Arghyam

Safe, sustainable water for all

Annual Report 2019 -20

Message from the Chairperson

We at Arghyam believe that societal problems, like water security are large, dynamic, and complex that cannot be solved by select few stakeholders. It requires creative and seamless collaborations between Samaaj, Sarkaar, and Bazaar. Almost 15 years ago, we started to build collaborations and agency of diverse and varied stakeholders, to design a solution-oriented water ecosystem.

Over the years, we learned that impact and scale can only be achieved if we collaborate, learn from one another and use our collective agency to spark change. A couple of years ago, we decided to apply the **'Societal Platform'*** thinking to water and actively started to build the 'ForWater' collaborative to create a thriving ecosystem for all stakeholders, design for impact at scale and enable a systemic change. This is, by no means, something quick and easy, because water is a common-pool resource, which makes it a rival and finite good. We are discovering piece-by-piece how this approach works, and to solve the complex problem, maybe we don't need a single platform, but an ecosystem of platforms, each playing a different role.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it even more clear that dispersed ability to act and resolve problems, and strong local governance, are both critical to responding quickly and effectively during a crisis. We do not know when the next pandemic or climate change-related event would create the next disruption, stop physical proximity, or create a new normal. But we can choose to look at this phase as an opportunity to leverage digital technology and reimagine how we work, not just during a crisis but also otherwise. This will enable us to optimise available resources and make room for more people to participate in creating solutions.

This is a new and challenging journey for Arghyam, and the progress we have made so far would not have been possible without the support of our partners, who have embarked on this difficult journey with us for a bigger transformation of the sector. We have a long way to go and many more complexities to solve, which requires diverse partnerships and collaborations.

We see the **ForWater*** ecosystem growing and becoming stronger with a shared vision of creating water security for more and more people in the coming years.

Rohini Nilekani

ROHINI NILEKANI

**Click the links to know more.*

Message from the CEO

Arghyam's rich experience across wide geographies has indicated that capacity building of ecosystem actors in the water sector requires transformation, with a special focus on the 'first mile' workers.

The current models of successful capacity building are far too resource-intensive, making replication at scale unsustainable. After years of training thousands of people, over the years, as a sector we still find it challenging to trace these trained individuals; it is difficult to gauge what exactly they have been trained on and what is the gap that needs to be filled. Finding the right data, the right experts, and the right contextual solutions is arduous, and every next effort starts from scratch, leveraging little from existing resources in the ecosystem. As a result, programs take very long to get off the ground.

Over the last couple of years, we have worked closely with partners from Samaaj, Sarkaar, and Bazaar to design and deploy an open, public digital infrastructure to resolve some of these problems using core Societal Platform principles of distributing the ability to solve. Using simple digital tools that require a small or 'plus one' change in behaviour, we find that trainers and trainees can interact much more frequently using a fraction of resources per unit of transaction and benefit from better access to trusted knowledge and data that is generated as an exhaust from these interactions. This has increased observability for programs and participants in real time and is also helping the ecosystem by leaving behind digital assets or 'nutrients' that the next or adjacent program can leverage. Our hope is that this will allow for solutions to become faster, better, and cheaper. And, will facilitate in scaling solutions with speed and sustainability.

With the sudden and severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Arghyam's focus was to rapidly strengthen our partners' efforts to provide relief to the most affected communities in their locations.

As we try to operationalize a new approach for capacity building at scale amidst the pandemic, we realize that this is not something that we can achieve overnight. In this ambitious journey that we have embarked upon along with our partners, we have faced many challenges and also learnt a lot. We are excited about the near-term results and wins, but we know that there are no shortcuts when it comes to creating sustainable outcomes. I would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who have joined us in this effort and have had the faith to tread this path along with us. We are committed to stay the course and will continue working with you and many others to collectively overcome the challenges for a better water future.

JAYAMALA V SUBRAMANIAM

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Leverage
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Sector
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Evolving Arghyam's Approach to Work at Scale

Conventionally, the approach to achieving water security has been to pilot a model in one place and scale by replicating it in other places. While there are multiple notable successes, scaling them beyond a particular geography hasn't yet yielded the same success, and water security continues to be a 'pipe dream' for communities living between these 'islands of success'.

Scaling what works is not the same as designing for scale.

India is a diverse country with multiple hydrogeological and socio-economic contexts, each one as complex as the other. Solutions to provide water security must take into account local context and needs.

Programs should create a unified but not uniform structure to create sustainable impacts on water security at scale.

Arghyam's experience of working intensively with partners on the ground shows that communities are capable of taking care of their water resources if their agency is built and they are empowered with the right knowledge and data. Capacity building, thus, is the foundation of creating impact locally. Making this work at scale requires programs to pivot and design for scale which requires many shifts in the conventional approach. In the current phase, Arghyam has been working with governments and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) -led programs to understand these shifts better.

