

Episode No-19

Water Awareness

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Artists at a glance:--

1. Somesh..... Father (by profession Journalist)
2. Vasudha..... Mother (Working in MNC)
3. Amayera... Daughter
4. Rohit..... Son
5. Wasim..... Somesh's friend..... Novelist and academician. Running an NGO which is working for public awareness. He is spreading knowledge in the field of water harvesting, water conservation and water purification.

Title Music

In this episode listeners will know about the importance of water and availability pure water. Our listeners will also learn about the traditional methods of water purification. The challenges that people are facing? They will also listen some success stories and examples on the work that is going on water awareness and water conservation in our country.

Part of title Music

Scene: Indian home environment. Members are chatting with each other.

Vasudha : Amayera have you noticed. Rohit is too much happy. What can be the reason of his happiness?

Amayera: Yes mummy! It is impossible to explain the reason for Rohit's happiness.

Somesh: But why is he so happy? What is the reason? Rohit please let me know so that we can be part of your happiness.

Rohit: Papa do you remember ? In the last week I had submitted one project on water harvesting in my school. You will be happy to know that my project has been selected among first ten.

Vasudha: Congratulations my dear Rohit. Well done.

Amayera: (Smiling) Congratulations my dear brother!

Somesh: Rohit.....the credit goes to your Waseem uncle. He explained all things in very simple language, when you visited the exhibition that he had organised.

Rohit: Papa, my first call was to Waseem uncle(laughing).It is because of him that my project was so impressive.

Somesh: A good news, why not have a special dinner today?

Amayera: Vow! Great. But papa sweet dish are to be prepared by you only.

Somesh: Why not my children? I shall do that for your happiness.

Vasudha: What will you say? Let's call Waseem too to have dinner with us. He has not been here since long.

Rohit: Oh! It will be of great help to me.

Amayera: Which help ? Rohit you depend so much on others for your work.

Rohit: There was a notice on our school notice board. On clean India and water conservation a competition is to be held at district level.

Vasudha: You are planning to participate in that essay competition.

Amayera: This was the reason of his happiness. Without any pain he can have so many valuable information from Mr. Waseem uncle.

Rohit: No didi it is not so. I arranged some books from my school library. But I like the way that Waseem uncle explains.

Somesh: (Laughing) O.K. This mean Waseem is to be invited for dinner. Even he likes interaction with children. I am calling him just now. (Outgoing mobile tone). Hellohello.....Waseem , how are you. My simple message please do come today at my home for dinner. No excuse. You have to come.

Scene change/ Instrumental Music

(Doorbell effect)

Vasudha: May be Waseem bhai on the door.

Somesh: Let me see (Sound effect of door)

Waseem : Hello Somesh! How are you?

Somesh: Good evening dear. We are just waiting for you.

Vasudha: Namaste Bhai Sahib!

Waseem: Namaste Bhabiji. Hello Amayera! Hello Rohit. How are you?

(Jointly): Good evening uncle! We are fine.

- Waseem:-** Somesh....your son Rohit is very bright and super intelligent. He told me that his project has been selected for the final stage.
- Somesh:-** The modern generation is far ahead. But he gave credit for his achievement to you.
- Rohit:** Yes uncle! You explained so nicely that morning. It was your presentation that made me among first ten. Thank you uncle.
- Waseem:** Rohit do you know? This is among my main duties to explain the importance of clean and pure water. Children are target group for our campaign. It is easy to convince and explain them. And moreover progress of this country depends on our young generation.
- Amayera:** Waseem uncle, you will be surprised to know that Rohit is going to ask so many questions to you. He is going to participate in an essay competition. The subject will be "Clean water - harvest water".
- Rohit:** Yes uncle. This will be a district level competition.
- Waseem:** It is an interesting and important topic. It is related to all of us.
- Vasudha:** Yes Waseem Bhai, in rural India it is an important work. In the morning their life starts with it and in the evening the day come to an end with it(laughing with deep breath).
- Waseem :** Bhabhi ji, in cities we are getting direct water supply in our houses. But in our country there are still some areas, where people have to travel miles to fetch drinking water.
- Rohit:** For water they have to travel miles. So long distances!
- Amayera:** Oh! It is good that we are not staying in such villages.
- Somesh:** Amayera not only ladies have to travel long distance for water but young girls of your age also have to travel to fetch water for their day to day use.
- Waseem:** In most of the villages they have to fetch water thrice a day. In the early morning then after their breakfast and finally in late evening. Sometimes it can take more rounds to meet their day to day need.
- Rohit:** Oh, so much wastage of time for water.
- Waseem:** At some places the ladies have to travel 9 to 10 kms on an average per day. In Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan most of the time of women has been spending their time either in fetching water or kitchens.
- Vasudha:** Oh my God! What a life it is?

