



Annual Report

2018 -19



Message from the Chairperson

In 2005, I took a big bet on water and seeded Arghyam, with the intention to support vulnerable communities in rural India that are battling water scarcity. We had started out because we knew that people were struggling, and it was only going to get worse. Our hunch was right, but even we could not have guessed just how rapidly the crisis would outpace the collective ability of samaaj, bazaar, and sarkaar to address it. Over 14 years of existence, we have directly reached 5 million people but hopefully impacted many more because of the tremendous policy impact of many of our partners, especially on participatory groundwater management and springs. Through the India Water Portal, we have created an open and valuable knowledge resource for India's water practitioners. We have tried our best to support both the state and civil society to mitigate increasingly contentious water issues. And none of this would have been possible without our partners, and I use this opportunity to thank them all.

But sadly, we have arrived at a new normal. The monsoon is no longer predictable. We have extreme deluges and extreme shortages all within the same season and often, within the same geographies. Climate change is no longer a distant concern but our lived reality that exponentially impacts already vulnerable communities. How can we, as individuals, philanthropies or as collectives, help people adapt to these changes? How can we better impact the lives of those most impacted by the uncertainty?

I strongly believe that the complex nature of water requires us to nurture three specific sub-ecosystems that work

synchronously to solve this wicked problem:

1. Harmonize all the projects and programs focused on water across India.
2. Leverage all the innovation by scientists and entrepreneurs across all aspects of water management globally.
3. Build water infrastructure that is physical or digital.

At Arghyam, we are continuously engaging with some of these questions and challenging ourselves to find some answers urgently to scale our response with speed and sustainability keeping equity in mind. We are now in a phase of Arghyam's work which takes us right outside our comfort zone, and invites us to be more accountable and take more responsibility. We are attempting to build a technology enabled infrastructure for the water sector, built as a public good, a shared infrastructure which allows the samaaj, sarkar, and bazaar to co-create and collaborate to amplify the ability of the ecosystem to secure safe water at scale. This is a new and challenging journey for Arghyam, but we are excited to nudge a pathway for a bigger transformation of the sector. But we can't do this alone and we need many more people to join this journey, innovate and collaborate to make this happen.

Rohini Nilekani

ROHINI NILEKANI



Message from the CEO

In the last 14 years, Arghyam has built a diverse portfolio on groundwater and sanitation through various partners, and some great work has been demonstrated through this collaborative effort. We have supported over 100 partners on 140 projects across various thematic interventions, with an investment of over Rs 155 crores. Our collective theory of change has been that demystifying the science of hydrogeology and making data on water visible to communities, triggers them to come together and implement locally meaningful water management protocols that have higher chances of producing more sustainable and equitable outcomes. Alongside the practice impact, there was some fairly significant systemic impact that was achieved like influencing the idea of a water cadre which is now being recognised and slowly accepted as a need, much like a teacher in education or an ASHA worker in health. We have also demonstrated the power of many by influencing collaborations through formal networks like the water quality network and informal ones like the Springs Initiative and PGWM hubs.

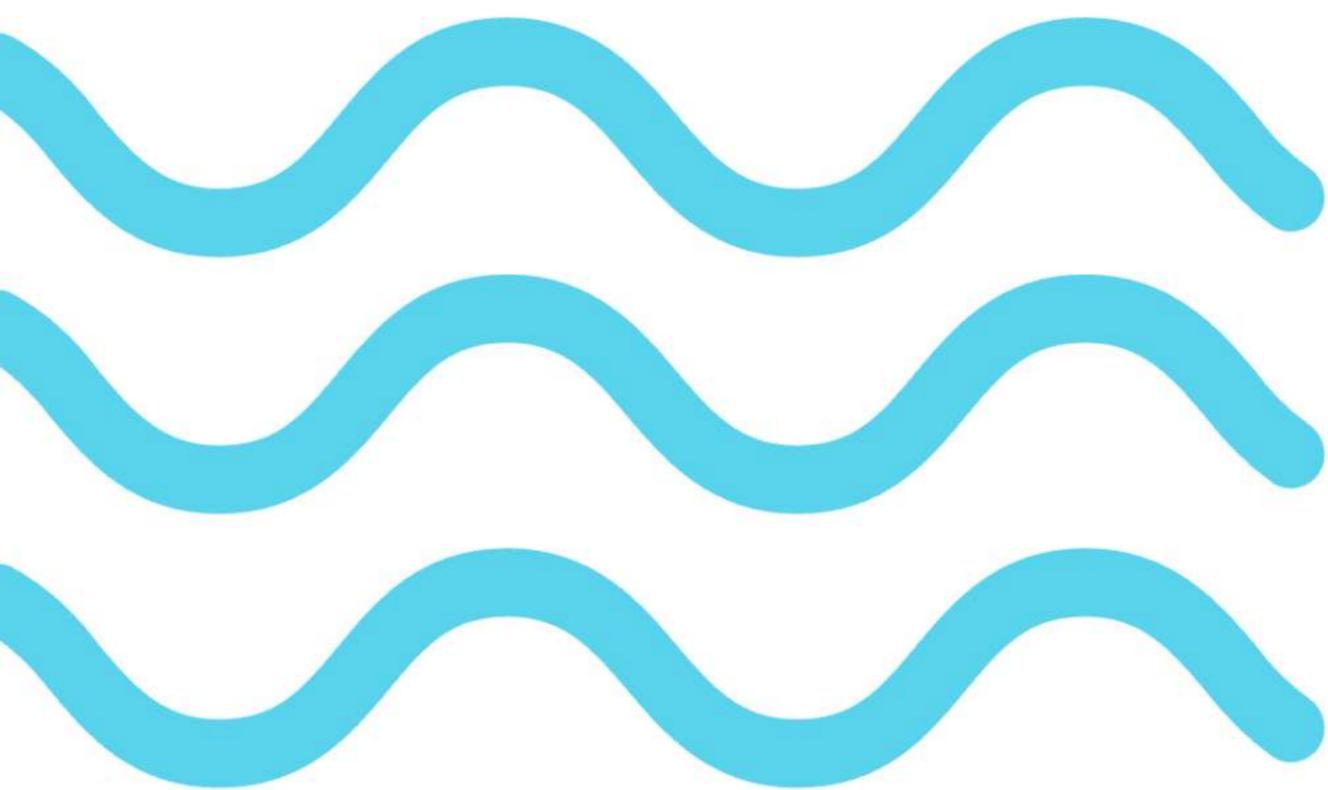
As we took stock of the impact vs. persisting problems on the ground, we understood that in spite of some great work, the problems are continuously outpacing our ability to address them. Because of this need for speed, programs were placing impossible expectations on available resources. We saw some key limitations in the current approaches at scale- some common challenges faced across programmes, and stakeholders, which we have bucketed under the head of CLAP - Convergence, Liquidity, Accountability and Participation. Silos have to be broken; people, knowledge and data have to

