

## **Village stories (Water)**

We should save as much as rainwater as we can, that should be the aim of all of us whether we live in village or in Cities.

I am going to narrate a story of a village that lies down stream of a big dam. As it was told to me was devastated in order to supply water to a big city in Gujarat.

Binni Ka Khoya, was famous in Kutch, it came from Binni but is all going to be history now. A dam is constructed in North Kutch and grasslands below and vegetation also got lost for the lack of water. Hence the community that lived on raising cattle for milk and milk products like famous tasty Binni ka khoya lost their lively hood. They started migrating with their folks and cows and buffalos, sheep and goats towards the grassland and started occupying the Government lands. This community primarily consists of Muslims. Once you loose your roots, it does not take long to loose your identity.

This story is told to me by Shri Lallu Bhai who is a social worker in north Gujarat for last 30 years and known as Gandhi of this area. This is one of the drawbacks of big dams. I even heard a second story from a person from Haryana that because of Bhakra Nagal canal system and dams, the down stream land in Haryana and Punjab are getting water logged because of seepage. Similar stories were heard in case of Indira Gandhi canal in Rajasthan. Homes in Jodhpur have become damp, a rare virus decease had occurred which could not be treated with any antibiotics.

This is due to, some expert call as gene mixing problem. Dampness inside homes and out side dry creates unique problems. There are thousand such stories are surfacing in India in various parts of the country specially in Bihar where back water had caused lot of such problems of flood in the area where it never occurred before, because of tremendous silting caused by Farraka barrage on Ganga in West Bengal.

On our recent trip we visited the place and ate Khoya with all the volunteers at Lakadiya center of Manav Kalyan Trust ( MKT).

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