Can technology be used to take knowledge to more people easily? How does virtual learning help? Read* about the idea and some experiences - Arghyam and beyond covered by India Water Portal.

**Click the link to know more.*

The first shift for designing at scale involves a change in the way participatory programs look at the first-mile or the frontline workers who traditionally carried the connotation of last mile and consequently have been the last priority for designing interventions. Communities' or a first mile view is imperative for sustaining participatory water management initiatives at scale.

The second shift pertains to creating frequent interactions between various actors in a program including communities, master trainers and PRI institutions; peer-to-peer interaction is crucial for enhancing self efficacy of the learners and for building agency of various actors. This way capacity building can be much more demand-based, which in turn determines the training curriculum in a program. Content should be atomised (short, specific to a topic or activity), task-oriented, and easy to access as well as share. Content should also be created in a collaborative manner, cutting down duplication of efforts and ensuring higher reusability. Large scale programs should leave these as open learning assets in the ecosystem.

As capacities get built the right way, learning models are carefully crafted and curated, people start performing tasks on the ground, data gets generated in the process. Can more and more of this data be generated as an exhaust? Can data be used beyond reporting for practical decision making by both - first and last-mile actors? Can trusted data of these interactions become nutrients for the ecosystem?

Hence, the third shift that programs must make at scale is increasing observability through data that is generated as part of the program workflows. Such data can digitally footprint trained resources, and provide real-time view of progress to the program managers leading to better decision making.

Finally, programs should leave behind personal data in the hands of trainees as attestations so that they can assert their claims, get recognized in the ecosystem, and through a linkage to a certification system, get more livelihood opportunities showcasing the new skills. Large scale government programs need to ensure that these principles are embedded in the program guidelines and operating manuals. All these shifts can help programs convert their expenditure to assets.

Building Participatory Digital Infrastructure for Capacity Building

Three critical gaps come in the way of capacity building at scale - availability of good quality content in the ecosystem, the ability of master trainers and frontline workers to access and use this content anywhere, and the ability to quickly resolve doubts that frontline workers have through an iterative learning process. Arghyam is testing solutions to address these gaps in various large scale programs. Some of these solutions are described below.

Enhancing Learning through Virtual Interactions

Interactions between practitioners and training experts are at the core of capacity building efforts. High-intensity training in the beginning of the project and minimal follow-up during the planning and implementation phase is a typical practice. It is important to increase the frequency of interactions between not only the experts and the trainees but also trainees themselves (peer-learning), to ensure trouble-shooting and continuous learning. Technology can facilitate diverse range of experts and make them easily accessible to trainees through virtual interactions.

Digital solutions can enable an increase in the frequency of interactions between experts and the practitioners on the ground, ensuring that the right knowledge is available for the right person at the right time, without overburdening program resources and creating logistical constraints.

Through this blended - physical and virtual learning approach, the trainers/experts can create a knowledge ecosystem that facilitates seamless flow of scientific and experiential knowledge and information, across the whole ecosystem. The knowledge ecosystems will allow the water cadre to move from being passive participants to leaders of water management in their communities.

Increasing Evidence Based Observability

There are other recurring problems that come in the way of capacity building at scale, across multiple programs including Arghyam's. For instance, communities do not have access to training material in usable formats. Frontline community workers lack the tools to track their trainings and to access learning materials and showcase their credentials. Governments have no way to find and engage existing community workers for a specific program.

