



ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08



April 3<sup>rd</sup> is the anniversary of Arghyam's entry into the water sector. We are the only Indian foundation, as far as we know, to focus exclusively on water. This third year of Arghyam's engagement with water was quite different from the first two. We were less tentative; we had found our feet better as an organization. We were clearer about what needs to be done, and this reflects in our many new initiatives, as you will see in this report. More good people joined the team last year, bringing in new perspectives and experience. Our brainstorming continued. We kept asking ourselves, when the water sector spans so many things, from ecology and the environment to industry and agriculture, what can a small foundation like Arghyam do best to focus on? Since 80% of the country's water goes into the agriculture sector, and there is much inefficiency of use along with inequity, should we work with farmer groups and rural NGOs? Since India's economy is booming, with rapid urbanization and its attendant water management challenges, is that where we should be? What about industry and its water footprint? Is there not much work to be done?

When we began three years ago, Arghyam trustees, Renuka Raja Rao, Nandita Chandavarkar, and I, together with Sunita, our highly committed CEO, walked right into the opportunities that we found, knowing there was a chance we might think differently as we moved on. It worked out rather well, in hindsight. Our early partners were much ahead of us in experience and helped us to develop our world view, as did the in-house advisors we signed on. Now I know that the earlier work we supported was very good and important work, and we are continuing to support a few of our first projects, which require long term relationships and funding for any meaningful impact.

Yet, we have chosen to remain rooted in the domestic water sector, pursuing equity and sustainability for citizens in and around their homes. This is because safe, sufficient water for the basic things in life—drinking, cooking, cleaning and washing—is at the heart of all water use, at least for humans. And safe sanitation together with it. But the way water is used in agriculture and industry, and in towns and cities impacts deeply upon the quantity and quality of water for people's daily lives. In a sense, this understanding has broadened the scope of our work. Our integrated urban water management project arose out of our desire to work with the urban poor and their need for lifeline water and sanitation. Our eco-sanitation and roof top rainwater harvesting efforts will create solutions not just in the

domestic sector, but have implications for farmers as well. When we support a state government initiative to provide fluoride free water to villages, or help with the rehabilitation of traditional water storage structures, it creates more models for citizen participation in public projects, and opportunities to extend the scope of public spending in schemes like the NREGA. Our efforts to use sound technology platforms that allow transparent decision making based on good data, across all our work can help embed these practices in any water activity.

We hope to be constantly making and nurturing these connections and leveraging our small strengths as best as we can. We have a secure source of funding, which will go up by more than 35% from this financial year ('08-'09). We have a young team with a lot of energy, hope and skill. And best of all, we have the goodwill of many people, including many thought leaders from the water and allied sectors, who have been sharing their thoughts so freely with us. We are grateful, and we renew our commitment to the vision of safe, sustainable water for all

Ms. Rohini Nilekani  
Chair Person

An Annual Report is a time for reflection, a time to think back, a time to revisit the mission and values (of an organization), and then to gather one's strength to forge ahead. Arghyam holds dear the 4 Cs that are essential for an NGO: Compassion, Conviction, Commitment, and Clarity. From a small, modest beginning in 2001, we have grown, become more sure footed, confident of our role in the critical water sector, and able to leverage the strengths and knowledge of the committed team.

As we look ahead, the path to universal water equity seems long and daunting. But every democratizing movement has started similarly, with a group of individuals united by a common vision, and we hope our mission will be accomplished, our dreams realized, in the years to come.

Ms. Nandita Chandavarkar  
Ms. Renuka Raja Rao  
Trustees



This last year saw many happenings in the sector the Cauvery tribunal passing its verdict, one of the worst floods in Bihar in recent times, the Bali Summit, dissent over land, hydroelectric and drinking water projects, disease outbreaks due to water contamination and debates over MWRRA (Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority), NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and water privatization projects. Here at Arghyam, as we enter into our fourth year, our challenge is to look at what we do in the context of the changes happening around us. Over the course of the year, we have studied these issues, debated on them and supported workshops on them. We have examined our strategy in our core work areas for alignment. We continue to learn in this complex sector, mostly through our partners - NGOs, institutions and Government.

Arghyam's core areas of work are: Grants, India Water Portal, Urban Initiative, Research & Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships.

We have evolved a Grants strategy centered on 4 thematic areas groundwater, sanitation, wastewater and integrated domestic water management. The group has begun to develop knowledge products based on the work of our partners on the ground. The project work has expanded to 11 states with the addition of Manipur and Andhra Pradesh.

The India Water Portal continues to grow steadily, and now sees traffic of upto 500 unique users per day. The Kannada Water Portal was launched as the first of our regional language portals. User-friendly services like Ask-A-Question, the Meteorological Data tool and the Organization database tool have received encouraging response.

Our Urban Initiative focus was to develop and refine our idea of Integrated Urban Water Management, and through a fairly rigorous process, identify a pilot town in Karnataka that we could partner with to facilitate IUWM interventions. This is going to be atleast a 2-3 year intense engagement for Arghyam, so we spent a large portion of the year preparing the foundation for this.

