

PANCHAYATS AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

MAITHRI
PALAKKAD

Panchayats and Protection of the Environment

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1. Introduction

The Panchayati Raj system has brought about major changes in the powers and responsibilities of Gram Panchayats. Planning and implementation of projects worth lakhs of rupees are undertaken by the Gram Panchayats themselves. This booklet is an attempt to develop a methodology to study the impact of such projects on the environment. Unlike the environmental impact assessment of big projects, here the emphasis is on evolving a simple and practical method to understand the impact and any corrective measure required for local development projects undertaken by the Gram Panchayats.



The first draft of this note was presented in a gathering of Gram Panchayat representatives, farmers, community leaders, and experts. They tried out the exercises and their views and suggestions have duly been incorporated.

We are presenting it for further discussions and practical application.

Ecosystem

An ecosystem comprises of living and non-living things that are inter-connected. Its size cannot be specified. It can be as small as a tiny plant or as large as a desert. Water, plants, insects and animals, air, light and soil all coexist. If enough light or water is not available or if the soil doesn't have nutrients, the plants cannot survive. Living organisms that depend on them will perish. In turn other living beings that depend on them will also perish, thus resulting in a chain reaction. If one link in the chain breaks, it affects the whole chain. Over a period of time ranging from a few days to thousands of years.



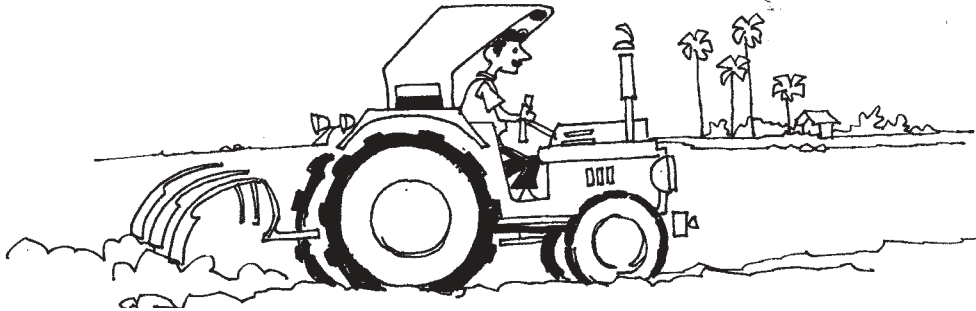
One thing can not survive without the others

2. Impact Assessment

Do the various projects of Gram Panchayats, have an impact on the environment?

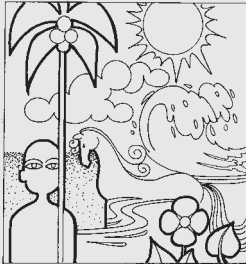
The usual answer to this question is one word "No". The repeated denial has led us to believe it ourselves. But is this true? Are these projects not affecting the environment?

How can the purchase of a tractor or construction of a tar road or a community building affect the environment? This is the general feeling.

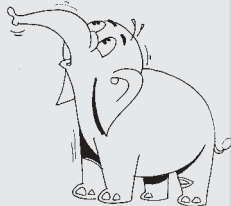


What are the major components of an ecosystem?

An ecosystem includes everything around us. **Land, water, atmosphere, plants and living organisms** are all a part of it.

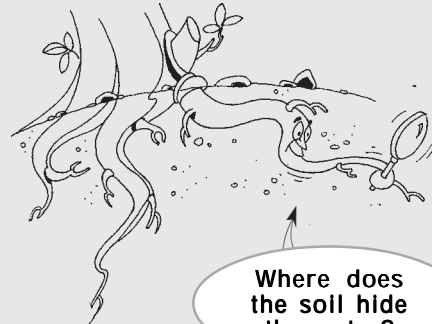


An ecosystem is like a collage



Know the Soil

Soil is an important part of an ecosystem. It keeps the plants in place and provides nutrients for them. It is home to all organisms, from micro bacteria to large elephants. Soil also holds water for plants and animals. But the soil type and its usage affect the environment. Leveling of hills, filling of paddy fields and water bodies, cultivation of sugarcane in drought prone areas—all these affect the land and the environment.

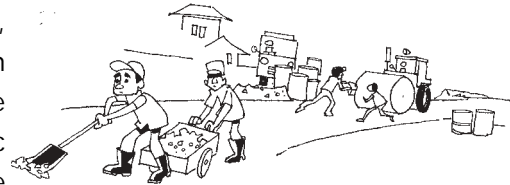


Where does the soil hide the water?



At the same time, drinking water is becoming scarce, wells and ponds are drying up, temperature is on the rise, rain is becoming less and erratic, pest attacks are increasing and diseases are spreading at an alarming rate. What do these factors signify? Is there any connection between these signs and our interventions? If so, can we realise the connection and resort to corrective measures? Why not make an attempt?

