

Dear Reader,

Wish you a Very Happy & Prosperous New Year!

STEMer

SR-23/2006

Professionalize and Prosper

RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION (RWS&S)

Sector Status Assessments in Three States

Since the early '90s, STEM has been actively engaged in *Research & Consultancy in Planning, Development & Management of Water Resources and Rural Sanitation & Hygiene* as also the implementation of related project components. STEM has undertaken nearly 20 such sectoral assignments to date. They were complex exercises that involved elaborate statistical sampling, diagnostic surveys, data analysis, monitoring & evaluation and, above all, building rapport with a variety of stakeholders at different levels.

SECTOR STUDIES IN THREE STATES

As reported in the last issue of *STEM Reporter*, STEM was awarded three more Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWS&S) Sectoral Assessment studies, during the last quarter of 2004, all of which have since been completed:

- **Consultancy Services for Rapid Assessment of Tamil Nadu Water & Drainage Board (TWAD) in Tamil Nadu** sponsored by UNICEF India Country Office;
- **Rapid Assessment of RWS&S Sector in the State of Tripura** sponsored by Rural Development Department, Govt of Tripura; and
- **Rapid Assessment for RWS&S in the State of Uttar Pradesh** sponsored by Directorate of Panchayat Raj, Govt of UP.

BACKGROUND

In the context of on-going reforms in the RWS&S Sector in the country, the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) proposes to establish an MoU between the Centre and the states. This MoU would ensure that the states adhere to certain core reform principles, while

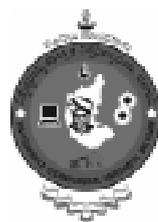
ADMISSIONS 2007-08

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Those wishing to be considered for admission to these
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* Subject to approval of proposal from MINDS by VTU

*Ride high in India's
Infrastructure Sector!*

SOME INTERESTING FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

TAMIL NADU

- According to the Habitation Survey (2003), about 86 per cent of the habitations is either fully or partially covered by safe drinking water supply, with access to more than one water supply scheme. As on 2004, 11.4 per cent of the total 81,787 habitations are yet to be covered by water supply.
- Handpumps account for about 59 per cent of the RWS sources, followed by power pumps accounting for about 19 per cent. Combined Water Supply Schemes (CWSS) and Mini Power Pumps (MPPs) are also used.
- House Service Connections (HSC) & Public Stand Posts (PSPs) are the main sources of water supply in rural areas. Majority of villages have daily supply of water. Forty per cent of the households are ready to pay user charges on a monthly basis. While awareness level of households on the RWS schemes is high, that on water quality is still low.
- Toilet coverage in rural areas is to an extent of only 14 per cent, as per Census 2001. With the start of TSC activities since 1999, this has now touched 40.14 per cent.
- Nearly 60 per cent of schools in rural areas are covered by water supply and 45 per cent have toilet facilities. The construction of school latrines under TSC picked up from the year 2000 onwards.

TRIPURA

- Fifty per cent of habitations are fully covered by water supply, 41 per cent partially and 9 per cent are not covered.
- Forty five percent of habitations have access to wells, 18 per cent to taps, 14 per cent to handpumps, and 13 per cent to tube wells.
- About 57 per cent of the drinking water sources are outside the household premises.
- About 45 per cent of ST population and more than 30 per cent of rural households need to travel more than 500m to fetch water.
- Dependence on wells and surface water is quite high in North Tripura and Dhalai districts
- High content of iron in the water is a cause for concern.
- Toilet coverage is 78 per cent among rural population and 100 per cent in South Tripura, with West Tripura only slightly behind.
- Toilet usage is highly satisfactory.
- Seventy four per cent of 3429 schools have water sources and 40 per cent have toilet facilities.
- Schools and Anganwadi centres are receiving a high priority under School Sanitation & Hygiene Education (SSHE) of TSC.