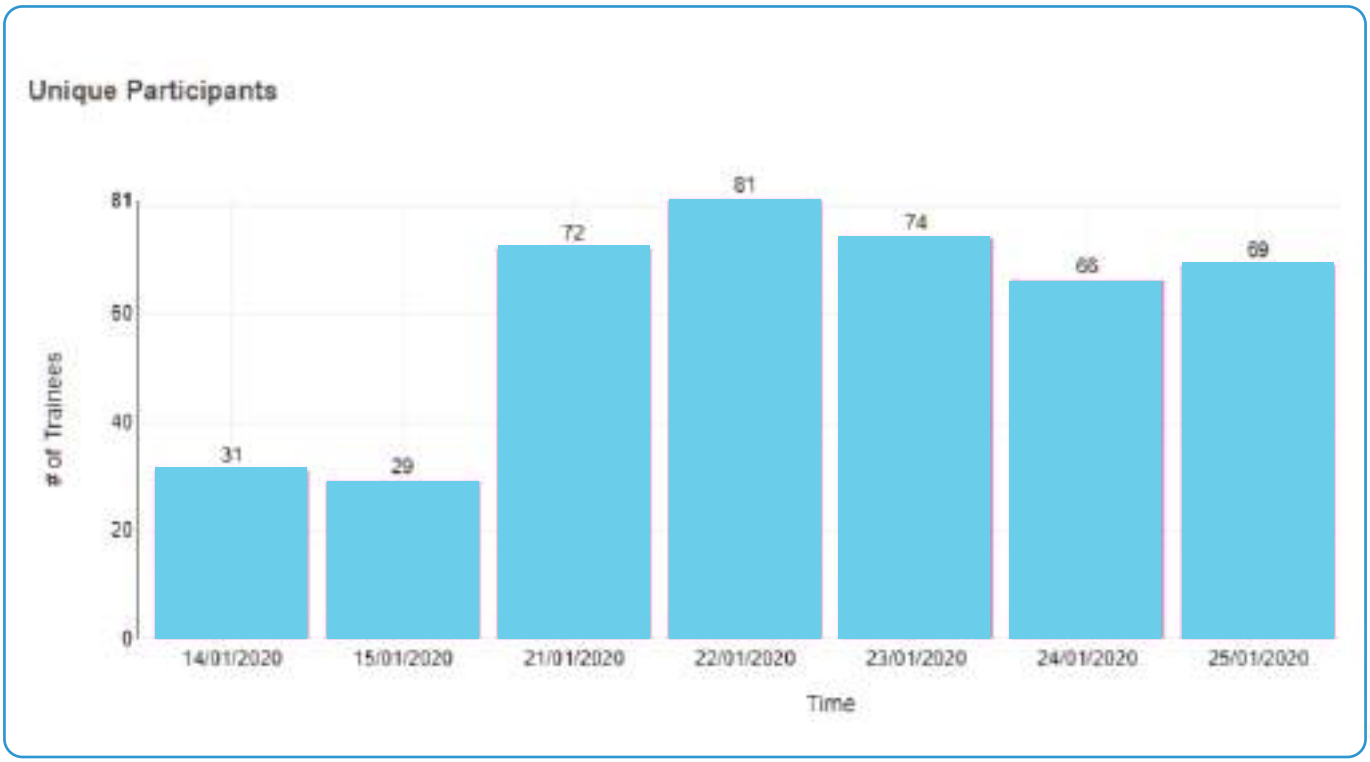
Socion* worked with Arghyam to create Participatory Digital Attestation (PDA), a platform that solves these challenges. PDA provides verifiable digital proof of all the trainings that a participating community member attends and also leaves the training content with them. They can share these attestations with upcoming programs and potential employers as proof of the trainings they have undergone and secure better livelihood opportunities. The participants are only required to scan QR codes during their trainings - physical or virtual in order to get attestations and access the content. This act of scanning QR codes generates a verifiable digital trail and provides programs with the information on the people trained under the program and content pieces accessed by the trainees. With this, governments can easily find community workers that have the necessary training for any program.

Early last year Arghyam demonstrated the PDA application to its partners. Valuable feedback was collated and incorporated before the application was deployed in Meghalaya and Karnataka.

The Meghalaya deployment is part of Meghalaya Community-led Landscape Management Program (MCLLMP). In January 2019, teams from **MCLLMP*, ACWADAM*, PSI*, CHIRAG*, Prasari*** and Arghyam conducted a week long training on Springshed Management. The State Project Management Unit at Shillong worked with the content creators and trainers to embed PDA in their program.

**Click the links to know more.*

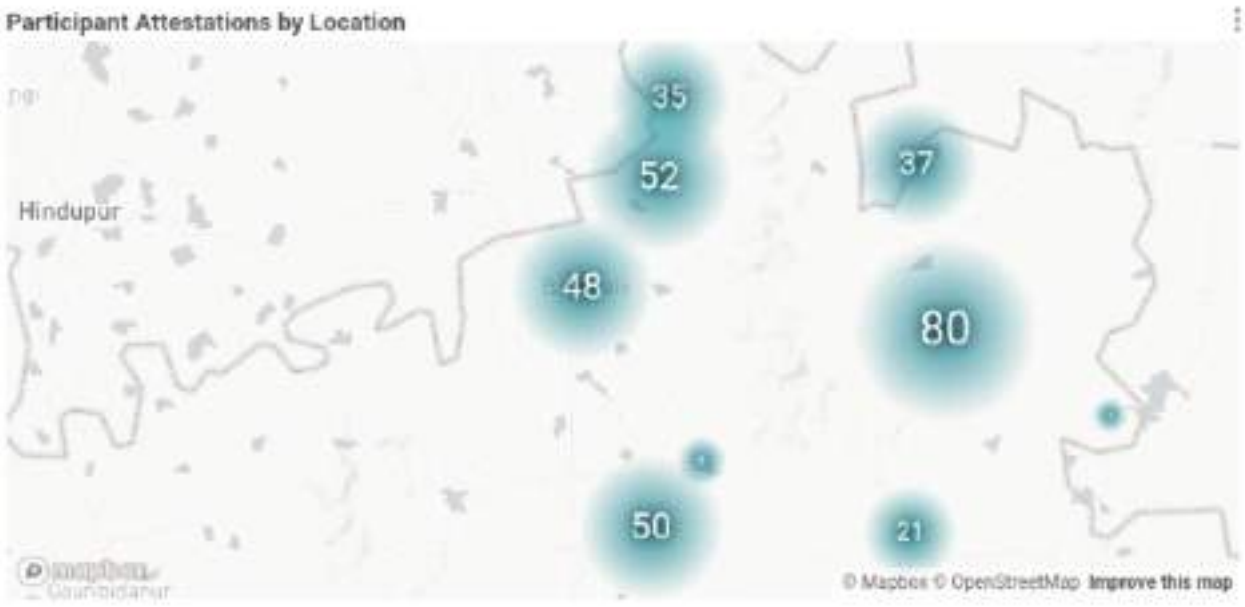
The training in January led to 607 participant attestations from 197 participants. The master trainers selected from different programs like MCLLMP, MG-NREGA, LAMP were trained on springshed management and the use of PDA. These master trainers trained the community resource persons, enabled by PDA across all districts of Meghalaya.



