



Mapping Water Flows in the City of Bhubaneswar

Development Alternatives (DA) through its current initiative supported by Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) titled, 'Mapping Water Flows in Indian cities,' is building an understanding on the nature of water resource management within the identified cities including Dehradun (Uttarakhand), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) and Bhubaneswar (Orissa). The initiative is targeted towards assisting city authorities in making informed decisions on efficient water management and provide solutions to address water sufficiency and efficiency based concerns. The initiative will contribute towards promoting circularity in the water management system by suggesting measures for improving accessibility; ensuring equitable distribution of water; and reducing wastage among the different users of the water resource.

Under this initiative, a stakeholder workshop on 'Understanding Water Flows in Indian Cities' was organised on 1st November, 2018 in Bhubaneswar, with the aim of identifying the shortcomings, constraints and challenges in terms of policy, institutional and technical needs and opportunities. The workshop brought together policy makers and practitioners to identify issues and concerns regarding the water supply and management in the city and initiate an effective deliberation. It focused on identifying issues and need for efficient water management in the city.

Key stakeholders who participated in the workshop included Binod Kumar Sahoo (Project Director, Orissa Water Supply and Sewerage Board), C. R. Jenna (Superintendent Engineer, WATCO), Karnatak Garnaik (Chief Engineer, PHEO Division), Gurucharan Das (Chief Engineer, PHEO), Maqsood (Water Supply Expert, Smart City office) and Antarin Chakrabarty (Technical Expert, GIZ).

The analysis of the preliminary study conducted by DA on the status of water flows was demonstrated in the workshop. The study proposed to evolve a framework in the long term for the integrated role of policy, business and civil society that can potentially contribute in meeting India's targets under the Sustainable Development Goals. Gitika Goswami (Programme Director, DA) introduced the project and moderated the discussion and Aishwarya Varadharajan (Fellow, DA) presented the analysis of the project. The workshop witnessed participation from 18 stakeholders representing government, civil society, and academia. The discussion identified the key gaps and plausible way forward suggesting the action on ground.