Our newly begun Research & Advocacy effort primarily focussed on two areas. Under Research, we initiated partnerships for studying the technological and usability aspects of ecological sanitation and under Advocacy, we are

planning a Citizen WatSan Survey in Karnataka to generate awareness at the household, village and district level on domestic water issues.

We are continuing our partnership in the Government of Karnataka's Suvarna Jala program which provides rooftop rainwater harvesting structures to schools all over the state, while exploring other strategic partnerships.

Our team has grown to 13 people and we have our Advisors' close guidance and involvement at every stage. Several interns, part-time consultants and numerous visitors from within and outside the country have contributed to keeping the office buzzing with activity.

On a closing note, a few words about the organizational culture which we try to foster at Arghyam. We believe that being a learning and flexible organization is effective (and necessary, given our short, 3-year presence in the sector and the rapid changes around us). The Chairperson, with her passion for strategic action constantly pushes for openness and out-of-the-box thinking. Leveraging the opportunities presented to us whether it is access to thought leaders or facilitating networks of individuals/organizations, or initiating exciting new efforts at the intersection of different worlds is always a priority. The Arghyam team members come from fairly diverse backgrounds but with the common aim of bringing about a change so we are a close-knit group, comfortable with a culture of debate and discourse.

Our thanks to all of our partners who have worked with us, guided and encouraged us and taken our suggestions and ideas openly. We look forward to another exciting year ahead with you.

Ms. Sunita Nadhamuni  
Chief Executive Officer

For more information:  
[www.arghyam.org](http://www.arghyam.org),

[www.indiawaterportal.org](http://www.indiawaterportal.org)



Arghyam is a public charitable trust setup with an endowment from Ms. Rohini Nilekani and working in the water sector since 2005.

**Our mission is “Enough water, safe water ..... always and for all”.**

Arghyam supports efforts to address equity and sustainability in access to water for all citizens. We do this through a combination of project grants to grass roots organizations, knowledge building and sharing through our India Water Portal, participatory action research and grassroots advocacy. We actively drive efforts to build models for sustainable water management like our recent initiative to develop an Integrated Urban Water Management plan for small Indian towns.

Our main thrust is on domestic water where we are looking at quantity, quality and access issues through the multiple lenses of social, technological, institutional, environmental and financial sustainabilities. As a small funding agency, we work primarily through partnerships with Government, NGOs and various types of institutions for impact and scale.

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*“Arghyam has entered the domain of ‘water’ at a time when the seriousness and complexity of the issues surrounding it are finally beginning to get the kind of recognition, if not attention, that is necessary. This has presented Arghyam with both dilemmas and opportunities. By refusing to be confined in terms of having to choose between taking a wider, perhaps academic approach to the issues of water conservation, management and policy against a more narrow, focused approach to technology promotion or service delivery, Arghyam has taken multiple roles, as a donor, as a promoter of new models of water science, technology and system design and in its relationship with a wide range of partners, its grantees and others in this field including the government. This is a road less traveled and for the Arghyam team, it has tested, successfully so far, their ability to manage the demands for innovation, due diligence, flexibility and tolerance for complexity”*

Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Advisor

*“From the toughest physical terrain of Manipur, Rajasthan, Kutch, Madhya Pradesh and Uttaranchal to the equally tough theoretical terrain of a Water Portal or a conflicts resolution framework Arghyam has chosen to partner some of the best and brightest minds in India to find solutions to what seem intractable problems of managing water in India. As an interested and engaged person one can see the passion and commitment right from the Chairperson and the Trustees to everybody else in the team. We have had an intense and steep learning curve with the who’s who in water and development constantly challenging our thinking and engaging us with pushing the boundaries of our efforts always. Equity, access, rights, sustainability and reach have been mantras which we have explored in our small way. One looks forward to the journey as a contributor but more as a learner for the learning from the field is constant and always. May this journey be constantly rewarding and the challenges constantly forthcoming for this foundation. That is my wish.”*

Mr. S. Vishwanath, Advisor

*“By 2025, India’s urban population is likely to grow beyond 50%. In addition, the effects of climate change are well recognised now, particularly on cities. As a result, our water demand is increasing and problems will exacerbate, unless solutions are found. Sustainable integrated urban water management offers the most promising solution, covering the following six thematic areas, each of which focuses on an identified risk to effective urban water management.*

- *Paradigm shift to sustainability & integration*
- *Urban water environmental & planning*
- *Governance & institutional change*
- *Storm water management*
- *Innovations in sanitation & waste management*
- *Efficient water management and use for all*

Mr. M. N. Thippeswamy, Advisor



## Grant Support to Water & Sanitation Interventions during 2007-08

We support strategic efforts that address critical issues in water & sanitation across the country. The projects are designed to be sustainable and equitable in access to resources.

