



Water Knowledge Centre (WKC)

The Water Knowledge Centre is a specialized centre established at Tata-Dhan Academy (TDA) and Dhan People Academy (DPA) by DHAN Foundation with the support of Hindustan Unilever Foundation, a CSR initiative of HUL. The WKC aims at enhancing the knowledge and practice on integrated water resource management by working with peoples' institutions, government and non-government organisations, technical institutes, research and academic institutes and funding agencies.



DHAN Foundation

Tata-Dhan Academy
DHAN Foundation
Madurai



Hindustan Unilever Limited
Hindustan Unilever Foundation
a social venture subsidiary of Hindustan Unilever Limited

Water Knowledge Centre
Advancing blue & green water infrastructure Knowledge
Focus: Knowledge, Skills & Attitude set

Dhan People Academy

To whom: Community leaders & Functionaries

- Certificate /Diploma courses through distance mode on Panchayat management, Watershed management, Tank Management and Safe drinking water.
- Basic movement workers training (Field associates training).
- Short term courses on “Development Management programmes on water”.
- Trainers training programme on water
- Community Water Custodian awards.

DVTF/ CALL Programme

Field campus for action research

Contexts / Ecosystem: Rural, Urban, Coastal, Tribal, degraded/ desertified

- Field practices.
- Regional resource centres or district level study centres.
- Incubation centres.
- Pilot Studies
- Policy Seminars
- Social Capital/ sustainability

Tata-Dhan Academy

To whom: Development Professionals/NGOs

- Certificate and diploma courses.
- Monitoring & Learning
- Collaborative courses with international & national universities / technical centres.
- Immersion programme on water
- Virtual and online programmes.
- Development Executive programme on water.
- Annual conferences, state water weeks and state workshops.
- New / Innovative practices

Why Water Knowledge Centre?

Water is a precious commodity highly required for all living organisms on earth to complete their life cycle. Water is a limited natural resource. Due to raising population and their increasing needs, conserving and utilizing the resource in planned and effective manner is very important. Nowadays, many institutions and NGOs have started working on this sector to protect this resource. The centre will join hands with them in advancing the efforts by

- Involving in knowledge generation by way of theorising from practice and converting theory to practice.
- Negotiating with complex theories as well as understanding and addressing realities on the ground
- Creating knowledge base of different models time-tested and proven of IWRM by different stakeholders for dissemination and advancement / scaling-up

WKC would provide a platform to identify, appreciate and nurture local knowledge and wisdom on community-led Water resources management. It will encourage the practitioners promoting collective

action around water resources management and aid influencing state and national policies in tune with community's needs and aspirations.

Additionally, there is a dire need for decision support tools and for people trained to use these tools at all levels. At the participatory planning level, there is a need for people with special skills, attitude and aptitude who can facilitate the planning process. WKC would help nurture such people and link them to needs.

Vision

The centre envisions becoming a Centre of Excellence in community-led Water Resources management.

Guiding principles

The principles that are guiding the approach and activities of the centre are:

- Giving primacy to indigenous knowledge, wisdom and practices of the communities on water resources management
- Promoting partnership models and community-driven approaches for Water resources management
- Enabling Water resource management through multi-sectoral, inter-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder action

WKC as a centre for learning will

- Document the good practices and community-led water resources management already in existence and disseminate this knowledge to a wide audience.
- Involve thematic and issue based studies, action researches in the area of water resources management
- Create and maintain data base (water watch) which will cater to the needs of professionals, institutions, and community.
- Experiment with, develop, and disseminate various tools, techniques, and innovate models for community-led water resources management

Activities

The centre promotes inter-disciplinary and multi-sectoral research and extension activities in the field of water involving multiple stakeholders in the process.

Research: In collaboration with like-minded academic and research organisations, the water Knowledge Centre would take up thematic and issue based studies on water conservation and development, longitudinal studies on the impact of tank systems, action researches on different components of tanks and associated farming systems.

Pilot projects: The centre will work on pilot projects in forest based water resources, urban water issues, peri-urban agriculture, safe drinking water and sanitation, river basin restoration and knowledge dissemination.

Networking and consultancy: The centre will promote networks among the practitioners, policy makers and academicians in addition to playing an active role in various networks. It will work towards the networking of networks to realise collective strength for the cause of water conservation and management.

Capacity building: The centre would address the capacity building needs of the communities, development practitioners, mainstream agencies,



media and educational institutions. The centre would design and offer short duration training programmes in leadership and development focussing in the areas of water resources development, participatory evaluation and institution building.

