

Urban Water Institutions: Myth of Decentralisation and Devolution

Democratisation of Water Management –
The paradigm Shift

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Arghyam Conference: Mysore

18th November, 2011

After 2 decades of Water Sector Reforms we are still faced with Issues of

- Unreached Communities
- Inequitous sharing
- Sustainability –
 - » Ecological
 - » Financial
 - » Resource

Challenges in addressing Discrimination



Drinking Water to Water Resources

**A Democratisation Journey from 2003
impacting 20 million people (DW) and 9
River Basins**

Shifts

- Promoting Citizenship
- Changing Notions or Resource use
- Ensuring Right to Water in Practice –
 - » Seeking the unreached
 - » Inclusive decision making
 - » Gender, Caste, Community Sensitivity

Urban Water Management – A minefield!

DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES based on whether Metropolis, Cities, Towns; Multiplicities of institutional players.

Silo Mentality! Turf protection.

Unwillingness to devolve power and authority

Technocratic and Bureaucratic Mind set –

Mai Baap Mentality .

Insufficiency of Capability & Competency

Pressures from IFIs to change – PPP + NGOisation models pushed.

Strategies to deal with Water crisis

❖ **Prevalent Perspective on reform**

➤ **Strategies**

- **Higher Technology**
- **Increased Investment**
- **Organisational Restructuring**
- **Community Participation**
- **Privatisation, NGOisation**
- **Decentralisation**

❖ **Persistent Shortcomings**

- ❖ **Unreached Communities**
- ❖ **Inequitous sharing**
- ❖ **Unsustainable Practices**
- ❖ **Uninvolved Technocracy**

Paradigm Shift

➤ **Missing Core**

- Social Dimension of Exclusion
- Sustainable Service Delivery
- Institutional Culture & Practice

➤ **Triggers for Change**

- Social Movement
- Political Pressure
- Internal Thrust

. . . beginning of the experiment . . In the TN Water Board

The Transformation path

Self Critical and open process of exploring ...

- Attitudinal Transformation
- Perspective Change
- Institutional Reorientation

Along with shifts in

- Roles
- Relationships
- Values
- People;
- Practice;
- Culture;
- Systems

Amongst

Democracy & The Koodam

Koodam - A traditional cultural & social space within which all persons are ***treated equal***

Where members relate without distinction based on ...

- Age
- Status
- Hierarchy

In which sharing is ...

- Transparent
- Experiential
- Self Critical

With Values of ...

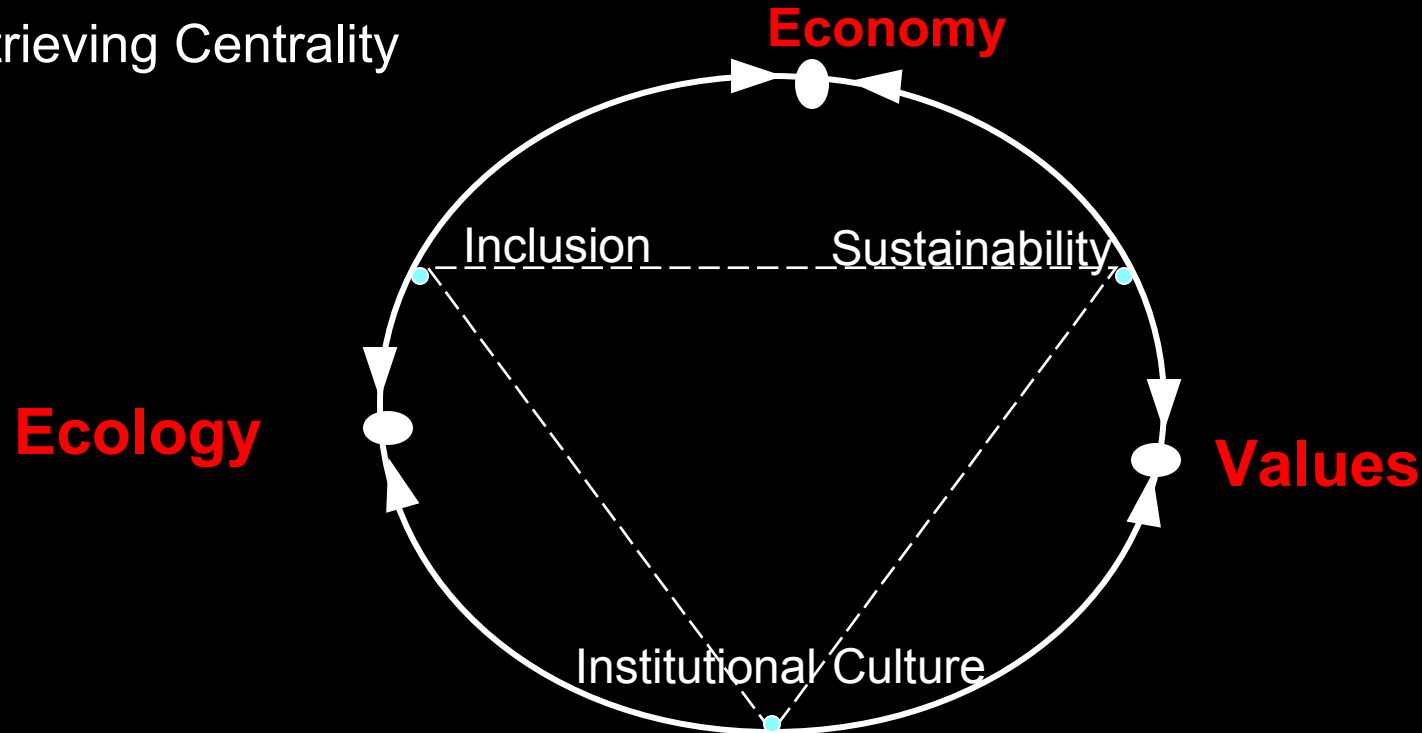
- Democracy
- Consensual decision making
- Collective ownership





