Proceedings of Webinar

School of Water and Waste, CSE in collaboration with Namami Gange successfully organized a webinar on “Used Water Management for India - Challenges & Opportunities”. The webinar introduced the participants to the concepts and potential of Used Water Management in India.

Mr. Jyoti Parsad Dadhich, Programme Officer, Water Programme (CSE) kick-started the webinar by introducing the objective of the webinar, speaker’s details, house keeping rules and the agenda of the webinar. Further, Mr. Depinder Singh Kapur, Director, Water Programme-CSE described about CSE and Water Programme, emphasizing that CSE has been involved in the area of water and used water management for more than 3 decades and have a state engagement with Uttar Pradesh. Further he explained about the current used water scenario prevalent in India and the approaches being followed to manage it.

Figure 1: Snapshots of presentation by Mr. Depinder Kapur, Director, Water Programme, CSE

The webinar attracted more than 750 registrants from all across the world, with around 350 attended and more than 200 through live streaming at different CSE social media platforms. Out of the total attendees, 71% were male and 29% were females.

Figure 2: Participants Details
The keynote speaker of the webinar was Shri G Asok Kumar (IAS), Director General, NMCG who highlighted the progress and achievements of the NMCG project over the years. He highlighted that the 107 STPs sanctioned under NMCG and public participation has made a transformative impact on Ganga river. He talked about the Arth Ganga initiative, and highlighted that enhanced biodiversity, improved aquatic life, increase in number of dolphins and holy dip by over 20 cr devotees in 2019 Kumbh is testimony of improved water quality in Ganga. In addition, he mentioned that for operationalization of STPs only one agency should be made responsible and that states and ULBs should now focus on reuse of treated water and sustaining the projects.

Figure 3: Snapshots of the keynote speaker Mr. G Asok Kumar, DG, NMCG addressing the participants

Further, eminent speakers from different organizations viz. CPHEEO, CDD India, and Biome Environmental Trust presented their work in the area of used water management highlighting the issues, potentials and priorities in the used water management sector at different scales.
Dr. V K Chaurasia, Joint Advisor, CPHEEO, MoHUA, GoI shared his views on the potential and priorities of used water management in various national missions and schemes. He highlighted the opportunities lying in areas of used water management and the need of the landscape required at the state level for taking informed decision on used water management. He also talked about importance of identifying planning zones, type of technologies being adopted by ULBs, and all the related stakeholders. He even stated that Uttar Pradesh state should identify the type of technologies being adopted for used water management.

Mr. P G Ganapathy, Senior Advisor at CDD India described the Used Water Management practices being followed in Drains. He very precisely listed down the opportunities of used
water management, the challenges lying ahead and the options to treat the used water to bring it to the desired level of reuse. He even provided in-depth knowledge regarding in-line treatment and interception and diversion of nallahs (drains).

Figure 6: Snapshot of the presentation by Mr. P G Ganapathy, CDD Society

Mr. S. Vishwanath, Advisor, Biome Environmental Trust described the formal and informal ways of used water management in a metropolis – Centralised & Decentralised systems sharing his experiences from Bengaluru city. He talked about how used water is being used by the farmers for agricultural purposes leading to enhanced livelihood and employment opportunities.

Figure 7: Snapshot of the presentation by Mr. S. Vishwanath, Biome Environmental Trust

The Webinar was concluded with an interesting and interactive Q & A session between the participants and all speakers and discussants.