

# RESTORATION OF KOTHAKULAM POND, KODAKARA



## Annual Report 2017-18

*Submitted to:*

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## 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 m<sup>2</sup> 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.

Kothakulam has a great importance in the daily lives of Anathadam natives, in Kodakara GP of Thrissur district. Kothakulam is the only pond in Anathadam village which is able to provide water for a large area of agricultural and residential lands through ground water recharging. As the pond gets dry up in every summer, water is pumped from an outside source, Kadhalichira Lift Irrigation Project.

## OBJECTIVE

- To protect and maintain Kothakkulam pond from eutrophication
- Conservation of Kothakulam for ground water recharging and agriculture
- Make provisions for bathing, irrigation (manual) and meet the common water needs of the society.
- To provide a space for the local people to spend time leisurely (roadside leisure point)

## DESCRIPTION

Kothakkulam pond was cleaned and restored in 2016-17. As a continuation of the pond restoration and conservation activities, the maintenance activities were continued in the year 2017-18.

Pond cleaning was conducted thrice in the year, July, October and February. The native plants planted in the surroundings were replanted twice in the last year in June and February. Also, the handrails of the pond were repainted in September.



On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Kothakkulam Pond Maintenance Committee meeting was held. Ms Smitha R, CSR Specialist- Apollo Tyres, Aloor Panchayath President, Aloor Pachayath Ward Member, Kodakara Panchayath Ward Member and Pond Committee members were in attendance. The committee has suggested ceasing the algae removal from the pond to not disturb the silt in the bottom and to carry out minor beautification activities. The committee will be carrying out the maintenance activities by regularly watering the plants planted. Aloor Panchayath has informed that the Panchayath will be cleaning the two adjacent ponds in order to maintain the water quality in the Kothakulam Pond. As the fund for the cleaning activities are already sanctioned, the cleaning will be done in 2017-18 year.

## **CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Kothakulam pond is located at a geographically significant position which is pivotal to the water recharging of five other ponds around it. Hence its restoration is of great importance for the drinking water issues of two Panchyaths. Thus the community maintenance of the pond is also ensured. However the water availability in the pond during summer season is mainly depends on the pumping from the canal. An agreement is already signed between the two Panchayaths but its implementation should be properly monitored.

## CONCLUSION

Kothakulam is a best model for conservation of surface water resources which are key to the sustainability of ground water resources too. Certainly this is a master project for the entire state and it should be replicated at all locations wherever such ponds are available.

