

ADVERTISEMENT

THE ANTI-BACTERIAL MULTI-SURFACE PAINT
With Silver Ion Technology as recommended* by the INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

ROYALE HEALTH SHIELD
EFFECTIVE AGAINST COVID-19 VIRUS

WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF EXPOSURE ON PAINTED SURFACE, the paint kills 99.99% of the Corona Virus (SARS-CoV-2) of India notified (2020)

*For complete disclaimer and more information, please visit www.asianpaints.com/healthshield

Home / Analysis / How to leverage trained water professionals

How to leverage trained water professionals

If we have to effectively tackle the current and future pandemics, and collectively address climate-related emergencies, flexibility, adaptation and resilience are not just words. They are critical skills that communities must build quickly. The water sector is a good place to innovate in service of this imperative

ANALYSIS Updated: Sep 18, 2020 05:41 IST

Rohini Nilekani and Mala Subramaniam



Water projects can be imagined at any scale, but contextual, local responses remain critical(Hindustan Times)

Water is a key sector to overcome public health, livelihood and climate crisis-related challenges. To create lasting water security, the State has to actively engage with empowered local communities and innovative markets to enable the improved flexibility, adaptation and resilience that the sector demands.

Water projects can be imagined at any scale, but contextual, local responses remain critical. For example, even if you planned to bring water from a faraway river to a city, you would need to understand how that new water will be used, design for excess flow and for sewage to be carried away.

For this, you need trained professionals, local leaders and citizen volunteers who understand how local water behaves, both above and below the ground. They must be able to find granular solutions that accommodate upstream and downstream solutions created by others.

Over the decades, successive governments have become more and more ambitious about scaling up water infrastructure. The ministry of jal shakti (MoJS) has budgeted ₹30,000 crore for water-related works in this year alone. And the Jal Jeevan Mission hopes to cover all the 145 million unreached rural households with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. The Atal Bhujal Yojana aims to improve groundwater management in 8,353 gram panchayats in five years.

Tens of thousands of people across the country have been trained for such programmes. Across the country, they may be called *bhujal jankars*, *dhara sevaks*, or *jal surakshaks*. This excludes all the *rojgar sahayaks*, *krishi mitras* and *swacchata doots* who work in allied areas.

Yet, if we had to map where all these trained people are, we would be in a fix. Nobody has a comprehensive idea of how effective the training has been either. What has been the impact on the livelihoods of these trainees? How has the knowledge transferred taken root in communities for ongoing problem-solving? There is no system to understand the latent, dispersed knowledge about water. There is a societal memory loss.

These millions of skilled workers are hard to discover, but even if we could find them, there would be little trust in their prior knowledge and experience. So each training effort starts afresh, rarely building on the foundations that exist.

read more

Delhi Jal Board has outlined plan to augment water supply, says vice-chairman Chadha at business meet

Carbon emissions for 2020 to come down by 8% due to lockdown: Environment ministry

How can we change this?

What if we could "light up" all the people who have already undergone training in a way that programme leaders and also communities know who and where they are; what they already know; and what they have already done? Everybody would then have the ability to seek out exactly the people they need. Equally, trained practitioners would have the agency to access this information for their own purposes.

Such discoverable, certifiable water leaders could be critical to create verifiable impact at scale in any water initiative. If done right, we believe that this can contribute to half a million jobs across the country.

As we make skilled people more visible, what if we also digitally map and attest resources that they engage with, use and produce? There could be electronic registries of master trainers, teaching modules, water security plans, and water assets such as wells and farm ponds. Capacity-building budgets could then be redirected to fill only the gaps in training. The money saved could be used to pay for services delivered. This would incentivise people to remain in the sector, and both receive and provide value across time.

Arghyam has recently funded the deployment of one simple digital attestation service, to begin with, in a few large programmes being implemented in some states together with non-governmental organisations. The pandemic has forced some physical training to go virtual. Interestingly, people are now experiencing the convenience of any time, anywhere, atomised learning sessions with expert trainers. Through this process, the trainees receive a digital attestation that they can own, access and share to leverage new opportunities. Our efforts are aligned with the tech design and the principles behind capacity-building platforms adopted by the government such as Diksha, ECHO and iGot.

The early results are promising. Open data sets and a shared digital infrastructure can be very powerful in restoring the agency of *samaaj* through community institutions, of *sarkaar* through local government, and of bazaar through new livelihoods for skilled workers.

If we have to effectively tackle the current and future pandemics, and collectively address climate-related emergencies, flexibility, adaptation and resilience are not just words. They are critical skills that communities must build quickly. The water sector is a good place to innovate in service of this imperative.

Rohini Nilekani is chairperson, Arghyam. Mala Subramaniam is CEO, Arghyam. Arghyam is a foundation that works for safe, sustainable water and sanitation. The views expressed are personal

tags

- Water sector
- Water security
- Water infrastructure

Enter your email to get our daily newsletter in your inbox

top news

- Opposition in favour of middlemen who loot farmers: PM Modi in fresh pitch for farm bills
- India readies for QUAD and 2 plus 2 dialogues, China is elephant in the room
- Farmers protesting against farm bills everywhere: Harsimrat Kaur Badal
- PM dedicates Kosi rail mega bridge to nation, inaugurates several rail projects in Bihar
- Covid-19: 18 Indian states report rise in active cases in the last 24 hours
- China's Sinovac to test Covid-19 vaccine candidate in kids, teens. Know more
- Football player killed as lightning strikes during match in Jharkhand
- Quick Switch to the rescue —here's what Radhika Madan's boss gets to see on her phone [SPONSORED]

Hindustan Times

- news
- india news
- latest news
- world news
- business news
- opinion
- analysis
- columns
- editorials
- authors
- city news
- delhi news
- noida news
- gurugram news
- mumbai news
- pune news
- bengaluru news
- ranchi news
- patna news
- lucknow news
- kolkata news
- jaipur news
- chandigarh news
- dehradun news
- indore news
- education news
- high school news
- higher studies
- exam results 2020
- board exams 2020
- career news
- ht school
- lifestyle
- fashion and trends
- health news
- sex and relationships
- ht brunch
- entertainment news
- bollywood news
- hollywood news
- movie reviews
- regional movies
- world cinema news
- tv news
- music news
- sports news
- cricket news
- football news
- tennis news
- other sports news
- icc cricket rankings
- cricket schedule
- useful links
- photos
- videos
- e-paper
- interactives
- punjab
- brand post
- sitemap
- weather today
- subscribe ht newsletter
- science news
- ipl 2020
- ipl 2020 teams
- ipl schedule 2020
- ipl points table 2020
- ipl history
- us election 2020
- us election 2020 videos

Top Trends

- Horoscope Today
- Parliament Monsoon Session
- Gold Price
- Kriti Sanon
- IPL 2020
- Karan Johar

follow us on:



partnersites

- mint
- livehindustan
- shine
- desimartini
- studymate
- englishmate
- htsyndication
- ht brand studio
- healthshots
- ht auto
- ht bangla
- ht smartcast