

RESTORATION OF MARATHAMPALLY POND, KODAKARA



Annual Report

2017-18

Submitted to:

Apollo Tyre Foundation

Implemented by:

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www.ties.org.in

INTRODUCTION

Conservation of ponds is by now an acknowledged solution to the water scarcity and ground water depletion. In the past, ponds were a part of everyone's daily lives because uses of ponds are many. It conserves water, supports agriculture and other water needs, provides a viable condition for local wildlife such as birds, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, frogs, crabs *etc.*. Ponds are ideal habitat for lots of organisms. Ponds also support their breeding.

Water scarcity has emerged as one of the most prominent issues faced in the world. Though Kerala is known for its water bodies, there are many people struggling to meet their water needs and left agriculture due to water scarcity. On one hand, a large number of people are thriving for water, on the other hand a large number of water resources are ruined. Conserving the ponds can definitely help us with the rise in water demand.

Ponds are also able to provide sustainable solution to pollution and water management issues. Ponds are identified as good sources for denitrification, sedimentation, removal of phosphorous, nitrogen and sediments from surface water. Besides, ponds support the ground water table too, which may benefit the community and nature especially during summer seasons. It is found that a pond of 500 m² is able to sequester 1000 kg of carbon which is equal to the amount of carbon produced by a car at the same time (Cereghino et al. 2). Pollution is a major threat to most of the ponds, especially while they are in an abandoned condition. Many of the ponds are left uncleaned mainly due to management issues.

OBJECTIVE

- To protect and maintain Marathampilly pond from eutrophication pollution: Retain its ecological importance to provide sustainable use pattern.
- Increase the ground water level in Marathampilly region through rain water harvestation in the pond.
- Make provisions for bathing, irrigation (manual) and meet the common water needs of the society.
- Most importantly, provide enough water for agriculture.

DESCRIPTION

Marathampilly pond was cleaned and restored in the beginning of 2017. As a continuation of the pond restoration and conservation activities, the maintenance activities were continued in the year 2017-18.

Pond cleaning was conducted twice in the year, in September and February. Also, the handrails of the pond were repainted in February, 2018. Moreover, few beautification works that were uncompleted in the previous year were also completed in the beginning of this year. Outlet placed ensured that water stagnation is avoided and maintained regular

water flow. As the pond has become accessible to the public, the society were able to depend on the pond for bathing, irrigation, and common water needs.



CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Due to the lack of community cooperation, local community committee could not be conducted
- Marathampally pond is a perennial pond and even in extreme summer it won't dry. So it can be used as a drinking water resource; but some of the local people demands it as a bathing and washing spot also. This has been created confusion among the stakeholders. We have to urge the Kodakara GP President to intervene and ensure a sustainable use and maintenance of the pond.

CONCLUSION

Marathampally pond offers good quantity of water throughout the year which can be used as drinking water or other human purposes. Besides it support the ground water layers also helping other ponds and open wells in the neighbourhood. Certainly this is a model project for conserving surface water resources.