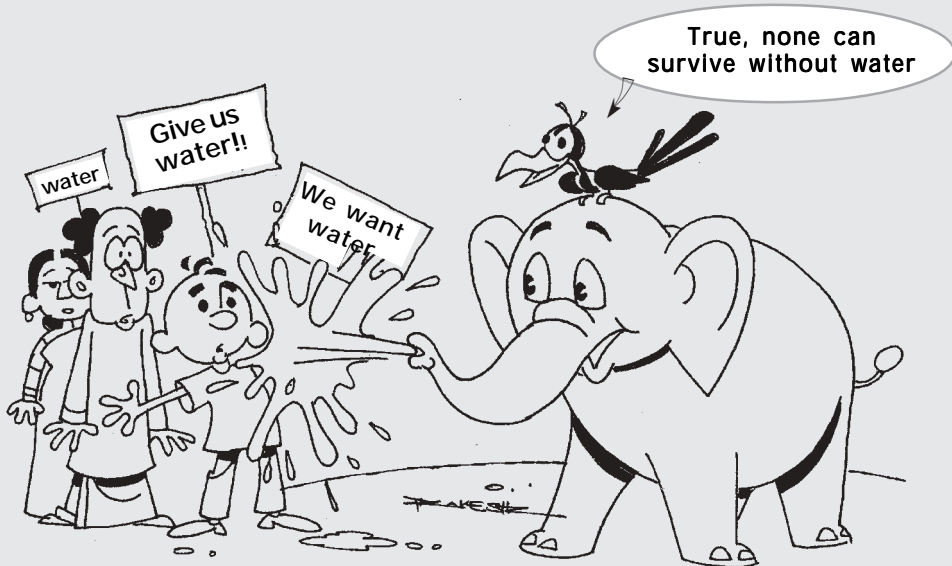
All the projects implemented by the Gram Panchayats are meant for the well being of the people. They cover various sectors like service, infrastructure, agriculture, social welfare, women development, etc. and contribute to the improvement of the social and economic status of the people. But do they cause changes in the environment like altering the prevailing status of land, water, plants, other living things and the atmosphere? How can we assess this?



Let us examine some of the projects taken up by the Gram Panchayat this year.

Water for Every one

There can be no life without water. The cells that make up all living organisms have a high percentage of water. Man can survive for a long time without food but not without water. The same is the case with all plant and animal life. It is water that facilitates absorption of nutrients by plants.



Exercise 1

No.	Project	**Sector	Components*				
			Land	Water	Plants	Living things	Atmosphere
1	Distribution of food to children through Anganwadis						
2	Distribution of equipments to handicapped						
3	Purchase of farm machinery						
4	Construction of a road to a SC colony						
5	Construction of a new community hall in the Panchayat compound						
6	Construction of a check dam in a stream						
7	Supply of fertilizers to farmers at subsidised rates						
8	Extension of electric line to a colony						
9	Construction of 500 smokeless chulas						
10	Conversion of all street lights to CF Lamps						

* Put a tick mark if the project makes an impact on any of these components when implemented.

** Social welfare, Basic Infrastructure, Production etc.

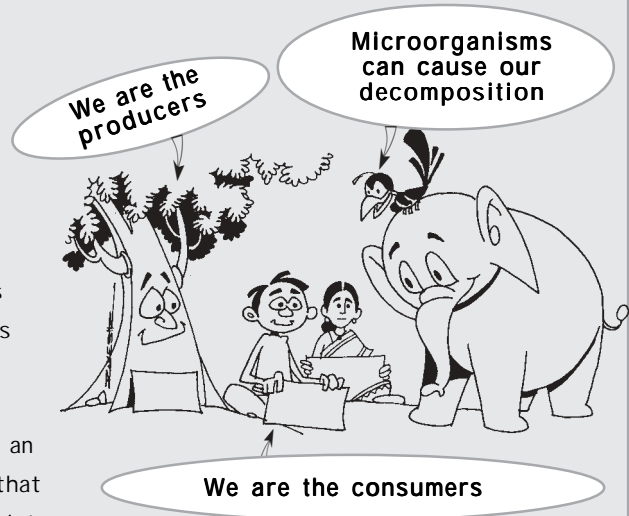
Life in an ecosystem

In an ecosystem there are several living organisms that interact with each other. They can be divided into three categories: **producers**, **consumers** and **decomposing agents**. All of them are equally important.

Plants are the producers. They feed themselves and produce food for other living beings who are the consumers. They get their energy from the producers or from organisms that eat the producers.

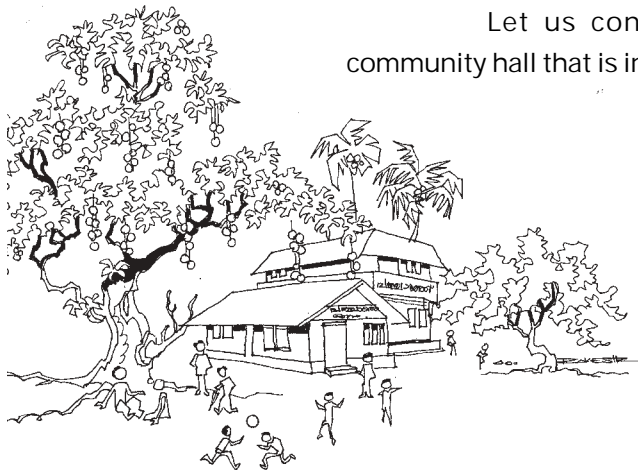
Consumers are of three types: herbivores that eat plants, carnivores that eat animals and omnivores that eat both.

The third type of living organisms in an ecosystem include plants and animals that break down dead plants and animals into organic matter that goes back into the soil, from where we started!