The Karnataka deployment is part of a program led by Indian Natural Resource Economics and Management Foundation (INREM Foundation). Unlike the Meghalaya deployment, here Arghyam is working with the partner to pilot and showcase the value of PDA that can then be adopted by the respective state departments.

INREM Foundation has identified 'Jalagaras' - frontline workers in Rural development and Panchayati Raj (RDPR) department and Rural Water Supply (RWS) department in three districts. These departments have to periodically collect water quality data. As training continues, this will follow frontline workers using field testing kits (FTK) to test the water in Gram Panchayats. PDA helps frontline workers in having access to training material whenever they are collecting data.

Using PDA, the program is able to understand what content is being accessed by frontline workers from the field and also keep track of all capacity building activities.



Arghyam is poised to deploy PDA during trainings for 2500 frontline workers between both these programs in the next year. It plans to deploy and validate PDA in more geographies with a growing list of partners across India.

If you would like to enable community workers by deploying PDA in your programs, please contact **sreechand@arghyam.org** to schedule a demo and learn more about PDA.

Leaving behind assets in the ecosystem

To ensure impact at scale it is important to see how programs leave behind reusable assets in the form of digital content or trained resource persons. Such reusable assets can be leveraged by future programs as well as by ecosystem actors beyond the lifecycle of the program, and help make knowledge more fluid and free.

Learner-Centric Atomised Content

Good quality content should be byte sized, address a learning need, and be available to people in formats that are easy to consume. It is important to take content from the ecosystem that is available in the form of dense presentations and convert them to self learning digital content in the form of videos/animations, presentations with voice over etc. and to use them to train program actors based on the functions they need to perform on the ground. Such digital content can be used across programs - for e.g. the Jal Jeevan Mission and Atal Jal Yojana, mandate the creation of plans and lessons - from data collection to estimating water balance, so that stakeholders with similar learning needs can be trained, across both programs. Understanding this and creating small content pieces will save time and resources for both programs.

Arghyam's partners - experts in Participatory Ground Water Management (PGWM), water quality and springshed management have had an exciting year converting a lot of their existing training material into byte sized learning content. These have been used extensively to train master trainers and community resource persons. Specific support for digitisation of content and storytelling to create good content has been provided by **Digital Green*** which brings more than a decade of experience in using digital content in rural India to enhance livelihoods.

**Click the link to know more.*

Digitally attested trained resource persons

Just as content can be left behind, the digital footprint of trained resource persons in the program can also be left behind and made available to the ecosystem beyond the program as 'nutrients' for future programs and interventions. Future programs can find these skilled resource persons, enhance their capacities, and achieve program outcomes.

Partners in the Scale Journey

Meghalaya Community-led Landscape Management Program (MCLLMP)

Meghalaya Government with support from the World Bank designed an ambitious project called Meghalaya Community-led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP) with an objective to strengthen community-led landscape management in 400 villages with a potential to scale in 6026 villages across 20 blocks and 7 districts. The beneficiaries of the project are village communities that depend on land, forests, water, and agroforestry for their livelihoods. The project is being implemented by Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) focusing on Natural Resource Management (NRM) for a five year period from 2018 to 2023.

CLLMP has built its program around the understanding that women are central to achieving natural resource management, they **report*** that this has led to improved outcomes for their program on the India Water Portal.

**Click the link to know more.*

Key objectives of MCLLMP

- Create community ownership and involvement in landscape planning and implementing the program
- Build capacity of first-mile and program staff on Natural Resource Management (NRM) and enhance their self-efficacy
- Develop a strong program management capability

For Arghyam, this is a challenging opportunity given the scale of the initiative of the Government of Meghalaya. However, this partnership could help Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) accelerate capacity building efforts across water and adjacent domains. This is also an opportunity to explore how Arghyam can enable the program so that it creates sustainable value for the ecosystem of actors and builds assets that are reusable within the State.

