

Vision of Life

Reviving the Water Paths in and around our City....

Pune is a city surrounded by hills and two major rivers Mula and Mutha flow through the city. Naturally there were and still are many natural streams carrying the rainwater falling all over the terrain into these rivers. What is surprising is that we do not have correct data about most of the rainwater flowing in the paths it follows. Right now there are no such records and if they do the information is not available to the Public. Very recently Pune Municipal Corporation conducted one such survey but only they know the outcome.



In many areas there are rain water gutters but frankly it has been proven again and again that closed rain water gutters aren't the solution. Mainly because they are often inadequate to carry the flash floods i.e. sudden volumes of excess run off. In non-rainy days they get clogged up and become useless during the rains.

What usually happens is that, as there isn't any infrastructure to drain this rainwater in suburbs, the rainwater keeps on flowing in any direction where the space is available. Especially, when there is heavy rainfall in a short time span this leads to a flood like situation.

[Water, water everywhere...](#)



Take the example of the NDA road from Chandani Chowk to Bavdhan. There are hills on one side and on the other side there is residential area. Earlier, all the rainwater coming from over the hill used to flow across the NDA road straight into Ram river. Over the years buildings kept cropping one by one in the residential area and naturally the hills were left as it is. The water paths aren't fixed or defined they went on reducing and gradually the last of the development is now seen to be a major blockage of the water paths and a reason of flood.

In some cases there were natural stream flows but as they aren't recorded on any of the documents. Also the administration either overlooked or was not able to justify their stand



and a huge development took place. There is a need of mapping all such water-paths and document it, get it publicized and then we can ensure that



they get maintained. All this has to be done in a fixed time span to avoid such situation in every monsoon.

[Who's Responsibility?](#)

The local body i.e. Town Planning, Collector, PMC should collectively make this excess rain water flooding arrangements. Cities like Los Angeles where flash rain fall is routine, have made such arrangements in the form of man-



made Streams across the city by studying the contours and natural water flowing paths. Because such sudden mass of rain water can not be carried away by the regular under ground drainage there has to be a parallel arrangement in place. By making such man made water paths we can collect all such sudden rain fall in proper form and dispose it without making harm to residents of the city. These paths even can be utilized for traffic in non rainy days.

On the other hand we in Pune have closed down the Canals which we had and which we could have used for draining of the excess water on roads or water clogged areas.

As an individual or a society again we have to turn our attention to Rain Water Harvesting which I have been stating in all my articles. We must understand that allowing our Rain Water to flow on roads is as hazardous as allowing our drainage water to flow in open.

Same water then not only damages the roads but also is responsible for creating hazardous conditions like Chicken Gunya.

At the end 'It's never too late to start a good thing' is all I can say.



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