3. Components

Perhaps many doubts may come up while doing the first exercise. What we need to examine is the possible impact on the prevailing conditions while implementing any of the projects. For example, when a farm machinery is used it may not cause any change to the land, water, plants or animals. But it consumes fuel and emits smoke in to the atmosphere.



Let us consider the construction of the community hall that is included in the project. The building will have a hall with an area 3000 square feet. For its construction, 4 mango trees in the 20 cents of land will have to be cut and removed. The average rainfall in the Panchayat is 300 cm per year. The new building will prevent water over an area of 10 cents from going directly in to the soil. Thus, every year,

Let me breathe

The atmosphere provides oxygen and carbon dioxide for plants and animals. Without the complex interactions of the elements in the atmosphere, there will be no life on earth. The heat and light from

the sun are also like that. The

sunlight causes the

evaporation of water and

its recycling in to the

atmosphere. The heat

keeps plants and

animals warm. Plants

get the energy from

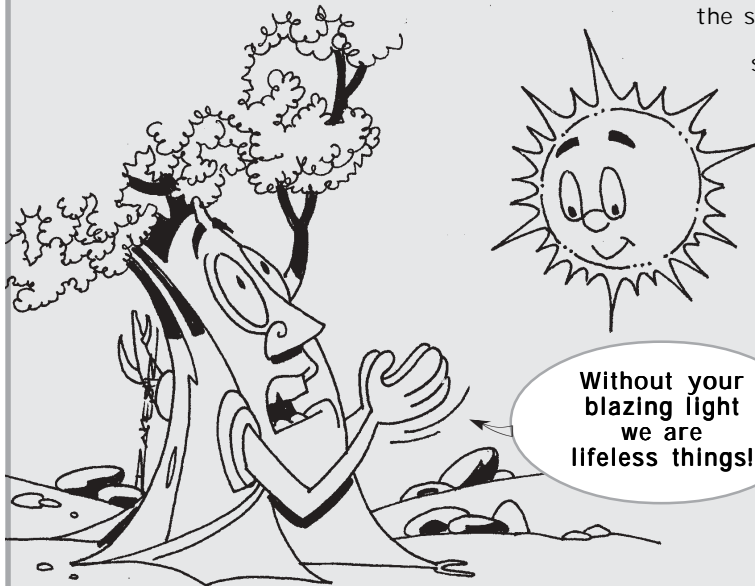
the sunlight to

make food. Just

think of a situation

where plants can not

produce food.



about 4 lakhs liter water will run off. The mango trees that were yielding tasty fruits for use by hundreds of people will not be there anymore. They are of different varieties, they are endemic to the area; one of them giving fruits in all the seasons, another is a special variety, and is unique as people make their favorite pickle from its tender mangoes. These trees are also home to several small plants, insects and birds. In the fruiting season the surroundings will be filled with the sweet sound of birds, squirrels and children. The people who came to the Panchayat office relax in the shade of these trees and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere in the evenings. The trees also cleanse the surrounding air by taking in carbon dioxide. All these will come to an end if the mango trees are felled.

See how the construction of a community hall can affect the environment.

Let us take the case of construction of a new road that will alter the existing land use. It will also damage the plants in the surroundings and interfere with the water channels?

All these do not mean that development is not needed. We have to be aware of the aspects to be taken care of.

Now let us examine how each project affects the environment.

Living pond

Ponds are a common example for an ecosystem. Sunlight facilitates the growth of moss and other plants and animals in a pond. These small plants provide oxygen and food for fish and other small organisms. These small plants get food and nutrients from the soil and other microorganisms in the pond. Thus a pond is a community of living and nonliving things that are mutually dependent.

**You can go on jumping
but will have to get back to the
land. For me it is always back to
the water.**



Exercise 2

Name of Project :		
No	Component	Explain how the project will affect each component
1	Land	
2	Water	
3	Vegetation	
4	Living beings	
5	Atmosphere	

Greater the Diversity Better the Health



**Each link
has its
place in
ecosystem**

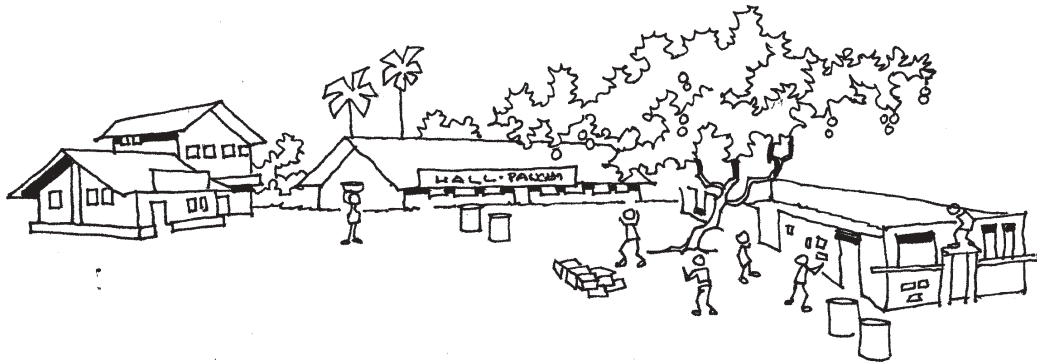
In a healthy ecosystem, there is great diversity. It suffers very little damage from natural calamities, human interactions or climate changes. Every link has a niche in its ecosystem and helps to keep the system healthy.

