CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON
Emerging Priorities for Water, Waste Water and Sanitation & input to the Green Infrastructure and WSUDP, Groundwater Management & City Water Balance (CWB) Training modules and Learning collaterals of CSE

DATE: 1ST AUGUST, 2022 | TIME: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The consultation is a starting point to identify current and future work priorities in the Water, Waste water and Sanitation, and the Perspective of developing learning collaterals that needs to guide this work (to ensure that it does not become a normative output of training modules, practitioners guidance and report). The consultation brings together practitioners and experts, with a diverse and rich knowledge of emerging challenges in the water sector and of developing learning collaterals. The consultation will be followed by a review and input/suggestions to CSE core learning collaterals/training modules.

CSE’s capacity building initiative over the past decade and under the aegis of School of Water and Waste (SWW) – a unit established in 2018 combined together has 7000+ alumni – is focussed on bridging the policy to practice continuum in environment and development work in India and global south.

Water, waste water and sanitation discourse today is dominated by a normative understanding: water as a resource and as a service, that needs to be "efficiently managed in an integrated way". It ends up seeing water scarcity and quality issues, indiscriminately tied to urban resilience and climate change. Urban planning (Master Plans) formulation often ends up doing lip service to ideas of Green-Blue Infrastructure, Integrated Urban Design and Planning (WSUDP): Illustrate the core learning focus that we need to convey, should be creatively oriented to all services, including water. Given that a large majority of urban population in metro cities of India now live in informal/unauthorized settlements: normative approaches of water conservation, harvesting and recharge, rejuvenation of water bodies, decentralized waste water treatment systems; simply cannot be implemented there given their dense layout. Application of standard water sensitive urban design and planning, decentralized sanitation systems and ground water recharge may not be a solution there. What is required is administrative interventions to create wider roads, followed by infrastructure of storm water drainage and sewerage.

Failure of provisioning of basic infrastructure in informal settlements is nowadays confused with failure of urban planning per se, and a lack of understanding and application of water conservation systems. Water, waste water and sanitation sector requires a trans disciplinary approach. An application of both political economy and political ecology perspectives.

For our learning collaterals, identifying what is the core learning focus that we want to convey (not normative but guided by a political economy and ecology understanding) – should guide the development of learning collaterals (Practitioners guidance, Workbooks, Frameworks, etc.). Capacity Building training content for practitioners is developed as: Orientation Modules, followed by Planning, and Designing modules. Here too the core learning focus that we need to convey should be creatively defined and included into a menu of planning and designing options. The consultation will invite discussion and inputs to this understanding and approach of CSE. We would also invite feedback and input on some of our learning collaterals.

CSE COLLATERALS FOR DISCUSSION:
● Green Infrastructure (GI) and Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning (WSUDP): Illustrate the core issues, impact of urbanization in the global south, and the current paradigm of urbanization today. Outlining the scope for Green Infrastructure (GI) in context of urban town typologies and its role in making water sensitive and resilient urban settlements.
● Urban Groundwater: Core issues and challenges of groundwater and different approaches for planning & designing of groundwater management in urban area. Various tools & interventions and identifying gap between existing and expected policy & framework for its management.
● City Water Balance (CWB): Existing framework for preparing CWB and identifying missing components of the city water balance. Inclusion of other approaches and methods to develop a city water balance plan with special reference to groundwater.

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