

INTEGRATED RURAL URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT FOR CLIMATE BASED ADAPTATIONS IN INDIAN CITIES (IAdapt)

Awareness and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in Ekrukh, Haglur and TaleHipparga Villages

12th, 14th and 16th, July 2018, Solapur

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Introduction

The awareness and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in Solapur micro-catchment under the IAdapt project were conducted on 12th, 14th and 15th of July, 2018. The awareness activities were organized by ICLEI South Asia to strengthen the communication and interactions with the stakeholders, to improve the engagement of local stakeholders in project activities and to increase awareness on integrated water management approaches. Awareness generation through intensive IEC activities using electronic media, print media, trainings, and interpersonal communication have been taken up.

Three priority target groups were identified as the focus of IEC activities, in order to strengthen the overall impact of the awareness and project activities. These target groups were schools, women and self-help groups (SHG), and local residents and panchayat members.

Various activities were conducted with school children to motivate them and generate awareness on water cycle and WASH practices. Discussions were conducted with women and Bachat Ghar or SHG. Interactive talks were also conducted with local residents and members of the local authorities or Gram Panchayat.

Activities with Schools in Ekruk, Haglur and TaleHipparga Villages

ICLEI South Asia conducted Training Programme on awareness and improvement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in various schools in rural areas of Ekruk micro catchment in Solapur. Awareness activities with the school children included training on WASH best practices, movie show and quiz on water conservation, and drawing competition on clean environment and water for life. More than 180 participants attended these training and awareness activities conducted in Ekruk, Haglur and Tale Hipparga villages.

1. Training on WASH best practices

A workshop was conducted on 12th July 2018 in a secondary school that caters to Haglur and Ekruk villages, Solapur to promote WASH practices and awareness on water management. In Haglur and Ekruk, there are only two secondary school with approximately 50 to 70 students between the age of 6 and 12. All students along with their teachers participated in the WASH workshop.

The students were given a presentation to inform them about water cycle and common factors polluting water. They were also informed about good sanitation and hygiene activities and why these activities are important to conserve water resources. A small quiz was also conducted to test the understanding of the students on water conservation and good sanitation practices.



Training was given to sensitize children on hand washing with soap as a key approach to disease prevention and saving water. In the end all the children pledged to practice water conservation, not to defecate in the open and use toilets, to wash hands and to use dustbins to segregate waste.



2. Movie and quiz on water conservation

An animated film on “Sanitation and self-hygiene” was shown to the students in secondary school, Haglur village and Ekrukh Village to improve the understanding on WASH. A simple quiz was organized with the school children to inform them about solid waste management and how lack of management affects water resources. Training was given on waste segregation and two dustbins were provided to the school to practice waste segregation within the school premises.

3. Drawing competition on clean environment and water for life

Drawing competitions were organised in all the three villages. In TaleHipparga village there are 4 secondary schools, with approximately more than 500 students. Each school was invited to participate in the drawing competition themed on “Water conservation” and “Clean Environment”.

In Haglur, 35 students participated from the secondary school (class 5, 6, 7 and 8) located within the village. In Ekrukh 25 students participated from the only school in the village. In TaleHipparga 70 students from three secondary schools participated in the competition.

A presentation was given to the participants to introduce the project, and provide information on the water cycle, integrated water management, information on water pollution and factors contributing to water pollution. The aim was to make students aware of water pollution and linkages among various sectors like waste water, solid waste and natural drainage. The caricatures inspired the creative thoughts among students to present water management and WASH practices.

Three students won best prize for showcasing water conservation and clean environment. All the students received certification for participation.



Discussions with women stakeholders

Meetings and discussions with local women stakeholders and *Mahila Bachat Mandal* were conducted in Haglur and Ekrukh Villages.

Women were informed about the project objectives and project activities. IAdapt framework and tools were also discussed to build awareness on the importance of water conservation, ways to conserve it and other major issues related to livelihood and basic services in their villages.

Key observations in Haglur:

- The provision for basic services like sewer network, solid waste collection coverage and waste water drainage system is nil in the villages.
- There are no community toilets and individual toilets are built in very few houses.
- Women shared issues of security and hygiene faced due to the lack of toilets.
- No provision for waste collection and hence plastic and other waste is major issue.
- Wet waste is used for fodder and also to feed stray animals
- Waste water is the major issue in the village as there is no sewer network.

- Negligence and lack of awareness on waste management results in choked drains and nallahs.
- During monsoon, some areas also get flooded, creating difficulties for small kids and school children.
- Need for technical training on recycling waste, composting and rainwater harvesting was indicated
- Rainwater harvesting and soak pit for grey water was indicated as one of the best intervention for the village.
- A community toilet with pay an use system was also preferred by the local women

Key observations in Ekrukh:

- Lack of waste water treatment system
- Need for awareness and information on techniques and methods for waste composting
- Need for training programs on paper making and opportunities for livelihood activities were indicated
- Need to for clean water storage facility was also mentioned.
- Women stakeholders also requested for training program on rainwater harvesting and soak pit construction.



Discussions with local residents and authorities (Panchayat members)

Discussions were conducted with local residents to generate awareness through dissemination of information leading to adequate project literacy regarding water conservation methods and processes. The discussions were headed by Gram Sevak, Sarpanch along with panchayat members in both the villages (Haglur and Ekrukh).

The aim was to improve the overall impact of the project activities for the beneficiaries as well as to strengthen the engagement of local stakeholders in implementation of the project activities to ensure optimum results.

Key Observations

- The local residents highlighted the need for waste water treatment system
- Awareness and capacity building through technical training program on soak pit construction was also indicated.
- The Gram Sevak , Haglur mentioned the need for community engagement in various activities.
- Local residents also mentioned the issue of poor storm water drainage system in the villages and water logging during rainy season.
- The issue of shifting agricultural prioritises were also indicated. The residents informed that they prefer sugar cane due to its fixed market rates.
- The security of water is major concern for the farming community especially in summers.
- Bore well recharge and waste water treatment for agriculture were indicated as important interventions by the communities.
- Local residents also indicated interest in community toilet with pay and use system. They also mentioned that management and operation cost can be borne by the local community itself.
- Skewed availability of water between different villages and different people in the same region and also the intermittent and unreliable water supply system is causing social unrest.
- The *Sarpanch* and *Gram Sevak* also indicated the need to support development of programs and strategy for local livelihood promotion, education and health communication program

Conclusion

The positive interactions through IEC and awareness activities helped to strengthen the involvement of local stakeholders in the project and in generating awareness on water quality, water re-use/ recycle, water conservation assisted disaster mitigation and efficient use of water resources to achieve accelerated, equitable, economic development of the region with active involvement of future generation. Some prioritised interventions were also indicated during these discussions. Popularizing necessity of water conservation will help in achieving optimum benefits of the project activities.

ICLEI SA also informed the stakeholders about the future project activities and urged for support and involvement by the local stakeholders at each step.