Responsive Governance

Retrieving Centrality



Inclusion

- Reaching the Unreached
- Equity
- Social Justice

Institutional Culture

- Organisation Efficiency
 - Performance
 - Priority
- Institutional Effectiveness
 - Quality of Relationship
 - Valued Behavior

Sustainability

- Resource
- Financial
- Human

The Shifts that are required!!

- Shift from passive to critical and constructive participation
- Shift to reexamination of the meaning of people's participation
- Shift from conceptual understanding to learning by doing.

Shifts in

- **Shift to greater clarity of expanding roles**
- **Shift to a growing need to systematize work**
- **Shift from compartmentalization to build interrelatedness – amongst technical people, citizens, stake holders groups..**
- **Shift in growing experience of personal power and purposefulness in collective action**
- **Shift to a improving sense of responsibility**
- **Shift to a greater revitalization of idealism**

The churning process of the Workshops threw up a fresh perspective which came to be adopted as ...

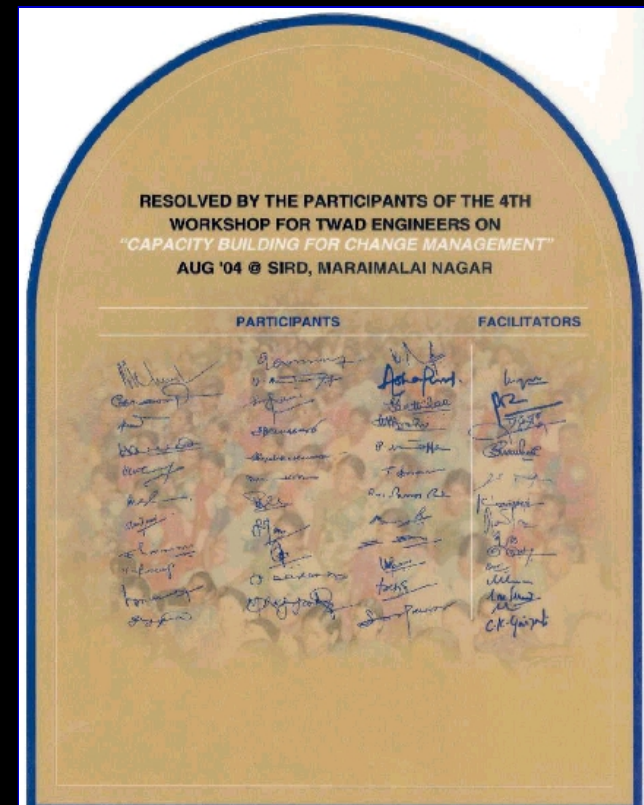
The Maraimalainagar Declaration

We the TWAD engineers after extensive deliberations unanimously declare that :

Before taking up any new schemes

- We will evaluate the existing schemes and ensure that the schemes are put into optimal use first
- Revival & Rehabilitation of traditional sources will be undertaken wherever possible.

We will also aim at 10 % higher coverage within the same budget.