Strengthening local governance through Prakriti Karyashala Model

Arghyam has decided to partner with Foundation of Ecological Security (FES) for their scaled interventions for building capacities of frontline workers in several states starting April 1, 2020. This program will support better governance and restoration of common pool resources including water in 7500 villages benefitting at least 15,00,000 people. It also proposes to build the capacity of 2000 program actors (Govt. functionaries) for scaled interventions. FES realizes that it is not feasible to reach scale through the existing model and wants to adopt new approaches. Poor skills and inadequate knowledge at the grassroot level hinders the proper implementation of these programs. Hence, the program focuses on building the capacities of different stakeholders on social, institutional and technological skills. Arghyam will be supporting FES to re-imagine the capacity building approach in three different regions (Odisha 3500 villages, Rajasthan 2000 villages, Andhra Pradesh-Karnataka 2000 villages) and embed the new approach in the existing funded programs. Also organise training sessions, provide access to atomised content, deploy PDA and resolve issues during implementation through guided mentoring. Further encourage peer-to-peer learning in guided mentoring (GM) sessions and monitor progress through PDA dashboards.

FES is trying to solve crucial problems on entitlements and water security.Why did they embark on this journey with Arghyam? Find out here*.

**Click the link to know more.*

Building capacities of Community Resource Persons - Jal Jeevan Mission in Maharashtra

Arghyam partnered with UNICEF Maharashtra to build capacities of a group of frontline workers (FLWs) such as Jal Surakshaks, Gram Sevak, Sarpanch, VWSCs and other concerned grassroots representatives to develop sustainable plans for water safety and security under the mandate of Sujal Swachh Gaon, Jal Jeeevan Mission (JJM) and other state schemes. The program was to be piloted in 100 GPs across 3 blocks of Osmanabad district that is part of the Transformation of Aspirational Districts initiative.

Towards this, two resource organisations, ACWADAM (supported by Arghyam) and Primove (supported by UNICEF) came together to develop a 5-day training curriculum for master trainers and a 3-day curriculum for FLWs to orient them on the objectives of JJM, the planning and mobilisation process, program components, and roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. A facilitator's guide was prepared to enable the master trainers to train the FLWs.

This capacity building initiative aimed to reach 400 FLWs and about 40 master trainers across various departments of the district administration. It also aimed at demonstrating the three levers of Arghyam's capacity building initiative - atomised and practice-oriented content, attestations for all participants in FLWs' training and mentoring, through frequent interactions with trainers or experts during the life cycle of the program. The district administration of Osmanabad was to create a mandate for re-imagining capacity building and integrating the three shifts/solutions in their training plans. The pilot in Osmanabad was then to be extended to the remaining blocks in Osmanabad and eventually, the remaining districts of Maharashtra.

A group of 55 + NGOs led by UNICEF India led vital WASH response to the pandemic when it first broke out in Maharashtra. India Water Portal is proud to have partnered with this crucial initiative. Read more about how this consortium kept Maharashtra's most vulnerable safe, through India Water Portal's reporting*.

**Click the link to know more.*

Leveraging digital to build capacities across multiple programs in West Bengal

Arghyam has decided to partner with PRASARI in the coming financial year for their scaled interventions for building capacities of frontline workers across three different projects in West Bengal.

About the Program

The engagement will cover three programs that work on springshed management, watershed management, and well rejuvenation. The issue in most of the target areas is reducing groundwater levels, reducing spring discharge, poor maintenance of dug-wells, and other traditional water structures leading to poor access to water and water scarcity.

Jharnadhara Springshed Management program

Jharnadhara is a pioneering springshed program designed at scale which covers 616 springs across 4 districts. It is a collaboration of BRLF and Arghyam to support the soft components of the program while the implementation money is leveraged from MG-NREGA, Department of Rural Development, Government of West Bengal.

The new engagement will target all 30 springs of Gorubathan block in Darjeeling district with the reimagined capacity building model.

Usharmukti Watershed Management program

Usharmukti is the first mega watershed project supported by BRLF and implemented by CSO partners. The project covers 55 blocks across 6 districts. It is a collaboration of BRLF and a few other funders like Ford Foundation and Wabag Foundation to support the soft components of the program while the implementation money is leveraged from MG-NREGA, Department of Rural Development, Government of West Bengal.

30 micro watersheds of Rajnagar block (intensive block) and watersheds of non-intensive block of Birbhum district might pilot the digital capacity building model.

Well Rejuvenation program

The program is about piloting a well rejuvenation protocol on 80-100 water structures across two districts of West Bengal. Funded by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), this project too seeks to leverage MG-NREGA funds.

The new engagement will cover five intensive Gram Panchayats of the project in Matiali & Nagrakata blocks in the Jalpaiguri district.

The reimagined capacity building efforts are likely to touch approximately 18000 households. As the scale of operations is increasing, BRLF in collaboration with Arghyam would deploy the capacity building solutions in order to improve the efficacy of their efforts across different phases of the project lifecycle.

