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SOCIAL STUDENT

Watch



Drinking Water Challenge – Hyderabad:

- Do we know what kind of water we drink each day, in various parts of the city?
- What are reasons/ factors that influence the quality of drinking water that we drink each day?
- Do we know whether all citizens of Hyderabad are comfortable in drinking water situation?
- Which part of the city is better endowed with drinking water and which part of the city suffers most?
- Who enjoys the benefits of drinking water infrastructure in the city and who suffers most? Why?
- Is the choice of drinking water related technology appropriate for the city?
- What is the depth of water table in the city? What is the trend?
- Is it appropriate for Hyderabad to pollute its local rivers/ streams/ water tanks/ lakes and “import” drinking water from various parts of the state?
- Are the emerging drinking water markets good for the city?
- Are there any technological, institutional and managerial innovations in drinking water management in the city?

As students and members of academic institutions,
Do these questions bother you?
OR
Do you think that these questions are
“NOT FOR ME”?

Many might think so. For those who think otherwise, Social Watch provides an interesting opportunity in the form of –“**Drinking Water Challenge-Hyderabad**”. Drinking Water Challenge-Hyderabad provides a window to the academic world, which is otherwise busy with itself and likely to be oblivious of development processes in the city and society at large.



Real learning takes place only we are able to ask “right questions”. Drinking Water Challenge is an opportunity to ask right questions.

Social Watch thinks that students and academic institutions in the city have a role in the process in which our cities and human settlements are growing. They could understand the process in which cities are growing and ask “right” questions to the policy makers and program implementers on the choices made in terms of policies, priorities and development paradigms. As part from this process, students also get an opportunity to relate their knowledge base with the issues and concerns of the society.

Social Watch AP Chapter:

Social Watch is an informal collective of individuals, activists, communities, institutions and organizations. The main purpose of Social Watch is to “watch” the policies, programs and their impacts on the poorer sections of the society. Social Watch consolidates the point of view of civil society organizations on the approaches and strategies adopted by governments. Social Watch constructs alternative sources of knowledge on the development processes and strengthens the role of Civil Society Organizations in shaping the same. Social Watch AP Chapter is active in the state since 2004 and produced two reports namely – “Rethinking Priorities – Making Policies as if People Matter” and “Rekindling Hope? – Access, Retention and Development of LAND – A Dalit Perspective (2007)”. The third report of Social Watch is on water. The mandate of Social Watch is to involve Civil Society Organizations in the process of developing these status reports. As part of this process, Social Watch is organizing a series of events in which academic institutions and students are engaged with issues concerned with the society, such as drinking water. “**Drinking Water Challenge - Hyderabad**” is part of this process.

Drinking Water Challenge - Hyderabad

OBJECTIVES:

Long Term:

- To evolve a common platform for students and academic institutions that is engaged in knowledge generation processes
- To build capacities of students and academic institutions in such a way that their learning process relevant to society by
 - Exploring opportunities for knowledge application in real life situations
 - Organizing sensitization and reflection processes
- To improve the course curriculum of various streams of learning by incorporating lessons learned from this engagement

Short Term:

- To develop a clear picture of "Water Issues in Hyderabad (Drinking Water Challenge – Hyderabad) from the point of view of students and academic institutions
- To provide an opportunity to academic institutions and young students
 - To engage with issues related to society
 - To explore alternative ways of learning and knowledge application

Participants:

About 100 students from various academic institutions in the city are expected to participate in the "Drinking Water Challenge- Hyderabad". These students are from various disciplines such as engineering, planning, social work, science, commerce and so on.

Students and faculty members from School of Planning and Architecture, JNTU; Engineering Colleges of JNTU and Osmania Universities, CBIT, IIPM, Arora's Degree and PG College, St Francis College and MSW PG College, Osmania University. Students associated with Bhumi are also participating in this process. Social Watch is approaching several other colleges in the city and many other colleges are likely to participate in the process.

