

## WATER FOOT PRINT: NEED OF TIME

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### Abstract :

Water scarcity affects ever continent and around 2.8 billion people around the world lack, at least one month out of the year. More than 1.2 billion people lack access to clean drinking water. Water scarcity is gaining prior position as we cannot imagine life without water. So time has come one should keep account of their water usages and for that water foot print is an answer. This paper highlights how water foot print can bring awareness regarding the optimal use of water. Accordingly awareness regarding water usages is imbibed in the students. Thus, they use optimal water and will decrease the pollution and contribute towards sustainable development.

**Key Words:** Water foot print, water scarcity.

### Introduction:

Now a days news papers are full of headings that there is drought like situations in India due to less rain fall. Water levels in every dams of Maharashtra is very less. Maximum number of dams of having less than 40% of water. Marathwada, Vidharbha region are suffering from severe water scarcity. Water supply in those regions are once a week. In many villages water is supplied by tankers.

"When the well is dry, We learn the value of water". **Benjamin Franklin**

'Water is life'. It is the unique natural resource among all the natural resources. No life form can be sustained without water on the planet. By seeing the scenario of water I was shocked. I started thinking how we can minimize use of water and how we can bring awareness regarding water use. We cannot increase the water resources but we can make optimal use of available water resources. For that people should be aware of the real situation. Over the years of experience. We realize that we are bringing awareness in students by sensitizing to use optimal water in day to day use. Here we are concerned about the virtual water used by people. Virtual water is the water used to

produce consumer products that we use in our day to day life. We are not concerned about such water utilization.

We should bring awareness in people only when we make them aware about their tremendous water use. First of all we should calculate the direct water used by people. Amount of ground water person uses for their daily needs and as well as for agriculture. Last but not least how much of water we are polluting are the key concerns regarding water management.

The answer to above question should be given in systematic and scientific way so, that it will help individual, groups and as well as nation to have proper record of water usage and wastage. This type of record can be evaluated through water foot print.

India has about 16% of the world's population but only 4% of its under water resources. According to UNICEF Report entitled water in India. Situation & prospects.

The path of development demands more of these precious resources such as water, air, soil, etc.at an alarming rate.

The millennium Development Goals (MDG's) through its eight international development goals, which greatly emphasise the need for sustainable access to safe drinking water as well as sanitation.

Judicious use of this resource is imperative but unless one knows how much water is being used, how can they take step to limit their usage?

Awareness should be brought people and guide them towards sustainable water management.

#### **Water Footprint :**

A water footprint helps one understand the amount of water being used at an individual level to national level and in the numerous processes involved in manufacturing and producing our goods and services.

An accurate foot print should also takes in account the amount of water contaminated during the manufacturing and production process. Water foot print gives the concrete water accounting framework and aids us all in our efforts to be more efficient.

The water footprint of an individual is the amount of water they use in and around their home, school or office throughout the day. It includes the water used directly, like that from a tap as well as the water used indirectly i.e the water if took to produce the food they eat, the products they

buy, the energy they consume and even the water they save by recycling.

The concept of water footprint was introduced in year 2002 by Arjen Hoeksha from UNESCO –IHE as an alternate indicator of water use.

#### **Water foot print are of these types :**

**Blue water footprint :** The blue water footprint is the volume of water evaporated from the global blue water resources. (surface water and ground water) to produce goods and services consumed by the individual or community (either lost through evapotranspiration, incorporated in products or transferred to non-blue catchments.)

**Green water footprint :** The green water is the water evaporated from the global green water resources (rain water stored in the soil as soil moisture during the production or these incorporated in products.)

**Grey water footprint :** The amount of fresh water required to mix and dilute pollutants enough to maintain water quality according to certain standards as a result of making a product.

#### **Why water foot print matters ?**

Our life is entirely dependant on fresh water for our day to day life such as drinking, bathing etc. as the population grows use of fresh water also increases. In the developing countries such as India, China are growing prosperous and so their water consumption is increased as they are using more electrical gadgets which increase their electrical consumption. Moreover many are using car and now a days each and every person is owing one vehicles either two vehicles or four vehicles which increases petrol consumption and more & more consumer goods are being used by people. This increases pressure on the water resources.

In this era of globalization by the year 2030 experts predict that the global demand for water will outreach by 40 %. Impact from the ever-changing climate, changes in the water cycles are leading to prolonged period of drought. On the other end extreme rain fall in some parts at one of great concern which leads to water insecurity.

Water foot print helps the individuals, business and countries because they reveals water use patterns of from individual level to National level. They also highlight the water used in various processes involved in manufacturing and producing our goods & services. It also accounts for the



amount of water contaminated or polluted during the manufacturing and production process as that water is unusable and thus wasted.

Water footprint gives everyone from individual to business managers to public officials a concrete frame of reference that gives clear cut ideas about the more efficient and sustainable use of water.

Water foot prints scenario for 2050 – A global analysis :

Water foot prints facts & figures.

- 1) 8,000 litres of water is used to produce pair of leather shoes.
- 2) 2,900 litres of water is used to produce a cotton shirt.
- 3) 140 litres of water is used to produce 1 cup of black tea without sugar.
- 4) 200 litres of water is used to produce the sugar in can of cola.
- 5) Food demand is estimated to double by 2050.
- 6) 70% of existing global fresh water is withdrawn for irrigation in agriculture.

Water foot print reveals the true cost of our life style. A water foot print is the amount of fresh water used to produce the goods and services we consume, including growing, harvesting and shipping from food we eat to the clothes we wear to the books we read and the music we listen to all of it costs more that what we pay at the checkout.

Water foot print raises readers awareness of how much water is used to make the things we use, consume & grow.

#### **Advantages of knowing water foot print for students:**

- 1) Water foot print gives amount of blue, green and gray water used by the student.
- 2) This brings concrete idea of individual water usage by the students.
- 3) They can compared the available resources and how much amount of water they are using in their day to day life.
- 4) They will use optimal amount of water to decrease their water foot print.
- 5) Students will also make aware their parents regarding water foot print. So awareness regarding water usage and pollution will spread within the society.
- 6) People will able to take concrete steps of water usage and wastage on local level then regional and then national level.
- 7) Students will be concerned about direct water usage as well as virtual water usage.

- 8) Making water foot print of students will sensitize them to use optimal water use and thus leads to sustainable water management.
- 9) Water foot print will allow the people to frame plan of action to face water scarcity and can suggest the measures to minimize the water usages

**Conclusion :**

Making students aware of the water foot print will sensitize them towards optimal use of water usage and they can take precautions to decrease the gray water. This act of the students will allow their contribution to achieve millennium development goal of ensuring water resources sustainability they will contribute for region, nation as well as global citizens their partnership for global development. So people will be able to face the waters scarcity which is need of time.

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