

Rohini Science Club, Ranchi (Jharkhand)
Annual Report 2010-11

**On World Environment Day
Cycle Campaign to Promote Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting**

On the occasion of World Environment Day (5th June 2010), the club has organized an exciting cycle campaign by school students to make people aware about how to harvest the rainwater. The only reason why water conservation is not explored with urgency is because it is actually cheaper to “use and throw away”.

Ranchi known as summer capital in the past suddenly grew like a big city without any readiness plan to become Capital of the state ‘Jharkhand’. The city has many problems but the issue of water is the most alarming. The population of Ranchi city has grown, with many high-rise apartment buildings where single dwelling units could be seen in the past. With wide use of concrete and cement paving everywhere, water from the rains does not percolate into the ground. The rainwater flows through the sewer lines and drains and nalas.

As individuals, groups and communities, we all have to wake up before it is too late. What is urgently required is to make people aware of the rainwater harvesting process, convincing them to adopt and practice water storage for daily use and also by allowing rainwater flow into the soil through pits recharging the water table.

Different modes should be adopted to aware the masses about the rainwater harvesting including film shows, nukkad nataks, cycle campaigns, demonstration through models, in every colony, competition and so on. The

schools, colleges, Hotels, Hospitals, Industries and Institutions located in Ranchi city are to be studied carefully for the water availability as proximity to the secondary water source. Some of such establishments should be identified in the first phase to provide water through rooftop rainwater harvesting using a very simple but rugged system with the support of Directorate of Ground Water, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi. Regular TV ads, hoardings, workshops and seminars should also be organized in different mohallas on rainwater harvesting for making a massive impact.

As every city of this country, municipal water supply in Ranchi is also unreliable. Many areas in Ranchi city do not have potable water supply. These days we can see jam-packed, viciously frustrated queue to a tap dribbling erratically on a road side mohallas. Kanke, Hatia and Rukka dams could not continue the supply the water during peak summer season. Over one third of the population depends on Rukka for their water supply. Currently there is a deficit of eight million gallons of water per day. The total supply of water from all the three dams is around 54 million gallons per day. More than 80 percent rainwater which the city receives during monsoons goes to the rivers straight away as run off. The people are yet to be aware. Wastage of potable water is another concern. About 22 percent of the available water goes in waste in the city.

More than 150 Students from different high schools of Ranchi, gathered on the day at Zila School, Shahid Chowk, Ranchi with full of enthusiasm and eagerness to join the campaign to have fun of riding cycle in a 'campaign mode'. Most of them had visualized the campaign as 'speed cycling or cycle race', however, it was made very clear during the briefing session that it is simply a campaign NOT a cycle race. It was very encouraging for us to see few girls have also joined with their cycles to participate in the campaign. Teacher members of our club took the leading role throughout the campaign and navigated the entire rally with the help of other fellow members.

The experience of mass campaign on cycle for rooftop rainwater harvesting was unique and very interesting. During the campaign the cycle campaigners met many roadside walkers, shop keepers and household members who literally stopped the cycles and started enquiring about the procedure of harvesting rainwater. The members of the campaigners showed them the pictures provided them and explained them about how to hold the rainwater at their doorsteps itself.

People are not much aware of rainwater harvesting system. Most of them assumed that it needs big investment in the shape of pipes, equipments and service charges. Some of them laughed on our boys when they said it costs nothing but 2000/- to 3000/- rupees if done in a smaller way.

Thus we can see that there is a craze among the people to know about this technique but lack of awareness is the hindrance. This is the right time for both government and civil societies to come forward to make people aware using different media campaigns.

The boys and girls who took part in the campaign were very eager to know more about the rainwater harvesting. This was due to their inability to answer many queries during the campaign asked by the street walkers. Many of them have suggested conducting training on RWH so that students can be trained on the subject thoroughly and they could be made the future 'water guards'.

Chief Guest Sri Jugal Murty Prasad from Directorate of Ground Water Board gave away the certificates and addressed the participants. He was impressed with the campaign design and ensured every support from the department in future. While talking to the participants he said that Ranchi is facing severe

water crises. Every day is a new day for people of Ranchi. No one knows when the tap will say NO to you. The people have very less options before them due to urbanization and fast growing city culture. None of them are bothered for rainwater and its reuse. Government is making its best effort but the role of civil societies/NGOs will be more in this as I realized today while sitting on the dais. It requires a massive movement rather than touch and go. He had congratulated the participants and appreciated the club activities especially in the area of rainwater harvesting.

Registration of Club under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860

It was decided during the last AGM to re-register the club once again as per the directions of the government of Jharkhand. The club has now been registered with the government of Jharkhand under societies registration act having No. 609 dated 25th August 2010.

Science Experiment Demonstrations at Mahila Samakhya, Ranchi

On the request from State Project Director, Mahila Samakhya Society, Jharkhand, the club has arranged a 15 days training session at their Ratu Centre from 29th Nov to 16th Dec 2010. Sri Pradeep Kumar along with Archana Singh, Santoshi, Sunita and Shyamal Das, took up the challenge and demonstrated, exhibited and developed more than 25 science projects. The participants were women from different districts of Jharkhand who appreciated the club members for their excellent approach of training. The team leader, Sri Pradeep had shown some remarkable ability to explain the rural women and he made an all-out effort to make the project success.

