

Empowerment of People through Geospatial Technologies with emphasis on Village Water Resources & Management: A case study of Buraka Village, Tehsil Taoru, District Mewat (Haryana)

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Abstract

Village ponds/tanks have been the main source catering to the local human and animal population in Indian villages since centuries. These village water bodies (ponds) show engineering skills and need of community participation, social awareness to protect and maintain them. The basic philosophy for village water pond was "WATER FOR EVERY BODY". In most of the villages, these ponds were being maintained without any strict code of conduct or rules for many centuries. In the modern times, however, these ponds are being neglected both by community and government basically due to introduction of public water supply and/or ground water exploitation through tube wells and hand pumps. Presently, in many villages like Buraka Taoru of Mewat district in Haryana, most of such village ponds are in highly mutilated condition and require immediate attention both from community and government for their revival and restoration. A study was undertaken on traditional village water bodies including field bunds & water harvesting structures, locally called by various names such as Johad, bund, Pokhar or talab, usually made for storing water from adjoining natural catchments during rainy season as traditional and ancient system of harnessing rain water in the villages, with the emphasis on mobilizing local communities. Earlier, villagers have developed elaborate systems to collect, store and distribute water including their governance and management, but now a day; unfortunately, the skills, knowledge, and traditional practices of managing village water structures are rapidly disappearing, just when these are required most. The present study was restricted to one village namely Buraka Taoru in Mewat district where water and land resources survey at 1:4000 scales was done and relevant data collected on the terrain characteristics in context of village water structure/pond/body to grass root level with villager's full participation as an essential component. High resolution satellite data was used & GIS tools gave very clear change detection & scenario happened in past 10 yrs.