4. Stages

The findings so far make it clear that interventions can result in different types of impacts. They can be classified in to four different stages.

1. Construction stage:

Direct impact on prevailing conditions of the basic components of the environment namely land, water, vegetation, living beings and atmosphere during the construction process.



Old friends meet

Plants disperse their seeds in several ways: through wind, water, insects and even small animals to large animals like elephants help them in this process. The example given below shows such a relationship between plants and animals.

Tens of Thousands of years ago, North America was inhabited by thousands of large mammals. Elephants known as Mastodon, big horses and camels were some of them. These animals disappeared or became almost extinct due to various reasons, including human intervention.

Many species of plants that had their seed distribution through these animals also became nearly extinct.

After many years a miracle took place.

The camels and horses that came with the Europeans facilitated the reappearance of many of the plant species that were nearly extinct. A plant species called the "devil's shoe" is an example. Its seed coat is hard and in shape it resembles horse's hoof. The seed will sprout only if it is broken by the hoof of the horse. When the seed met its old friend it sprouted.



2. From the materials used:

Impact due to use of materials related to the basic components (eg. sand, cement, etc).

3. Implementing stage:

Impact due to implementation of the project which continuously affects the primary components.

4. Post implementation stage:

Impact of the residual material from the implementation of the project.

Is there any difficulty in understanding this?

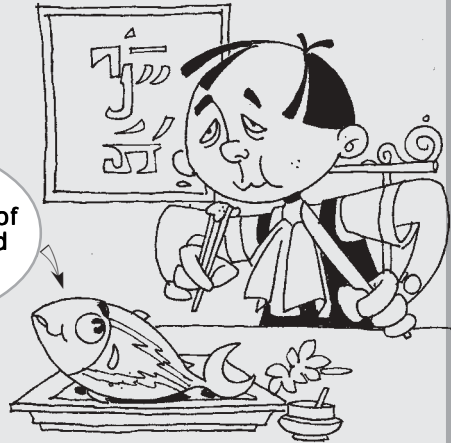
Let us go back to the example of construction of the community hall. We have already realised its possible impact on the environment. Another aspect relates to the materials used for the construction while rubble, cement and sand can not be reused, steel and wood can be reused. As the trees can be grown again, wood from the locality can be used for essential needs, provided there is systematic replanting. The production and mining of other materials (non-renewable) can cause serious damage to the environment. More over have you thought of the amount of carbon dioxide emitted during this process?

Mercury and the Mina Mata disease

A major food of the farmers and fishermen of Mina Mata in Japan was fish. The coming of Chisso chemical factory in 1932 marked the beginning of the end of their happy life. The problem started with the appearance of dead fish in the Mina Mata Bay in 1950s. Soon the disease spread to animals and humans as well. The cause unknown at the beginning was later confirmed as mercury poisoning from the mercury content in the emissions of the factory. The poison affects vital organs like brain, liver and kidneys, causes dreadful nervous disorders and death.

In pregnant mothers it gets transmitted to the foetus resulting in the birth of mentally retarded children. Though the factory that caused the death of thousands of Japanese was closed down in 1968, the tragic after effects of poisoning still remain.

**Eat, eat,
you'll suffer.
My body is full of
mercury emitted
from the
factory.**



The use of resources for the hall will not be over even when the construction is completed. The hall needs several lights and cooling facilities which will cause enormous energy consumption. The waste materials generated will also pose problems.

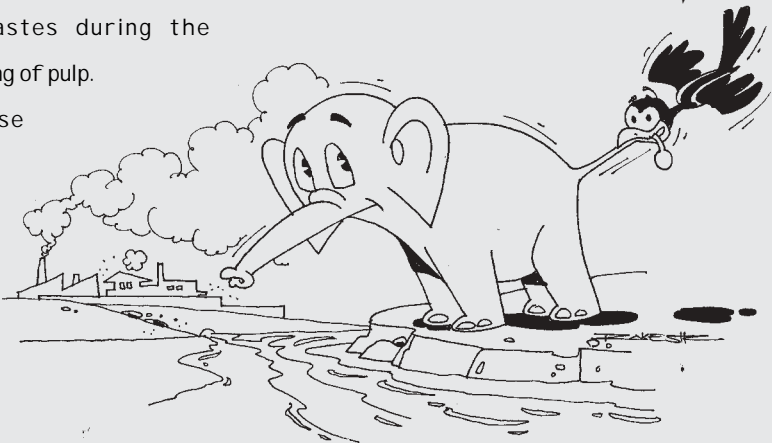
After 25 or 50 years, a decision might be taken to demolish the building and construct a new one. The materials from the demolition will be a big environment problem. This is the case of one building. If we take the case of hundreds of buildings what will be the impact?

Let us try another exercise to assess the environmental impact during different stages of the project.

Pollution of Chaliyar River

Chaliyar River, in Northern Kerala is the fourth longest among the 44 rivers of the State, with a length of 169 Kilometers. What is the importance of this river? .The rayon pulp and fibre unit of Grasim Industries was put up on the banks of this river at Mavoor in Kozhikode district. The plant produced highly toxic and carcinogenic wastes during the production and processing of pulp.

The release of these chemicals into the river without treatment caused serious hazards, particularly diseases like cancer. The factory was closed in July, 2001.