become much more easy to find; monitoring has to be more real time and less resource intensive and finally we have to enable many more people to participate in solving the water problem.

We chose capacity building as an area we wanted to amplify for scale because that is the starting point of every water intervention. Over the last one year, we have been trying to understand ways to enable the shift from training to capacity building at scale using digital capabilities that can enhance interactions and provide transparency. It is with this intent that Arghyam has been incubating a Societal Platform For Water with specific use cases for groundwater and water quality. Our overarching philosophy has been to build technology that enables the first mile actor and strengthens his or her ability to take control to drive water management locally.

The idea behind the societal platform for water is to un-scarce resources and make it easier for various stakeholders to engage, collaborate and promote participation to solve issues of water scarcity in India by enabling creation, curation and consumption of digital assets - content, data, people, process, templates etc. We are very excited about the possibilities and we look forward to collaborating with many more NGOs, donors, academia, government and others, committed to ensuring water security. We hope to accelerate the ability of water actors to build solutions that can stay ahead of the problem. This is both an important and imminent challenge for all of us in the sector.

JAYAMALA V SUBRAMANIAM

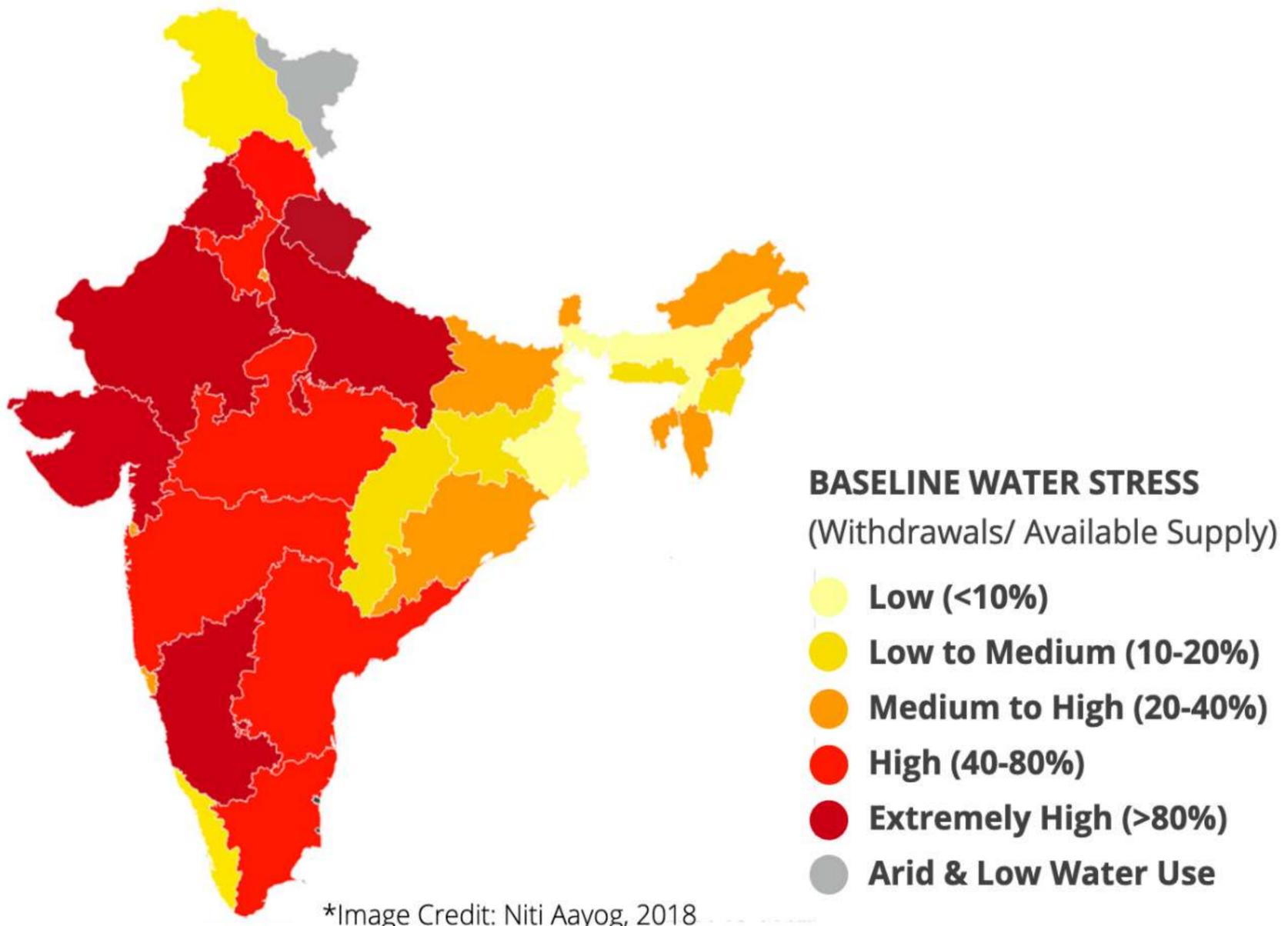


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A Snapshot of the Problem

'India is home to 16% of the world's population, but has access to only 4% of the global water reserves.'



