An Institutional Analysis of Gundalav Lake Governance

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AIM of the Study

To understand urban lake sustainability through lake governance for the Gundalav Lake in Kishangarh city of Rajasthan

FRAMEWORK

The Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework developed by Elinor Ostrom has been described as "one of the most developed and sophisticated attempts to use institutional and stakeholder assessment in order to link theory and practice, analysis and policy" (Cole, 2014).





AREA OF INQUIRY

The IAD Framework has been applied to analyse the opportunities and constraints in the current lake governance effort taken for the **Gundalav Talab of Kishangarh**, **Rajasthan**.



URBAN SETTINGS OF KISHANGARH

- Kishangarh about 100 km south to Jaipur and 30km north to Ajmer.
- Founded by the Jodhpur prince Kishan Singh in 1609.
- Kishangarh is called as the marble town of India. The economy largely depends on the marble industry.
- Kishangarh is located on Aravalli ranges plateau terrain.
- Gundalav Lake is a perennial shallow freshwater body situated in the South-west of Kishangarh. It is about 120 hectares (1.2 sq km) in area.



GUNDALAV LAKE TIMELINE



Biophysical Characteristics

1. Designation Of Urban Lakes-

 Helps the ULBs recognize the number of urban water bodies within its judiciary and makes them accountable for them.

2. Delineation Of Urban Lakes

 What to delineate for sustainability of water body? Lake or lake system or System of lakes?

3. Flows into and out of lake- rainwater harvesting & wastewater

- The main source of water in the lake is rainwater and surface runoff since it affects the quality and quantity of water.
- Absence of centralized drainage system in the town, so the grey water wastage of the town is directly/indirectly leading to the lakes.



A lake, a lake system and urban lake systems Source: (Bal, 2015)



Biophysical Characteristics



Human constructed activities

Attributes of Communities

Socio- economic attributions

- Heterogeneous & homogeneous group of lake users
- Governance faces a challenge to create a harmony in the facilities that could be permitted (or restricted)
- Economical center for Marble, cotton fabric and agricultural produce.
- Reflects in Demographic growth of 33% in a decade.

Rule compliance and Public conscience

- People's willingness to get involved in the governance process is creating awareness
- Still public participation is limited due to Change of lifestyle
- Perception of role as Users and Government as providers.
- In spite of presence of several laws the lack of sincerity, trust and understanding reflect in weak implementation.

Knowledge of resource, social capital and information sharing

- The perception created in the mental models of people is that of being the users of the service (lake) that is made available to them by the government. Thus there is a willingness to user fees.
- The Gundalav Talab has multiple indirect resources such as usage of ground water, lake edge to create public spaces, water body for animals of surrounding minor communities
- The water body is also given the religious status in days of festivals.
- Promote tourism in Kishangarh with help of Mokham Villa and the presence of Fort.
- It is observed that currently there is no single platform where all these various users could interact with each other.

Rules-in-use

Rajasthan Governance structure





Govt. of Rajasthan (CM, MoEF, MoUD, MoWR) Rajasthan Lake (Protection & development) Authority

> Ajmer urban development authority (ADA), District level Irrigation department, DC (revenue department)

> > Nagar palika (ULB)

Administrative Boundaries



Rules-in-use

1. National Lake Development Plan (NLCP) \longrightarrow National Plan on Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NCPA) Launch by the Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoE&F), Government of India and being implemented since 2001, for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas. It is now merged and been substituted by National Plan on Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NPCA) since 2013.

2. The inter-department coordination (RLDA, 2015)



Rules-in-use

2. JnNURM

Facilitates funding for city infrastructure development and lake integration management with other departments.

3. Property rights

- Lake property divided into land of the lake (DC) and the water (MoEF, MoWR, SID).
- Since the rights belong to a distant authority, the local authority is hesitant in prohibiting its deterioration as a cesspool or being encroached by squatters.

4. Networking activities- Internationally & Nationally (locally)

- Rules like Ramsar Convention propagate IWRM which is adopted by NLCP 2004.
- Restoration funds came from International networking and ULBs are motivated to generate funds for maintenance.
- Funds are generated by peripheral activities and leasing but then maintenance of lake ecosystem is overshadowed.

Additional characteristics influencing the governance of Gundalav Talab

1. Heritage Value

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- Presence of Fort and Mokham villa- Jaipur Heritage Cell
- 2. Characteristics of upstream and downstream
- Both are different so importance of lake is different for them
- 3. Urban Development & Land value
- Due to the urban development pattern, land value is higher away from the lake
 - Lake is secluded from infrastructure planning and starts deteriorating



- The Kishangarh master plan was prepared on the basis of population projection, and economic plan for the town.
- Resource availability is not considered while planning. Resource requirements are stated in terms to sustain the strategic plan.
- Instead of ULBs providing a town planning map and consolidating it in one District plan, the opposite is being implemented due to lack of capacity building within the ULBs.
- The lake development plan being prepared by parallel officials is then overlapped/fitted in the town planning.
- Both process progress at different paces resulting in difficultly to create synchronization.

We are a small municipality. We do what the authorities tell us to do. We have no decision power. Usually over recommendations are overheard by the Authorities.

No internal coordination

Discussion

A summary of understanding of the whole study has been below-



Condition Precedents

The IAD framework helps one to organize the understanding and look at the causal relation between Governance and sustainability.

Recommendations

- There is an urgent need of the water quality maintenance of the lake which directs to the immediate construction of a STP on the basis of recent database.
- Case related understanding of what lake delineation for sustainability should address.
- During the study it was observed that lake sustainability awareness is seen in people.
- The study here challenges for a further action of conscience building. Awakening amongst people to get into action is required.
- Lack of association of people with the lake can be addressed through the involvement of KMA, Royal Family, Temple trust, NGOs, Media etc

Introduction of Tools where local stakeholders are equal partners

- Incentivize KMA, local business groups
- Facilitate implementation of CSR with the help of PPP for Maintenance of lake/STP (secondary duties) as per the RLDA
- Platform to celebrate lake existence.

Understanding from study-

- Polycentricism should be harnessed instead of linear models
- Level play tools to be introduced at operational level to change the perception of government as providers and people as users (misusers).
- Studying lake sustainability does not limit to studying the physical lake but its geo-spatial setting and socio-economic



Way Forward-

 How to design these tools where KMA, ULBs, communities could enact as level playing?



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