About 31 interventions were supported during the current year, of which 9 were new. An amount of Rs. 552 lakhs were disbursed during the year to support these efforts. So far, Arghyam has touched the lives of 5.97 lakhs beneficiaries across 678 villages of 45 districts in 11 states. A brief insight into some of the interventions is provided below:

1. **“Pani Thiye Panjo”- Providing Decentralised Drinking Water to Households:** “Pani Thiye Panjo” in Kachhchi means ‘let this water be ours’, is a multi institutional programme that attempts to address issues of water scarcity through local source augmentation in 135 villages of Abdasa taluka, Kachchh district, Gujarat. The project was conceived by Sahjeevan and is being implemented with the support of a group of NGOs, namely Vivekanand Research and Training Institute (VRTI), Kutch Food Fodder and Fruit Trust (KFFFT), Manav Kalyan Trust (MKT) and Abdasa Mahila Vikas Sangathan (AMVS). It aims to ensure adequate, safe drinking water through development of water resources at village level, thereby reversing the dependency of water from unreliable centralized rural water supply schemes.

In a classic example of community-public & civil society partnership, WASMO (Water and Sanitation Management Organisation), an autonomous organisation established by the Government of Gujarat in 2002, partnered in the program and committed funds to support the costs for hardware and NGO facilitation.

The Pani Samitis facilitated by implementing NGOs prepares the technical proposal with the support of para-technicians (called Parabs). Arid Communities and Technologies (ACT) assess the quality of interventions and trains the Parabs. Arghyam provides financial assistance to cover all soft costs of implementing NGOs & communities.

## 2. Sustainable WASH Initiatives through PRIs & Women's Federations

Arghyam is supporting Gramalaya in its effort towards provision of protected water, promotion of sanitation and maintenance of assets with the active participation of the Women's federation and Panchayati Raj institutions in the 28 Panchayats (158 villages) in Thottiam Block of Tiruchirapalli district, Tamil Nadu. The important feature of the program is to empower women leaders of the Federation, create demand for toilets and ensure institutional loans for its construction.

About 5400 households were motivated to construct toilets during the year 2007-08. Village sanitation drastically improved and other activities like promotion of vermicompost, solid waste management etc. were taken up. Recently, 21 Village Panchayats & one town Panchayat were declared as open defecation-free during the World Water Day event organised by Gramalaya, attended by 15,000 rural women.

## 3. Improving the Understanding of Groundwater Resources through Field Research

This initiative is implemented by Advanced Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM) in Purandar Taluk, Pune district, Maharashtra. The purpose of this collaboration is to ensure that research and education on groundwater should have a significant impact on a heterogeneous group by creating awareness and generating knowledge on better groundwater resources management.

A detailed mapping of aquifers in the watersheds, monitoring the wells and understanding the aquifer behaviour are being done. The findings from this research have the potential to influence small- scale appropriate approaches to groundwater / aquifer management techniques in rural areas. The results are presently being used by Pani Panchayats for managing the water resources. The project started in June 2006 and will end in May 2009.



There are several other initiatives supported by Grants unit of Arghyam during 2007-08 under various themes. They are:

1. Roof top rain water harvesting

- Disha, Bodhgaya district of Bihar
- Megh Pyne Abhiyan in five flood prone districts of north Bihar
- Gomukh Trust in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra
- Akash Ganga Trust in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Suvarna Jala School RWH program by RD & PR Dept of GoK, Karnataka
- S.D.M Mangala Jyothi Integrated School in Mangalore district of Karnataka

2. Safe drinking water, Revival of traditional water harvesting structures.

- Sambhaav in Barmer district of Rajasthan
- Samerth Trust in Kutch district of Gujarat
- Himalayan Seva Sangh in Tehri and Uttarkashi districts of Uttarakhand
- BIRD-K in three districts of Karnataka supporting Sachetna Flouride mitigation and Drinking water program of RDPR Dept, Govt. of Karnataka
- Dhan Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh

3. Action Research and Capacity Building

- Krishi Vidya Nirantara(KVN) in Bangalore district of Karnataka
- Samaj Pragati Sahyog (SPS) in Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh

4. Community managed integrated domestic water supply and sanitation

- MYRADA in two districts of Karnataka
- Development Alternatives in two districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
- Gandhigram in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu
- NM Sadguru Foundation in Dahod and Jhalawar districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan
- Wangjing Women & Girls Society (WWAGS) in one district of Manipur
- Youth Volunteers' Union (YVU) in two districts of Manipur

5. Waste water disposal practices and treatment

- Technology Informatics Design Endeavour (TIDE) in Tirupur district, Tamil Nadu

The grants team underwent an elaborate exercise to strategize grant making for the forthcoming years. In the context of current WATSAN scenario, Arghyam plans to focus its efforts on following four themes:

Sanitation: Promotion of sustainable sanitation, linkages with ongoing Govt. schemes, integrating water quality, health, education and social issues

Wastewater Management: Safe disposal of wastewater or reuse after treatment in rural and peri-urban areas

Groundwater Management: Understand and disseminate knowledge on geo-hydrological formations, aquifer movement, recharge, discharge rates etc to foster community-based decision-making on ground water wise use.