Documentation and Publication: Documentation of the existing knowledge and practice in water resources management is the key strategy of the centre in showcasing good practices. The centre will take up specialised studies and documentation assignments publish them in different formats and disseminate them to a wider audience.

Policy Advocacy: The centre would play a critical role in policy advocacy to promote community-led water management in various states across the country. As part of this effort it would organise policy seminars, workshops to reflect on the policies and practices from the knowledge and experience gained from grassroots action.

Field Studies / Case Studies: The centre will identify the best practises, models and approaches in development interventions of effective water resource development and management in South India. It will develop them into case study or field study document which will be published in booklet, compendium and maintained as knowledge repository.



Water Balance Studies: The centre will devolve new methods and simple tools to assess the catchment runoff relations and the water storage capacity in traditional water commons in South India. The study will be useful to take into consideration of climate change implications in harvesting rain water in water bodies and use them more judiciously.

Development Management Programmes: The centre will develop, design and conduct need based and contextual short duration programmes to build knowledge and to develop skills to the development sector practitioners at the centre and off campus programmes.



Certificate and Diploma Courses:

The centre will develop new set of certificate and diploma courses by theorising the grassroots' practice to impart new development thinking and knowledge to the working executives and to the field animators, which in turn used by them in practice.



For further details, please contact

Coordinator

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DHAN Foundation

DHAN Foundation is a development organization working with over 1.3 million poor families towards poverty reduction in rural, tribal, urban and coastal contexts of India through community-based field programs such as Community Banking Program (microfinance), Tank fed Agriculture Development Program for rebuilding small scale reservoirs spread across the countryside, Rain fed Agriculture Program to make it more remunerative, Information Technology for Poor and Democratizing Panchayats (local governance) through local action. DHAN works in collaboration with mainstream for development.

Tata-Dhan Academy

Tata-Dhan Academy is the development education initiative of DHAN Foundation, which conducts the Advanced Reflective Training and education courses on different development themes for the practitioners. The core purpose of the academy, is to enable the world of practice to advance development action. It does this through conducting a two-year development management program (PDM) for young graduates, designing and facilitating independent and collaborative research, and conducting short-duration development management courses (including thematic courses on development management; Social Development Research Capacity Building; and Leadership Education in Advancing Development). The Academy also has three specialized centers working on the themes of disaster risk reduction, water for development and mutual insurance. Advanced Centre for Skill and Knowledge on Mutual Insurance (ASKMI) is the specialized centre fostering mutual / micro insurance development through research, documentation, publication, training, education, policy advocacy, and networking among practitioners. ASKMI derives experiential knowledge on micro and mutual insurance and micro pension from different practitioners including People Mutuals.

Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF)

Future demand for water resources will increase significantly as populations, rate of economic development and consumption rates grow. Estimates tell us that by 2030, the supply of water in India will be half of its demand. The

adverse impact of climate change on agriculture will further compound problems arising due to linkages between food, energy and livelihoods in the country. To understand and partake in meeting this challenge, Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF) was formed in 2010. HUF is a subsidiary of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) - India's largest Fast Moving Consumer Goods Company. HUF is a not-for-profit company that anchors various community development initiatives of Hindustan Unilever Limited. HUF supports national priorities for socio-economic development through its 'Water For Public Good' programme. Each of our projects also complies with the requirements of the Companies Bill 2013. By 2020, the impacts of our collective actions are expected to generate:

- Water conservation potential of 500 billion litres in a cumulative and collective way.
- Employment of more than one million person-days.
- Annual additional agricultural production of 0.1 million tonnes on a cumulative basis.

Dhan People Academy

DHAN Foundation's community organising strategies are centred on building capacities of leaders, members and staff, and hence invest substantial resources to promote leadership in the people's organisations.

Dhan People Academy was, thus, initiated to provide learning environment for the people's leaders and staff. With the well furnished training infrastructure, the Academy devises appropriate pedagogy to facilitate learning, building on the experience available, and participant-centered education. The Academy also works in partnership with academic and training institutes on common interests.

The DPA organises exposure visits to encourage cross learning of best practices across the locations and context. Workshops and seminars help the people's leaders to share their experiences and build their perspective. As part of the project with HUL, Dhan People Academy plays the role of the WATER KNOWLEDGE CENTRE together with DHAN Vayalagam Tank Foundation and Tata-Dhan Academy.