

REPORT -2022-23

Integrated Water Resources Assessment of Upper Berach Basin (Ayar River), Udaipur

Project-Funded by DANIDA, Denmark

Website: [Integrated Water Resources Assessment of Udaipur District, Rajasthan, India \(udairpur-iwrm.com\)](http://udairpur-iwrm.com)

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Collaborating Partners:

- University of Copenhagen, Denmark - Project Lead
- Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, Denmark (GEUS)
- Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic College, India (VBPC)
- DHI (India) Water and Environment Pvt. Ltd. (DHI)
- Development Alternatives, India (DA)



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REPORT: INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT OF UPPER BERACH (AYAD) BASIN, UDAIPUR, DANIDA – FUNDED PROJECT

Introduction

This report presents an overview of the activities undertaken in the previous year as part of the project titled "Integrated Water Resources Assessment of Upper Berach Basin (Ayad River)" in Udaipur District. The project focused on citizen engagement to generate hydrological and ecological data, as well as raise awareness among the community. Activities included training students on water sampling, water quality testing, rainfall measurements, groundwater level measurements, and ecological health assessment. Additionally, workshops were organized in collaboration with a citizen science network comprising 17 institutes located within the micro catchments of Ayad River (Fig 1).

Progress of the Study

The ongoing study has provided a comprehensive understanding of the water resources in the Udaipur district, resulting in several key outcomes:

1. **Citizen Science Network:** It has been decided to create a network comprising twenty senior secondary schools, two universities, and subject matter experts from Udaipur has been established to facilitate community engagement in water resource management within the Ayad River catchment. The citizen science network is involved in rainfall measurements, water sampling and water quality testing of surface and groundwater, data upload in Mywell app, ecological health assessment of surface waterbodies. [Vidya Bhawan polytechnic and development Alternatives are taking lead in this outcome]
2. **Hydrological Model:** An integrated model utilizing MIKE SHE software has been developed to comprehend the hydrological and hydraulic functioning of the upstream and downstream catchments of the Ayad River system. [Project partner DHI and University of Copenhagen are taking lead in generating this outcome]
3. **Data Support System (DSS):** A web-enabled and GIS-supported DSS has been established, containing a time series of hydrological and meteorological data,



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as well as geo-referenced information on the physical elements of the Ayad River catchment. [Project partner DHI is taking lead in generating this outcome]

4. **Project Website:** A dedicated project website has been created to enable citizens to understand the hydrological settings of Udaipur. [Project partner DHI is taking lead in generating this outcome]

Highlights

1. Workshops and Seminars

As part of the project, a series of seven workshops/seminars were successfully organized to foster knowledge exchange and capacity building. These workshops aimed to establish a robust citizen science alliance among researchers, stakeholders in water use, and, most importantly, the citizens themselves. Each workshop targeted specific audiences, including government water managers from various departments, officials from relevant organizations, academic institutions, geologists, local NGOs focusing on water issues, and representatives from the Udaipur Chamber of Commerce. The workshops covered a wide range of topics, including water resource management, sustainable practices, and the analysis of water resources in terms of quality and quantity. The list of activities is listed in Table 1 below. Few glimpses and pictures of the events are shared here in Fig. 2.

Table 1 List of activities under DANIDA funded project on Ayad River Basin, Udaipur

Sr No	Name of workshop	Number of participants	Participants organisation/country	Date
1	Seminar on <i>Future Wastewater treatment plant with resource utilization as focus</i>	10	Aahrus Vand, Denmark; Rajasthan n State pollution control board, Hindustan Zink, Students VBPC	29/03/2022
2	Workshop for <i>Building Citizen Science Alliance</i>	12	School teachers and Researchers from Udaipur city and nearby	26/04/2022
3	<i>Stockholder's meet - Citizen Science network</i>	41	Govt. departments managing water, NGO's, Citizen science network schools /colleges	05/05/2022