Integrated Domestic Water Management: Develop and propagate models of holistic water resource management on a sustainable basis, involving all concerned stakeholders.

In pursuit of broadening our horizons, we look forward to working in challenging geographical terrains like Ganga-Brahmaputra plains, N-E states etc. We also plan to experiment with different ways of strategic and effective grant making.

*"B. Matakere Gram Panchayat of Mysore district, Karnataka was awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskar for providing safe drinking water and sanitation. The project, implemented by MYRADA and supported by Arghyam, included rainwater harvesting systems and eco-san toilets."*



After its launch on 12th January 2007, the Portal has been growing steadily - both in content as well as number of visitors.

One such new section is the "Ask-a-question" (AAQ) service. This section allows users to ask water-related questions, which are then answered by a panel of experts in the water sector. This service is being managed in association with WES-Net, a network of water and sanitation professionals. The usage of this section is increasing rapidly and will build up to be a good database of problems and solutions in the water and sanitation space. Water quality is a hot topic on this service and a surprising number of questions are on sewage management and effluent treatment. Questions come from people of different backgrounds - householders about their water problems, practitioners seeking advice from peers and students and researchers seeking some help with their projects.

#### Other new sections include:

**Maps and Statistics:** This section includes data and maps related to water aspects like quality, groundwater depth, health impacts, river pollution etc.

**Water Quality Testing Kits:** This is a compilation of water quality field testing kits available in the market, their prices, and the contact details of the manufacturers.

**Parliament Questions:** Questions related to water raised in the Parliament of India.

**Water Voices:** The Portal has interviews with MPs, development practitioners, NGO leaders and others.

**Kids' Section:** This section includes games, puzzles, quizzes, stories and activity ideas and innovative projects related to water for children.

Some sections like the Meteorological Data, that were already present when the Portal was launched, have been widely used and appreciated.

In partnership with Indiannos.com, the Portal newsletter now reaches out to over 10,000 individuals and organizations. The system of sending out newsletters that highlighted new additions to the Portal was started. As non-web dissemination, two sets of radio programmes on rainwater harvesting were developed for the districts of Tumkur and Chitradurga, Karnataka, which experience fluoride contamination and water scarcity respectively.

The Portal team participated in the Children's Science Congress organized at Baramati, Maharashtra, the Indian Science Congress 2008 at Visakhapatnam, and gave presentations at community radio workshops in Pondicherry and Bangalore.

The Portal is also supporting an effort by the students of Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni College, Bangalore to conduct a rainwater harvesting survey and facilitate the construction of RWH structures in some localities of Bangalore.

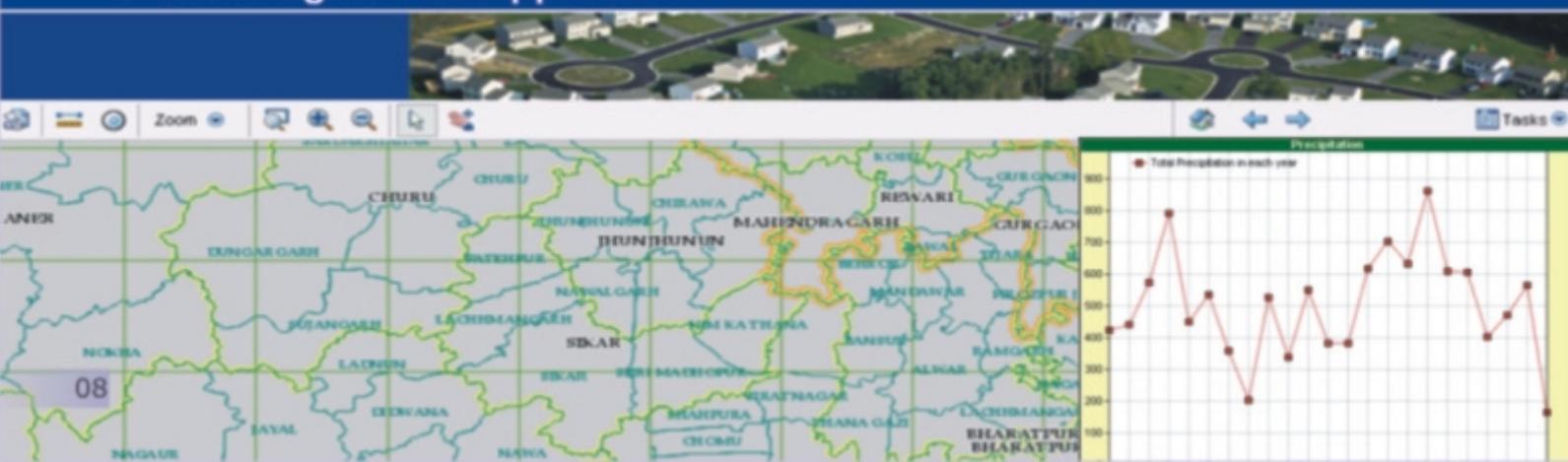
When the Portal was launched, it was envisaged as catering to audiences all across the country. To ensure this, the Portal has always welcomed content in any Indian language. All the content that was available in Hindi was clubbed together as Bharat Jal Portal and launched together with the English version of it. This year, the Kannada version of the Portal was launched at a well-attended function in February 2008. We approach the Kannada Portal as a combination of translation of important resources from English to Kannada as well as compilation of available Kannada language resources. The vision is to do many more of these regional language water portals.

