



A Review on Rainwater Harvesting in India

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ABSTRACT

Water scarcity is a problem in many parts of the world. In some regions, there is physical water scarcity because there are not enough resources of water to supply the increasing demand, while other parts of the world have an economic scarcity, where resources are more abundant but poor governance and other problems render water unavailable for most of the population. Where the problem is economic water scarcity, there are many solutions that could ameliorate the problem, but most times the solutions require a change in government, more economic resources and a better willingness. Solving the problem requires long-term changes; however the need for water is immediate. This is why many methods have been developed for water storage and reuse, however because the problem is not a lack of water but poor management, implementing and maintaining systems is simply not a reality in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa and Latin America. Water supply systems in Honduras provide service to approximately 86% of the total population (WHO/ UNICEF 2010), however the service is not continuous, and the quality of the water supplied is not high enough to be considered potable.

1 Introduction

Water is essential to all life forms on earth - human, animal and vegetation. It is therefore important that adequate supplies of water be developed to sustain such life. Development of water supplies should, however, be undertaken in such a way as to preserve the hydrological balance and the biological functions of our ecosystems. Consequently, the human endeavor in the development of water sources must be within the capacity of nature to replenish and to sustain. If this is not done, costly mistakes can occur with serious consequences. The application of innovative technologies and the improvement of indigenous ones should therefore include management of the water sources to ensure sustainability and to safeguard the sources against pollution. As land pressure rises, cities are growing vertically and in countryside more forest areas are encroached and being used for agriculture. In India the small farmers depend on Monsoon where rainfall is from June to October and much of the precious water is soon lost as surface runoff. There is now increasing interest in the low cost alternative - generally referred to as 'Rain Water Harvesting' (RWH). Water harvesting is the activity of direct collection of rainwater, which can be stored for direct use or can be recharged into the groundwater. Water harvesting is the collection of runoff for productive purposes. Rain is the first form of water that we know in the hydrological cycle, hence is a primary source of water for us. Rivers, lakes and groundwater are all secondary sources of water. In present times, we depend entirely on such secondary sources of water. Water harvesting is to understand the value of rain, and to make optimum use of rainwater at the place where it falls. Rainwater is free from salinity as well as arsenic contamination and is safe too if it is maintained hygienically. The physical, chemical, and bacteriological characteristics of harvested rainwater usually represent a suitable and acceptable standard of potable water. Harvested rainwater can be used not only in drinking purposes but also in cooking, washing, and bathing. The main limitation of this option is non-availability of rain water around the year. But it can be widely used as supplementary source if rainwater is properly stored in rainy season.

2 Benefits of Rainwater Harvesting

1. Environment friendly and easy approach for water requirements
2. RWH is the ideal solution for all water requirements.
3. Increase in ground water level.
4. Mitigates the effects of drought.
5. Reduces the runoff, which otherwise flood storm water drains.
6. Reduces flooding of roads and low-lying areas.

7. Reduced soil erosion.
8. Improves the ground water quality.
9. Low cost and easy to maintain.
10. Reduces water and electricity bills.

There is method adopted for rooftop rain water and recharging of the underground water into acquifers directly. The comparison made between Cost of Brickwork, R.C.C. recharge pit and Cost of pit installed with recycled plastic drums.