WATER SCARCITY

- 25% of global groundwater extraction is done in India and 54% of India's groundwater wells have declined over the past seven years.
- 85% of the rural and 45% of urban population depends on groundwater for drinking water needs.
- It is estimated that 600 million people face high to extreme water stress in India.



WATER SAFETY

- 162 million people in India do not have access to safe drinking water.
- 70% of India's water is contaminated, placing India at 120 out of 122 countries on the water management index.
- An estimated 66 million people in India are suffering from fluorosis and over 500 million people in the G-B-M flood plains are exposed to arsenic.

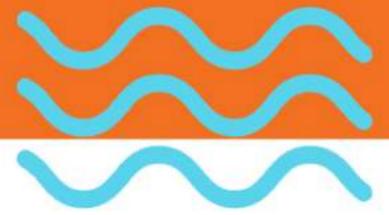


WATER ACCESS

- 21 major cities are expected to run out of water by 2020.
- Access to water is inequitably distributed with constant trade offs between agriculture and industrial water use, rural and urban, poor and rich communities.



A Disruptive Change In Approach



Arghyam, set up in 2005, is one of the very few organizations in India to solely focus on water conservation and management. We have been working with our partners to collectively ensure water security to the most vulnerable communities. Our focus areas have ranged across Participatory Groundwater Management (PGWM), Springshed Management, Water Quality, Urban Water, and Sanitation. Our interventions have been focused on restoring the agency of the key stakeholder (community) by adopting a participatory approach that brings knowledge and capacity to increase awareness and empower citizens to take ownership and play a pivotal role in ensuring water security and safety for their community. Our collective journey of 15 years has successfully impacted 5 million people and built a cadre of over 1500 para-hydrogeologists, across 22 states. In the last few years, we have realized that the issues in the water sector are fast outpacing our ability to solve them, and an increasing number of people are facing the threat of water insecurity. India is fueling and energizing its economy to be the fastest growing country in the world by 2030. To ensure the wellbeing and prosperity of over 1.3 billion people, it is also increasing its dependence on natural resources, especially water, to meet its aspirations. There is no doubt that our ability to secure the future of our country will rely on our ability to ensure water security for people living in over 600,000 villages and over 7000 cities. The ever-expanding water demand of India's growing population and economy, combined with the impacts of climate change, is already making water scarcity a major threat in many parts of the country and with it, we are witnessing severe damage to livelihoods, human health and ecosystems. In such complex and dynamic circumstances, we need to remodel our approach towards solving problems at scale.

***'We need to think big, act fast, and act now!
And we need to do it at scale.'***

This triggered Arghyam's thinking on the need to reimagine approaches that impact water security at scale. To solve for such a mammoth and complex problem, collective action and collaboration is the key. There is growing consensus on the need for collective action to avert a water crisis in the country- this is attracting investment to drive improvement in awareness, policy, program implementation, and infrastructure for the water sector. That said, this new infusion of energy and investment will be impeded in the absence of systems that amplify the ability of existing and new actors to work together to enable water security at scale with speed and sustainability.

There is a growing consensus on the need for participatory models and programmes, and to leverage resources to minimize cost but maximize impact. Programmes today have a tendency to be highly resource and time intensive. This makes it difficult for them to be replicated at scale, since there is just not enough funding, resources or expert capacity across the ecosystem.

*'Thus, we need to **identify scarce resources and amplify their reach, without compromising on the quality of outcomes!***

We have studied the problem and identified a few key areas that represent opportunities to reimagine how the ecosystem can work together and leverage the available resources to amplify collective impact, namely;



Convergence

While there are many initiatives underway, most of these efforts tend to fend for themselves and are not able to either contribute to or leverage the existing knowledge, data, and insights gained in other related or adjacent programs or initiatives. We need to unlock network effort between actors and systems across the ecosystem to enable more interactions, knowledge creation and sharing, and improve collaborations.



Liquidity

Experts & expertise available across the ecosystem is not proportional to the scale of the problem and is further exacerbated by inadequacy in both quantity and quality of data required by experts, practitioners, policy-makers, and community members to make informed decisions. Capacity building combined with substantial improvement in access to knowledge, information, data, methodologies and resources is necessary to enable any amplification in our efforts.



Accountability

Governance of programs and initiatives is very resource intensive and often limits the ability to plan, mobilize, and effectively oversee any large-scale initiatives in this space. We need to find new ways to make it easier and more effective to govern large scale programs that cross institutional, state and national boundaries.



Participation

Increasing the awareness of community actors combined with improved access to knowledge, information, notifications, and data, to take ownership and participate in efforts to ensure water security for their community.

Acknowledging the enormity of the problem and the need for immediate action, Arghyam has decided to redirect much of its effort to scaling the impact of its partners and strengthening the ecosystem to support the collective ability to pursue our vision. Our theory of change is to accelerate and enable water security at population scale. In order to do so, we need to build a collaborative, functioning ecosystem of people, institutions, and providers along with knowledge, data, and other necessary resources required to enable the interactions and activities that are integral to ensuring water security across communities. Our current imagination is based on 4 critical pillars for change;



First-Mile Approach

Communities are the key enablers of action on-ground and need to be empowered with knowledge, data, tools and most importantly the ability to assess, plan, implement, monitor, maintain and manage efforts that can lead to water security.



Knowledge

For the 'water cadre' to move from passive participants to leaders, we need to enable sustained and dynamic flow of relevant, actionable knowledge, as well as access to experts and mentors for regular interactions to overcome challenges that they face on the ground.



