

# Democratic Management, Equality, Justice and Social Participation

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- On behalf of the struggling peoples and democratic minded citizens of India I would like to SALUTE the people of Latin America for their heroic struggles which demonstrate to the rest of the world that 'power to the people' can be removed from a slogan of dreamers to become a reality.
- To the people of Bolivia, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil ...and other countries of Latin America
- And the March of Mexican People organised by COMDA.....
- THANK YOU!! You inspire us.
- I take back one word which means so much...
- BASTA. Enough...Enough to exploitation, to misery, to imperialism.
- BEWARE..... The people of the world are no longer going to sleep!!

# *Democratisation of Water Management in Tamil Nadu, India*

*Actions Speak Louder Than Words!*

- Three pressures to democratise...
  - Demand from below-social movements.
  - Pressure from political process
  - Internal Willingness to embrace change.
- *Confronting a **GROWING WATER CRISIS** due to over exploitation of water and an **IDENTITY CRISIS** the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD Board) decided it needed to change to become a role model of responsiveness, professional integrity, accountability and consistency ...*
- *all based on values of EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REACHING THE UNREACHED.*

# The Transformation Path..

In 2004 the TWAD Board began a Self-critical and open process of exploring shifts in

- Roles and functions
- Relationships
- Values
- Partnerships of :
  - Water Managers
  - Community
  - Stakeholders.

# Obstacles to Democratisation

## 1. *Individual / Group*

Resistance to change.

Reluctance to share power

Entrenched habits and inter-relationships.

## 2. *Organisational*

Bureaucratic systems and practices.

Weak accountability and incentive systems

Lack of internal anchor(s).

Supply side focus.

## 3. *External*

Vested interests feeling threatened.

Lack of demand and information.

Hesitation to explore new governance paradigms.

# Pre-requisites for Democratisation!

<b>Within Organisation</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>With Community</b>
Free Flow	INFORMATION	Transparent
Deliberated	CHOICE	Democratic
Involved	DECISION MAKING- ... Consensual ... Equity Based	Participatory
Shared Responsibility	ACCOUNTABILITY RESPONSIBILITY OWNERSHIP	Collective Ownership

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## Perspectives on Water and Good Governance

- 1. Governance is a TWO WAY PROCESS involving state institutions and civil society.*
- 2. Governance is not just about procedures and practices but also about ATTITUDES, SENSITIVITIES AND SENSIBILITIES.*

***In short, good governance is about  
DEMOCRACY WITH DIGNITY.***

## Perspectives on Water and Good Governance (Contd..)

3. *Governance is not inherited but LEARNNT.*
4. *Governance encompasses the state but also TRANSCENDS the state.*

***In short, good governance is about  
DEMOCRACY WITH DIGNITY.***

# The Building Blocks

*There are three dimensions of good governance:*

## 1. Attitudinal Change

*Both in government and in civil society*

## 2. Skill Building and Capacity Enhancement

*Both amongst government servants as also citizens groups, to play new roles.*

## 3. System level Changes

*Re-engineering systems within government, between government and people.*

# **The Shifts that are required!!**

- Shift from passive to critical and constructive participation
- Shift to reexamination of the meaning of people's participation
- Shift from conceptual understanding to learning by doing.

- Shift to greater clarity of expanding roles
- Shift to a growing need to systematize work
- Shift from compartmentalization to build interrelatedness – amongst technical people, citizens, stake holders groups..
- Shift in growing experience of personal power and purposefulness in collective action
- Shift to a improving sense of responsibility
- Shift to a greater revitalization of idealism

# Democratisation of Water Management in Tamil Nadu, India

- The growing trickles of changes
- Growing focus on finding internal resources for water supply- resulted in savings of Rs.25 crores (\$ 5 million US).
- Last mile targetting- 65% increase in coverage of marginalised sections including SCs/Dalits.
- Revival of traditional water sources as means of improving sustainability.
- Demonstrated improved participation of women and Dalit community ... And much more...
- **ALL AT NO INCREASED COST TO GOVERNMENT!**

# Democratic Management, Equality, Justice and Social Participation

- The path ahead.....
- The need is to go beyond rhetoric and polemic.
- The Challenge is to give practical shape to concepts by creating institutional context for ensuring democratic management, equality, justice..
- We need to commit ourselves... because we need to save water not for tomorrow but for today itself!

# Daring to Dream!!

- A Small body of determined Spirits fired by the unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.

... *Mahatma Gandhi*