TRADITIONAL WISDOM IN WATER MANAGEMENT-A CASE STUDY OF DAULATABAD FORT (INDIA)

In the arid zone the spell between the two Rain showers is too large. These dry spells reduce the crop yield drastically. Once the rain disappears, the lands become as dry as like desert, life difficult and water scare to find. In India, the monsoon rainfall occurs only for a short duration. It is not evenly distributed all over the country. It is erratic in nature. Some times it fall with high intensity or some times with very low. Thus the water was a very ephemeral resource for them. To maintain the sustainability in food production and to give protective irrigation they slowly grew the extraordinary traditions of water harvesting in innumerable forms in different parts of India. Depending on the resources available to them, they developed a range of techniques to harvest every possible form of water - form rainwater to ground water, stream water to river water, and floodwater. Various examples spread over the country shows that the water harvesting systems were last for a long period of time, may be 300 to 400 years. The systems were maintenance free, or can run with meager expenses. Indians have given importance not only for the collection of rainwater but equally importance to the purity of the water. Indian civilization is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. It has contributed a large number of aspects such as religion, culture, philosophy, technology, water harvesting, and water management. Several periods of prosperity are quite discernible in the history of India. Numerous documentary and field evidences which attest to the existing water systems which in turn were based on well conceived planning and regulation, are extant in different part of India. The method of water development of respective periods have long been closely linked to the Indian climate, social fabric, and living style. The recently carried out exercise by Maharashtra Water & Irrigation Commission has brought to the fore the possibility of unearthing countless guiding principals through the data that may prove useful in the contest of structures being conceived in the new environment of India. History shows that, though under the dynastic ruler of those days, people lived happily. However owing to the neglect, innumerable structures and an invaluable stock of literary and documentary information pertain thereto are gradually being pushed on the verge of extinction. It is necessary to get all this...
preserved as a valuable historical heritage. The Medieval rainwater harvesting techniques and management of water resources used at Daulatabad fort [India], is an inspiring example for the water harvesting experts. It gives the guidelines for How to manage the available water resources effectively? The water harvesting techniques at Daulatabad can be said as one of the best examples in the world. The details of the scheme are discussed in this paper.

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