

Training Workshop on Water Quality Testing in Udaipur

Development Alternatives (DA) with support from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs - DANIDA Fellowship Center is implementing a research project titled 'Integrated Water Resources Assessment of Upper Berach Basin (Ahar River)' in the Udaipur district of Rajasthan. As part of the first phase of the project, a training session on rain gauge installation and rainfall measurement was organised by DA in collaboration with its local partner, Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic (VBP).

The training was based on preliminary research work and a module – 'Integrated Water Resources Assessment in Udaipur: A Citizen Science Learning Kit'. In the second phase, a training workshop was organised at the VBP campus on water quality testing. This training involved the students and teachers from eight schools that were selected in the first phase of Citizen Science Engagement. The key activities planned during the second session included workshops and a visit to a school in the lower basin of the Ahar River. A few parallel visits were made to test the monsoon water quality of water bodies in the catchment area of Ahar River.



Students being trained for testing water quality of regional samples in Udaipur



Students were asked to share water quality test results during training

Alongside this, the Citizen Science Learning Kit was prepared after continuous inculcation of inputs from field experiences on Integrated Water Resource Assessment, comprising components to train and guide students, local people, and teachers. It resonates with the theme of the project on understanding inter-linkages between various water sources (how one augments the other), knowledge sharing among researchers and communities for effective understanding, and management of water resources.

The schools were selected to cover the upper, middle, and lower basins of the river. A team of three researchers was appointed to train students on eight water quality testing parameters including PH measurement, TDS, fluoride, nitrates, chlorides, fecal pollution, dissolved oxygen, and temperature testing. An observation sheet was filled by different teams under the samples they tested.

During the workshop, a collective resolution was taken on intensifying the water quality testing of Ahar River basin to generate more credible and authentic data. These data will be authenticated

before they go into research findings that highlight drinking water quality in the Udaipur region. Students from each school who participated in the training workshop showed an affirmation on regularly testing water quality in their schools.

The training session also included a short induction session of behavioral changes in students to prepare them for future water worries in Udaipur and institutionalize activities related to conserving water. The sessions also resolved to continue further training on water quality testing, well monitoring, assessing the ecological health of water bodies, tracing sources of pollution, and capacity building workshops on integrated water resources management.