

# DECCAN Chronicle

Published on *Deccan Chronicle* (<http://www.deccanchronicle.com>)

[Home](#) > Water mafia sucking Madiwala lake dry

## Water mafia sucking Madiwala lake dry

Sangeeta Bora | April 25, 2014, 05.04 am IST



Water tankers parked near Madiwala Lake in Bengaluru on Thursday. — Satish. B

**Bengaluru:** While the entire city is reeling under water crisis, private water suppliers near Madiwala Lake are making a killing. They have drilled borewells in close proximity to the lake and using it for commercial purposes, thereby violating many laws and supplying poor quality water laden with health hazards.

The Drinking Water Resource Protection Act 1999 stated that while digging borewells there must at least 500 metres radius distance from the water supply source. Again in November 2012, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) issued an order that no more borewells should be dug in Bengaluru for commercial purposes.

In fact, it had notified the city as an overexploited area, based on a study done by the Board, along with the state Mines and Geology Department, in 2009.

BWSSB Deputy Chief Engineer said, “They are definitely not allowed to do so. I am not informed

about the situation. But if any resident sends me a complaint, I will forward it to the concerned engineer and he will issue necessary notice. In the worst case, we can use the help of police as well.”

He wondered why people were still seeking private water tankers, when BWSSB was providing water in tankers at a much cheaper rate of Rs 360 for 6000 litres. “I feel some people are spreading wrong message about the water supplied by the BWSSB, whereas we supply pure Cauvery water.”

A report last year had revealed that almost 90 per cent of water in the city lakes were not drinkable.

“It is quite evident that lake water will seep into the borewells near the lake. This water will be highly contaminated as sewage water is released into the lake. They have high nitrate concentration, which can cause cancer. There is no appropriate regulator. They are killing the lake by over extraction of water. Generally, 200 metres radius is the buffer area of a lake as per the norm, but BDA has diluted the rule. None of the authority has a map of the lake to point out the boundary and this has encouraged the water mafia. They should make a map with the catchments area and make it available to the public,” Dr T. V. Ramachandra from IISc pointed out.

When Deccan Chronicle visited the spot, there were around 10-15 private water tankers waiting near the lake, close to Karnataka Forest Department office.

Residents in the area rue that in the last 6-8 months the menace has increased and also posing danger to children playing outside.

S H Khadri, a retired government officer and a local resident said, “It is quite disturbing as their frequency has increased. Our children cannot go out for cycling as it is quite scary as these water tankers are driven rashly.”

Voicing a similar opinion Arbind Gupta, another resident and an activist fighting for lake rejuvenation said, “Clearly, there are a lot of violations and the authority has turned a blind eye.”

**Tags:** [nation](#) [1]  
[Crime](#) [2]  
[karnataka](#) [3]  
[Water Mafia](#) [4]

**Source URL:** <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/node/115440>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/content/tags/nation>

[2] <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/content/tags/crime>

[3] <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/content/tags/karnataka>

[4] <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/content/tags/water-mafia>