UTTAR PRADESH

- Habitation Survey (2003) reveals that 89 per cent habitations are fully covered by water supply, 7.5 per cent partially covered, and 3.5 per cent are not covered.
- Ninety per cent of government schools, 71 per cent of government hospitals, and 31 per cent of Anganwadi centres are also covered by water supply facilities.
- Hand pumps constitute the predominant drinking water source in the state (69 per cent), followed by piped water supply schemes (16 per cent) and wells (14 per cent). Eighty three per cent of the SC households and 86 per cent of the ST households have access to handpumps and taps.
- The 2001 Census data reveals that the coverage of households with latrines is 19 per cent. This has now increased to 26 per cent, owing to TSC and externally aided sanitation interventions like those of The World Bank & UNICEF.
- As per Habitation Survey, 2003, 90 per cent schools are covered by water supply facilities and about 50 per cent by sanitation facilities.
- A majority (89 per cent) of the respondents across all projects seemed satisfied with the water supply in terms of access, quantity, and quality. However, 49 per cent of them were not fully aware of the projects / schemes.
- More than 85 per cent respondents did not believe that they need to pay for water.
- About 73 per cent felt that repairs were not being attended to, in time.

developing their own specific state strategy including a Vision Statement, a State Policy and an agreed Action Plan.

The first step in this direction would be to assess the current status of the RWS&S Sector in the states with a view to determining the challenges and opportunities associated with the adoption of Sector Reforms. It was in line with this arrangement, that STEM was commissioned to carry out the Sector Assessment studies in the three states. The assessments were expected to assist in the alignment of the State Visions for the RWS&S sector, besides identifying areas that require institutional strengthening for improving the overall reform programme.

The three rapid assessment studies undertaken by STEM were thus, broadly, a

quantitative and qualitative appraisal of the status of the rural water supply and sanitation sector across the states in relation to the existing reform agenda. The studies also identified and developed key issues for inclusion in the State Vision Documents.

FOCAL AREAS

The studies paid special attention to:

- Impact of government RWS&S programmes, in terms of coverage, access, use and sustainability;
- Status of sector reforms pertaining to Augmented Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Sector Reform Project (SRP), and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and key lessons learned;
- Areas that need to be reinforced in order to institutionalise sector reforms *vis-à-vis* policies, institutions, financial systems,

HRD, resources and empowerment of women & weaker sections for participation in decision-making, highlighting issues of inequity and the impact of the programmes on marginalized groups.

METHODOLOGY

The assessment exercise employed a combination of qualitative & quantitative techniques to elicit information at various levels. This was supplemented by impact studies in first generation Village Panchayats (VPs) where SRP, Swajaldhara and TSC have been implemented. Besides desk review and meetings with key stakeholders from the village to the state level, the project teams organised field visits and rapid surveys in selected villages to understand the current situation and perceptions of the end users. Checklists for data collection and information

gathering were designed by the teams keeping in mind the key focal areas of the sector, namely, the technical, institutional, social, financial & environmental aspects.

SAMPLING & REPORTING FORMAT

Tamil Nadu

The Project Team surveyed a total of 3024 households in 102 villages spread over six selected districts. These included 85 project villages where reform initiatives for RWSS had been completed and 17 non-project villages. Besides, 18 school, 13 Rural Sanitary Marts (RSMs) / Production Centres (PCs), and 21 tap stand surveys were also organised. The selection of districts, blocks and Village Panchayats (VPs) were made in consultation with nodal officers for the assignment. The key lessons learnt and critical areas in service delivery identified were to constitute the base for the examination of the project proposal for

The World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply Project (TNRWSP).

The Tamil Nadu Report was presented in two volumes. The focus of *Vol. 1: Main Report* was on the major findings from the sector assessment conducted by STEM, in collaboration with the key stakeholders in the state. *Vol. 2: A View on the Design of Proposed TNRWSP Project Document* presented an examination of the project document in the light of the key lessons learnt and critical areas in service delivery, identified by the study.

