

# Editorial

Saturday, December 9, 2017

## Humiliation to mother earth

Crimes against humanity deserve the worst form of punishment. Different nations have different legal system to protect the interests of their country. The enforcement of certain laws - like capital punishment; Special powers act to armed forces may have strong and supportive argument as it is about the security of their respective nations. Gross violation of human rights at certain parts of the country and other parts of the world may receive severe criticisms from many who are concerned for Human values. Arguments may continue for certain human causes permitting each sides to stand tight with their act. But what about some issues like global warming, water scarcity and deforestation?

There is no wrong in saying that environment has no boundary. A massive destruction of forest or extraction of crude oil or mismanagement of natural water is among the issues which no nations could give reasonable arguments as it affect regions beyond politically drawn boundaries. After all, these issues are about human beings across the globe.

Reports about the scarcity of usable water have been top news at almost all newspaper in Manipur. As for the state of Manipur there is adequate rainfall every year but faced acute shortage of water almost every year in the last couple of decades. Interestingly, during rainy season the state also witnessed flood almost every time. In short the state suffers the ugly face of flood during rainy season while they had to bear drought in the remaining days. In view of the arising situation that we are facing right now, there is an urgent matter that needs to be pondered on what went wrong?

Is it the people or is it the government who is responsible for the present crisis?

Deforestation that has been taking place illegally at different parts of the state has been often blamed - both by government and the many social activists which is universally accepted by all. One thing we at Imphal Times suggest is that we cannot completely blame the people who are responsible for cutting the trees for their livelihood. It is the government which is responsible and why shouldn't it be? It was all about their survival and mind it some people do not have any alternative for survival. On paper government had passed many schemes to substitute the livelihood but it is an open secret that none of this schemes meant for the poor people had never been benefitted by the targeted beneficiaries as the money meant for them had been pocketed by government authorities who were assigned for implementation of the projects.

Another matter, which we at IMPHAL TIMES is concerned is the poor understanding of the government department about the need for storage of natural water underneath the earth. There seems to be complete lack of knowledge by the government authority about the need to let the earth absorb any source of water. Clear example is the drain constructed under huge funding from the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNURM). The cubicle shaped drainage construction has no mechanism to let the drain water absorb underneath the earth. This is not only the case with any government infrastructural development work there is no sign of the government authority showing concern about the importance of harvesting the rain water. Harvesting rain water does not mean that it should be stored in a tank or some man-made water storage tank. It is about harvesting inside the earth core which can be reused using other means.

For a state endowed with resources, such abject failure to utilize and benefit from the gifts of nature only undermines the apathy and complacency of the state government.

# Policy to Alleviate Water Problems in Manipur

By Chingakham Dina; Arambam Karamjit

We look into water resource and compare their management between Manipur and other countries. It is imminent that water problem strikes almost every year- flood or drought. It is recurring year by year. But nobody cares much about this very important unavoidable resource. We need it every single day for whole life for everyone. We raise the voice only when the time comes and strikes hard, otherwise we do not learn anything from the past. We have water shortage or flood problem because we don't have proper water management.

**Annual rainfall.** According to World Bank, India's annual average rainfall was 1,083 mm in 2014. Manipur receives annual rainfall of 1,467.5 millimetres (57.78 in). Delhi's annual average rainfall is 617 mm. Let us see the rainfall of some of the countries in the world and how they manage water resource. Thailand's annual average rainfall is 1622 mm. Singapore has high annual average rainfall at 2,497 as the country is located at equator. UAE had annual average rainfall at 78 mm in 2011 according to the World Bank, which shows that this is semi-desert like condition. USA has annual average rainfall 715 mm which is about half the rainfall of Manipur. In spite of receiving annual rainfall of 1,467.5 mm in Manipur, we have water scarcity problem almost every year. In the following table, it is showing annual average rainfall and water usage per head per day.

**Water management in different countries.** Water scarcity is happening in many countries without proper water management. In Thailand, the government builds dams to manage water. Sometimes, they use artificial rainfall when there is insufficient natural rainfall for agricultural usage. Singapore is located at equatorial region receiving annual heavy rainfall. It has potential water scarcity problems due to little rain catchment area because of extensive city construction, but Singapore solves the issue by importing water from Malaysia and it implements very high quality water recycle that includes sewage water.