Data

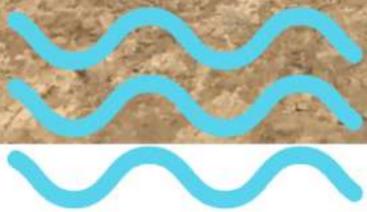
Build trusted data registries that minimize manual recording of data, improve data collection, governance and transparency, through verifiable and trusted systems of search and discovery.



Technology

Leverage technology to amplify the reach of scarce resources - be it knowledge, data or expertise along with increased transparency to ensure quality of engagement at scale.

We have adopted a societal platform mindset, to work with partners to build and enable open digital platforms that can help amplify our ability to engage with actors across the ecosystem.



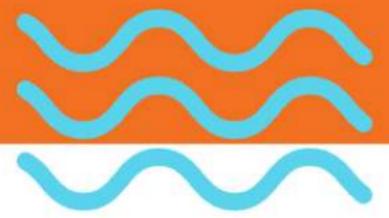
Societal Platform- The Idea

The Societal Platform thinking emerged from the need to urgently address societal challenges that are affecting millions of people, by scaling up innovative solutions to serve them. The platform thinking endorses collaboration between society, state and the market in developing innovative solutions at scale. Societal platforms are built as a public good, that enables open innovation for development. This approach is being adopted across various sectors like education, health, governance and now, water.

These platforms leverage a shared digital infrastructure that enables open and affordable access to scarce resources like knowledge, data, and decision-making tools as public goods. The core idea of Societal Platforms is to design an infrastructure that enables everyone to do what they do best, in a unified but not uniform manner. The objective of Societal Platforms is to break existing systemic silos, and build an open environment that fosters innovative co-creation and collaboration.



Mission And Impact Priorities



Our Mission is to strengthen the ability of the ecosystem to enable water security for 100 million by 2023.

Our mission is being fuelled by a set of priorities that guide us to create impact at scale.

IMPACT PRIORITIES

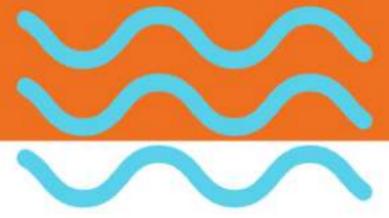
- 💧 Reduce barriers for collaborations between various stakeholders
- 💧 Simplify, build and transfer expertise at scale
- 💧 Increase opportunities for community participation
- 💧 Enhance transparency and improve governance

We have recalibrated our theory of change from enabling water security at community level to accelerating and enabling water security at (population) scale.





Learning And Capacity Building



After much deliberation and reflections on the current challenges in the water sector, Arghyam adopted the societal platform thinking for water having understood its potential for transformative impact. We began our journey by building and deploying a technology-enabled Learning Management System (LMS), known as Knowledge ForWater. This was an attempt at enabling a scarce group of experts to achieve wider reach and in turn, enabling the first mile worker to have access to context specific, interactive, vernacular and atomized knowledge.

The LMS included:

- Training modules (in English and regional languages) accessible on mobile phones and laptops available to both trainer and trainee during and post training.
- Assessment tools for trainees, during and post training.

In essence, Knowledge ForWater was designed as a training aid for civil society organizations and as a learning aid for trainees. Seeding the Learning Management System as a service offered under the umbrella of ForWater Societal Platform was a key area of work for Arghyam in the last year.

The following outcomes were envisaged for the LMS -



Creation of a structure, that suited the water sector, to curate content on the platform and enable its access to creators and consumers



A library hosting standard content developed by partners by repurposing existing training material for web-based training and learning



Use of the content on the platform for training



Some of the key activities that were undertaken by Arghyam were -

1. Customising the Societal platform digital infrastructure for the water sector
 - a. Developing the taxonomy for the platform
 - b. Ideation and planning for enhancements and building features
2. Building in-house capacities
 - a. Content development
 - b. Content curation and management
3. Building capacity of the partners on
 - a. Content development
 - b. Use of the content editor
4. Testing authoring tools

With the above design in place, four partners – ACWADAM, PSI, INREM and Prasari - were supported for testing this approach for capacity building. Collectively the partner organizations created Reusable Learning Objectives (RLOs) in various languages such as Marathi, Hindi, Bengali, Nepali and English, and tried several deployments of the approach across the country. The collective experience from the field confirmed some of our theories such as the utility and need for atomized content for the practitioners, open content enabling cross-learning and higher adoption of the content, and the methods of sharing content.

Knowledge Forwater is a reimagined approach to capacity building for first mile actors in the water sector, that leverages open digital infrastructure. We aim to take the lessons from this experience, and refine our approach that makes the process practice oriented, in a manner that supports scale.



Partner Experiences

BUILDING CAPACITIES THROUGH DIGITAL CONTENT: PGWM BY ACWADAM USING FORWATER

ACWADAM, a leading resource and action research organization on groundwater management, was one of the early adopters of the Knowledge ForWater platform. The project “Integrating PGWM and Springshed Management: Building capacity and outreach” envisioned and designed by ACWADAM aimed to develop online content for communities, to demystify the science behind resource management, conduct trainings, build local capacities, and collect data for decision support system.

Through 2018-19, ACWADAM worked on some of these aspects wherein the team created modules and Reusable Learning Objects (RLOs) which were used for trainings and knowledge dissemination within the existing engagements of ACWADAM.

ACWADAM joined the ForWater platform with an objective to build community centric large-scale sensitization and training content, and decision support through data. The team for Participatory Groundwater Management (PGWM) program focused on

Maharashtra, the content was created in Marathi, while for Springshed Management program the content was created in English. ACWADAM created content on the platform across a range of topics like understanding aquifers, introduction to groundwater, understanding springs, well monitoring, measuring water quality, groundwater recharge, etc.

The ForWater app and the RLOs were introduced in some of the trainings conducted under different programs and partnerships. Overall, there was a positive feedback from the community as well as partners for the app and its capabilities. The app telemetry indicated that the content was being used quite regularly by the CRPs for on-ground reference. It was also observed that content in different languages like Oriya and Marathi were being viewed in different regions by community level workers, to solve their local water problems. This reinforced our assumption to build open, easily accessible content for first mile.

