must be implemented. Only then the problem of water wastage and water pollution can be overcome.

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