Exercise 3

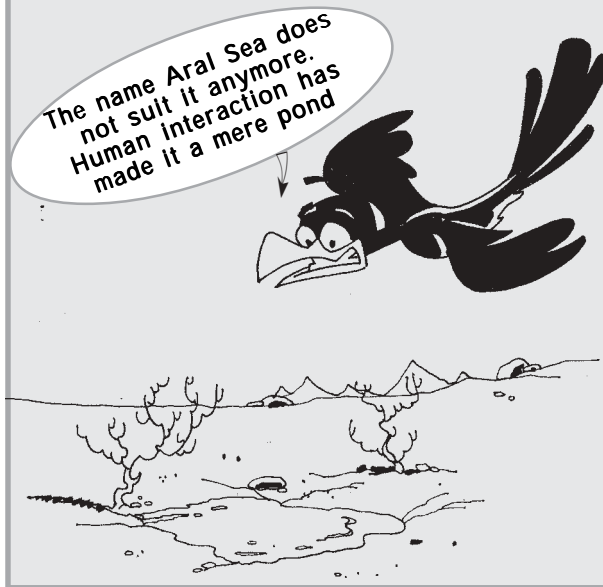
Put a tick mark if the primary components are affected in any of the four stages of the project.

For example, construction of the community hall.

No	Component	Stage1	Stage 2	Stage3	Stage 4
1	Land				
2	Water				
3	Vegetation				
4	Living beings				
5	Atmosphere				

Aral Sea and cotton cultivation

The Aral Sea is actually not a sea at all. It was once the fourth largest fresh water lake in the world. It lies in central Asia in the republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan which were part of former

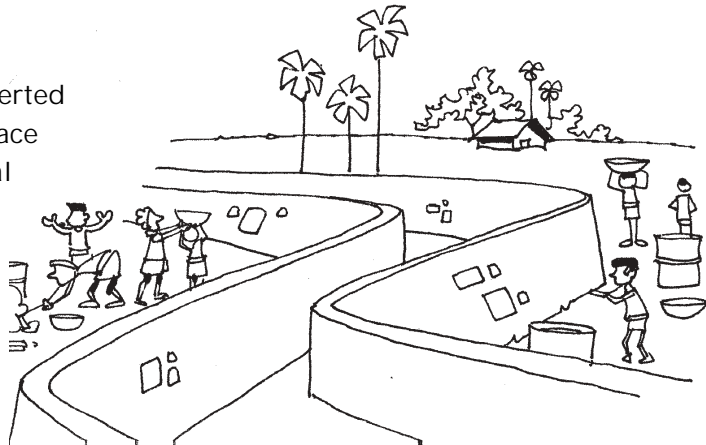


Soviet Union. In 1930s two rivers which were draining in to the sea were diverted to other areas for cultivating cotton. But what was the consequence? In the initial five years there were good yields. But subsequently more than 60 percent of the lake disappeared. The pesticides from the fields accumulated in the sea and destroyed the fish. It also produced winds containing elements of these deposits which caused respiratory diseases in thousands of people. This incident which destroyed the economy of the region and health of the people is a lesson for everyone.

5. Possibilities

A project that yields social as well as economic benefits might also have few adverse effects that could be set right in due course of time. But this may not be possible in the case of damage to the environment. Even to realise the adverse impact and the consequent damages, it might take few years! It is the industrialisation and energy consumption of the last century that have caused the droughts and unseasonal rains experienced later. Efforts to mitigate the ill effects may, therefore, take decades to show desired results.

For example even a concerted effort launched now to face the challenge of global warming might take hundred years to show results. Let us examine the ways and means to reduce the impact on the environment.

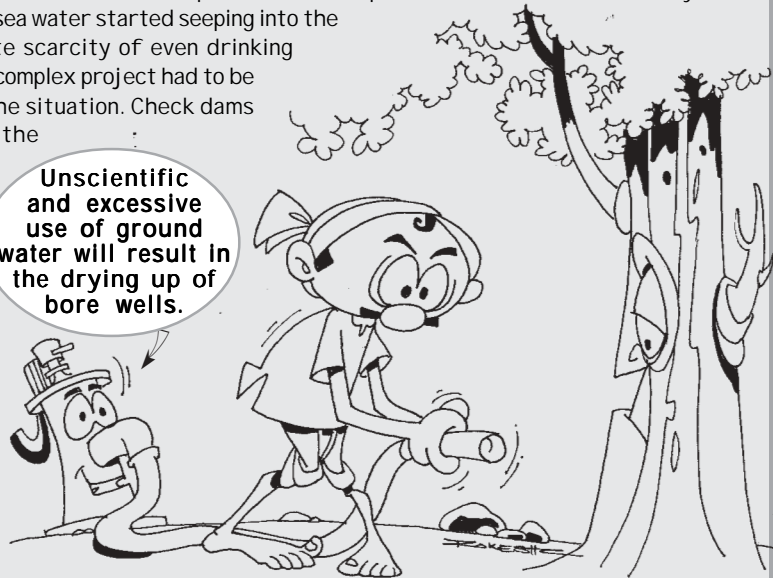


Saurashtra and bore wells

In the 20 point programme of the 1970s, irrigation had top priority. In its enthusiasm to achieve the target in an expeditious manner, the State government constructed several bore wells all along the Saurashtra coast to pump out water for crop cultivation. It proved to be a success initially for a couple of years. But later, sea water started seeping into the aquifers resulting in acute scarcity of even drinking water. Another costly and complex project had to be implemented to remedy the situation. Check dams were constructed in all the small streams to arrest

the water flowing into the sea and facilitate recharge into the aquifers. Even in Kerala indiscriminate exploitation of ground water for agriculture and industries is affecting its availability as well as quality.

