

Personal Report on RBM

1.0 Introduction

The demand of water is increasing day to day for various purposes. Fresh water resources are limited and unevenly distributed. Water availability in the resources are depleting due to the environmental degradation in the basin catchments. Therefore most of the water projects are suffering from scarce or reduced water availability and are under scarcity of water in the source river. In this context proper management of water is much more important. Water resources in the past were allocated on a first come, first served basis and for an indefinite period of time. But today this trend creates conflict between different users. Therefore now it is required to manage whole river basin as per the various demand within the basin assuming that all living things are stakeholders.

2.0 Past Experiences of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has been managing water resources from ancient days. But systematic management is not yet adopted. There is not any regulation to monitor water resources, but provisions are found in number of legal enactments. Rivers more often constitute the boundaries for provinces and districts. It was seen that provincial councils apply different rules to the same problem. In exploiting river resources number of government agencies are involved. Weak enforcement of environmental norms are experienced.

3.0 Methodology

Water has both social and economical value. It has an economical value, because the supply of water and safe disposal of waste has a cost and the system can be maintained or sustained only if these costs are recovered.

To overcome the problems described above River Basin Management (RBM) must be the important tool. In RBM, protection of water resources as well as managing the demands for various purposes like water supply, irrigation, hydropower etc. are properly analyzed. Socio-economic condition in the basin are also studied in the planning phase. People's participation is made from the beginning. An organization consisting of all stakeholders should be formed and given authority to regulate water allocation for various uses this organization will be handling a water allocation needs systematically in scientific way. It will develop and initiate the implementation of policies and institutional strengthening programs that will lead to improved RBM.

4.0 My Future Plan

After this workshop my thinking became broader. Although I am working in Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, only management of sources for water supply may not be the solution. To implement the water supply project, it needs to study the overall water basin in the area. After interaction will be made to all the stakeholders, I will finalize the projects. This will help to make sustainable project

and will reduce the conflict between different water users. People's participation from the beginning plays vital role, therefore I will apply this in the field level and also try to convince my supervisor in office.

5.0 Conclusions

Today river basin management is much more important as the demand of water is increasing for various purposes. It protects the water resources and scientifically distributed to various users. It is also an important tool for environmental projection. It takes time to start the development activities as per this concept. But it is only the tool and we have to initiate it to meet the present demand.

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