Tripura

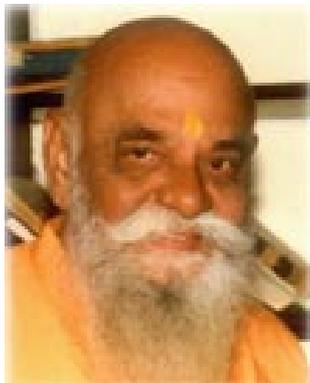
The Study Team visited all the four districts of the state and held consultations with stakeholders at various levels, right from the state level to the village level. At least two blocks and two villages were visited in each of the four districts.

The preliminary sector status findings were presented at a state-level workshop on *Vision and Future Strategies of RWSS*. A comprehensive review of the sector was made after the workshop and the suggestions agreed upon were integrated into the final report.

Uttar Pradesh

The Study Team visited a total of 1,000 households in 100 villages of the selected 10 districts. Household interviews were conducted to assess the impact of the various interventions employed in the RWS&S Sector. The respondents included both socially and economically backward communities. Among all the respondents, 69 per cent belonged to the BPL, and 31 per cent to the APL families. About 46 per cent of the respondents belonged to the SC/ST category, and 53.6 per cent were others. ■

Hearty Congratulations, Leading Lights!



In recognition of his outstanding contributions to public life, **Prof. N. S. Ramaswamy**, the doyen among Indian Management Educators, has been conferred with the **Padmabhushan**, and the prestigious **National Research Professorship** by the Govt of India. A scholar extraordinary and orator par excellence, Prof. Ramaswamy

currently presides over two of his pet projects: the Indian Heritage Academy (IHA) and CARTMAN Society, at Bangalore. The IHA focuses on cultural & spiritual revival, while CARTMAN seeks to maintain the symbiotic relationship among Man, Animal & Nature. Prof. Ramaswamy has been actively associated with a number of high-level committees set up by the Central and State Governments, as also national & international forums, in various advisory capacities. **Prof. Ramaswamy is a Founder Director of STEM and one of the prime movers of MINDS.**



In recognition of his significant contributions to promotion of productivity, **Dr. K. Balaveera Reddy**, Vice-Chancellor, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), has recently been conferred with the **Fellowship of the World Academy of Productivity Science**, Canada. The VTU has a vision to become an outstanding technological

university at the cutting edge of science & technology, producing world-class engineers, while providing technological innovations for industry & society. Under the outstanding stewardship of Dr. Balaveera Reddy, the University has been living up to this vision. **Dr. Balaveera Reddy has been a staunch well-wisher of MINDS, ever since its inception, and was instrumental in instituting the unique VTU-MINDS PGDIM, the first comprehensive Infrastructure Management Programme in the country.**

MINDS crosses important milestones

100% Placement for First Batch of PGDIM

The maiden batch (2005-06) of the VTU-MINDS Post-Graduate Diploma in Infrastructure Management (PGDIM) Programme, was welcomed by the industry with 100% placement. The host organisations include DLF Group, IL&FS, and Infrastructure Development Corporation of Karnataka (IDECK). The first batch students had, earlier, completed their Internships at various infrastructure organizations like GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL), Hubli-Dharwar Municipal Corporation (HDMC), IDECK, Kristal Group, TCE Consulting Engineers Ltd. and UN Habitat. The students came up with very incisive dissertations after their mandatory Corporate Exposure & Learning (CEL) Projects at these organisations (See box alongside).

