


Water & Gender Equality ~ Where Water Flows, Equality Grows

	Water Traceability to Availability – Bringing back Nature’s Blessings Regime	Transcending women as being centroid by pivoting gender equality on various efforts and endeavour in water decision, acts as polarisation to ever existence of continuum of water flows and equality grows.
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Pause time zone which is quite evident, being the outcome of adversity and equivocal water flow and its distribution. The same disproportionate exists in gender equality where women and girls are adversely affected by water-related challenges for entrenched gender roles, inadequate infrastructure, underrepresentation, limited funding, restrictive social norms and systemic inequalities. The response solution lies with ‘where water flows, equality grows’. When women and girls have equal voice in water decisions, services become more reliable and effective. The global water crisis affects everyone – but not equally. Where people lack the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, inequalities flourish, with women and girls bearing the brunt. We must invest in women’s leadership to make water a force for a healthier, more prosperous, gender-equal future that reciprocate advantage to all. Women must shape the future of water.

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Water services must withstand climate change and meet everyone’s needs. Groundwater anchors India’s food security & drinking water. Today’s pause on water can be construed well from below.

1. 2/3rd of irrigation of India
2. 85% of rural water supply
3. 50% of urban water supply
4. 54% of wells dropped over past 7 years
5. 1/3rd of world’s aquifers is in stress
6. Arid region per capita water availability to be 1/3rd from its average by 2 decades
7. 5 million springs are either drying up or their discharge is reducing
8. GRACE satellites usage from April 2002 to December 2020 observed significant groundwater stress hotspots in the Indo-Gangetic basin
9. By 2050, 40 % of world’s population is projected to live under severe water stress
10. Above emergent necessitates investment need in water-related infrastructure to be estimated to reach \$6.7 trillion by 2030 and \$22.6 trillion by 2050

Climate change strongly influences freshwater supply and demand globally. Warming of ~1° C over the last half century globally has directly impacted the supply of freshwater through the amplification of precipitation extremes, more frequent and pronounced floods and droughts, increasing evapotranspiration rates, rising sea levels, and changing precipitation and meltwater regimes. Above scenarios are outcome of constituent of affect and effect ingredients of 11 indicators of climate change. Therefore, water crisis and related hazards is at the centre of climate change or in fact climate change is primarily water crisis. Water sustainability management of source and resource is key to build all round resilience being water as centroid of numerous missions of government of India. Essence of today is to respect and imparting with implementation on collective wisdom in making existence of life, ‘water’ itself.

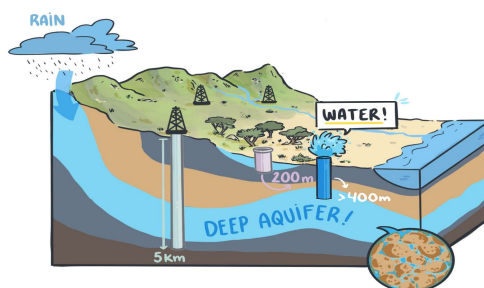
Above inconsistent and all-round inequalities, seeds rationale of “where water flows, equality grows” as theme for World Water Day 2026. It calls for a transformative, rights-based approach to solving the water crisis. Now, women’s voices and leadership are fully recognised. Repeatedly pressing afresh outlook for women’s opportunities in water decision-making, thus, making water a force for a healthier, more prosperous, gender-equal future that will benefit us all. Particularly in arid regions, women are to travel many miles in amassing water for family need and thus, much traditional way of home maker. The rapid metamorphosis and looks transient world for decades, ripples logic to reinstate women as centroid of water decision matrix since their inherent characteristics of cohesive consistent fabric in much exposed and adversity circumstances and environment. Natural appetite of home building and stewardships enable them better exercising jurisdiction on an endeavour of water flows to each corner of length & breadth.



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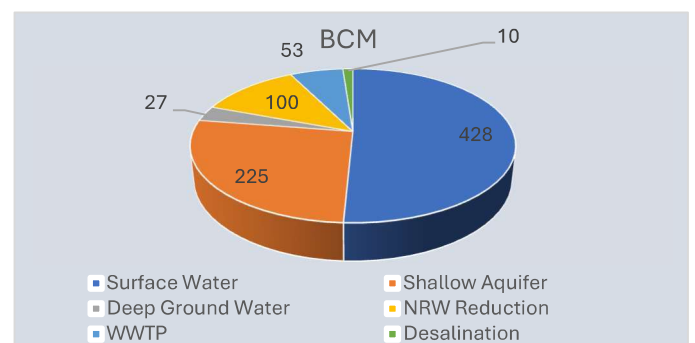
Science itself in today's time zone redefining its definition from earlier, application of knowledge and evolved practices to accelerate human comfort to now make shift after pause analysis of ecosystem and its sustainability to harness in between human need & greed. Thus, era of redrawn, rethink, rewater to recharge in water flows and thereby bringing, approaching and transcending on much needed equality. Equality is the objective and outcome of adoptability of sustainability. Water flows promote equality grows is a function of either recharge or adoption to integrated water management on arrived adversity and anthropogenic actions. The linearity way of living is reaching inflexion point of tipping offs and hereby, called far refresh button on to explore, penetrate, consolidate on variables of recharge and integrated water

Water stored in aquifers is naturally protected from evapotranspiration losses and less vulnerable to pollution than surface one. Globally evapotranspiration is estimated to have increased by ~10% between 2003 and 2019 (Pascolini-Campbell et al., 2021). The mean annual freshwater renewal averaged over the total global surface except Antarctica equals to a water depth of 274 mm whereas for Asia it is around 140 mm. The analysis of National Compilation of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India reveals recharge of 136 mm to 137 mm in consecutive 3 years since 2023 with recharge volume of 449.08 BCM, 446.90 BCM, 448.52 BCM. Also, its recommendation of deeper aquifer systems and groundwater modelling & predictive simulation shall be enabler in consolidating the recharge of the country.