Non Governmental Organizations such as Bhumi, Gamana, Chatri, COVA, Forum for Better Hyderabad, Center for World Solidarity, WASSAN and others share their experiences and offer

necessary support in the process. Well known Resource Persons; Senior Government Officers from various corporations and departments also participate in this process.

Venue:

CBIT, Gandipet, Hyderabad

Proposed Themes for Field Work:

The fieldwork is designed to give an opportunity to students to have first hand exposure on water related issues in Hyderabad within a short period of two or three days. Some of the proposed themes for field work are the following:

1. Collection of 1000 water samples from various parts of the city and assessing the quality of the same.
2. Making an enquiry on availability of drinking water in various parts of the city, from citizens point of view
3. Making an assessment of condition of water bodies and streams of the city and its urban periphery (Quality of water, Current Condition).
4. Making an assessment of drinking water markets in the city (source of water, processing and marketing; quality of water, consumer profile).
5. Issues related to drinking water as perceived by Municipal Authorities

Field work would be conducted in slums, residential areas (middle income and high income); industrial and public areas of the city. Various government offices and NGOs would be approached for providing necessary support. The field work is supposed to capture and amplify the voice of the citizens.

Drinking Water Challenge - Hyderabad

Key Events and Time Line:

Event 1: Orientation Program on “Drinking Water Challenge, Hyderabad”.

15th to 17th Feb 2008

All participating students from various colleges participate in this workshop and orient themselves on drinking water related issues of Hyderabad and prepare themselves for a brief field work.

Event 2: Field Work by Interdisciplinary Teams of Students in various parts of the city on water issues (Any two or three days between 18th to 22nd Feb 2008)

Interdisciplinary Teams of 3 or 4 members conduct a brief field work for two to three days OR four to Six half days (as per the convenience of the team members).

Event 3: Consolidation of Field Work by Student between 23rd, 24th and 25th Feb 2008

The field work would be consolidated to make a brief report. These reports would be consolidated, published and shared with wide variety of policy makers, government officers, people’s representatives, NGOs, Citizens Groups and others.

Event 4: Sharing Workshops

By End of March 2008 as per the emerging time schedule in each academic institution

Each participating academic institution is expected to organize an internal workshop/ seminar to share the observations made by their students with other students/ faculty members and other dignitaries/ special invitees.

3. Explore opportunities for “applying” their knowledge (engineering, social work, planning, commerce etc) in a real life context
4. Get an opportunity to relate their learning processes at colleges with the situations in the society

Apart from this, there are also some other benefits.

5. A certificate of participation and appreciation from Social Watch and Participating Institutions
6. A prize for best team work and report.
7. An opportunity to work with students of other disciplines and/or colleges and exchange ideas; skills and knowledge.
8. An excellent opportunity to develop good network of students that are concerned with society and its development process.

Who can participate?

First you should be willing to spend time for participating in orientation program, field work and consolidation of field work.

It would be nice at least 10 students from each college participate in the program.

How to Enroll Yourself?

You can contact any of the following persons and indicate your plan on or before 10th Feb 2008. Based on the total response from various colleges, you would be registered under “Drinking Water Challenge-Hyderabad”.

- MV Rama Chandrudu, Anchor – Social Watch – 9440621860; duram123@gmail.com
- K Balraj, HoD, Department of Social Work, PG College, Osmania University (9948233898).
- P Srinivasa Sarma, HoD, Civil Engineering Department, CBIT (9391016066)
- D Rakesh Reddy, Bhumi (9885419012)

Why Should Students be part of this process? What are the advantages of participating in Drinking Water Challenge Hyderabad?

There are several advantages of participating in the Drinking Water Challenge-Hyderabad. Some of them are.....

1. Students get to know about various issues related to drinking water in city by listening to various resource persons and concerned government officers.
2. Students get an opportunity to interact with citizens in various parts of the city; conduct brief field work on water related issues (e.g. Assessment of Drinking Water Quality).