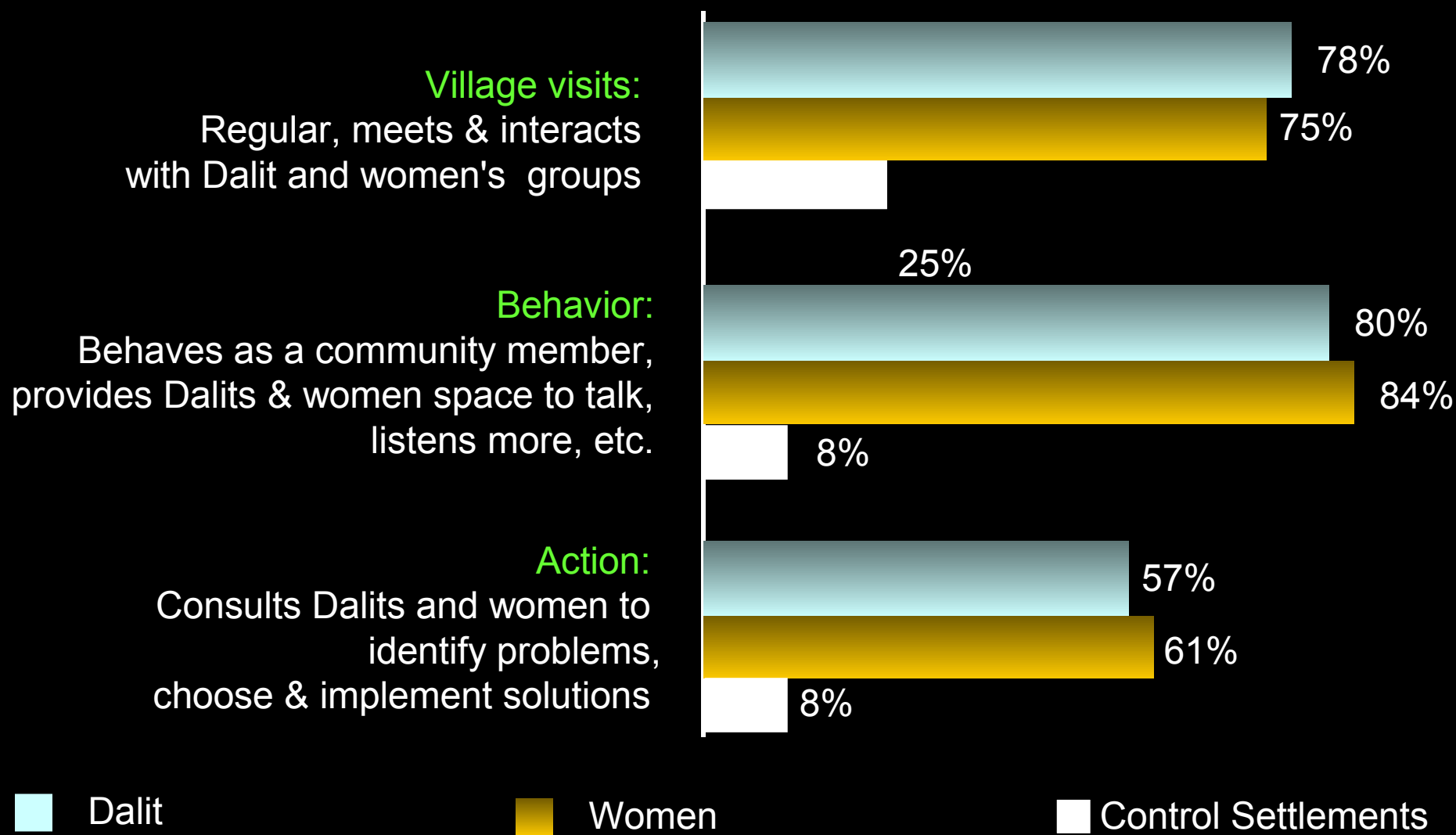


Democratisation of Water Management Project

Outcomes

- Contribution : Rs.1.42 crores (US \$ 0.3 million) by 50,896 Households
- Investment cost : Reduction by 40 - 50% , SR Capacity 143 to 76.3 lt./HH
(Project - Rs. 1827/- per HH, Standard Rs.4580/-)
- Low cost options : 50 % of schemes are Rehab., EPL, additional source
- Savings : Savings between 8% to 33% achieved over the regular budget. O&M expenditure reduced to Rs.18.6 / HH.
- Last Mile Targeting : 65% of schemes were for groups where majority were Below Poverty Line including Scheduled Castes
- Sustainability : Conservation, 70 GWR, 150 revived water bodies, self management

Change in Official's Attitudes & Actions



A glimpse of Outcomes

- Contribution by 1,00,000 Households
- Choice of low cost technology – 40% drop in investment cost
- Equity – 65 % of schemes were exclusively for poor excluded habitations
- New Rice Cultivation (SRI) – Adopted by 35,000 farmers
 - : 30% water saving
 - : 90% of Households undertake Rain Water Harvesting
 - : Revived

Our Dream, Our Vision

Secure Water for all, for ever”

- Conservation of nature as a guarantee for future water
- **Vibrant, revived and recharged water bodies**
- Assured, equitable and sustainable water for all
- **Successful community managed water supply system through active participation of all especially women and poor**
- Safe disposal of solid and liquid waste for clean and healthy environment
- Cost effective technology options to ensure local sustainable management
- Formation of Common Water Regulatory Authority for judicious use of water for all sectors



**When there is true democratisation and
the State**

truly partners with Communities . . .

**Then *duty to provide* transcends into
responsibility to ensure Secure**

Water.

Everyday Responsibility of All

- o Consumption

- o Conservation

- o Collaboration ..

To ensure

Equity, Sustainability & Democracy!