The key to recharge is traceability to availability of water that entirely lies on the science of establishing connection between porosity and permeability. The capacity of the rock to store fluids is porosity and its capacity to allow fluid to flow through it is called permeability. On the vast geography that not being easy to correlate and however, interdisciplinary understanding intensive with extensive makes this viable and accordance that's being theme of ours on lever arm of water sustenance. Hence, it exercises to link darcy velocity to millidarcy. Recharge is an implicit function of attributes such as rainfall, runoff and evapotranspiration. The impact of climate change influencing groundwater replenishment is the intensification of precipitation. As warmer air holds more moisture, greater evapotranspiration is required to reach condensation (dew) points in a warming world. This transition results in fewer light precipitation events and more frequent heavy

Responding to transient and aggravated shallow aquifer water resource of India, the pie chart (assumption based) of integrated water management may be a solution towards meeting objectives of domestic, industrial, agriculture, power and others water demand of the country. All facets of water source and resource where there is no much initiation & actions are on card seeking immediate government actions in inactions and something substantial on technology adoption curves in responding cusp to be in sustenance.

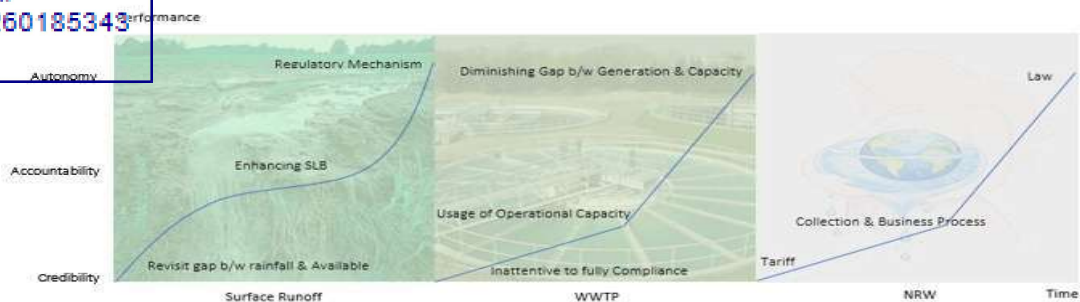


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Recharge that intact groundwater whose access for groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) is must on a permanent or intermittent basis to meet all or some of the water requirements to maintain plants and animals, their ecological processes, and their ecosystem services. Groundwater is part of both the water cycle and complex aquatic, terrestrial and subterranean ecosystems. Thus, the most important derivative for equality grows. This water flows is an enabler in avoiding women collectively spend time of 200 million hours each day on collecting water. There is substantial formation of Village Water & Sanitation Committees or Pani Samitis, with at least 50% women members and for community water projects, train and include women as facilitators and change agents. Their lived experiences can be leveraged by the international community for conservation efforts.

Women can be easily transformed from water collectors into business leaders. Since water is women's business, inclusion of women participation in such projects is crucial to its success. Thus, a change of mindset to adopt the "nothing about women without women" approach to water governance decisions. It has observed that gender diversity in the workforce stimulates more vigorous discussion on policy discussions and operational approaches, resulting in smarter business decisions. There should be slots reserved for women in water leadership in executive, policy, and operational positions. Water conservation to an appropriate strategy, scale, jurisdiction is key attribute to a woman as evident in below graph. As credibility increases, autonomy increases as well and as accountability increases, credibility increases. Thus, without women water leaders, a safe water future is indefinable.

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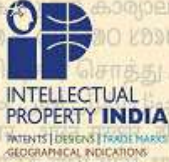


Women are the unsung heroes of water conservation. Across most regions globally, women are predominantly the primary users and managers of household water. Despite this critical role, in water leadership, they remain severely underrepresented. They comprise less than 17% of the global water workforce (Nature Water, 2024). Despite being predominantly the primary water users, women remain systematically excluded from water governance decisions. This creates knowledge gaps that further hinder women's presence on platforms where water policy discussions are made. Sometimes, cultural norms are a powerful obstacle for women in water leadership. Research shows women tend to prioritise domestic water efficiency over irrigation efficiency for limited knowledge regarding water allocation among productive sectors. Women being primary stakeholders in the water sector, can impact water sustainability efforts and are of transformative change.

Sustainability is the logical blend of why, how, what and each passes battens in chorological and sequential way to deliver its purpose. It accrues occurrence of events in that sequence is natural phenomenon. Henceforth, SDG6 on Clean Water & Sanitation is the 'how' that must get embark upon previous SDG 5 Gender Equality being the 'why' in making and encompassing the ecology with sustainability. 'Water flows' is only the outcome of adoptability of SDG 6 and it is well evident that ingredients of recharge and integration are imperative, essential & paramount for it. The succeeding events occurrence entirely lying upon previous robustness and its practice & usage. Thereby, transcending women as being centroid by pivoting SDG 5 for gender equality on various efforts and endeavour in water decision, the objective of clean water & sanitation, SDG 6 accrues to be happening as in accelerated, robust, sustenance and blooming nature forever. This acts as polarisation to ever existence of continuum of water flows and equality grows.



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