WATER QUALITY AND PLATFORM THINKING: LESSONS FROM INREM'S JOURNEY WITH LMS

Water contamination and safety is a serious and growing concern across the world and especially in India, where groundwater dependency is very high. As more people get exposed to water contamination, we are fast approaching a water plus health crisis. INREM Foundation has been leading the water quality network focused on eliminating fluoride contamination in groundwater since 2013. INREM has been actively working to promote actionable knowledge, collaborative solution designs, community awareness and engagement, enabling governance and convergence, and widespread improvement in capacity building of civil society and government on WQ issues in India.

INREM has been working with multiple agencies such as European Union and UNICEF, where their theory of change is being tested in various districts across India. To cater to such growing demand for their work, INREM used the ForWater platform for training and awareness generation. On ForWater platform, INREM created a course called Fluoride ABC, which gives learners a basic understanding of the issues of fluorosis.

INREM has integrated the platform thinking to their model of engagement which is based on 4 key pillars namely;



Education

To generate awareness on safe water amongst different actors, quick consumption content like Safe Water Learning Cards (SWLC) were designed as small capsules of information that could help create flexible courses on-the-fly.



Partnerships

To further scale and design need-based training and data tools, more partnerships are being built and on-boarded for the societal platform work.



Data

To collect relevant data from project sites and assess the impact on the ground, KoBo, an open source data collection tool was used. The telemetry data on content consumption from the LMS was also used to assess the kind of content gaining most traction, and with what kind of audience. This data helped them repurpose their content more effectively.



Solutions

They developed tools to help with decision making, and training. The SWLCs on ForWater platform were used to train different frontline workers like ASHA, ANMs, Anganwadis worker etc. They also used Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) for assessments. They also experimented with a two-way communication channel with community, called Suno - Bolo that was deployed through Speaking Wall (wall painting with QR code) that can be connected to digital platforms.

FORWATER FOR SPRINGS INITIATIVE: PSI'S EXPERIENCE

The Springs Initiative, which was set up in 2014 by an informal and collaborative initiative by implementing, knowledge and funding partners, has gained significant momentum over the last few years and has inspired many Himalayan states have started focused efforts on springshed management.

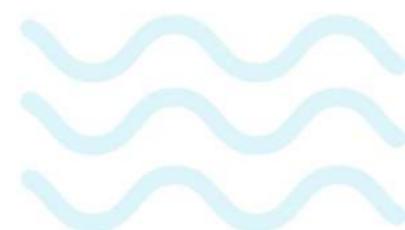
PSI, one of the Springs Initiative partners, have also been working and supporting government efforts on springs conservation and management. They collaborate as a knowledge partner for the government and support their efforts through content creation, training and capacity building workshops, data collection and advocacy. The growing demand for PSI's skills and expertise across states, motivated them to collaborate on the ForWater Platform. On the ForWater platform, they created content and courses that were deployed

across four of their ongoing programmes – Springshed development in the Northeast; fluorosis mitigation in Madhya Pradesh; PGWM initiatives under the BRLF programme and pollution monitoring in Sonbhadra and Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh. Content creation for these programmes was initiated after a training workshop at Bangalore on the use of societal platform, principles of RLO design and the need for atomized content, across themes like PGWM, Springshed management and water quality. This content was further used in training workshops across Nagaland, Meghalaya, Darjeeling, Banda and Chitrakoot University. Students from various universities undergoing Development Professional course and internship were trained in PGWM concepts using the Forwater App.





For data management, PSI used the KoBo collect app to compile field data on springs across states of Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Water quality data across four districts in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh was also collected using the app. The overall experience of the partner with the digital platform was a mixed bag of achievements and challenges. The team was able to create demand for training led by digitized content among students from University, but community engagement with the platform was a challenge given the network limitations.



PRASARI: CLOSING GEOGRAPHICAL REMOTENESS DIGITALLY

West Bengal with its diverse geographical spread has a variety of water security challenges for which there is a need for local solutions that are strengthened by local community participation. The Himalayan region of the state, for instance, is facing a water crisis in the present due to erratic patterns of rainfall, increased anthropogenic activities around the springs recharge zone, and rapid urbanization. PRASARI has been deeply engaged with the communities to increase awareness of the community as well as build capacities of community resource persons on springshed management. Given how widespread these problems are in the state, PRASARI faces the challenge of ensuring quality of such interaction with communities at scale because of the limited bandwidth of their resource persons. This makes the Arghyam-designed LMS accessible through ForWater mobile application ideal for their programs.

It was not easy for the local springs volunteers ('Dhara Sewaks') to understand the science of springs and technical aspects of working towards their rejuvenation through a couple of classroom training sessions. PRASARI's expert resource persons simplified the training modules on springshed management, translated them to local language and digitized them for usage through the LMS. Modules were created and uploaded across a range of themes like spring discharge management, rock mapping, mapping process on google earth, spring typologies and recharge activities. These modules were accessed by Dhara Sewaks while working on different programs.

PRASARI has already trained 200 Dhara Sewaks to work in 250 springs across the region. The Knowledge ForWater app was tested with these Dhara Sewaks who found great utility and relevance in their work, especially when a lot of technicalities were involved in execution.



A Case of Sambalbon

Dr. Gopal Krishan, Sr. Scientist, NIH-Roorkee visited a site of PRASARI in Sambalbon GP, Kalimpong to explore the relationship between landslide and springshed activities in West Bengal Himalayas. Dr. Krishnan expressed his interest in visiting the village to understand the springshed activities undertaken and their impact.