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	(Water managers and water consumers)			
4	One day workshop on <i>Water Quality testing and hands on training</i>	40	Citizen Science network institutes, Students with respective teachers of Udaipur and nearby	6/08/2022
5	Workshop on <i>Dialogue on Water</i> and Exhibition	23	Water related government organisations from each state of India and NGO's researchers	27/08/2022
6	Round table talk about water management with stack holders of Udaipur	33	Delhi, Denmark and Udaipur; people from different government and non-government organisations, embassy of Denmark	19/04/2023
7	Citizens role in IWRM of Udaipur	30	Delhi, Denmark and Udaipur. Selected citizen science network members , teachers, institute heads etc.	20/04/2023
8	Regular visits to 17 citizen science network institutes for training and data collection	17*10	Upper Berach basin (Ayad River). Sub catchments	Alternate day one or two institutes are covered

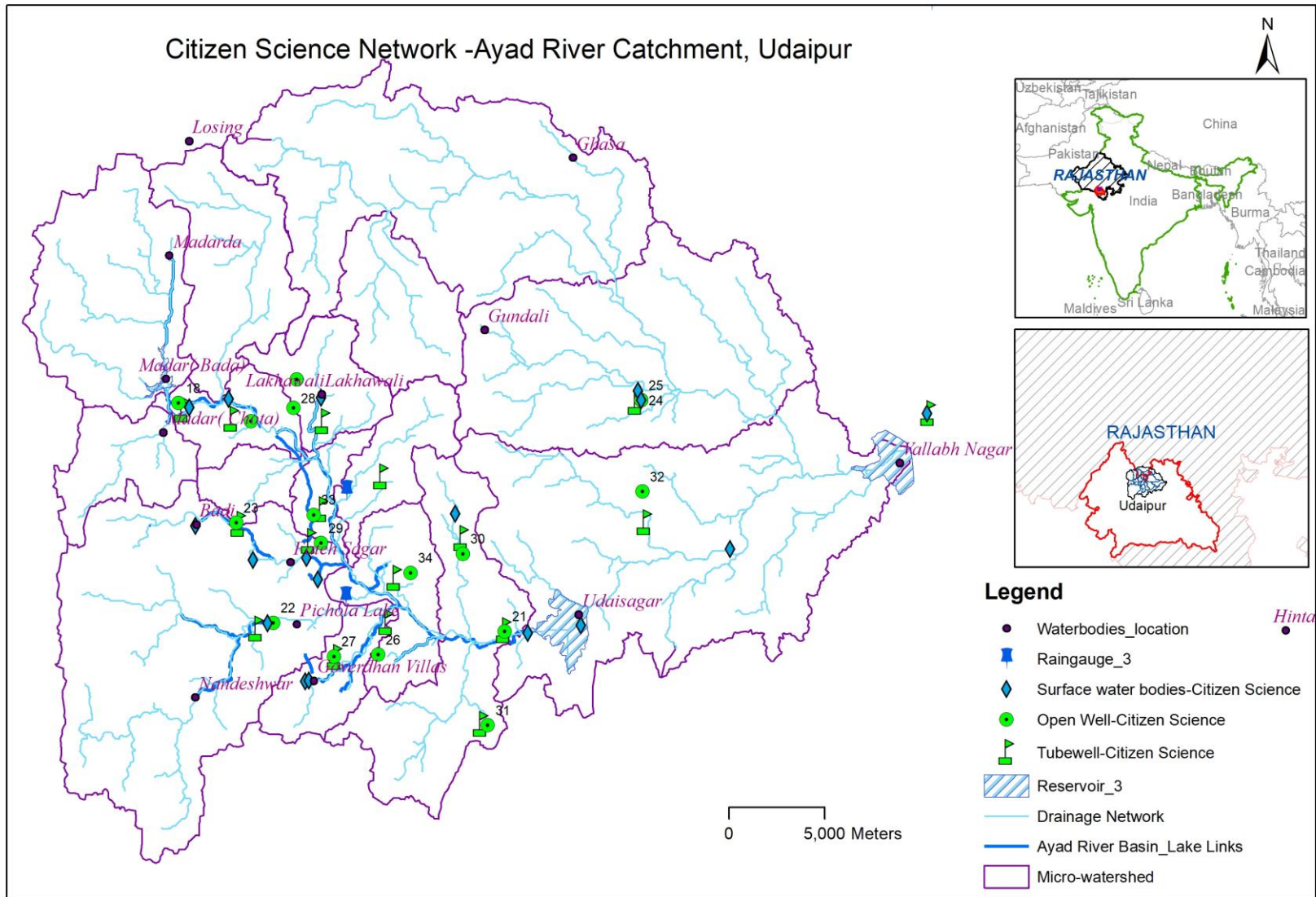


Figure 1 Location map of citizen science network of Ayad river micro-catchments

2. Citizen Engagement Activities

2.1 Training Programs

Citizen training programs were conducted to equip students from selected schools and institutions for water sampling, water quality testing (Fig. 2), rainfall measurements, groundwater level measurements, and ecological health assessment. The institutions listed in Table 2 actively participated in these programs, contributing to data collection and analysis. In these institutes about 360 citizens were trained by Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic College and Development Alternatives. About 39 students are very active and keen to collect above mentioned hydrological data out of total students trained for the same.



Figure 2 Hands on practice and training session for water quality testing

Table 2: Activity summary of the institutions involved in citizen science programme

S. No.	Institution	Course / Class	No. of citizens trained	No. of citizens providing CS data	No. of equipments disbursed*