Unscientific and excessive use of ground water will result in the drying up of bore wells.



Extract from Anand's, 'Nature, Environment, Poverty, Water, Energy'

◆ **More water into the earth**

Construction of new ponds, renovation of existing ponds, construction and renovation of water channels, construction of bunds, planting of trees and grass etc. are some of the measures adopted. It is important to remember that for all these constructions we use reusable materials. For example in the case of ponds instead of going for construction with rubble and cement, the sides can be strengthened by planting trees, vettiver, bamboo etc. The silt can be removed periodically.

Due to the variation in the geographical features, the plant population in each area is unique. It is, therefore essential to provide ideal conditions for the growth of the plants endemic to the area. Land for planting of trees is available on porombokes (unused public land), roadsides, sides of ponds, streams and rivers, compounds of institutions etc. It can be done as part of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. Here, the question as to who will reap the benefits of such efforts is irrelevant.

◆ **Water- use and reuse**

Systems can be developed to treat wastewater from households and small business establishments to be used again.

Drip irrigation and deficit irrigation

All plants require water. The requirement depends on the atmospheric humidity, temperature and size and age of the plant. Our water consumption also has seasonal variations. Ofcourse, it is possible to drink water only if it is available. Likewise the plants can utilize water only if it is available in their root zone at the proper time. There is no benefit in providing excess water. Successful farming can be done with just the required quantity of water (often little less than the requirement) in a scientific manner.



◆ **Less water, more the benefit**

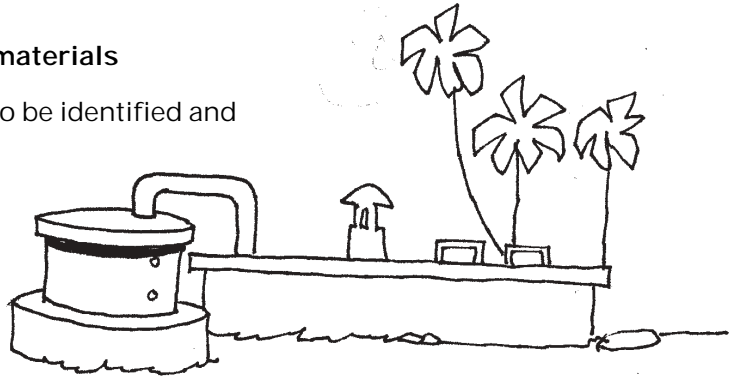
In the agricultural sector, use of techniques like drip irrigation and deficit irrigation help to reduce the quantity of water used for irrigation. Water closets that use only one third of water used in the conventional closets can be adopted in latrines.

◆ **Processing of waste materials**

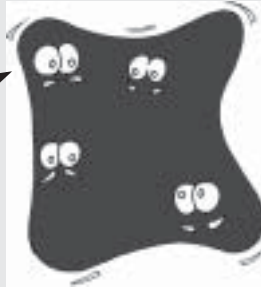
Reusable materials have to be identified and systems developed for their use and reuse through recycling.

All organic wastes can be converted into manure or fuel using biogas tanks and

composting pits. The gas generated in this plant can be used for cooking or lighting purpose. The manure which is of high quality, can be used in agricultural operations.



We don't mind sitting in the dark for an hour if it will reduce pollution!



Sydney and electricity

A symbolic incident happened in Sydney, Australia which is one of the largest cities in the world. On the 31st of March 2007, from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm, all the residents of the city switched off all electric equipments including lights. This avoided the emission of 25 tons of carbon dioxide which is equal to the reduction in pollution caused by the running of 50000 cars for one hour. On March 29th, 2008, from 8 pm to 9 pm, another 12 important cities participated in this programme. More cities have now come forward to promote it as Earth Hour in the coming years.

Sweden and energy

Sweden is one of the coldest countries in world. It uses large quantities of energy just to maintain the temperature inside the houses. The people of

Sweden took a major decision, to achieve self sufficiency in energy by 2020 without constructing any new atomic power plants and by stopping the import of petroleum products. The energy from the petroleum products is now used only for vehicles. The aim is to be achieved by using hydro power, wind energy, bio energy from forests and geothermal energy.

I am not bothered about the source of energy. I can't stand this cold!

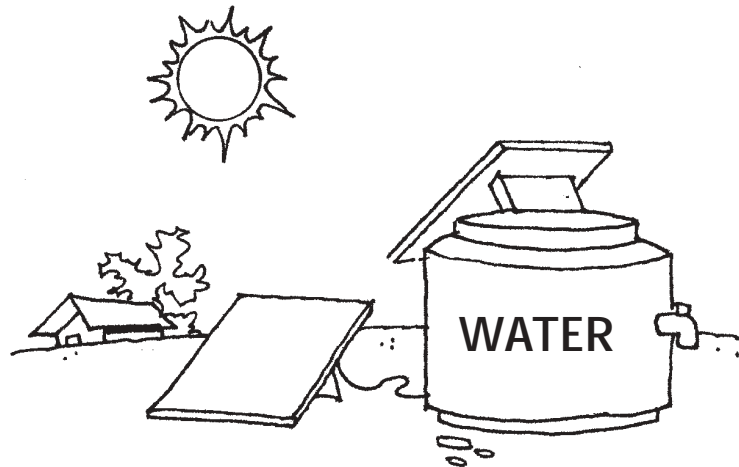


Reducing the use of materials which can not be recycled or reused e.g.: certain types of plastics, tetra pack etc. is also important. Eventually their use must be completely stopped. Construction of latrines appropriate for the environment, in households and institutions is also part of this endeavour.