The Dhara Sewak selected by the gram panchayat was Rajiv Subba, who had a good record of social work in the locality. He had attended the residential training in Kalimpong in 2018, where he learnt about springshed and implementing recharge activities in practice, as well as accessing content through ForWater application. Rajiv volunteered to share his views with Dr. Krishnan at the village meeting. He also explained why a particular set of interventions were chosen for the area and his learnings at the residential training. When Dr. Krishnan probed further on how he was so well versed with the technicalities in spite of the training having been done a long time ago, Rajiv explained, "I would have forgotten all the theory and technical aspects of the springshed work had I not been able to access the practitioner content through mobile application. I used to open the app and watch the modules before going for fieldwork exercises which helped me understanding structures and measure spring discharge." Mr. Rajiv also emphasized on the importance of the content being in the local language, as it was a boon for him and the work he executed.



The case of Rajiv Subba is not a one-off story but a reality in all the villages where spring volunteers have been trained, no matter how far their locations are compared to the block office. In addition to having improved capacities of these field workers, the digital content has also helped government functionaries. They have been using the LMS to learn about the mapping process on Google Earth for estimating and approving works under MGNREGA where they are required to upload files in "kml" format. Hence, the applicability of ForWater platform has proved to be wide and very effective.

Project Nirmal in Odisha - Pilot to Policy Journey



Project Nirmal was launched in 2015 under Arghyam's Urban WATSAN theme around the time when Government of India enforced Swachh Bharat Mission at scale. The project aimed at demonstrating sustainable sanitation service delivery for on-site sanitation systems by implementing a faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) by empowering communities in the towns of Angul and Dhenkanal in Odisha. This has allowed the local administration to begin the establishment of an effective process across FSM value chain which may be replicated in other municipalities with similar challenges. The project is jointly being implemented by Practical Action and Centre for Policy Research in partnership with the Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, District Administration and Urban Local Bodies, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Arghyam.



The project aimed to achieve the following outcomes:

- 🔥 Demonstrate State Government and ULB commitment towards sanitation service delivery in small towns.
- 🔥 Capacity development of states and cities for effective sanitation service delivery.
- 🔥 Increase in number of people in pilot towns with access to better sanitation services.
- 🔥 Improve city-wide planning approaches for sanitation.
- 🔥 Demonstrate models for Faecal Sludge Management (FSM).

The collaboration between the Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, the Municipalities of the Dhenkanal and Angul and various civil society organizations has resulted in an impactful work on FSM. As part of the project interventions, number of preliminary studies and surveys were carried out and accordingly benchmark or reference documents were developed in the form of baseline report,



GIS maps, IEC & BCC strategies, market mapping report, City Sanitation Plans, and capacity needs assessment report. Suitable land was identified and selected in consultation with the revenue department and State Pollution Control Board for the establishment of the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) in both the towns. The Detailed Project Reports were approved by the State Government, and the construction of the FSTP was started and completed at both the locations and commissioned at Dhenkanal.

Community mobilization, IEC and BCC activities were undertaken to create awareness on the Faecal Sludge Management at the grassroots levels. Similarly, information on FSM was disseminated periodically at the state, district and city levels to make all stakeholders aware of FSM. The FSM Business Plans for both the Municipalities were prepared and approved by the city level stakeholders for integrated management of the FSTP and Cesspool trucks through engagement of the private operator, who is engaged in the O&M activities. FSM campaigns were undertaken to increase the demand for the desludging

services and the reuse of biosolids generated from the plant as compost. This resulted in an increased demand for O&M services for the FSTP from 60 in January 2019 to 80 by September 2019, and also an increase in demand for the volume of sludge from 2,13,000 litres in January 2019 to 4,77,800 litres in September 2019.

The community level interventions in terms of consultations, awareness meetings, display of posters, hoardings, wall paintings, sanitation and FSM campaigns and other IEC and BCC activities led not only to the increase in demands for the desludging services but also awareness, change of behaviour and adaptation of best sanitation practices such as hand washing, use of chappals etc. The impact is also observed in terms of increasing awareness levels among the communities on FSM.

As a result of the overall efforts, Odisha Urban Sanitation Policy- 2017, Odisha Urban Sanitation Strategy- 2017, Odisha Urban Septage Management Guidelines, 2016 and Municipal Regulations were developed and promulgated by the State Government.

India waterportal

India Water Portal was one of Arghyam's very first initiatives, encouraged at the time by the National Knowledge Commission to create a space for knowledge on water. Over the years, the Portal has established itself as a credible source of information and a comprehensive repository of knowledge on water and related issues in India.

Today, more than 10 years after India Water Portal was started, the internet has evolved and changed considerably. Information is now just a Google search away and smartphones and affordable data have accelerated access to information exponentially. In parallel, water has also become an increasingly critical issue affecting millions of people in India. Together, this has contributed to a consistent growth in viewership for India Water Portal over the years.





As we experiment with new ways of presenting, producing and disseminating knowledge to enable water security through the societal platform approach, there is huge potential to leverage IWP's vast knowledge base and audience.

To know more, please visit:

www.indiawaterportal.org

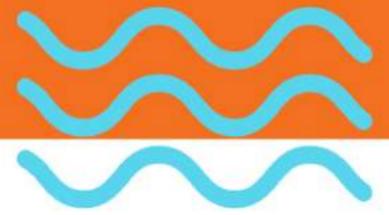
www.hindi.indiawaterportal.org

In 2018-19, India Water Portal in English and Hindi attracted 8 million users, all of which was through organic outreach using social media, events, networking, syndication and newsletters.

The goal is to build on Arghyam's investments in India Water Portal, and on all the hard work that has gone into co-creating this online space for the water sector and the general public.



Reimagining Impact At Scale



The new pathway to reach scale has been a continuous process of learning and unlearning. We started our journey with a focus on creating an open access, learning centric training platform. As we worked with the partners to create content, we realized that trainers struggle to customize content for different audiences, often due to lack of expertise or resources. Hence, we re-aligned our focus on building trainers' tech capabilities to deliver knowledge and capacities faster to the trainees. Our Knowledge ForWater platform created a much needed imagination shift within our partner ecosystem, but we knew we needed something more. Something that looks at the bigger picture. The engagement of the partners on the platform and the adoption of it in their programmes was a testament to the need for such initiatives that could accelerate capacity building efforts more efficiently and effectively to ensure water security at scale.

