



Mapping Water Flows in Indian cities

Development Alternatives (DA) through its current initiative supported by Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) titled, 'Mapping Water Flows in Indian cities,' is building an understanding on the nature of water resource management within the identified cities including Dehradun (Uttarakhand), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) and Bhubaneswar (Orissa). The initiative will assist city authorities in making informed decisions on efficient water management and will provide solutions to address water sufficiency and efficiency based concerns. It will also contribute towards promoting circularity in the water management system by suggesting measures for improving accessibility; ensuring equitable distribution of water; and reducing wastage among the different users of the water resource.

Under this initiative, two workshops 'Understanding Water Flows in Indian Cities' were organised on 25th October, 2018 in the Dehradun and Udaipur, with the aim of identifying the shortcomings, constraints and challenges in terms of policy, institutional and technical needs and opportunities. This is to ensure circularity in the utilisation of water and wastewater as a resource and to minimise wastage at all points of intersection and transmission. The workshops focused on identifying issues and need for efficient water management in the aforementioned cities.

Key stakeholders including government, civil society and academia participated in the workshop. Ms. Neelima Garg (General Manager, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan), Mr Karnatak (Peyjal Nigam Uttarakhand), Mr. Durgesh Pant (USERC) and Dr. Shalini (NEERI) were some of the stakeholders whose participation was witnessed at the workshop in Dehradun; whereas, Anand Prakash (PHED), Mr. Ritwik Pati (NIUA) and Mr. Kishor Kachhawa (PHED) participated in the workshop at Udaipur.

The analysis of the preliminary study conducted by DA on the status of water flows was demonstrated in the workshops. The workshop brought together policy makers and practitioners to highlight the importance of efficient water management and its associated benefits. The workshops witnessed participation from 46 stakeholders including government, civil society, and academia. Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi (Vice President, DA) moderated the discussion in Udaipur and Zeenat Niazi (Vice President, DA) moderated the discussion in Dehradun. The discussion identified the key gaps and plausible way forward suggesting action on ground. It proposed to evolve a framework for the integrated role of policy, business and civil society that can potentially contribute in meeting India's targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).