

Swachhta Pakhwada (Fortnight) Activities Report for Presidency University, Kolkata

Introduction:

The NSS Cell, Presidency University concentrated on a single action plan: **Cleanliness of water for drinking, toilet and daily uses** and conducted a learning cum awareness session (involving the adopted slum children) on water management, rain water harvesting and sustainable water use.

Recently a rain water harvesting unit has been installed within the campus. In course of learning, hands-on demonstration was given to the NSS volunteers.

Objective:

To develop among the volunteers and the adopted slum area people

- (i) the importance of collecting and saving of rain water for drinking purpose
- (ii) hands-on training on prudent use of water and
- (iii) introduction to rain water harvesting system

Mode of Action:

Dr. Mery Biswas, Programme Officer (Assistant Professor, Department of Geography) conducted the training and awareness of the students regarding water resource management. Dr. Suranjana Banerji, Assistant professor, Department of Geography was invited to deliver a lecture on water resource management and rain water harvesting.

The entire programme was done in two phases:

- (i) Awareness lectures and instructions
- (ii) Hands-on training to understand the process of rain water harvesting system in our University.

The lecture concerned about the increasing demand of water with the population pressure and as a result how we are extracting ground water in an unplanned way and as a result the ground water level is decreasing continuously in last three decades. The study is done on Salt Lake City where huge expansion of urban area has increased the water demand and the amount of water supplied from Tala pumping station is not sufficient, as a result, ground water is used for different purposes. In this condition, we need a sustainable process of water use and rain water harvesting is the most fruitful way to fulfill the water demand and it will also help to recharge the ground water. Regarding the practical demonstration of the rain water harvesting process, a hands-on training is arranged to aware the importance of water and its conservation as a scarce resource. This system is already been constructed in our campus and through this programme students have become to know how such kind of system can be applied in their own house for sustainable use of water.

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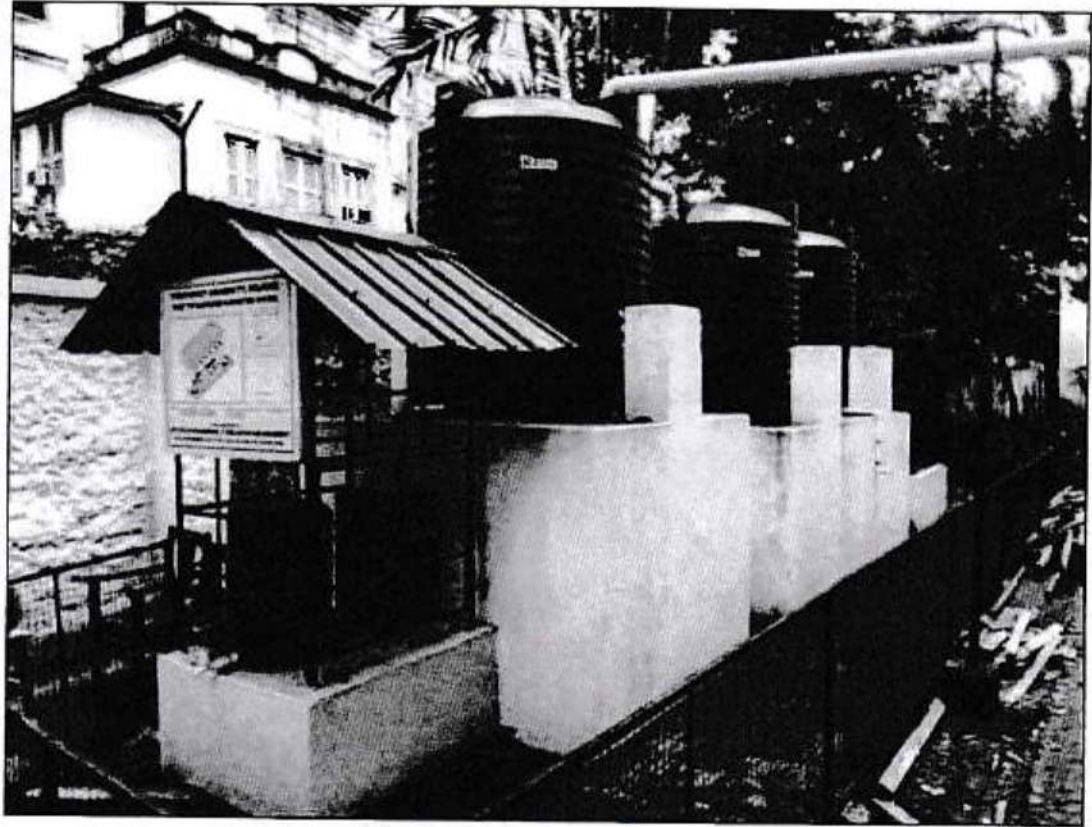
Rainwater Harvesting