- Waseem:** It is not a matter of village or city. Similar situation one can find, where there is acute shortage of water.
- Somesh:** What a mismatch? In some states so many rivers and lots of water is available. Whereas in some states it is too difficult to meet their day to day need of water.
- Waseem:** Somesh, there are two reasons. First we are not adopting our traditional techniques of water conservation and secondly we have badly polluted our water resources.
- Vasudha:** You are right Waseem Bhai, but I want to add one more point.
- Somesh :** What is that?
- Vasudha:** We are also wasting lot of water because it is easily available to some of us.
- Waseem:** You are absolutely right Bhabhiji! In our country conservation and harvesting of water is an old tradition. In most of the states,they have their unique tradition of water harvesting. In Jammu you can find Kulhaus, in Himachal Pradesh there is Koolye, Gharhat and Goole, in Uttrakhand one can find Gools, in Maharashtra there are Baindhara and Paatus, in Ladhakh- Jigans, in Nagaland – Jaabo, in Tamil Nadu Airis, in Rajasthan there are Bawari,Johad and Jhhalara, in Gujarat state there are Virdaas, in Bihar – Ahirpaain, in the Narmada valley region you can find Haveli for water conservation. What a great heritage? Wonderful ancient technology.
- Rohit:** This means....Where there is a need there is a solution.
- Waseem:** Yes Rohit. Even in Andaman and Nicobar the tribal people of Shoupen and Jarawa used bamboos to store water. The Ainge tribe stores water from their roof tops.
- Amayera:** This mean that they are also aware about the importance of water conservation.
- Vasudha:** Water is life and without water it is impossible to imagine any life. In all ancient civilizations and culture there was unique tradition of water harvesting. They developed their own tradition and local technology.
- Somesh:** Oh my God! We have forgotten those traditions. Due to materialistic attitude we forget our old traditions and culture. Like other natural resources we are over-exploiting our water resources too.
- Waseem:** It is our this thought that the water which is available abundantly, is going to be too scarce. It is said that the 20th century was oil and gas century and the 21st century will be of water.

- Vasudha:** Yes, it may be true. You can listen news of fighting and that too on water sharing. In our own country there are some disputes on sharing of river water. The most recent news that you might have heard is Kaveri water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and the second one Shatluji -Yamuna Canal link project of water sharing between Punjab and Haryana.
- Rohit:** But, I mean, how we can face the problem of water shortage?
- Waseem:** Rohit for this we have to adopt different technology of water harvesting and water conservation. We have to turn and adopt old traditional techniques for water purification. We have to combine modern technology to improve the existing water purification and storage devices.
- Vasudha:** We have to make availability of pure water to one and all.
- Somesh:** No....no....this is not enough. We have to keep clean all our water resources and free from any kind of pollution.
- Waseem:** It can only be possible if we can create awareness among our fellow citizens. I mean they should be water friendly.
- Rohit:** wow! Water friendly. InterestingWater literacy....(laughing)
- Waseem:** Rohit it means....better understanding and knowledge about water conservation and harvesting. If someone understand the importance of water than he can follow all these. Conservation and harvesting of water depend on our attitude.
- Amayera:** Water and hygiene are interlinked. It is the purity of water that determines its utility.
- Somesh:** That is why the title of the essay competition is , 'Drinking Water and Cleanliness'. Both are complimentary to each other.
- Vasudha:** Yes, in our country the cleanliness campaign is going on with all pomp and show since our Prime Minister put it on his main agenda. Though earlier too, it was always remained on top, in most of ancient civilizations. On Deepawali and other festivals, people organises cleanliness drive in their houses and common places.
- Somesh:** There is saying that Laxmi the goddess of prosperity likes cleanliness and hygiene. Happiness and hygiene are interlinked. That is why there is great stress on these two.
- Rohit:** (laughing) This does not mean that we throw our dirt in other houses.
- Vasudha:** Not only this. We have to keep our surrounding as well as our whole environment clean and pollution free.

- Waseem:** In many parts of our country this campaign is going on since long. Now a days you can see good results of this campaign.
- Amayera:** If we all work together....success will always be there.
- Waseem:** One of the best example is the state of Kerala.
- Rohit:** In Kerala the literacy rate is highest in India.
- Somesh:** Yes Rohit you are right. Kerala is far advanced in many spheres. The people of Kerala love cleanliness and they try to save their water bodies.
- Vasudha:** Kerala can be a good example for other states to be followed.
- Waseem:** Yes Bhabi Ji. In Kerala the rainfall is 2.8 times more than average rainfall and the average population density of Kerala is 2.5 times more than national average. Most of the rivers of Kerala have their origin from Western Ghat. But their water flow in ocean within two days of rainfall. Thus lots of water is wasted without any use.
- Rohit:** Oh ! So much water wasted that too without any use.
- Waseem:** About 40% water in Kerala is of no use, as it drained in Arabian Sea. The total water flow of these rivers is about one third of Godavari River. I mean not so much water.
- Amayera:** That is why the people of Kerala know the importance of water conservation.
- Waseem:** Yes Amayera , you are right. Now the people of Kerala have realised the importance of water conservation and it's harvesting. Workshops, seminars, trainings, exhibitions, media workshops etc. have been organised to create awareness among the people. Trainings are imparted and local people are involved in it.
- Somesh:** In one court case, it was mentioned that water is a common property. It is a crime to pollute and exploit water resources. It is constitutional right of people to have pure and affordable water for their day to day use.
- Waseem:** Somesh you will be surprised to know that in Kerala one soft drink company is using 15 lakh litres of pure per day. During the process of making soft drink ground water was polluted. It was this reason that court was forced to issue such orders.
- Rohit:** So much water in use by the factory. What a surprise.
- Waseem:** The soft drink companies were exploiting underground water beyond our expectation. It was this reason that the level of underground water went up to 150 to 500 feet deep. The Health Officer of the area was of the view that ground water is unfit for drinking purpose. In future it may cause many health

problems. Thus the company not only exploited water resources but also polluted them. It was the over utilization of water that may be the reason that 260 number of tube wells that were supplying drinking water in the region were dried.