Usage of the Portal has been increasing steadily and at the end of the year, the number of visitors stood at 13,000 (1,000 unique visitors) a month. Visitors come from all over the world. From India, about 70% visitors are distributed between more than 80 Indian cities besides smaller towns and rural areas. The Portal has 2,000-odd separate pieces of content comprising thousands of pages of information and knowledge. In addition there is a database of 1,000 organizations, meteorological data for 100 years at a monthly level across the country and several high quality multimedia courses. Our mailing list consists of about 2,000 subscribers.

Reaching the Portal to a lot more people and creating content for different audiences will be some of the key themes going forward.

Some of the key Portal partners include eGovernments Foundation, Trina, CII, WES-Net, Communication for Development and Learning and Sampada Foundation. It is encouraging to see the Portal develop with more stakeholder participation.

## Meteorological GIS Application



## Philosophy

India's urban morphology has witnessed an abnormal & unprecedented growth, with every third Indian today living in urban areas. While basic water supply infrastructure systems are constructed in most urban centers, their management & optimization to meet growing demand are far from satisfactory. With cities promoting water-intensive developments, the dual challenges of sustainability and equity have reached critical levels. Solutions to these challenges rest on 'getting right' the institutional framework to govern and manage resources at all levels. This is to ensure future urban centers are water secure. The need to treat urban water management in an integrated manner was acknowledged by a wide range of experts in Arghyam's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference titled, "*Urban Water 360° - Envisioning Appropriate Models for Indian Cities*".

## Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM): The Why's

The main *raison d'être* for IUWM are the vast quantitative and qualitative gaps between supply and demand. The increasing urban population is likely to widen this gap dramatically in the years to come, and the impacts of climate change processes, the special needs of the urban poor etc compound the problems even further. There is a need to restrict cities' water footprints, take into consideration environmental safeguards and promote water co-management principles to avoid water related conflicts in the catchment.

## IUWM: The What's

IUWM is the design, integration and implementation of a range of inter-related projects and processes. It views the entire spectrum of phenomena that characterize the city's water scenario from source to sink, spanning the urban water cycle in its totality. It factors in all identifiable externalities related to socio-economic policy, potential vagaries of nature, social and geographical specificities of regions, the links between water and other resources such as electricity or the dynamics of demography and growth.

IUWM's overarching framework is the adoption of a 'draw, use, replenish' approach to achieve a localized water balance. The broad objectives of IUWM are to promote water related services, laws, institutions that are:

- Equitable and just towards all citizens & in harmony with nature & neighbours
- Efficient and scale up well as town grows
- Holistically managed - where water is treated as one component of a sustainable city
- With an aware citizenry using water within limits

## The Journey So Far

Taking off from the Urban Waters conference, a learning-by-doing approach led us to identify a small town in Karnataka to pilot IUWM processes. The pre-planning activities included creating data-sets of Karnataka towns and a 3-stage town shortlisting process. A series of visits to shortlisted towns was undertaken to gauge their readiness for IUWM. Processes were also set up to identify NGO partners who would serve as a crucial cog in the entire IUWM process. A series of discussions with sector participants (national & international) were organised to explore partnerships for complementary IUWM components.

As it stands today, Mulbagal town has evinced interest in taking up the programme. The process of Mulbagal TMC embracing this programme involved a series of discussions and presentations to elected representatives and staff, and joint field visits to understand the town's problems. The programme is planned in a phased manner starting with water resources, water supplies, pro-poor governance & sanitation interventions. Partnerships have been forged to support groundwater management research and water management tools. Baseline and system studies, asset mapping, awareness creation and partnership agreements are currently at various stages.

Concurrently there is an effort to develop an IUWM Framework and toolkit that will aid Indian towns in adopting sustainable water management practices. The lessons learned from our Mulbagal pilot will feed into this evolving framework.



## Research and Advocacy

Research and advocacy is a relatively new activity for Arghyam. Arghyam supports research into specific new technologies or approaches in the water and sanitation sector that have the potential to create significant impact.

Arghyam's advocacy effort is currently concentrated on one major activity - a citizen's water and sanitation survey to be rolled out across the 29 districts of Karnataka. The survey will be conducted by our network of local NGO partners and will include a pictorial questionnaire and focused group discussions at a village level. The findings of the survey will be disseminated to the surveyed villages. The survey results will be used to generate district report cards and a state report card. We hope that the findings can feed into the central government WATSAN schemes.

