

MY WATER - Phase II

[Sponsor: Hindustan Coca Cola Beverage Private Limited]

Executive summary

With the objective of spreading awareness on the techniques of rainwater harvesting, assisting schools in implementing systems and creating a sense of responsibility among students towards water conservation, the MY WATER (Mobilizing Youth for WATER conservation) programme was launched in April 2005.

The first phase of the programme reached out to 13 schools and included implementation of RWH (rooftop rainwater harvesting) systems in 5 of them, funded jointly by M/s Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd and the individual schools. The implementation of the systems was done by M/s Farmland Rainwater Harvesting Systems Pvt. Ltd. TERI coordinated the entire programme including the awareness activities.

Based on the success of the first phase, which lasted until February 2006, MY WATER was extended until March 2007 with the objective of replicating these activities in more number of schools. Eight more schools were included in the programme during the academic year 2006/07 and the project schools of Phase I were involved in continuing awareness activities.

Table 1 Rainwater storage capacity for each school under Phase 2

School	Need	Rooftop area (m ²)	Existing storage capacity (litre)	Installed storage capacity (litre)	Annual rainwater yield (litre)
KV RWF	Toilets	279	0	10 000	195 397
KVMEG&C	Toilets	604	25 000	0	423 360
Vidyaniketan Public School	Toilets	651	0	24 000	455 927
Frank Anthony Public School	Toilets	465	Existing well	0	325 662
Ryan International School	Toilets	502	20 000	0	351 715
NPS – CMR	Toilets	586	35 000	0	410 334
Spastics Society of Karnataka	Toilets	279	0	10 000	195 397
Association for the	Toilets	167	10 000	0	117 238

Each school was requested to identify a core team of students and one teacher who would form the MY WATER group for this project. The responsibilities of the group would be to create awareness among all students in their school on the need for water conservation and simple ways and means of doing so. These students would also need to understand the methodology for rooftop rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, and disseminate this information to a larger audience.

A series of workshops was conducted in individual schools during the second phase. An average of 50–80 students participated in each session and 4–5 sessions were held in each school. Over 1500 students and teachers participated in the workshops. Five students from the Spastics Society of Karnataka were trained to make a presentation on the global and local status of water resources. These students were then taken to some of the other schools that are part of the MY WATER project to interact with students and make the presentation. The workshops not only provided students with information but also provided a unique platform for students with special needs to interact with students in regular schools. The students shared a common goal for working towards water conservation and all the participants took a pledge to conserve water. Every workshop was highly interactive with students and teachers participating actively, asking questions and seeking solutions.

Students participated in the programme in numerous ways. Students from the Spastics Society of Karnataka prepared posters and worked hard on delivering a presentation on the status of our water resources to other participating schools. Students from the Association for the Mentally Challenged prepared a large number of drip irrigation systems from waste materials such as PET bottles and these were distributed to all the project schools. Students from Kendriya Vidyalaya MEG&C made tippy taps, which allow people to wash their hands without wasting any water. Students from Frank Anthony Public School participated in inter-school fests and spread the message of water conservation through rainwater harvesting. They also had many assembly programmes on this theme and one of their MY WATER group members administered a pledge to the students inspiring them to conserve water. Some of the class IX students undertook projects on rainwater harvesting and water conservation and these projects were submitted for inter-school competitions. The school put in place a monitoring committee to audit water usage in the premises and verify whether savings had been achieved by checking the water bills. Vidyaniketan Public School's MY WATER group is the largest in

any project school, involving more than 20 students. The students came up with a number of innovative ways in which they can spread the message of water conservation. They state to have initiated an online school group of people interested in the subject. They have also had many assembly programmes in school and have had internal competitions on the theme. Some of their students from class X have made a working model of a low-pressure drip irrigation system, which they have explained to their peers and submitted to an inter-school competition. Many schools have put messages on water conservation near the taps and have maintained a bulletin board in the schools for display of posters, messages, and news items on water. All the schools, including the schools involved in Phase 1 have drawn up action plans for continuing the awareness programme in the following academic year.

A poster painting, essay writing, and workbook design competition was organized for the 13 project schools. Schools also presented case studies of the efforts that they have put in to ensure that water is not wasted in the school. A brainstorming workshop was conducted in February 2007 with the objective of bringing together interested students from the project schools to share their good practices and brainstorm on activities that they can spearhead in their school through academic year 2007/08. Over 80 students and teachers participated in this half-day activity. All the project schools participating in the brainstorming workshop were given a set of posters and bookmarks. These could be used as incentives and given to students who participated in MY WATER activities.