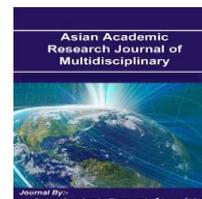




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POTABLE WATER CRISIS AT GUWAHATI CITY

J C GOGOI¹

¹Meadows, 5, Basanta Path, Beltola College Road, 2nd Bye lane (Left) Guwahati, ASSAM
781 029

Abstract

The Guwahati is the capital city of Assam covering about 300 sq km having an estimated population of 2.1924 million besides short term dwellers from other parts of the state and neighbouring states since Guwahati is the gateway of North East India. The present requirement of potable water is 328.86 MLD. The present available quantity of government sources is 72.40 MLD resulting shortfall of 256.46 MLD. It is a very serious problem for the city dwellers. Although Government had taken up few ambitious projects which require some more time for full functioning and naturally population may raise abruptly since average annual increase of population is 0.1404 million and potable water shortfall shall remain unchanged.

Normally Guwahatians are buying required water quantity from other available sources like water vendors and community collection points. About 30000 water vendors are distributing potable water regularly collecting from the nearby household deep tube wells. They are serving the society fulfilling the basic human needs as well as generating self employment. There is a little chance of major ambitious water supply projects under state government as state is running with deficit budget. Further, taking loan from foreign agencies considered unwise as this shall surely be overburden to the people of Assam more especially Guwahatians. The study reveals that ground water recharging by rainwater harvesting may help the shallow well user and it shall also minimise the artificial floods of Guwahati to great extent.

In addition, GMC, the only trade license issuing authority should make provisions for trading license to these water vendors and deep tube well owners by which GMC can easily earn a very good amount of revenue annually. Also Govt of Assam come forward with some attractive schemes for patronising these self employed youths.

Keywords : Potable water, rainwater, deep tube well
