

URBAN WATER CONFLICT : CASES AND ISSUES IN GUWAHATI CITY

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ABSTRACT

Pure drinking water is a fundamental right of all living beings as it is provided by nature for all. It is a basic need for all and no human can live without pure water. The pattern of water availability differs from area to area and country to country. The variation is most acute between urban and rural areas. In urban areas due to a haphazard distribution of the population in the area of surface water has been reduced day by day and the groundwater is also depleted due to overuses. As a result water crisis poses a major issue towards the urban area. Water conflict in the urban area is now a major issue in the city area. Regarding this water conflict in an urban area many works have been done in different parts of the world. An interesting definition of water conflict is found in the Water Conflict Chronology by Peter H. Gleick. One of the categories he uses as "basis of conflicts" is "Development dispute". This is a wide category where probably most of the conflicts we are discussing would feature.

Due to the tremendous growth of population, the availability of drinking water began to hit the urban people in Assam. Guwahati the capital city of Assam is not exceptional on it. The main objectives of this paper are to study the surface water and groundwater scenario of the city. The paper also tries to identify the water crisis area of the study area. Finally, it is trying to find out a solution to mitigate the problems. The methodology adopted here is mainly the collection of primary and secondary data. The unit of observation and data collection has been confined within the limits of the city in order to arrive at a clear conclusion. The finding shows that some area in Guwahati can be considered as a water crisis area. In that area supply water is not good and in some areas it is nil. The amount of groundwater is not sufficient in some areas, it is not safe too.

KEYWORDS: *Drinking Water, Household Water, Ground Water, Surface Water, Water Crisis*