

SINCE LAKES ARE IN DEEP WATER, MATH STEPS IN

By Deepthi Sanjiv, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Jan 2, 2017, 04.00 AM IST

Dhavalatraya Jain Kashi Trust takes up lake protection, rainwater harvesting



The Mahaswami participates in a lake protection campaign along with students in Moodabidri

Worried about the ever-increasing water crisis in the Dakshina Kannada district, the Dhavalatraya Jain Kashi Trust of Jain Math Moodabidri located about 35 Km from Mangaluru launched a campaign over the weekend to protect lakes.

Speaking to Mirror of the initiative, Swasti Shri 'Bharata Bhushana' Bhattaraka Charukeerthi Pandita-charyavarya Mahaswami of Jain Math in Moodabidri said there was a time when Moodabidri had as many as 18 lakes. But now, there are only seven lakes left in the area.

"Keeping in mind the increasing water crisis with every passing year, we decided to protect the existing lakes and in this way help improve the water table of the district. In addition, we will promote rainwater harvesting," he said

"We started building a lake at Padumarnad village near Alangar in Moodabidri. This project is supported by the Alva's Education Trust. Works in this regard commenced in July. We are also promoting rainwater harvesting in all buildings of the Math as well as the 18 basadis.

We are working towards the protection of lakes and wells. The 18 basadis in Moodabidri have 18 wells in all,” he added.

In this regard, an awareness programme was conducted for the students as well as the public on Saturday. The Swamiji stressed on the need to protect the natural waterbodies and in turn protect the environment and reduce pollution. In an attempt to increase the groundwater table, the Swamiji also suggested that people dig percolation pits preferably next to a well. In addition, he also requested the public and students to contribute Rs 100 towards development of lakes in addition to dedicating one day a year towards environment protection in the form of service.

Speaking about the lake at Padumarnad village, Swamiji said it is about 100 feet in length and 40 feet wide and its depth is about 10 feet. In addition, the math has also taken up two other lake development projects, one in Tenka Mijar village that is about 50 feet in length, 20 feet in width, apart from a lake in Bajagoli that is also being developed.

“We first want to develop Moodabidri as a model town, which we will replicate in the district, then the state and then the nation. Once the lakes are developed, we will insist that the government does not permit high-rise buildings near them. They should also take up measures to see that sewage drains are not connected to lakes. Our focus is not just the protection of lakes, but also the ecological habitat around it. Priority should be on building lakes and wells and not bore-wells. We need to prevent a water war,” he said.

V Ramachandra from Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISC, Bengaluru, is guiding the math in the development of lakes.

It was only recently that Lake 2016, an international conference on Conservation and sustainable management of ecologically sensitive regions in Western Ghats was organised by Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, Alva’s College Moodabidri and Alva’s Institute of Engineering and Technology in Moodabidri.

=====