Using Data to Empower the First Mile: Community Registry Thinking

Unavailable data* leads to bad decision making, it is possible to change this using a **Community Registry approach*.**

**Click the links to know more.*

Arghyam's mission is to strengthen the ability of the ecosystem to achieve sustainable water security. One pathway to achieve the mission is to create the ability for program actors to leave behind assets in the form of people, knowledge, artefacts and institutions/programs which the community can leverage and re-use. Data empowerment for all the stakeholders is a key enabler to solve for convergence, accountability, and liquidity challenges, and overcome the systemic issues in implementation of programs to create a path for sustainable water security. To overcome the data deficit in the water ecosystem, Arghyam is investing in thinking, designing, and co-creating digital infrastructure with the ecosystem.

Arghyam is trying to converge the water security ecosystem on the idea of community registry to overcome reliable data deficit. Community registry is **trusted information, knowledge, data and artefacts about the community and its water**, which when made available to different stakeholders can lead to community empowerment and more efficient and effective implementation of the programs. Community registries can create an enabling environment for sustaining and replicating water security at scale.

Arghyam's current engagements and partnerships to empower the water ecosystem and its practitioners. The people trained in the program are lit up and the content used by the programs is more liquid. These will eventually converge at the community registry, an imagination which Arghyam established with some of its partners and will engage deeply in the year ahead.

Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

The unprecedented spread of the COVID-19 virus in the early part of 2020 presented a three-fold crisis - public health, economic, and socio-psychological; a true population-scale problem. Widespread lockdown to prevent community transmission was the universally acknowledged containment strategy, across the world. Complete shutdown of economic activity created many disruptions, especially for the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

In India, the reverse migration triggered by the sudden announcement of the lockdown posed a huge challenge for scores of migrant workers trying to get back to the safety of their homes in their native villages. While shutting down of transport services, loss of wages, and lack of social security in the urban areas made the journey arduous; situations of grave hunger and potential ostracization awaited them at home.

The Pandemic caused a deep crisis across rural India, India Water Portal covered Civil Society response* to the pandemic and the WASH implications* in detail.

**Click the link to know more.*

Given the sudden and severe impact on a wide scale population, many stakeholders across government, private institutions, civil society organizations, philanthropies and volunteer groups came together to provide immediate relief to the most affected groups. Arghyam has been supporting civil society organisations involved in disaster relief work and adopted a similar role during the COVID-19 pandemic too. The focus was to rapidly strengthen its partners' efforts to provide relief to the most affected communities. Arghyam's support included financial assistance in the form of grants and donations to 10 partners working across more than nine states benefiting more than 2 lakh people directly.
The support also included collation of content on COVID-19 from various trusted sources to form a **curated content bank*** that was relevant to the rural communities in their native languages and co-ordination of a mental health session conducted by experts from ECHO India and NIMHANS benefiting 250+ participants from the civil society. Much of the planning and intelligence gathering for the relief work was done in the month of March 2020 while the implementation extended to subsequent months.

Arghyam supported **RCRC Consortium, Samerth, Bharatiya Jan Utthan Parishad (BJUP), Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), INREM Foundation, Gandhigram, People's Science Institute (PSI), Jeevan Rath-Maharashtra and Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), that actively provided immediate relief to those in need during the crisis.**

Glimpses of COVID-19 Relief Work

Picture credit: Gandhigram Trust - Tamil Nadu (top-left), BJUP-Bihar (top-right), Samerth-Chhattisgarh (Bottom left), INREM Foundation - Karnataka(Bottom-right)

**Click the link to know more.*

India Water Portal

India Water Portal (IWP) is a popular website in English and Hindi sectoral asset that is used by actors across ecosystems to talk about challenges, successes and experiences in ensuring water security in the country. This fits perfectly with the ForWater mission of bringing together people, institutions, knowledge and data on water. India Water Portal seeks to become an open infrastructure to support the water sector in building content repositories on water. IWP is also building new strategic collaborations with organisations that want to share their knowledge and experience on water. These organisations are being guided by IWP's expert editorial team and will be able to reach the wide audiences that read the portal daily. IWP has started off two exciting collaborations this year - first one with International Water Management Institute for addition of a new topic on solar irrigation and second one with Gurushala, for teachers across the country to learn from IWP's content and teach their students.

Children wash hands at a stand post installed in a Primary school at Kapoti Village in Karanjiya, Dhindori, Madhya Pradesh, India (Source: WaterAid India). See the photo-essay **here*.**
If you are working on water & have a story to tell with pictures or videos do send them to **contact@indiawaterportal.org.**
We will be happy to tell your story and share it on our Instagram & Twitter handles: with due credit to you of course!
**Click the link to know more.*

India's water stories are read and loved around the world!

IWP is proud that its water stories are read not only nationally but internationally.