1	GSSS, Madar	High school	20	3	1, 2, 3
2	GSSS, Thoor	Middle school	30	3	1, 2, 3
3	GSSS, Lakhawali	Middle school	30	4	1, 2, 3



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4	GSSS, Bhoeyon ki Pacholi	Middle school	25	2	2, 3
5	GSSS, Sisarma	Middle school	35	3	1, 2, 3
6	GSSS, Badi	Middle school	10	1	2, 3
7	GSSS, Khemli	High school	20	2	1, 2, 3
8	GSSS, Sukher	Middle school	30	3	2, 3
9	Vidya Niketan School, Hiran Magri Sector- 4	Middle school	25		2, 3
10	Alok School, Sec 11, Near Govardhan Sagar	Middle school	10	3	1, 2, 3
11	Vidya Niketan School, Vallabhnagar	Middle school	20	1	1, 2, 3
12	Vidya Bhawan Public School, Dewali	High school	15	2	1, 2, 3
13	Abhinav School, Rakampura	Middle school	10	3	1, 2, 3
14	Aravali Institute of Technology	B. Tech (3 rd year)	25	2	2, 3



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	College, Umarda				
15	Geetanjali Institute of Technical Studies	B. Tech (Civil Engineering 3 rd year)	15	3	2, 3
16	Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic College, Badgaon	Diploma (Civil Engineering 2 nd year)	30	4	1, 2, 3
17	Stanward School, University Road	Middle school	10		2, 3

*1: Rain gauge, 2: Jal TARA water quality testing kit, 3: Measuring tape

*Government Senior Secondary School (GSSS)

2.2 Citizen Science Network

A citizen science network was established with a total of 17 participating institutions situated in the micro catchments of the Ayad River (Fig. 1). These institutions actively contributed to data collection efforts, including rainfall measurement (Fig. 3) water quality monitoring and ecological assessments. However, some micro catchments located in the Aravali hilly region were unable to participate fully. The lakes and water bodies covered under the citizen science monitoring program included Badi Lake, Chota Madar Lake, Bada Madar Lake, Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Lakhawali talab, Govershan Sagar, Sisarama River, Ayad River, Udai Sagar, and Vallabh Nagar Dam.