Presidency University has always strived for providing a clean and safe academic atmosphere for all the students while simultaneously contributing towards an eco-friendly environment. Under the Green Campus initiative, the institution has already taken measures like ban on use of plastic, pedestrian friendly pathways, promoting the usage of bicycles and battery powered vehicles and restricting the entry of automobiles to the bare minimum. Alongside all these measures, the campus is adorned with various trees and plants of all sizes and colours. It not only adds to the aesthetic quotient of the historical campus but also ensures that the quality of air and temperature inside the premises are regulated.

To tackle the rising pressure on ground water, Presidency University had installed the Demonstrating Model for Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting System near the Baker Building complex in the College Street campus. This was materialized by the initiatives taken by the Department of Geography, Presidency University with active cooperation from the Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management, Department of Environment of Government of West Bengal in March 2017.

The three water preservation tank were installed with top-notch materials at a cost of around 4.5 lakh rupees. Each tank has an astounding capacity of atleast 3000 units each of which is then used for various chores in the university such as mopping of the floors, cleaning of the buildings, maintenance of the Presi Greens(College Street campus playground) and watering the gardens. To ensure that nothing goes to waste, the surplus water is directed and stored in a reservoir, which is lined with gravel and sand to avoid water loss due to percolation.

A seminar on the same was organised by the Department of Geography of the University in December, 2017. In the last week of the seminar, a workshop on Water Quality Analysis by Dr. Suranjana Banerji (Assistant Professor, Department of Geography) was the main focal point of the workshop followed by a total station survey by Dr. Mery Biswas (Assistant Professor, Department of Geography) for the NSS students. The programme ended with the distribution of certificates of participation to all the participants as a token of appreciation for completing all the modules throughout the seminar.



The rainwater-harvesting system of Presidency University

Swachhde
Pakhwade Swachhta Pakhwada.

RAJASEE MUKHERJEE
JENNIFER LIU
CHHANDOK GUHA
DIBYASREE MUKHOPADHYAY
SHATAKSHI PODDER
ANUJA MOKHERJEE
RIMJHIM SINHA
EJAZAHMAD ANSARI
MADHUPARNA SEN
PRERANA DUTTA
SHAINY GHOSH
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ASMITA PAUL
SHREYA CHOWDHURY
MAITRAYEE HALDER
ARPITA MONDAL
MONIMOYEE CHAKRABARTY
ALOKPARNA MUKHERJEE
SAYATI DAS
SHINJINI ROY
ANEAN MAJUMDAR
ANGANA DASGUPTA
SHINJINI MALIK
PRITHIBI BISWAS
RENAISSA DAN TAMANG
KRITIKA RAI
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MOUMITA NASKAR
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ANUSHKA BISWAS
SYLVANIA MALLIK
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SOHINI CHAKRABORTY
JAYATI BANERJEE
TIYASHI ROY
SHINJINI SARKAR
RUPSHA MUKHERJEE
SHRUTI CHATTERJEE
REETI SAKAR
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