- Vasudha:** This mean lots of problems to the local people.
- Waseem:** Though the licence of the company was cancelled but the people are still suffering. You can find such examples in other states too.
- Amayera:** The company earned profit but gave pains to the local people.
- Waseem:** This means privatization of water is not a solution of water problem. It is a great tragedy that bottled water is going to be too much commercialised.
- Somesh:** Actually people are of the view that first exploit the Nature and then get it corrected. What a blunder mistake? But this is not good. It becomes impossible to compensate our Nature.
- Waseem:** Yes Somesh you are right. This ideology we have to mend.
- Rohit:** Uncle are there too many wells in Kerala ?
- Waseem:** Yes Rohit. There are so many wells in Kerala. But 90% of the wells are polluted by harmful bacteria and their water is unfit for consumption.
- Vasudha:** In our country the water problem is getting much severe day by day.
- Waseem:** This is the reason that the people of Kerala are using traditional technology for water purification and water harvesting. Their efforts are praise worthy. They are harvesting rain water for their day to day use.
- Amayera:** That means rain water harvesting.
- Waseem:** Yes Amayera. Though there is enough rainfall in Kerala but they are still harvesting it. In cities like Kozhikode, the underground water level depleted too much due to construction of multi-storey buildings. Keeping this in mind the Government in 2002 passed an act for rain water harvesting. By this act the underground water level rises and water problem was solved up to great extent.
- Rohit:** Water problem and that too in Kerala, surprising. Water is available in abundant in Kerala.
- Waseem:** Rohit you will be surprised to know the story of a Gram Panchayat of Kozhikode district. There is a village named Olavanna. It is surrounded by three rivers. The water of these rivers is not fit for drinking purpose. Do you want to know? The water of these rivers is saline in nature. That is why, the importance of water harvesting arises.

- Somesh:** Such problem you can find in coastal areas. There is lot of water but unfit to drink.
- Waseem:** Mazhapolima festival is a good example of water harvesting. In Trishoor area of Kerala there are four and half lakh wells. 70% water in houses is supplied from these wells. But most of these wells dry during summer. The level of underground water is depleting day by day.
- Rohit:** This problem is becoming serious all over the country. The level of underground water is going down day by day.
- Waseem:** Yes Rohit. In Trishool area during Mazhapolim season the collected rain water is stored in wells. This process is going on since 2008. As a result of this the underground water level rises. You will be happy to know that water is now available throughout the year.
- Amayera:** Oh ! What a great idea? This was public initiative or Government too played a role in it.
- Waseem:** Amayera do you know? Local people get their roof tops clean. People help in the repair of water pipelines. This also reduces the salinity of these wells. The water samples taken from different areas show all these differences.
- Somesh:** Wonderful initiative. Can we find such examples in others parts of our country?
- Waseem:** Yes there are so many success stories. In Dewas city of MP you can find such initiatives. The farmers of Dewas district built small ponds in their fields to store rain water. It helps in irrigation and also improves the condition of underground water.
- Amayera:** Interesting. Such initiatives should be taken in hands throughout the country.
- Waseem:** Yes Amayera you are right. People are now taking initiative. Awareness is spreading among the public. Like Cleanliness drive, people are now participating in water harvesting drive too.
- Somesh:** Awareness is spreading among the public. But lots of work is yet to be done. We have to associate people with water literacy. Sustainable development is possible only through such steps and actions. Only after this we can make available pure drinking water to all.
- Waseem:** Yes....only through sustainable development ,we can assure clean, hygienic and pollution free environment on our planet Earth. This will also make the availability of pure drinking water to one and all.
- Vasudha:** If it is possible, half of the diseases will automatically disappear from our society.

Waseem: Yes Bhabi Ji. Good environment, clean water and nutritive food are keys to sound health.

Rohit: Uncle...uncle.....you just say something about food. Oh! I am feeling hungry.

Vasudha: Your meal is ready. Let's go to have our dinner.

Somesh: And the special dish is also ready. As per Mr. Waseem's desire..... Kheer is ready.

Waseem: (Laughing) Kheer.... My favourite dish.

#####(Laughing)#####

***** Title Music with closing announcement*****

Science Quiz:-

1. Western Ghat is the main source of water of the rivers flowing through the Kerala. Is it true?

Answer: True.

2. How can we solve the problem of water shortage in our areas? Narrate your experience if any.

Answer: By creating awareness through water literacy. Adopting traditional technology Of Water storage. Through rain water harvesting and conservation.

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