◆ Energy consumption

Installation of high efficiency low fuel consuming chulas will also help this cause. Chulas for households and community chulas which can be installed in institutions like Anganwadis are available.

Solar water heaters can be installed in hotels, hospitals etc where hot water is regularly used.






A cartoon illustration of a man in a white shirt and dark belt. He is holding a glowing CFL bulb in his right hand and a standard incandescent bulb in his left hand. A speech bubble above him contains the text: "If carbon dioxide emission can be brought down CFL lamps are most welcome." The man has a slight smile and is looking towards the right.

Australia and CFLs

Australia took a decision to convert all lamps to CFL by 2015. This will reduce energy consumption substantially and prevent 400 tonnes of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere.

Japan and Air conditioners

The conventional dress in Japan is coat and tie. This dressing style required the maintenance of the temperature of the air conditioner at 26°C. When a decision was taken to cancel the official dress code, the AC temperature could be raised to 28°C. This decision which was supported by and complied with the Prime minister himself reduced the emission of carbon dioxide by 100 million tonnes.

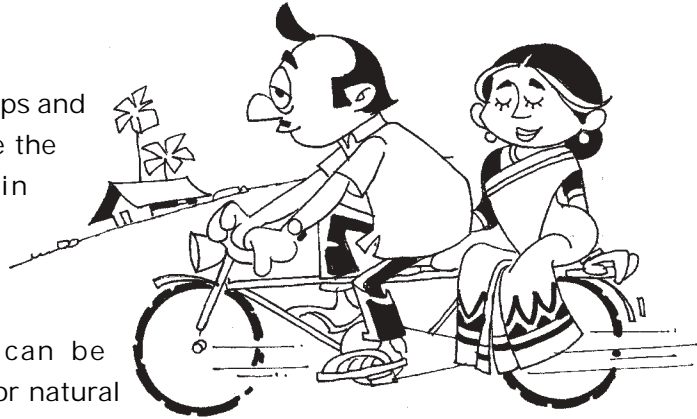


A cartoon illustration showing two men. On the left, a man in a suit and tie is standing and talking. On the right, a man in a shirt and tie is sitting at a desk, looking up at the man in the suit. A speech bubble above the man in the suit contains the text: "Just by doing away with the coat and tie, CO2 emission can be brought down by 100 million tonnes." The man in the suit is holding a briefcase.

Just by doing away with the coat and tie, CO2 emission can be brought down by 100 million tonnes.

LEDs and CFL s which require less amount of energy can be used in the place of ordinary bulbs.

Use of high efficiency pumps and motors will help to reduce the energy consumption in agricultural sector to a considerable extent.



Houses and buildings can be conceived and designed for natural lighting and ventilation to the maximum possible extent.

Use of vehicles like bicycles, which do not need any fuel and provide exercise to keep healthy have to be encouraged.

◆ Measures to conserve biodiversity

For the survival and preservation of the flora and fauna of specific regions, connectivity corridors linking such places may be established.

Kyoto protocol

The Kyoto protocol seeks to bring down by the year 2012 the emission of green house gases like carbon dioxide to a level that is less than that of 1990 . This was sought to be achieved by formulating suitable laws and policies. The Protocol was signed in the Kyoto city of Japan in 1995 by 35 countries. Its main achievement is the world wide acceptance of the fact that the cause of climatic change is the uncontrolled emission of gases like carbon dioxide. But the withdrawal of Australia and America from the protocol citing the non-inclusion of developing countries like China and India was a drawback.

Global warming

Normally it is the green house gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide and water vapour in the atmosphere that prevents the scorching heat from the sun falling on the earth there by preventig earth's excessive heating and cooling. The most important among them is carbon dioxide. The rapid industrialization during the past 150 years and the use of fossil fuels like coal and petroleum have resulted in high content of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This has caused rise in the atmospheric temperature and major changes in the climatic conditions.

◆ **Use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.**

By encouraging farming practices with minimal use of fertilizers and pesticides, pollution can be reduced to a great extent.



◆ **Environmental protection for alleviation of poverty**

Climatic change due to global warming is affecting agriculture and leading to shortage of food all over the world. Increasing crop production by cultivating crops suitable for each region will help to minimize the hazard considerably.

Climatic change

It is the heat from the Sun that is responsible for the different seasons like summer, winter etc.

The distance between the earth and the Sun changes as the earth rotates around the Sun causing regular seasonal changes.

The heat from the Sun heats up the air in the atmosphere and water in the water bodies, eventually resulting in wind movements, water currents, rain, snow, etc.

Global warming raises earth's temperature and this in turn affects the aforesaid phenomena.

Our traditional agricultural operations get disrupted, weather becomes quite unpredictable with warm winter nights, hurricanes, erratic or unseasonal rain, etc.

