

KUMUDAVATHI RIVER REJUVENATION PROJECT (PROJECT REPORT PHASE – I) International Association of Human Values by Y. Lingaraju, No.196, 1st Floor, Opp. Mantri Paradise, Arikere-Bannerghatta Main Road, Bangalore- 560078. 52 p., 1 Map.

There have been many papers and reports, published and unpublished, on river basins regarding their geometry, nature and quantum of flow of the river, sediments transported and deposited, and possible potential for optimum utilization. However, such accumulated data have been only rarely utilized and actual work done in the field for sustainable development of surface water resources.

The report under review is one dealing with the Kumudavathi watershed (Map on a scale 1: 30,000), one among the many on the left bank of Cauvery river in Karnataka, covering an area of 460 sq. km. The basin in turn is classified into 18 mini-watersheds, ranging in size from 12 to 40 sq. km. Each mini-watershed covers an average of 24 villages varying from 13 to 37.

An earlier good inflow to the then existing T.G. Halli reservoir got drastically reduced over time due to deforestation, quarrying and overexploitation of groundwater. A total of 223 irrigation tanks have got silted up due to degradation of stream courses and natural vegetation.

It is at this stage planning started for the rejuvenation of the river using remote sensing and collateral data and action initiated. These include water conservation by erosion control, groundwater

recharge and injection wells. Next was the rejuvenation of the water bodies like tanks and planting trees and protecting them. (pp. 7 – 11).

Detailed maps were prepared for every mini-watershed with the legend including action plan, nature of streams (orders) and geomorphology (pp. 16 to 51). Stages in the construction of recharge wells were demonstrated to the villagers (photos on pages 14, 25, 28 and 35). What is most praiseworthy in all these is the voluntary involvement of youth in implementing the above along with the villagers, educating them on the details of these efforts. It is also planned to involve the State Government through the Grampanchayaths to implement these by allocation of funds.

Whereas in some other parts of the country similar action may be under implementation, this report should be definitely perused through both by the State Governments and NGOs interested in this field elsewhere, in order to launch a long awaited rejuvenation of our surface water resources.

The International Association of Human Values (IAHV) is to be congratulated for initiating this type of study.

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