



Annual Report 2006-07



Advit Foundation

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About the Foundation

Advit seeks to conserve environment and empower communities through various viable options of resource conservation and management for sustainable development. The organization promotes environment awareness, education and conservation through its various programmes.

Advit is striving to generate **awareness** on the need to educate, provide a platform for learning to all and impart the importance of conserving environment and managing resources in everyday life. The activities focus both on rural and urban sections of the society.

Advit promotes environment **education** and capacity building programmes to create and nurture a learning culture that would believe in and breathe out change through education. Through change we look towards the infinite possibilities that can be created for the positive development. Advit provides training on Water, Energy, Safe Chemical handling and Environment and Health. The organisation provides a platform for capacity building and natural resource conservation through participatory approaches.

With a belief that effective Environmental Management System (EMS) and energy conservation leads to reduced Green House Gas emissions that can assist in meeting the increasingly heavy burden of responsibilities of each one of us Advit designs and implement EMS for corporate. The need for intervention and the alternatives that would improve resource management and development are sought. **Conservation** work is undertaken by identifying local needs, selecting, generating, improving, adopting and developing appropriate implementation plans. Waste of resources and pollution are normally indications of areas for significant improvement. All of the EMS standards stress the need for continuous, never ending, improvement in striving to protect the environment, not only for ourselves but for future generations to come.

Advit Foundation Programmes



Partner Organisations

The Foundation has been working for the following organizations:

Literacy India

Advit foundation imparted vocational skill training to rural women for livelihood enhancement. The skills including paper products block printing and vermicomposting.

IKEA

In 2005 Advit initiated a pilot study for IKEA to study the perspectives and prospects for sustainable management of water resources in Rajasthan. The project is designed to study the water availability scenario of alleviating the problem of villages situated around a few IKEA supplier factories near Jaipur in Rajasthan. The study highlighted the existing scenario and summarises alternatives that can help address the challenges. It also highlighted the need for intervention and the alternatives that would improve water management and development.

Advit along with IKEA identified the supplier factories and the villages in Rajasthan to design and implement the water project. The entire area was suffering from poor availability of water when compared to the demand. Advit Foundation revealed that comprehensive planning is required at a) village level and b) supplier factory level for water harvesting. The following interventions were taken up and implemented :

1. Construction of five water harvesting structures at five pilot villages
2. The preparation of watershed development plans for all the 17 villages
3. Construction of rainwater harvesting and wastewater recycling structures at supplier factories

H&M Hennes and Mauritz

In Jan 2007 Advit initiated capacity building of workers on Safe Chemical Handling. The training involves imparting of safe chemical handling practices and expects to ensure that the supplier is able to meet the requirements and comply with the guidelines of the procurer. The objectives are to:

- To promote safe chemical handling practices in an industry
- To impart training on safe solutions for handling chemicals among the target groups

The target group for the training are all those working with chemicals - shop floor workers, store in-charge, house keeping staff and management staff responsible for buying and disposal of chemicals

Capacity Building

Bag Making by Rural Women

The main development goal was to impart specialized training to women for income generation. The target area was 5 villages of Palam Vihar in Gurgaon, Haryana

1. Isapur
2. Bajgera
3. Daulatabad
4. Sarai
5. Chauma

The women are now making products for export.

Addressing Safe Chemical Handling for Apparel Industry

In the area of environment and health Advit Foundation developed a training on safe chemical handling to impart knowledge on importance of environment and health while handling chemicals. It imparts information on precautions to be taken while buying, storing, use and disposal of the chemical along with information on existing government laws and regulations. H & M as a socially and environmentally responsible organisation decided to initiate this as most of their apparel suppliers use chemicals.

Project Goal and Objective

The training involves imparting of safe chemical handling practices and expects to ensure that the supplier is able to meet the requirements and comply with the guidelines of the procurer.

The objectives are to:

- To promote safe chemical handling practices in an industry
- To impart training on safe solutions for handling chemicals among the target groups

Trainings for Rural Community

As part of the IKEA water project a number of trainings were initiated.

1. Formation of Water User Groups in five pilot project villages to manage their water resources
2. Mobilise community so that WUGs are formed when the watershed plan is executed in all the 17 project villages
3. Trainings to local NGO and Water User Group representatives for design and implementation of watershed development plans
4. Training to local NGO and Water User Group representatives to monitor the execution of five pilot structures in the 5 villages

Water Project

I. Survey

In Oct 2005 to July 06 Advit carried out a pre feasibility tour to study the water scenario and prospects of alleviating the problem. The project aimed to access the water availability in the villages situated around a few IKEA suppliers in Rajasthan.