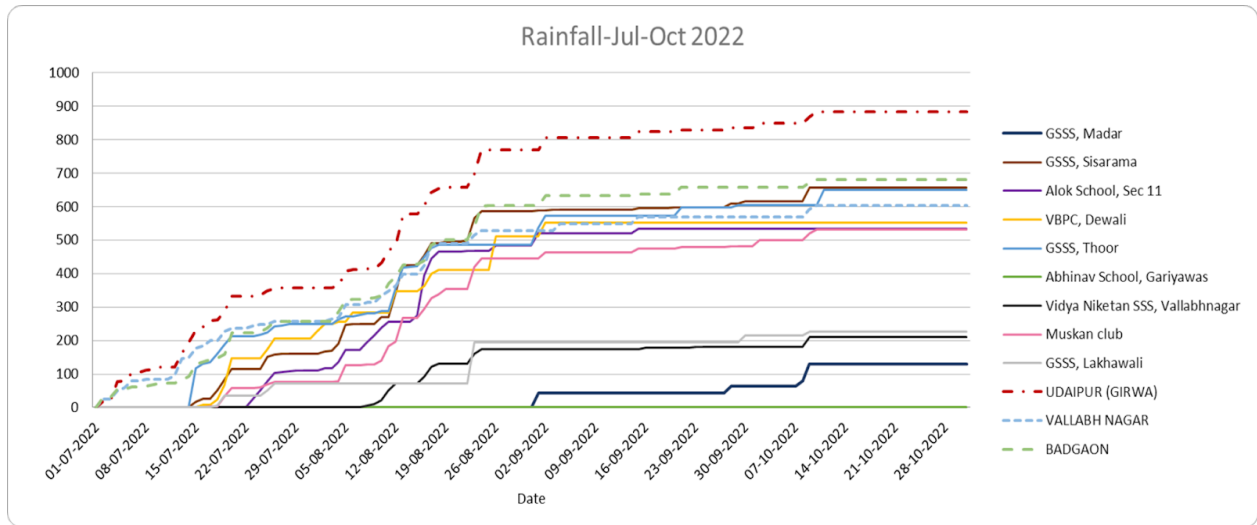


Figure 3 Cumulative Rainfall data plotted against days, which was collected by citizen science network and also dotted line data from government record plotted in same scale to showcase the robustness of citizen science data

2.3 Mywell app

Under the MARVI project, a groundbreaking data collection app called Mywell (Fig. 4) was developed and utilized in the DANIDA project as well to collect and share valuable data worldwide. Mywell revolutionized the process of data collection by providing a user-friendly platform that enabled efficient and widespread data sharing, contributing to the advancement of water resource management on a global scale.