As an adjunct to the above activity, Arghyam is pursuing an electronic survey on drinking water status across Karnataka through a series of tele-centres (in collaboration with Comat).

A research initiative of Arghyam in its early stages is Ecological Sanitation where we are partnering towards its comprehensive understanding and promotion. There are two focus areas here -- product design to explore various ecosan products for both rural and urban areas and developing a communication strategy to promote ecosan. This includes undertaking studies to understand people's perception of ecosan. Arghyam is trying this in collaboration with local institutions.

Future activities will concentrate on understanding and analyzing learnings from the field in the water and sanitation sector to improve our own and other projects. These efforts will also feed into our knowledge house, the India Water Portal.

## Partnerships

The Government of Karnataka, through its Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department (RDPR) initiated an ambitious School Rooftop Rain Water Harvesting program (Suvarna Jala) in 23,683 schools across all 29 districts in the state. This was part of an effort to provide safe drinking water to school children in fluoride affected areas. Arghyam entered into partnership with the Government in 2006 with the intension of

improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

Arghyam's efforts had been organized in two main streams. The first which is a more direct intervention is concentrated in **Tumkur, Chitradurga, Dhavangere, Gadag, Dharwad, Mysore and Chamaraj Nagar Districts**. Here Arghyam has initiated partnership with 3 lead NGO's with **BIRD-K, Geo Rain Water Board and CART** the local partners to lead broad effort in the areas of preparation of training modules for teachers, SDMC members and education department personnel, collection of baseline and other data for consolidation, analysis, and planning and provision of technical support.

In addition, 17 model schools have been developed in 7 districts to demonstrate a working approach for sustainable water management. Model schools will include facilities like a functional rain water harvesting system with water filter and storage, a rain gauge station, functional toilets with provision of water for cleaning and hand washing, water quality testing, ground water recharge, school garden, garbage management, awareness and education activities and finally student, teacher and village councils for managing the programme.

The second is a more indirect intervention designed to support the Governments efforts in the other 22 Districts. Here Arghyam supports the identification of suitable NGO's and the development of training modules in the expectation that the RDPR will support these local NGO's in promoting and supporting Suvarna Jala Program.

In future, we plan to support RDPR's capacity to maintain the roof water harvesting structures and develop model schools, one in each taluk of the 29 districts.

This Suvarna Jala partnership in Karnataka is Arghyam's pilot effort in supporting Government schemes. We are strongly committed to working with Government and are exploring projects in other states where Arghyam could potentially add value.



Over the course of the year Arghyam organized a number of events to broaden general awareness of water issues and encourage dialogue among water practitioners.

Arghyam organized its Second Annual Conference on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Titled "Urban Water 360° Envisioning sustainable Models for Indian Cities", the conference saw participation from NGOs, government institutions, private sector and international organizations. The conference was structured to have one session each on 'Urban Poor Equity and Access', 'Urban Wastewater', 'Urban Water Resources' and 'Urban Water Governance'.

The two days saw a set of eminent speakers addressing the gathering including: Shri. Rajamani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Dr. A. Vaidyanathan, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Mr. Nandan Nilekani, MD, Infosys, Mr. Aloysius Fernandez, Director, Myrada, Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives, Dr. Amitabh Kundu, Dean of Social Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University, Mr. K.P. Krishnan I.A.S, Ms. Lakshmi Venkatachalam, I.A.S and many others.

Arghyam funded "Voices from the Waters 2007" an international film festival on water in Bangalore to increase citizen awareness. In this film festival approximately 60 films from 10 different countries were screened and around 3000 people participated. There was a one day conference on the last day in which civil society organizations and academicians participated in critical discussions related to water.

Arghyam also supported Childrens Movement for Civic Awareness (CMCA), Bangalore for a survey on water conservation awareness which culminated in a public event to announce the findings. 2000 children from around 50 schools participated in this programme.

In February Arghyam supported a two week long padayatra, Janadesh 2008, along the stretch of the dying Arkavathy river to raise awareness on pollution and degradation issues.

As part of an effort to encourage dialogues on water policy issues Arghyam jointly supported a seminar on "Water Resources in Karnataka: Emerging Challenges & Options". Arghyam also supported a conference on Integrated River Basin Management in Pune organized by Gomukh Trust, and a

regional workshop on experiences of ecological sanitation organised by CapNet South Asia.

In order to extend the reach and coverage of the India Water Portal Arghyam organized a Kannada Portal Launch and Technology Workshop on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008. The Kannada Water Portal (<http://www.indiawaterportal.org/kannada>) is the Kannada version of India Water Portal. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. K. Jairaj, Principal Secretary - Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department. More than 100 representatives of NGOs, government organizations and media attended a technology workshop in Kannada and a Google Maps demo.

