

VITALITY OF WATER: NEED OF THE HOUR

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Water is the most precious for all things & vital for lives. It is the lifeline for lives. One may be on fasting without food for hours or for 2-3 days, but it is very difficult to be without water for a few days. Our body consists of 80% water .The earth consist 20% of water in which only 2% is potable, as remaining water is salty. (as per survey of International environmental list)

If we go through our mythology, water is always considered as God. Like '*Ganga*' is always honored as *Maa*. As mother washes away all the sins of her children, likewise a dip in Ganga washes away all sins of our life. The river emanated from head of Lord Shiva. Likewise, Yamuna is connected with Lord Krishana and many more regional rivers had their religious value. This depicts that how our ancestors felt the vitality of water and worshipped then like their mother. This was the cause that rivers were clean at that time but now a day half of the way of the regional rivers have eloped and our progeny knows about only a few rivers.

One may imagine the importance of water from rituals. When a child is born he is welcomed with holy water of river and when one dies holy water is poured in his mouth for peace of departed soul. Our life commence with water & ends with it. How important it is for human life. Without water one cannot imagine plantation vital for breathing, crops necessary for food. All our life depends on water. It is better to call it as lifeline of our planet. Everybody knows that moon or any other planet in the solar system has no life just because of non-availability of water. Our earth is the only planet which has lives. You can't think of survival of planet without water. Our ancestors were wiser then us. They recognized it and always insisted upon preserving the water for present as well as future generation. If we come across our history, we'll find that ancient rulers always insisted upon digging of wells and rivers for their state. But Alas, we are unable to follow their foot prints.

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It is always considered as work of '*punya*' to water the thirsty men & thirsty animal which we still follow in our day to day life. The fertility of land is always counted by volume of rain and water of that place. Everybody knows the reason of more rain is always more tree & water. As water evaporates from rivers and sea then it rains. "Water fetches the water".

But unfortunately, it is not possible in India, to have rain throughout its territory, because of its geographical conditions. Every year some places face draughts & some places face floods. Due to this there is abundance of water and at the same time some places face scarcity of water. To overcome this situation 'Water Resource Management' is the need of the hour. That implies that water should be managed in such a way that it could be able to satisfy the thirst of our motherland equally. Perhaps this is the step which could forward us towards the foot steps of our ancestors.

Water crises is felt throughout the world. That is why it is considered as international problem. Stockholm convention declaration in which India was a party was a step towards conservation of water. In which a phenomenon of sustainable development was evolved. The term was defined in World Commission on Environment and Development report," as development that meets the need of the present without compromising ability future generation to meet their own need". So, third world war is expected to be for water.

The position in water availability is worsening day by day. Everyday we come across the survey of geological that water level of the land is going down due to wastage of water. Some scientist hold global warming responsible for this problem, but one can not shed off himself from being responsible for this deteriorating position. Perhaps due to this reason, our law makers have tried to ameliorate the present scenario. Constitution of India which is supreme law of land contains provisions under Article 21 "as availability of potable water is a fundamental right of every citizen of India".

Article 48-A states that "state should endeavor to preserve its natural resources & to protect the environment and ecology". Article 51-A imposes "duty on every citizen of India to protect the environment for future generation.

Are we able to cope with the situation? Do we really feel our responsibility towards our future generation? We are running behind the development but we do not understand how much we are paying for that. The industrial revolution is good for the country but it should not be at the stake of spoiling our natural resources like water. The industries set up on the banks of our holy rivers are not only affecting the purity of water & also endangering the lives of all living beings they are polluting the water to such an extent that they have poisoned it and harmful for everybody using it.

But where is our duty to protect it, we should not leave this problem solely on the law makers and our politicians rather; we must strive to meet out by ourselves. It being our fundamental duty. A man lawyer cum socialist has taken it as a duty and he filed a writ in Hon'ble Supreme Court as *MC Mehta vs. Union of India* for destructing the holiness of river Ganga and to purify & cleaning it. Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order for its cleaning. But it is not alone his duty. After all, it is duty of all of us to preserve it for our progeny.

To my mind, to cater to need of water, we must pledge not to waste it. Our States should collectively endeavor to manage it in such a way that the flooded excessive water is diverted towards the area where water is scare.