The top 10 countries that read the portals in 2019- 20:

Country	HWP Users
India	13,911,774
United States	52,306
Nepal	10,729
United Arab Emirates	9,498
Saudi Arabia	8,340
Oman	3,955
Bangladesh	3,324
Kuwait	3,109
Qatar	2,839
Unspecified	28,699
	14,061,928

Country	IWP Users
India	1,691,757
United States	58,866
Philippines	12,297
United Kingdom	10,171
United Arab Emirates	9,445
Pakistan	9,169
Australia	6,918
Canada	6,424
Nigeria	5,707
Singapore	5,490
	1,913,397

Have a story to tell on water in English or Hindi? Write to us at **contact@indiawaterportal.org**

SPECIAL SECTION
Adapting to the New Normal: Arghyam's Experience of Working through the Pandemic

The words that have dominated 2020 are pandemic and new normal. Like everyone else, the Arghyam family was focussed on adapting to the 'new normal'. Working from home had started to become a way of life. It took us little time, but we got used to online meetings and started to enjoy not navigating through the city's vehicular pollution. As the mystery of COVID -19 unravelled the words of Anthony Hororitz rang true - "You cannot defeat your enemies until you know who they are".

Early in the pandemic we understood the power of disseminating the right messages to people in a short time. We decided to collate all the credible content on COVID 19 to help CSOs disseminate messages without having to create it themselves - saving them precious time and effort. The team got together for this task and came up with a plan to get all the content - in different languages, for different age groups, and professions, available on one platform. There was an overwhelming response from all the content creators and soon we had a COVID 19 content bank with over 900 pieces of content in 33 languages/dialects available on India Water Portal.

As we got used to this routine, we realised that work was going on uninterrupted. However, we missed the energy that we drew from each other as a team. There was a sense of fatigue that crept in when we realised this was not going to be a 2 week or even a 2 month exercise. We missed our 'work family'. The lunchtime conversations, informal outings, playing table tennis, sharing joys and concerns or even the healthy arguments while debating work. We started missing it all.

To snap out of the monotony of working from home, we decided to share what each of us was doing to keep active and positive. In this process we learnt new recipes, yoga asanas, poetry and the list goes on. It was fun, something to look forward to other than work every day. It gave us the energy to keep working virtually and achieve our goals.

We realised how much we missed this interaction and built it into our weekly team meetings. To add fun, we included simple, team games like dumb charades and treasure hunt in every alternate team meeting.

The year 2020 indeed is unforgettable for many, but for us, it has special significance as Arghyam completed 15 years. We wanted to celebrate the people who helped shape the organisation and learn from their experiences in their current work. Fifty of us - colleagues from the past and present got together and reminisced about Arghyam's journey and the work we are all doing to solve critical issues.

We are all going through some tough times, but it has also made us realise what matters to us the most: the people around us and we celebrated and drew energy from each other helping us make the 'new normal' our 'normal'.

TEAM ARGHYAM

Financials 2019-20

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ARGHYAM

Opinion

1. We have audited the financial statements of Arghyam ('the Trust'), 599, 12th Main, HAL IInd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560008 (Permanent Account Number: AABTA0028M), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020, the Income & Expenditure Account, the Receipts and Payments Account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 31 March 2020, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

3. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Trustees and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

4. Trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the aforesaid Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
5. In preparing the financial statements, trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.
6. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

7. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
8. To identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
9. To obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the trust's internal control.
10. To evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
11. To conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
12. We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

for Singhvi Dev & Unni LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm Reg. No. 003876S/ LLPIN-AAP-3305

Sd/-
S Ranganath
Partner
Membership Number: 201191
UDIN: 20201191AAAAAP8392

Bengaluru
Date: 18th September, 2020

BALANCE SHEET

ARGHYAM
599, 12th Main Road, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560008

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2020

Particulars	Sch No.	As at March 31, 2020 Amount (Rs.)	As at March 31, 2019 Amount (Rs.)
I. SOURCES OF FUNDS			
1. Corpus Fund	1	1,58,29,08,633	1,55,05,90,664
2. Current Liabilities and Provisions			
a. Current Liabilities	2	79,87,339	46,32,769
b. Provisons	3	13,626	14,221
TOTAL		**1,59,09,09,598**	**1,55,52,37,654**
II. APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
1. Fixed Assets	4	13,35,287	13,71,707
2. Investments	5	1,53,48,66,343	1,49,33,83,372
3. Current Assets, Loans and Advances			
a. Cash and Bank Balances	6	4,34,55,008	4,70,86,084
b. Other Current Assets	7	91,80,329	93,07,337
c. Loans and Advances	8	20,72,631	40,89,154
TOTAL		**1,59,09,09,598**	**1,55,52,37,654**
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	21		

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet.
Please visit - *www.arghyam.org* for financial statements with detailed schedules.