In addition a competition was conducted for students of architecture to create building designs incorporating sound water management. More than 50 teams from various schools across the country participated in the first stage which was judged by a panel in Bangalore in February. 15 teams were short listed for the final stage slated for June 2008.

#### ***K2K: In Search of Water:***

Last month, Sharada Prasad, our colleague, started a 19,000 km Motorcycle Ride to understand peoples' water problems, share their stories and increase sensitivity towards water and water needs across the country.

Supported by Arghyam, his 75 day long ride will take him through all 28 states, 5 union territories, across 15 major rivers, 7 ecological zones and 11 national parks. The entire route will be tracked using a GPS receiver which will be uploaded on to the India Water Portal along with trip blogs, photos and discussions.

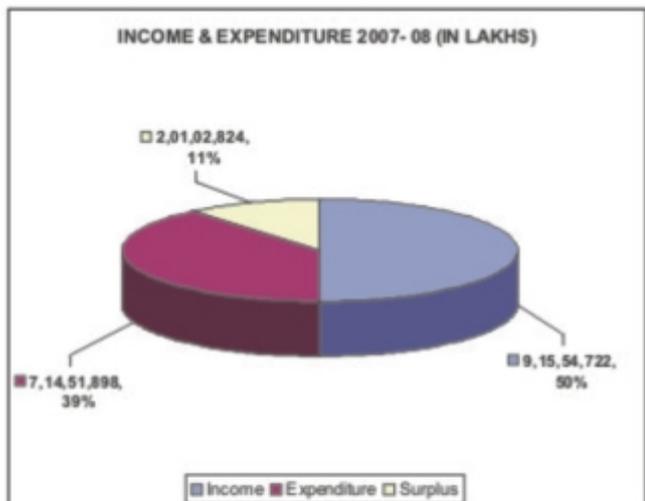
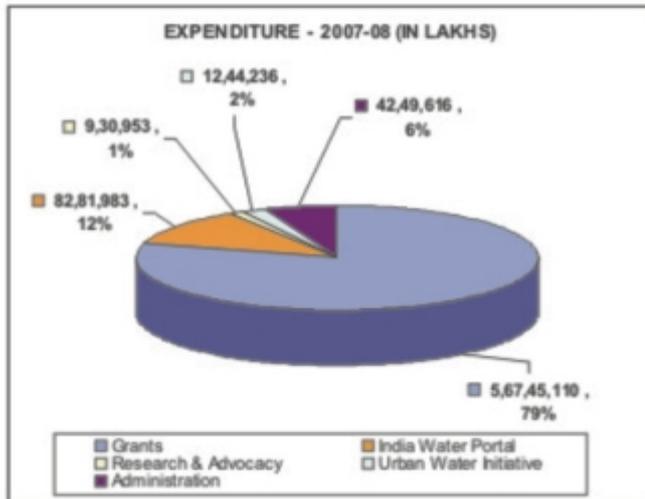


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Arghyam as a charitable trust firmly believes in transparency and disclosure of financial status to the general public.

Arghyam's income, which is interest earned from the corpus fund, increased from **Rs. 655 lakh** in '06-'07 to **Rs. 916 lakh** this year. Arghyam has disbursed a total amount of **Rs. 567 lakh** as grants during the period April 2007 to March 2008 as compared to **Rs. 370 lakh** in the last financial year, an increase of around **53%**.

The Chart below shows the source and application of funds for the financial year 2007-08



Other expenditure included Arghyam initiatives, “**India Water Portal**”, “**Integrated Urban Water Initiative**”, “**Research & Advocacy**” and **Administration** totaling to **Rs. 147 lakh**.

Chart showing the thematic disbursement of funds as grants in the year 2007-08

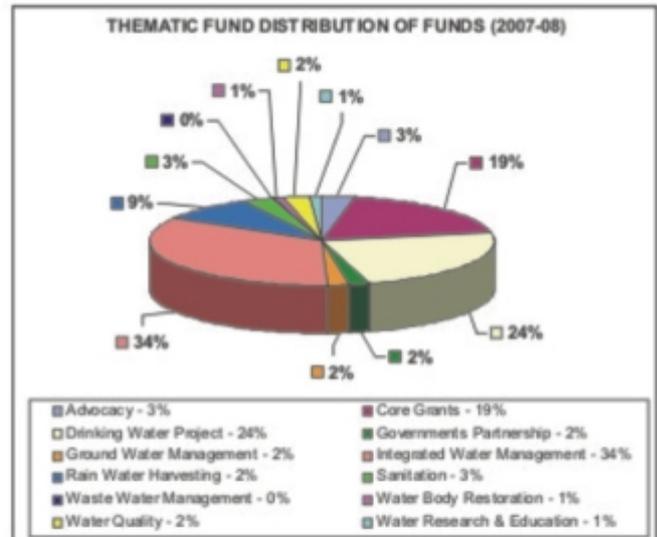
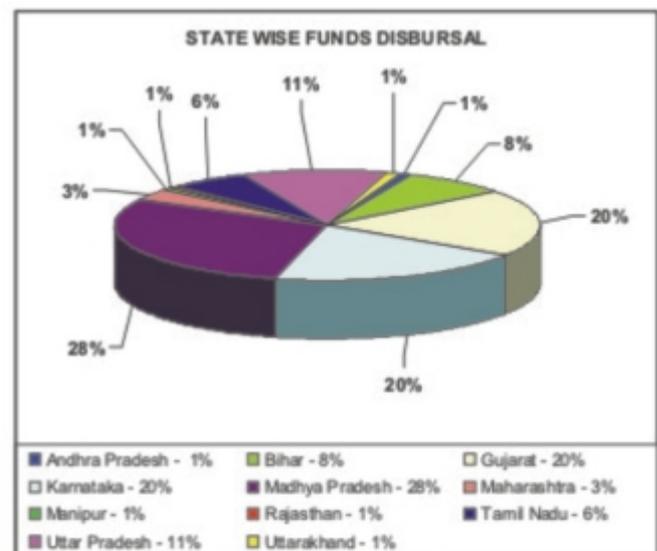