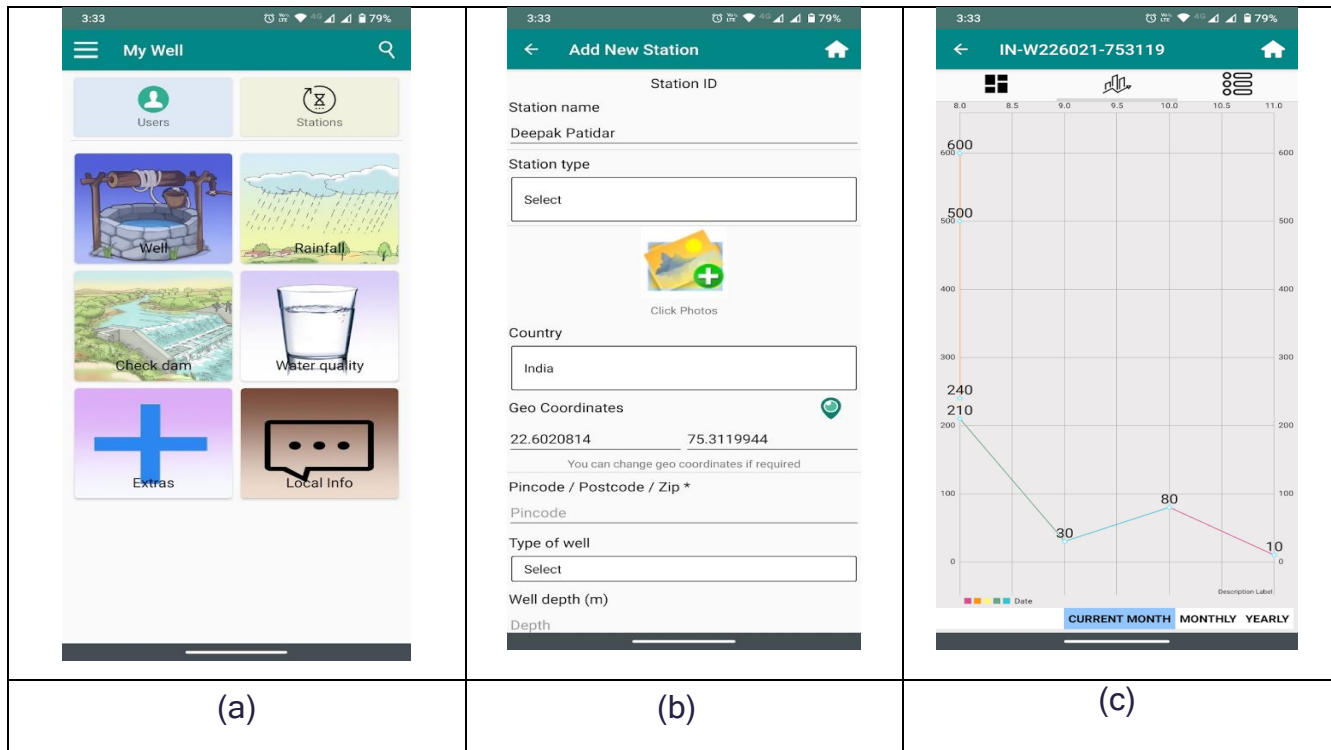


Figure 4 A typical layout of mywell app user interface (a) first window for user registration and all parameter (b) Station id generation (c) graphical representation of uploaded data



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3. Denmark Research Partnership

As part of the project, a research partnership with Denmark was established. Dr. Anil Mehta, the principal of Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic and the lead researcher of the project, visited AHARUS city (See Fig. 5) to learn about waste water management and river rejuvenation practices. Additionally, Dr. Yogita, a post-doctoral researcher of the project, visited the University of Copenhagen as a visiting researcher for three weeks along with the two more researchers from each of the project partners i.e. DHI and DA.



Figure 5 The delegation from India visited Aahrus Vand including Lead researcher Dr Anil Mehta sir (in the middle



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4. Media Coverage

The project gathered significant media attention through newspaper articles, a spotlight on the crucial aspects of lake-river rejuvenation and the vital role citizens play in water management. These articles served as a powerful tool to raise awareness and inform the citizens' about the project's endeavors. The articles were also published in local language to reach out to most of the audience. By highlighting the efforts to restore and revitalize lakes and rivers, as well as the active involvement of citizens in water management, the media coverage played a pivotal role in emphasizing the importance of community participation in sustainable water quality assessment, conservation and management. Through these articles, the project successfully showcased the positive impact citizens can make in preserving and managing water resources for a greener and more resilient future. (Fig. 6)



Figure 6 Media coverage of different project activities in local language



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Conclusion

The Integrated Water Resources Assessment of Upper Berach Basin (Ayad River), Udaipur District, successfully engaging citizens in generating hydrological and ecological data while promoting awareness among the community. The training programs, workshops, field visits, and media coverage played a crucial role in achieving the project's objectives. The citizen science network established through the project demonstrated active participation from various institutions, contributing to data collection efforts. The research partnership with Denmark provided valuable insights and cross-learning opportunities. The project's activities have laid the groundwork for effective water resource management and sustainable practices in the Upper Berach Basin, ensuring the preservation of water resources for future generations.

Unlock the power of Citizen Science: Empowering communities to boost scientific literacy and tackle real-life challenges together.

Looking Ahead

In the upcoming year, we are embarking on an ambitious sampling campaign, covering 19 key locations at the inlet and outlet of significant water bodies within the Ayad River basin during pre-monsoon and post monsoon. The same level of dedication and effort will be invested to strengthen the previously established citizen science network by focusing on the generation of a comprehensive time series of data. This endeavor aims to enhance the existing database, enabling a more robust understanding of the hydrological and ecological dynamics in the Ayad River basin. By expanding and refining the data collection efforts, we can empower the citizen science network to make informed decisions and contribute to sustainable water management practices in the region.



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Mission

As an outcome of the project, the project lead is considering the establishment of a dedicated Water Centre. This envisioned Water Centre aims to serve as a lasting legacy, stemming from the rigorous citizen science networking efforts undertaken during the project.

The Water Centre would be a hub for continued engagement and collaboration, ensuring the ongoing involvement of citizens in monitoring and managing water resources.

By providing a platform for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and community-driven initiatives, the Water Centre would play a pivotal role in sustaining the momentum of the project's achievements and fostering a culture of responsible water management for years to come.



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Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management of Udaipur,

19th April 2023



Danish Embassy, Geological Survey Of Denmark and Green Land, Development Alternatives,
Vidya Bhawan Society, University of Copenhagen Danish Hydrological Institute

Workshop on Citizens' Role in Integrated Water Resources Management of Udaipur,

20th April 2023



Danish Embassy, Geological Survey Of Denmark and Green Land, Development Alternatives, Vidya Bhawan Society,
University of Copenhagen, Danish Hydrological Institute