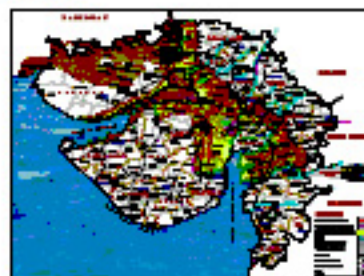


PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP : A NUANCE, NUISANCE OR NECESSITY ?

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Introduction

- Gujarat State is located in the western part of India
- Total area of 1,96,000 sq. KM - 96,000 sq. KM cultivable
- 185 rivers of which only 8 perennial located in the southern part
- Almost 80% of the area as naturally underprivileged.
- Irrigation potential developed so far 34,000 sq. KM considering the potential to be created by Sardar Sarovar Project - one of the largest water resources projects of the world
- Over 60,000 sq. KM of land rainfed - Total villages about 18,000 out of which 11,000 deprived of irrigation facilities
- Rains are only seasonal - expected only during monsoon lasting only for about two to three months



Water Resources Availability and Storage Potential

Region	Annual Rainfall in mm	Live Storage Capacity in MCM
South Gujarat	800 to 2000	10,000
North Gujarat	400 to 600	2,000
Baruch	800 to 1000	2,200
Kutch	Less than 400	200

Whether To Go For a Paradigm Shift

- Until the rainfed land gets permanent irrigation facilities, can we afford to leave it precariously?
- Is it feasible to provide irrigation through conventional major or medium irrigation projects everywhere?
- What will be the size of government machinery required to address these issues?
- Mini and micro irrigation projects - implementation may be easier and faster - distributed resource management

A Novel Nuance

- Government of Gujarat introduced in 2000 "Sardar Patel Participatory Water Conservation Programme" - checkdams to be constructed in large number on participatory basis - Checkdams are small bunds across rivulets or tributaries to rivers - primary objective of conserving the rain water
- People's or NGO's contribution - 40 % of the cost of the checkdam and Government's contribution 60 % - normally 60 % was the material cost and 40 % the labor cost - village dwellers and farmers were beneficiaries and were used to hard work on their farms could put their labor component directly to construction of checkdams
- Ground water recharge - no riparian rights encroached
- Basic intention to involve people in the process of deriving solution

Experiment Proved Meaningful

- More than 13000 checkdams were constructed in only one year - about 47,000 in five years
- Ground water recharge - 138.47 MCM of runoff water during a drought year became possible - In a normal rainfall year with 2 overflows assumed, the generated storage capacity could be 307.71 MCM.
- Quality of ground water was found continuously improving and chlorides were found to be reducing
- Benefits to agriculture - in drought year income increased by 7 % - where no checkdams, decline of 23 %
- Impact on land prices - Average price hike of Rs. 19,244 per bigha, i.e. per 2327 sq.m. was estimated.



Conclusion

- For nations with limited resources and high population, distribution of resources and thereby prospects to prosperity is the problem and administration becomes really very difficult.
- Private-public partnership also helps in evolution of a more matured and harmonic public society imbued with responsibility of ownership in order to be capable of contributing in the crisis solving efforts of a democratic government.