Chart showing the Geographical disbursement of funds as grants during 2007-08



<b>ARGHYAM</b>		
<b>PROVISIONAL BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2008</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>AMOUNT (Rs.)</b>	
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Computets, Furnitute, projectors etc		<b>1,394,876</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS:</b>		
8% GOI BONDS	70,00,00,000/-	
Citibank Deposits	2,57,85,000/-	
ICICI Bank Deposits	30,36,26,395/-	
HDFC Cash Mgt. Fund	5,00,00,000/-	
		<b>1,079,411,395</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Savings Bank A/c Balance	1,45,357/-	
Cash In Hand	13,289/-	
Rent & Telephone Deposit	4,80,000/-	
Other Advances	2,75,764/-	
	<b>9,14,410/-</b>	
Less: Current Liabilities:	25,075/-	
		<b>889,335</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,081,695,606</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>AMOUNT (Rs.)</b>	
<b>CORPUS FUND:</b>		
Opening Balance as on April 1, 2007		<b>1,061,267,329</b>
Add: Current year surplus		20,428,277
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,081,695,606</b>

<b>ARGHYAM</b>	
<b>PROVISIONAL INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2007 TO 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2008</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>AMOUNT (Rs.)</b>
Interest Received- GOI bonds	56,000,000
Interest received - Citibank	9,046,874
Interest received - ICICI Bank	26,507,848
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91,554,722</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>AMOUNT (Rs.)</b>
Grants & Donations	56,745,110
Research & Advocacy	930,953
India Water Portal	8,281,983
Urban Water Initiative	1,244,236
Administrative Expenses	4,249,617
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71,451,898</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>20,102,824</b>

*Note: Audited Financial statements will be soon on the Arghyam website*



For the next year, our focus is on building up the initiatives we've begun over the last couple of years. We will strive to do this in an open and flexible manner, so that our growing understanding of the sector and the changing situation around us can feed back effectively into our work.

Our funding will be more deliberate and will be managed with rigour for tighter alignment with our strategy. The Project Grants team will explore avenues for catalyzing change that go beyond the traditional grant-making. There will be increased attention given to our chosen thematic and geographic areas, and to identifying innovative partners and projects to work with. We will work on consolidating the lessons learnt from the ground into knowledge products, which will reflect in our advocacy efforts.

The Portal effort will focus on the building partnerships for new channels of users. Through new spaces we create, we hope for increased synergy between the various Arghyam supported efforts, both internal and external.

Our relatively new Urban Initiative and Research & Advocacy efforts will be in the crucial implementation phase this year, so the focus will be on sound execution.

We will, with an open mind, continue to connect with and take from all the ideas and efforts of people around us who are working in a multiplicity of ways to bring about change.

### Team

#### Founder

Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson

#### Board of Trustees

Nandita Chandavarkar

Renuka Raja Rao

### Management

Sunita Nadhamuni, Chief Executive Officer

S. Vishwanath, Advisor

Ravi Narayanan, Advisor

M. N. Thippeswamy, Advisor

### Project Grants

S. Manohar Rao, Manager

K. Nelson Royal, Associate Manager

Amitangshu Acharya, Project Officer

### India Water Portal

G. Vijaya Krishna, Manager

C. S. Sharada Prasad, Project Officer

### Research & Advocacy, Partnerships

Binayak Das, Researcher

### Urban Water Initiative

K. Nagasreenivas, Manager

Rimi Goswami, Project Officer

### Administration

Nirmala Janardhan, Financials

A. Manikeshwari, HR & Admin

Nandini Ram, Documentation

### Consultants

Ravindra, Suvarnajala Project

Priya Patel

Mahadevan Ramaswamy

### Interns

Ashwin Vishwanathan

Silje Hernes

Akshara Kumar

Sheeba David







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