CEL: Contemporary Themes, Innovative Treatment

The VTU-MINDS PGDIM Programme provides the students with an opportunity, through Internship at public/private sector infrastructure organisations, to carry out a detailed analysis and develop an understanding of a live project, in the corporate environment. The First Batch of PGDIM, thus, came up with a series of incisive Corporate Exposure & Learning (CEL) Dissertations that were contemporary in theme and innovative in treatment:

- Study of Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) in Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC)
- Installing an Effective Emergency Response System (ERS) in Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC)
- Small Hydro Power plants - Guide to Entrepreneurs
- Water for Asian Cities: The Mekong Region
- Water for Asian Cities: India and Nepal
- Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (REIA) of Sitanadi River.
- Study of (a) Validity of Service Tax Credit Claimed & Impact of Possible Disallowances in Service Tax Credit and (b) Financial Risk Analysis & Evaluation of Financial Indicators and Interest Rate Variation (in the context of GHIAL)
- Commercial Aspects of Work Handled by TCE Consulting Engineers Ltd - Power Division
- Commercial Aspects of TCE Consulting Engineers Ltd. – Power Business Unit
- Urban Renewal – Towards Better Cities...
- Urban Infrastructure- Development and Management
- Rationalizing and Devolving Planning & Management of Urban Development
- Planning and Management of Urban Development in the Context of Decentralization & Devolution of Powers at the Local Level
- Planning and Scheduling for Infrastructure Development

Words that speak for themselves.....

"I have had the opportunity to interact with Mr. Prashanth S and Mr. Kiran H. M. (PGDIM 2005-06) in their capacities as interns at the Water for Asian Cities Programme (WAC).... With a great sense of pride, I can say that the positive impact they have made in our organisation has led to regular placement of interns in our office, especially for the summer months. What attracted us to them was their extensive exposure to the infrastructure sector" - **Dr. Kulwant Singh, Chief Technical Adviser, UN-HABITAT, New Delhi**

"The MINDS students were very serious and sincere in their work during the internship. We are open to take them anytime in our regular employment." - **Mohan Murthy, Chief Commercial Manager, TCE Consulting Engineers Ltd**

"Mr. Sheik Munavar, candidate from MINDS, did a good job of carrying out the Risk Analysis on Airport Modernisation Investment....." - **Internship Supervisor, GMR Infrastructure**

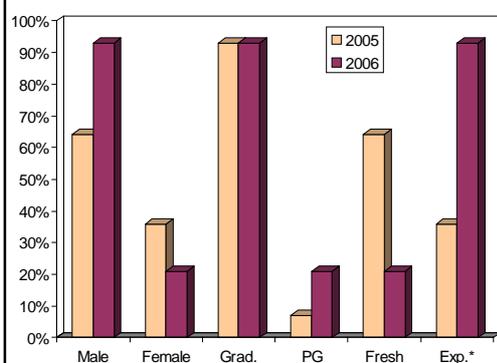
"First of all thank you for all the efforts that you have taken for the placement of all the students. All of us are happy that we have joined this big infrastructure company....." - **Rekha B. V., PGDIM 2005-06 Batch**

"I am happy to share this news with you that I have got an employment offer in a managerial cadre from one of the companies of my choice, IL&FS....." - **Kiran H. M., PGDIM 2005-06 Batch**

On to the Second Batch

Classes for the second PGDIM batch commenced on July 24, 2006. An Orientation Programme, comprising a series of special lectures, was held from July 24 to 29, 2006. The topics covered included: Management, Economic Environment, Evolution of Infrastructure Management, Corporate Communication and Team Building. Regular classes for the batch commenced on July 31, 2006. All courses in the First Trimester were handled by highly experienced faculty with extensive corporate/consulting experience. The Trimester I Term End Exams were held between November 20 and December 1, 2006.

PROFILE OF STUDENTS: 2005 & 2006 BATCHES



* Ranging from 1 month to 19 years

MBA in the offing

Based on the experience of running the unique PGDIM Programme and on student feedback as well as interactions with experts, the MINDS Academic Council felt that there was a need to launch a two-year (four semesters) MBA Degree Programme in Infrastructure, with additional features.

The subjects, detailed syllabi and examination system for the proposed MBA were designed by a team of experts from the academia and specialists from the infrastructure sector. The Programme is envisaged to commence in the academic year 2007-08, subject to VTU's approval of the proposal from MINDS.



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