About 30% of water in Singapore comes from recycle plants. Water in Singapore's public toilet is high quality and, even better than the quality of water used by the elite class people of Manipur. UAE solves the water problem by getting about 72% required water from underground. USA has annual average rainfall of 715 mm which is about half the rainfall of Manipur. But their prosperity and high technology and investment make them one of the richest water resource available for usage in the world. Manipur's rainfall is higher than that of India's average rainfall. Even though we have higher rainfall in Manipur we still suffer water scarcity due to improper water management. Water is drained and disappeared just after rainfall as there is no rain water harvesting facilities. As the rain catchment areas are destroyed, water is drained quickly after rainfall. This year, we are suffering from flood again.

**Daily water consumption per head.** On planning paper, India expects everyone could get minimum water at 135 litres per person per day (source: The Hindu, February 15, 2013), but it cannot achieve its goal. Thailand's water usage is 219.5 litres per person per day at present decreasing from 223.5 litres. Sometimes there is water scarcity for rice field in Thailand but there is no question of shortage of running water for home usage. It is the government's responsibility to supply enough water for everyone and everywhere in Thailand. Their government is doing their job and they really mean what they are supposed to do.

United Arab Emirates is one of the least annual rainfall. This is near desert like country. But UAE is one of the highest average water consumption of 500 litres per head per day. It is possible because of proper water management. Annual average rainfall in the USA is 715 mm and it's consumption is 1514 litres per person per day. This huge water usage per

Country	Annual rainfall	Per capita water usage
India	1,083 mm	135 litres per person per day (on planning paper)
Thailand	1,622 mm	219.5 litres per person per day
Singapore	2,497 mm	150 litres per person per day
UAE	78 mm	500 litres per person per day
USA	715 mm	1514 litres per person per day
Manipur	1,467.5 mm	Data not available

Fig: Annual average rainfall and water consumption per person per day

head is possible because of her strong and effective policy and management. Rain harvest is commonly done everywhere to manage proper water supply. This is the area we are lacking and our government should use money in projects for such unavoidable necessary resource.

**Human as causes of water scarcity in Manipur.** There are many rivers, wetland, lowland and suitable places for construction of dams and reservoirs in Manipur. People of Manipur have very low civics sense compared with other nationalities. We have bad culture of water usage. We take a bath in the pond, and the same water is used for drinking and kitchen purposes. Our already insufficient resource is spoiled by dumping garbage in the river. Nambul river and Imphal river are examples of too much pollution with garbage. Planners and authorities are not taking up any stringent action to clean up these rivers. You will never see any dirty and garbage in Chao Phra Ya river which is running right in the middle of 15 million (day time population; actual dwellers is about 8.28 million) population city of Bangkok. You are not allowed to dump dirty things and garbage. But in Manipur, there is no proper rules and guideline to stop pollution in rivers. An "Exclusive Video - Loktak: A Fresh Water Lake or a Dump?" by Kanglaonline published on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016, shows the real picture of people's culture destroying the ecosystem of Loktak lake by dumping garbage, plastic bags, plastic bottles upstream and destroys the nature of downstream and habitats.

The main problems of water shortage are directly or indirectly related to:

1. No proper water management
2. Deforestation- destroying trees and forest. Depleting rain catchment areas which leads unable to hold rain water longer in the soil.
3. Pollution- dumping garbage in the rivers and canals.
4. Bad culture and bad habit of water usage. People wash and take a shower inside the source of water. The same water is used for drinking and cooking, mainly in valley areas.

5. Corruption among planners and contractors that didn't use project money fully on construction work.
6. Destroying natural pond, lake, stagnant water area for construction and residential area.

There are some water supply plants such as at Koirengkei, Porompat, Erosimba, Canchipur, Singdam etc. These cover only some small areas of Manipur and most of the villages of Manipur don't access to running-pipe water. Water is so much important than some other resources and one cannot live without water and this basic need is important for everyone till the end of our lives. However, this resource is being neglected by everyone from government authorities to common people.