There is a growing consensus that more people need to act together, in an informed manner, by transferring the right knowledge at the right time. Technology-based learning and knowledge transfer is emerging as an effective medium to reach out to a large number of people. Although such platforms provide new possibilities and competence, they also bring new challenges for organizations to utilize their potential, ranging from the availability of network, devices and technological infrastructure, to financial resources for using technology.

As we reflect back on the year, we find ourselves asking some pertinent questions like;



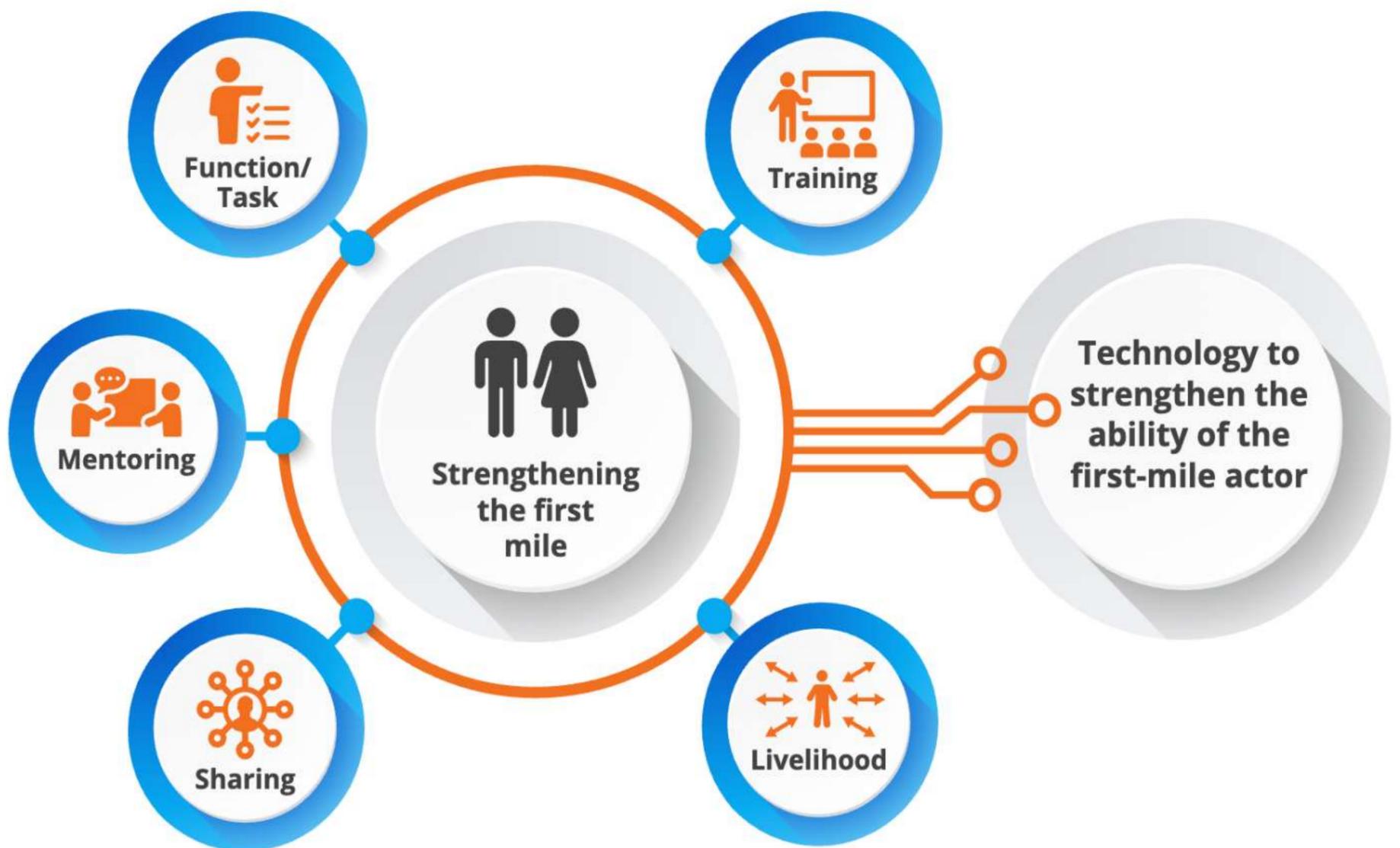
1. Do the curriculums designed help the first mile to perform tasks?
2. Are the current training programmes sufficient? How can we create more interactions with the trainee post the training session?
3. Do the trainings and skills acquired during the professional life of the first mile worker, enable him/her to seek better livelihood opportunities? How do we enable a system that allows the community resource person to seek and unlock opportunities for advancement or enhancement of their incomes?

These questions have probed us to look at the bigger picture, a picture that holds the first mile perspective to capacity building at its core. The Knowledge ForWater platform, is only a piece of the larger picture, but we need to do much more to truly unlock the potential of the ecosystem to trigger greater, sustainable impact.



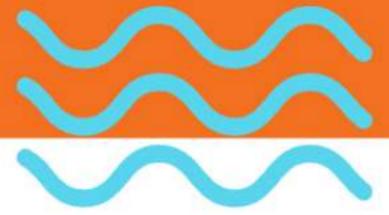
This has brought us to a reimagined approach to capacity building at scale, that pivots our thinking from training to capacity building as a longer, deeper, and foundational effort for any programme.

To ensure increased capacities of the first mile worker to be able to deliver impact faster, effectively, and sustainably, we need to provide more interactions (deeper and frequent) between trainers and trainees, increase transparency but use lesser resources and funds to deliver these impacts. Arghyam is currently incubating the designing and building of a platform that nudges the ecosystem to do what they do, faster, cheaper and better for the first mile. But this needs to be a larger movement with many more people collaborating to scale the impact for the sector.