for Arghyam

Sd/-
Rohini Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Sd/-
Dr. Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 7th August, 2020

As per our report of even date

for Singhvi Dev & Unni LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm Reg. No:
003876S/ LLPIN: AAP-3305

Sd/-
S Ranganath
Partner
Membership Number: 201191

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 18th September, 2020
UDIN 20201191AAAAAP8392

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

ARGHYAM
599, 12th Main Road, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560008

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

Particulars	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2020 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2019 Amount (Rs.)
Income			
Interest Earned	9	12,37,46,656	12,32,86,376
Other Income	10	3,46,964	52,85,494
TOTAL (A)		**12,40,93,620**	**12,85,71,870**
Expenditure			
Administrative Expenses	11	86,98,490	78,11,611
Depreciation	4	3,70,282	3,81,603
Ground Water Program	12	6,15,05,400	5,24,99,608
Advocacy, Research & Communication	13	61,67,249	57,77,711
India Water Portal	14	95,40,339	1,26,05,404
WATSAN Urban Program	15	54,93,891	47,28,743
TOTAL (B)		**9,17,75,651**	**8,38,04,680**
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) (A-B)		3,23,17,969	4,47,67,190
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	21		

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Income and Expenditure Account.
Please visit - *www.arghyam.org* for financial statements with detailed schedules.

for Arghyam

Sd/-
Rohini Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Sd/-
Dr. Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 7th August, 2020

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Chartered Accountants
Firm Reg. No:
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Sd/-
S Ranganath
Partner
Membership Number: 201191

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 18th September, 2020
UDIN 20201191AAAAAP8392

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

ARGHYAM
599, 12th Main Road, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560008

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

Receipts	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2020 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2019 Amount (Rs.)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:			
Cash & Bank Balances			
Cash on Hand		5,473	3,899
Citibank- 5913535806 (Savings A\c)		4,25,618	4,12,192
Citibank- 0877466809(Current A\c)		5,15,987	5,79,596
ICICI -004701046493 (Savings A\c)		4,91,010	18,10,446
Kotak Mahindra -04222040000503 (Savings A\c)		13,66,884	1,70,671
State Bank of India- 64064306314 (Savings A\c)		4,77,279	17,42,527
YES Bank Ltd - Arghyam - 002290300000087 (SB)		4,25,10,151	5,17,10,248
Linked deposits with Bank		12,93,681	12,33,275
Receipts from Investments (Matured during the year)	19	77,37,99,870	45,85,62,635
Interest Earned	16	12,48,97,725	12,23,56,446
Other Income	17	3,46,964	52,85,494
TOTAL		**94,61,30,642**	**64,38,67,429**

Payments	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2020 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2019 Amount (Rs.)
Ground Water Program		6,15,05,400	5,24,99,608
Advocacy Research & Communication		61,67,249	57,77,711
India Water Portal		95,40,339	1,26,05,404
WATSAN Urban Program		54,93,891	47,28,743
Administrative Expenses	18	43,52,054	63,35,229
Fixed assets		3,33,860	4,49,503
Payments for Investments made	19	81,52,82,841	51,43,85,148
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:			
Cash on Hand		8,702	5,473
Citibank -5913535806 (Savings A\c)		11,51,975	4,25,618
Citibank -0877466809(Current A\c)		-	5,15,987
ICICI -004701046493 (Savings A\c)		27,67,700	4,91,010
Kotak Mahindra -04222040000503 (Savings A\c)		989	13,66,884
State Bank of India- 64064306314 (Savings A\c)		3,43,22,943	4,77,279
HDFC Bank LTD.50100291331744(Savings A\c)		19,49,985	-
YES Bank Ltd - 002290300000087 (SB)		20,57,638	4,25,10,151
Linked Deposit with Banks	20	11,95,076	12,93,681
TOTAL		**94,61,30,642**	**64,38,67,429**
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	21		

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Receipts and Payments Account.
Please visit - *www.arghyam.org* for financial statements with detailed schedules.

for Arghyam

Sd/-
Rohini Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
Sunita Nadhamuni
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Trustee

Place: Bengaluru
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As per our report of even date
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003876S/ LLPIN: AAP-3305

Sd/-
S Ranganath
Partner
Membership Number: 201191

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 18th September, 2020
UDIN 20201191AAAAAP8392

OUR BOARD

Chairperson

Mrs. Rohini Nilekani

Trustees

Dr. Janhavi Nilekani

Dr. Sonalde Desai

Dr. Shivsomeshwar

Mrs. Sunita Nadhamuni

Mr. Ananth Narayanan

Chief Executive Officer

Mrs. Jayamala V. Subramaniam

Safe, Sustainable Water for All
Annual Report 2019-20

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Author and Editor: Advocacy, Research and Communications Team on behalf of Arghyam
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For the digital version of the annual report, please visit www.arghyam.org

Arghyam

Safe, sustainable water for all

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HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar
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