

Water, an elixir of life

Water is a vital ingredient for survival of all living beings. Imagine a day without water no water to drink, wash, or to cook! People can survive without food for days but not without water.



About 70% of earth's surface is covered with water. Of this 97% is saline and 2% is fresh which is present in the form of ice caps, glaciers, icebergs or in the atmosphere. Only 1% can be used for drinking. We are heading towards a freshwater crisis that is leading to poor access to safe water for millions of people. Hence, conserving water has become the need of the hour, along with an efficient management system, to ensure a steady supply for the future.

About SWISS

To sensitize and motivate students on issues related to water resource management and link these to their everyday lives, TERI (with support from Agilent Technologies) will work with a group of schools in Gurgaon, Haryana. At every stage of the project, different aspects of the issue (water conservation and purification, rainwater harvesting, health and hygiene, water testing, and so on) are to be identified and introduced to the students.

The project aims to

- raise awareness and a sense of responsibility among students towards the environment,
- educate them about water and related issues, and
- create an informed group of citizens to ensure a sustained movement.

Programme milestones

- Formation of Water Group
- Conducting a water survey
- Conducting sensitization workshops
- Organizing hands-on activities like tree plantation, water quality monitoring, and field visits
- Inter-school competitions on environmental issues
- Development and dissemination of resource material
- Providing regular website updates.



Are you water conscious?

Here are some simple ways that will help you save water.

- Form a water-conscious group and encourage your friends and neighbours to be members.

- Make sure there are no leaking pipes in your house.
- Do not leave the tap running while brushing your teeth or washing your face.
- Never throw water if it could be used somewhere: to water a plant, a garden or cleaning the car.
- Avoid unnecessary flushing of the toilet.
- When washing a car, use water from a bucket and not a hosepipe.
- Always water plants during early morning hours when temperatures are cooler. It minimizes evaporation.
- Remember to use only the amount you actually need.
- Encourage your family to keep looking for new ways to conserve water in and around your home.



Some interesting facts

- The major source of water pollution in India is domestic sewage. A bulk of this is released untreated.
- 60% -75% of the adult human body is made up of water—82% of blood, 70% of the brain, and 90% of the lungs.



Water expands by 9% when it freezes. Frozen water or ice is lighter than water and, therefore, it floats on water.

90% of all volcanic activity on earth occurs in the oceans.

About TERI

TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) is a not-for-profit research organization working in the fields of energy, environment, and sustainable development since 1974. What sets TERI apart is that besides research, it has been actively involved in educating and disseminating information to the public. The EEA (Environment Education and Awareness) group of TERI has been promoting this concept and working with schools by sensitizing children towards environmental issues. For more information, log on to TERI's website <www.teriin.org>.

About EEA

The aim of the EEA group is to instill environmental values and sensitize children of all ages and other groups in the society to make them environmentally responsible citizens. Youngsters can act as catalysts to improve the quality of the environment they live in and consequently, their lives. Keeping this in mind, the EEA area has undertaken several short- and long-term projects with schools involving both teachers and students, some of which are stated below.

The GREEN Olympiad, an annual environmental examination culminating into a quiz show called TERRAQUIZ

- Air quality monitoring and awareness project for 50 schools in Delhi.
- Enviro-club for schools on the website (<http://edugreen.teri.res.in>)
- Eco-clubs in MCD schools under the Public participation and Awareness Programme (Yamuna Action Plan)
- BEACON - Building Energy Awareness on Conservation in schools
- PACCIFY - Awareness Programme on Climate Change Issues featuring the Youth
- Annual outreach programmes - Earth Day, World Environment Day, Environment fair, workshops for teachers and students.
- Publications: The Green Olympiad and TERRAQUIZ (Volumes 1,2, 3 and 4), Making Sense of Climate Change, H to O: figuring the flow, Learning from Gandhi, and leaflets, brochures, and posters under different projects.



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SENSITIZATION ON WATER ISSUES FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

'We never know the worth of water till the well is dry'

Thomas Fuller



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