Bal Adhikar Mela 2010

On 29th November, Bal Adhikar Mela was organized by Jharkhand Education Project Council in association with Social Welfare Department, Government of Jharkhand and Unicef, Ranchi. Our club was invited to put-up a stall at the mela and a team of five members took up this task and created all required material for the mela. The science experiments and games demonstrated at the mela premises were very much appreciated by all visitors.

Ranchi Science Centre

On 29th December 2010, the long dream of Rohini Science Club was fulfilled. The Ranchi Science Centre is a project of NCSM established with the support of Government of Jharkhand. For most of you who do not know, please remember that the first District Science Centre in the form of a project was established by our club in the year 1988 with the support of Bihar Council on Science & Technology, Patna. The project was appreciated by all corners of society. Later it was discontinued in the year 1984 due to lack of funds and support from BCST. Keeping this in mind we the members of this club were present on the occasion of the inauguration day of the Ranchi Science Centre. The entire approach of this centre is very new in comparison to other science centres of the country. We feel proud to have such science centre in our region and request all our members, parents and guests to visit as and when they get time.

New Birthday Scheme Launched

COYBEY (Contribute on your birthday every year)

In the month of January 2011, a new scheme was launched and is known as COYBEY. In this scheme every member on his/her birthday gives an amount of Rs. 500/- as donation to the club. The amount is being fixed and could be used for some useful cause in future. So far the responses are good and for those who have not yet initiated are requested to start immediately. So far

five members have deposited their donation amount by visiting the club office on the birthday date. Following members in the year 2011 have donated so far:

1. Nishay Keshri - Rs. 500/-
2. Ashok Kumar - Rs. 500/-
3. Ramashankar Prasad Rs. 500/-
4. Jyotish Pd Sahu - Rs. 500/-
5. G V S R Pd - Rs. 500/-

National Science Day (28th Feb 2011)

Workshop on Use of ICT in Water Conservation

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have the potential to make a fundamental difference to the lives of people all over the world. By creating access to information, enabling communication and facilitating transactions, technical solutions can help reaching development objectives in various sectors. The availability of a technology platform using Information Communication Technologies should be explored even in areas like day to day water issues/problems of the society. In what way it could work as 'solution' is the objective of the workshop. The Idea of coming together is to bring forth all the issues related to water and see how ICT can find solutions. As the field of ICT for development is inherently multidisciplinary, it offers opportunities for e. g. good governance, health or education. The workshop organized highlights the role of ICT in supporting water conservation projects. Water shortages have become a constant challenge in several areas of Ranchi district. Many wards are confronted with problems associated with inadequate supply of drinking water, wastewater management and basic sanitation. More than half of the Ranchi City population suffers from water shortages. In a situation like this when most of them are accessing internet, almost 90 percent penetration of mobile

phones is visible then can't we think of a solution to make people aware, alert and educate on water related issues through these technologies.

Students of different institutions, computer training institutions and technical training institutions like ITI, Polytechnic etc. were invited (excluding school students). Participants were informed not to bring hardware or equipments/science models etc. in the workshop to demonstrate as it is being done in science fairs etc. Each institution was allowed to present their idea/concept on how they are going to use the ICT for water conservation keeping Ranchi City in mind.

Participating students were of the opinion that different technologies should be applied as per the requirement of the issue. However, most of them have suggested the use of mobile and internet platforms for immediate use which is accessible to everyone. There was consensus to show TV ads on rain water conservation especially for urban Ranchi population. Some of them have even suggested producing a short film of water conservation keeping the city conditions in mind and the same should be screened at every colony of the Ranchi city in the evening on rotation basis. Similarly, through mobile phones messages on water conservation can be mass circulated. The other possibility discussed was the use of Interactive Voice Response System (IVR), through which many water related information could be disseminated to several people at a time.

There was a presentation made by three young girls from IGNOU, Ranchi exploring the possibility of dedicating a web portal for Ranchi Water Issues. The presentation was very much appreciated by the distinguished guests as well as the audience. They find during the survey that most of the people do not know about the schemes and support provided by government in water conservation areas. The web portal would be of immense help to them to understand about the policies and the schemes of the government as well as

practical solutions for their day to day problems. The project could not be purely an initiative of civil body but government should also come forward and show interest to make the best use of the portal.

Mr. H. C. Hayward, former Director, SISI, Ranchi was the Chief Guest on the occasion. During his speech he reminded people about the polio drops campaign run by government. It was a huge success in the country due to tremendous effort put by the government machinery throughout the country. Every drop of water is precious and looking at the increasing population, it is a challenge before the government and the civil societies to find out solutions to reach to the people through different modes to spread the message of water conservation, he said. Appreciating the presentations made, he asked the youth present to make government equally accountable as the general public. Why the government in-spite of having funds, technology, human resource, fails to provide these services at the doorsteps of the public. It indicates that the present system has lot of fouls and implementation of a programme needs commitment. He emphatically said that civil society bodies should come forward and join hands with government to solve the issues united in PPP (public, private and partnership) mode. Applauding the efforts of Rohini Science Club, Mr. Heyward requested the group to work hard on the water issue using various technology fronts.

26th June 2011

**Dr. Mrs. Geetanjali Kumari
Secretary**