The quality of water supplied in pipe could not be high enough to drink in Manipur comparing with other countries. In Singapore, their government uses high technology water treatment plant. The quality of water is amazingly high but her citizens do not drink it directly from pipe water as people are very aware of health. In the same way, in Thailand people don't use running pipe water for drinking even though the water is very high quality. People drink bottled water. We don't have modern water treatment plants in Manipur. The quality of pipe used is not as high standard as of Thailand or Singapore. Rusting in pipe, leakage on supplying pipeline and contamination with disease causing germs and bacteria, poor quality of water treatment are fearsome to consume but this is what

people drink and consume directly. Health, hygiene and people's appearance are very much directly related to water quality. The smoothness of our skin, the quality of our hair is very much understandable by using strong saline water, high iron content water, and muddy water without any further investigation.

To solve the issue of water scarcity, we need water revolution involving local people and government together. People don't mind drinking water from canal and muddy water from roadside ponds. Affordable people are proud of parking private water-tank vehicle in front of neighbours to show that they can buy supplied water. This is kind of symbol of social status and sign of richness in Manipur. But this is not long lasting solution. We need good plan for water management to have this basic need, accessible to every citizen-rich or poor. There should not be water scarcity in a place like Manipur with proper annual rainfall if we take up proper plans. Only the possible reason is lack of management and mismanagement. The following points will solve the problems of water shortage in Manipur.

**1. Cleaning rivers and canals:** We need projects to clean up the heavily polluted rivers such as Nambul river, and Imphal river. Use these rivers for water harvesting project. People's involvement and awareness are very much needed. Set a proper rule so that nobody is allowed to throw garbage into the rivers. Impose heavy penalty to those who dump garbage. We need this strong rules like in other countries such as Thailand and Singapore.

**2. Rain water harvest:** We need to construct dams and reservoirs for rain water harvesting for home use and agricultural purposes. No single country will have enough water without constructing dam and reservoirs. It is not exception for Manipur. We need enough numbers of dams and reservoirs not only for city dwellers but also for village people.

**3. Modern water treatment plant:** Keeping public health as priority, planners and authorities in concerned department should take up cost

effective modern water treatment and purification plants for home usage. Compared with Singapore, we are still lucky enough with large land and forest coverage that we shouldn't have any problem if we manage well without going extremity to recycle the sewage water like Singapore. Later, there was in the news that hospital sectors in Manipur earn large income, which is a direct reflection of people's poor health, and spent more money to hospital. This is not good sign for public health.

**4. Use project money efficiently:** Development of a country depends much on the sincerity of the people. It is open secret in Manipur that project money hardly reaches the target areas fairly which shows by the results of construction, such as breaking of Sekmai dam one year ago. If we use every single rupee sanctioned for the project, we are going to be nearly developed like as Singapore and Thailand.

**5. People's involvement:** We need more people's involvement in construction and water management projects such as construction reservoirs, not only waiting for government money. People are not willing to spend money for water and people still prefer to spend money on non productive activities. Local people should come out to monitor the quality of water reservoir construction so that the public property will last many years to come.

**6. Pay water bill on time:** Water scarcity is both responsible by government and people. People should clear water bill on time. The money comes from this bill will help to run government's expenditure. When people don't take responsibility of paying their bills, government can't run smoothly. People are less aware this issue in our society. However, we should not point finger to people only for this issue. There is great responsibility for government to supply water regularly, maintaining broken pipeline without delay to make people also satisfy with the service, as well as install prepaid water system like prepaid electricity to make people use water more carefully.

## National News

### No police verification for new passports: All you need to know

**New Delhi, Dec 9:** The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project (CCTNS) will be merged. This move will eliminate the need for a physical police verification to get a new passport. Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi said the CCTNS, an exhaustive national database of crimes and criminals was expected to be linked with the passport service of the External Affairs Ministry. CCTNS will check the past history and background of the applicants with a single click.

Mehrishi also said, "For passport credentials, police is already using CCTNS in some states. Police will be given handheld devices to upload applicant's details upon reaching their home. This will not only minimize the contact of the applicant with the police officer to curb bribing but also reduce the time for getting the passport." After Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the CCTNS project, which will connect all the 15,398 police stations of the country, Mehrishi said the CCTNS had been expanded for further use by incorporating citizen-centric services like - tenant verification, which could be done with the consent of the person



being verified, connecting the network with criminal justice delivery system and quick registration of FIR in any crime.

The chances of database hacking was always there, but enough provisions have been made to safeguard the same and National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre had been employed for the task. "The police portal will give 11 searches and 46 reports from the national database for state police and central investigation agencies. Central investigating and research agencies have also been provided logins to the digital police database to access crime statistics," according to Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

Source : oneindia.

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