



Integrated Water Resources Assessment of Upper Berach Basin (Ahar River), Udaipur District

A hybrid workshop on “**Integrated Water Resources Assessment of Upper Berach Basin (Ahar River), Udaipur District**” was conducted on 26 March 2021 at Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic. In Udaipur, 25+ stakeholders participated in the discussion including Udaipur Mayor, Representative from Embassy of Denmark, Line departments etc. The objective of the workshop was to involve stakeholders in development and promotion of sustainable water management options. Through this workshop, it was intended to bring together government officials and experts from various national and international organisations to a common platform to understand and discuss the hydrological and hydraulic functioning of the Ahar River system and the associated catchment area.

The objective was to bring solution providers and expert on one platform where they can brainstorm with Udaipur officials on various challenges faced by the district such as demand and supply of water in the city, ground water scarcity, status of assessment of the water quality, importance of utilisation of grey water, data gaps and data requirements, citizen awareness and participation and how these issues can be addressed.

With a view to develop a state of the art data support system for the Ayad River Catchment (Upper Berach Basin) in the City of Udaipur, University of Copenhagen, Denmark has developed a research program in partnership with Geological Society of Denmark and Greenland, DHI, Development Alternatives and Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic, Udaipur. The project seeks to generate scientific evidence around the seasonal and annual dynamics of the water system of the Udaipur District using a mix of conventional and innovative measurement techniques. This study has evolved from the existing partnership arrangements between Udaipur Municipality and City of Aarhus as part of Danish Ministry

of Foreign Affairs's Sector Specific Cooperation, and thus seeks to contribute to its objective of improving management of water resources in Udaipur.

This inception workshop intended to present our research plan, methodology and expected outcomes to invited stakeholders. This also provided an opportunity to key stakeholders to share their experiences, knowledge and lessons learnt in improving the water management. We also seek to capture diverse perspectives on prevailing challenges and opportunities guiding local actions towards managing the water resources.

During the discussion it was understood that the city of Udaipur is facing challenges of demand and supply of water, improper use of grey water etc. The subject matter experts and solution providers put forth their recommendations and solutions which can be feasibly integrated to the Udaipur system. Several innovative and cost-effective technologies, nature-based solutions and best municipal practices were also discussed which could enable the Udaipur to have an efficient water management system.

The workshop was a knowledge enriching session for all the participants and the team members. The Udaipur officials are enthusiastic to take a leap further for adopting a feasible solution and achieve its goals through:

1. They are ready to provide different datasets for the project
2. Possible Collaboration with solution providers to pilot a solution
3. Awareness generation through social media campaigns, radio and engaging local communities in hydrological monitoring, thereby bridging existing information lacunae and empowering citizens to make informed decisions with respect to planning and protection of their local water resources