Epidemics, crop failures, food shortage, ... these have become regular features.

6. A Questionnaire

So far we were discussing the positive and negative environmental impact of various interventions. But they were at the conceptual level. Let us now look into their practical application.

Generally Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of big projects is done by expert institutions. Often, layman cannot understand their methodology, their inferences and reasons thereof. There is also a simplistic assumption that projects other than the major ones do not pose any threat to the environment. But it is relatively easy to study such projects and take proper steps to minimise or avoid any adverse impact. The use of a tool to facilitate this is explained here.



This questionnaire consists of a list of questions that will help to identify the environmental impact of a project.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Column 3 Enter the response as “adverse “ or “ beneficial “ or “ no” (if it is neither) depending on the effect on the environment in any of the 3 stages of the project- construction, operation, conclusion.

Column 4 Brief description of the impacts possible.

Column 5 Indicate the severity of the impact (only if there is any adverse impact). Use grades 1, 2, 3 & 4. If the adverse effect is little give 1 and if it is very severe give 4.

Factors to be considered to grade the severity

You may often find it difficult to decide the grade. The following points may be useful for that.

Extent of the impact

1. Is the impact on the environment big?
2. Will the impact affect a large area?
3. Will a lot of people, flora and fauna be affected adversely?

Possibility of the impact

4. Is there high possibility for the impact to occur?
5. Will the effects of the impact persist for a long time?
6. Are those changes permanent?
7. Are the changes continuous or intermittent?
8. Are the effects of the impact irreversible?

Nature of the impact

9. Will very valuable or rare resources be affected?

Column 6 Modifications in the project and alternate measures suggested to reduce or avoid the adverse impacts.

Column 7 Revised grades after incorporating the modifications and alternate measures.

Questionnaire

Name of Project	
Brief description	
Type of Project	Construction/purchase of equipments/purchase of materials/others

A. Land/Soil

No.	Qustion	Adverse/ Beneficial/ No	Brief description of the effect	Score	Modifications/ Alternatives	Score
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Will there be any change in the land use?					
2	Will there be any change in land use in the near by areas?					
3	Will there be any change in the nature of the land or water bodies?					

PANCHAYATS AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

No.	Question	Adverse/ Beneficial/ No	Brief description of the effect	Score	Modifications/ Alternatives	Score
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	Will there be any pollution of the soil?					
5	Will the project produce solid wastes?					
6	Will the project use materials which are non renewable or whose availability is decreasing?					
7	Will any facility /building / facilities used by the public be affected?					
8	Will any thing of historic or cultural importance be affected?					
9	Is the project location vulnerable to disasters which could make any environmental impact of the project more severe?					
10	Will the project increase the prevailing level of pollution ?					
Total Marks						

B. Water

No.	Qustion	Adverse/ Beneficial/ No	Brief description of the effect	Score	Modifications/ Alternatives	Score
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Will the flow of water (surface or ground) be affected?					
2	Will it cause over exploitation of water resources?					
3	Will the project lead to contamination of water?					
Total Marks						

C. Vegetation

No.	Question	Adverse/ Beneficial/ No	Brief description of the effect	Score	Modifications/ Alternatives	Score
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Will the project cause damage to agricultural land?					
2	Will the project do any harm to the vegetation in the area?					
3	Will any protected area (forest, mangroves, etc.) be affected?					
Total Marks						

D. Living beings

No.	Qustion	Adverse/ Beneficial/ No	Brief description of the effect	Score	Modifications/ Alternatives	Score
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Will the project be harmful to the health of man/ animals?					
2	Will the project result in changes in the lifestyle of the area?					
3	Will the project affect important ecosystems of animals?					
4	Will there be any risk of accidents that could affect the health of living beings?					
5	Will the project affect any densely populated area?					
	Total Marks					

E. Atmosphere

No.	Qustion	Adverse/ Beneficial/ No	Brief description of the effect	Score	Modifications/ Alternatives	Score
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Will the project release pollutants or toxic substances that pollute the air?					
2	Will the project create excessive noise, light, heat or radiation?					
3	Will the project increase energy consumption?					
Total Marks						

Now let us look into the total score




No.	Component	Maximum mark (Negative)	Marks given (Negative)	Marks			Status
				for approval	for modification	for rejection	Approved/ to be modified/ to be rejected
1	Land/Soil	40		1-16	17-28	29-40	
2	Water	12		1-5	6-8	9-12	
3	Vegetation	12		1-5	6-8	9-12	
4	Living beings	20		1-8	9-14	15-20	
5	Atmosphere	12		1-5	6-8	9-12	
	Total	96					

Shouldn't we take a decision now ?

But how?

Let us fix norms for
approving/
modifying/
rejecting projects

Please examine the table on the previous page

-  If the project is to be approved, we must get "Approved" against all the 5 components.
-  If any of the component gets "Rejected" the project may be rejected or modified.
-  If none of the components gets "Rejected" and few of them get "modified", modifications have to be done.

Maithri

is a voluntary organization

which tries to motivate and enhance the capacity of common people to conserve natural resources and to make justice available to the marginalized groups in the context of Local Self-Governments and Decentralised Planning.

In the last decade, Maithri has been able to create certain appropriate models in the villages of Palakkad.

This publication comes as a part of this continuing efforts.