Financials 2018 - 2019



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 IIInd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560008 (Permanent Account Number: AABTA0028M), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019, 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 2019, 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: 19201191AAA AAQ7237

Bengaluru

Date: 5th August, 2019

BALANCE SHEET

ARGHYAM

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2019

Particulars	Sch No.	As at March 31, 2019 Amount (Rs.)	As at March 31, 2018 Amount (Rs.)
I. SOURCES OF FUNDS			
1. Corpus Fund	1	1,55,05,90,664	1,50,58,23,472
2. Current Liabilities and Provisions			
a. Current Liabilities	2	46,32,769	43,95,339
b. Provisions	3	14,221	14,208
TOTAL		1,55,52,37,654	1,51,02,33,019
II. APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
1. Fixed Assets	4	13,71,707	13,03,805
2. Investments	5	1,49,33,83,372	1,43,81,05,224
3. Current Assets, Loans and Advances			
a. Cash and Bank Balances	6	4,70,86,084	5,76,62,854
b. Other Current Assets	7	93,07,337	89,52,724
c. Loans and Advances	8	40,89,154	42,08,412
TOTAL		1,55,52,37,654	1,51,02,33,019
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	22		

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

As per our report of even date

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

Sd/-
Rohini Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Sd/-
Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
S Ranganath
Partner
Membership Number: 201191

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 5th August, 2019

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 5th August, 2019
UDIN 19201191AAAAAQ7237

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

ARGHYAM

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2019

Particulars	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2019 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2018 Amount (Rs.)
Income			
Interest Earned	9	12,32,86,376	12,30,73,843
Other Income	10	52,85,494	18,47,926
TOTAL (A)		12,85,71,870	12,49,21,769
Expenditure			
Administrative Expenses	11	78,11,611	66,95,676
Depreciation	4	3,81,603	3,42,219
Ground Water Programme	12	5,24,99,608	6,95,36,911
Sanitation Programme	13	-	1,23,86,050
Advocacy, Research & Communication	14	57,77,711	1,81,96,579
India Water Portal	15	1,26,05,404	1,56,67,924
WATSAN Urban Programme	16	47,28,743	1,15,47,364
TOTAL (B)		8,38,04,680	13,43,72,723
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) (A-B)		4,47,67,190	(94,50,954)
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	22		

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

As per our report of even date

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

Sd/-
Rohini Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Sd/-
Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
S Ranganath
Partner
Membership Number: 201191

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 5th August, 2019

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 5th August, 2019
UDIN 19201191AAAAAQ7237

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

ARGHYAM

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

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31, 2019

Receipts	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2019 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2018 Amount (Rs.)
Balance brought forward:			
Cash & Bank Balances			
Cash on Hand		3,899	5,345
Citibank- 5913535806 (Savings A/c)		4,12,192	3,82,149
Citibank- 0877466809(Current A/c)		5,79,596	5,79,306
ICICI -004701046493 (Savings A/c)		18,10,446	22,31,973
Kotak Mahindra -04222040000503 (Savings A/c)		1,70,671	665
State Bank of India- 64064306314 (Savings A/c)		17,42,527	11,44,522
YES Bank Ltd - Arghyam - 002290300000087 (SB)		5,17,10,248	3,51,69,569
Linked deposits with Bank		12,33,275	11,55,900
Receipt from Investments	20	45,85,62,635	25,04,23,787
Interest Earned	17	12,23,56,446	13,30,54,747
Other Income	18	52,85,494	18,47,926
TOTAL		64,38,67,429	42,59,95,889

Particulars	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2019 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2018 Amount (Rs.)
Ground Water Programme		5,24,99,608	6,95,36,911
Sanitation Programme		-	1,23,86,050
Advocacy Research & Communication		57,77,711	1,81,96,579
India Water Portal		1,26,05,404	1,56,67,924
WATSAN Urban Programme		47,28,743	1,15,47,364
Administrative Expenses	19	63,35,229	66,13,240
Fixed assets		4,49,503	3,52,376
Payments for Investments	20	51,43,85,148	23,40,32,591
Balance carried forward:			
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 Deposit with Banks	21	12,93,681	12,33,275
TOTAL		64,38,67,429	42,59,95,889
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	22		

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

As per our report of even date
for Singhvi Dev & Unni LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm Reg. No:
003876S/ LLPIN-AAP-3305

Sd/-
Rohini Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Sd/-
Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Sd/-
S Ranganath
Partner
Membership Number: 201191
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 5th August, 2019
UDIN 19201191AAAAAQ7237

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 5th August, 2019

OUR BOARD

Chairperson

Rohini Nilekani

Trustees

Dr. Janhavi Nilekani

Dr. Sonalde Desai

Dr. Shiv Someshwar

Sunita Nadhamuni

Keshav Desiraju

Ananth Narayanan

Chief Executive Officer

Jayamala V. Subramaniam

Safe, Sustainable Water for All Annual Report 2018-19

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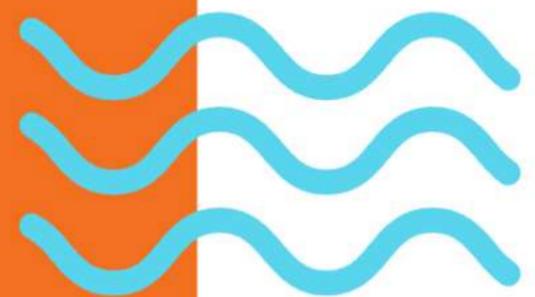
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Author and Editor: Advocacy, Research and Communications Team on behalf of Arghyam

Designed by: Geetanjali Sharma

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the annual report,
please visit www.arghyam.org**





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ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - ೫೬೦೦೦೮
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಹಾನ್ಯಾಧೀಶರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು



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HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar
Bangalore 560008
Karnataka, India

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📺 www.youtube.com/user/arghyamgrants

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