The region covered was a belt of about 20 villages along the river Vani. The villages that were visited include Bagru, Rothwara, Mandore, Chandwas, Navalkishorepura, Kiratpura, Gohndi, Rampura, Mandao and Jagatshiromanipura.

The challenges ahead were to –

- Assess the feasibility of constructing *anicuts* on river Vani at regular intervals
- Assess the feasibility of laying pipeline from the *anicuts* to the low lying areas in villages (like in the naturally present lakes) for water storage and recharging ground water
- Assess the feasibility of constructing ponds in low lying areas which could catch rainwater as well as can be used to store the diverted water from the river Vani
- Study the natural aquifers before implementing the above
- Conduct awareness programmes in villages where the water is not scarce at the moment.
- Implement harvesting structures in schools to help create awareness

Advit and IKEA could make a marked difference in about 20 villages with a population of about 3000 each, i.e. more than 60,000 individuals. Water could be made available in all these villages by constructing catchment areas. The possibility of constructing *anicuts* (small dams) could also be looked into using technical details. In a few villages which have water at the moment (but at about a distance of 5km are surrounded by all dry areas) awareness programmes can be implemented in terms of setting up community water harvesting structures and education programmes at schools to mobilize villagers to take steps to ensure water availability in future.



Village woman walking a few kilometers to fill 2 pitchers (On the way from Bagru to Rothwara)

II. Implementation

Advit initiated the Implementation of the identified conservation measures during the survey to maintain sustainable supply of water in and around IKEA supplier factories in Aug 06.

The main features of the interventions supported by IKEA will be:

- Taking up groundwater recharging measures at places other than the factory premises will work on the principles of groundwater bank where the excessive use of water is compensated through recharging of groundwater at places close to the area to maintain the ecological balance
- The five water harvesting structures at five pilot villages will approximately be able to harvest 200,000 cu liters of water, which is close to 5% of the total consumption of groundwater consumed by the two suppliers annually. Thus it is important to promote water harvesting in all the 17 project villages
- To make the project viable through replenishing the quantities in excess to the groundwater consumed by the suppliers, intensive water conservation measures will be taken up in all the 17 project villages using the watershed development approach. The watershed plan will be made for all villages and harvesting structures will be constructed in the selected 5 out of the 17 project villages.
- Partnerships will be developed with local Government authorities to implement watershed development programs in the project villages. Advit Foundation will develop the watershed plan for the area and hand them over to Government authorities for implementation (District authorities have Central Government funds for watershed development). To ensure the leveraging of funds from Government run programs, a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between Advit Foundation and the district authorities

The project would deliver the following outputs:

- Formation of Water User Groups in five pilot project villages to manage their water resources
- Mobilise community so that WUGs are formed when the watershed plan is executed in all the 17 project villages
- Trainings to local NGO and Water User Group representatives for design and implementation of watershed development plans
- Training to local NGO and Water User Group representatives to monitor the execution of five pilot structures in the 5 villages
- Design and construction of five water harvesting structures at five pilot villages
- Watershed development plans for 17 project villages
- Written commitment from district authorities confirming the implementation of watershed development plans for all the 17 villages
- Written commitment from suppliers for construction of rainwater harvesting and wastewater recycling structures at their factories
- Project completion report

Founders

Samit Jain

Trustee

Mr Samit Jain holds a Masters degree from Hawaii University, USA. He is a director of Pluss Polymers Group of companies and Adya Software Systems, India

Mrs Charu Jain

Trustee

Mrs Charu Jain is the founder and trustee of Advit Foundation, India. Mrs Jain has been in the development sector since 1995 and set up this Foundation in 2003.

Our Team

Mr Sanjay Dube, Advisor, Natural Resource Conservation, holds a masters degree in Land and Water Management Engineering.

Mr Dharendra Jha, Consultant, holds a masters degree in Industrial engineering. Implements Environment Mangement System in industries.

Mr Gajendra, Field staff, has over 10 years of experience in community mobilisation and participatory rural appraisal techniques.

Mr Yogesh Gaur, Financial Controller, holds a degree in finance and accounting

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