(A) Cost of Brickwork, R.C.C. recharge pit

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY	RATE IN (RS.)	AMOUNT (RS)	DSR-2018 ItemNo.	DETAIL OF QUANTITY
DSR-2018 Items :							
1	Earth work in excavation by mechanical means (Hydraulics excavator) / manual means over areas(exceeding 30 cmin depth, 1.5m in width as well as 10sq.mon plan) including disposal of excavated earth, lead upto 50m and lift upto 1.5m, disposed earth to be leveled and neatly dressed: All kinds of soil	Cum	23.75	181.85	4318.94	2.6.1/74	$(3.46*2.86*2.40)=$ 23.75CUM
2	Filling available excavated earth (excluding rock) in trenches, plinth, sides of foundations etc. in layers not exceeding 20cm in depth, consolidating each deposited layer by ramming and watering, lead up to 50 m and lift upto 1.5 m.	Cum	2.16	219.65	474.44	2.25/77	$(3.00*2.40*0.80)$ =2.16CUM
3	Filling of gravel 20-40mm thick	Cum	9.60	1943.00	18652.80	2.25/77	$(2.40*2.00*2.00)$ =9.60CUM, MR-55*35.32=Rs.1943PERCUM
4	Providing and laying in position cement concrete of specified grade excluding the cost of centering and shuttering- All work upto plinth level. 1:5:10(1 cement:5 coarse sand: 10 graded stone aggregate 40mm nominal size)	Cum	0.44	5520.30	2428.93	4.1.10/86	$(3.23+2.63)*.5*0.15$ =0.44CUM
5	Providing and laying in position specified grade of reinforced cement concrete excluding the cost of centring, shuttering, finishing and reinforcement- All work upto plinth 1:1.5:3(1 cement:1.5 coarse sand:3 graded stone aggregate 20mm nominal size)	Cum	0.90	7718.25	6946.43	5.1.2/95	$20*0.6*0.6*0.125$ =0.90CUM
6	Steel reinforcement for R.C.C. work including straightening, cutting, bending, placing in position and binding all complete upto plinth level. Thermo Mechanically Treated bars.	kg.	141.30	83.50	11798.55	5.22.6/100	STEEL@2% OF R.C.C.= $0.9*7850*2/100=141.30KG$
7	Brick work with common burnt clay F.P.S. (non modular) bricks of class designation 75 in foundation and plinth in : Cement mortar 1:6 (1 cement : 6 coarse sand)	cum.	1.75	6157.45	10775.54	6.1.2/108	$(3.23+2.63)*0.46$ $*0.25+$ $(3.23+2.63)*0.23$ $*0.25=7.20SQM$
8	15 mm cement plaster on the rough side of single or half brick wall of mix: 1:6 (1 cement : 6 coarse sand)	Sqm	7.20	303.90	2188.08	13.5.2/228	INNERSIDE $(2*3.00$ $+2*2.40)*0.82 +$ $3.00*2.40=7.20SQM$
9	Neat cement punning.	Sqm	7.20	42.60	306.72	13.18/228	INNERSIDE $(2*3.00$ $+2*2.40)*0.82 +$ $3.00*2.40=7.20SQM$
Total for DSR 2018 Items :					57890		

DETAILED ESTIMATE (BILL OF QUANTITY)

The cost of construction of Brickwork, R.C.C. recharge pit about to 57,890/- which is highly precious to afford for individual in a small house area .

(B) Cost of pit installed with recycled plastic drums

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY	RATE IN (RS.)	AMOUNT (RS)	DSR-2018 ItemNo.	DETAIL OF QUANTITY
DSR-2018 Items :							
1	Earth work in excavation by mechanical means (Hydraulics excavator) / manual means over areas(exceeding 30 cm in depth, 1.5m in width as well as 10sq.m on plan) including disposal of excavated earth, lead upto 50m and lift upto 1.5m, disposed earth to be leveled and neatly dressed: All kinds of soil	Cum	7.85	181.85	1427.52	2.6.1/74	$\pi/4 * 2.00 * 2.00 * 2.50 = 7.85 \text{ CUM}$
2	Filling available excavated earth (excluding rock) in trenches, plinth, sides of foundations etc. in layers not exceeding 20cm in depth, consolidating each deposited layer by ramming and watering, lead up to 50 m and lift upto 1.5 m.	Cum	5.65	219.65	1241.02	2.25/77	$\pi/4 * 2.00 * 2.00 * 1.80 = 5.65 \text{ CUM}$
3	Filling of gravel 20-40mm thick	Cum	4.02	1943.00	7810.86	2.25/77	$\pi/4 * (2.00 * 2.00 - 1.20 * 1.20) * 2.00 = 4.02 \text{ CUM}$, MR-55*35.32= Rs.1943 PER CUM
4	Cost of the unserviceable recycled plastic drum or container as per market rate	Each	1.00	850.00	850.00	M.R.	MR-850
5	PVC Pipes 110mm 6kgf/cm ²	Metre	6.00	175.00	1050.00	M.R.	MR-1050/6
6	Pvc fittings valve etc. nipple, valve, elbow, union adhesive etc.	Job	1.00	1000.00	1000.00	M.R.	MR-1000
Total for DSR 2018 Items :					13379.41		

In this pattern the rainwater harvesting system installed in very economical price about to only Rupees 13,379/- which is very cheaper in comparison to RCC, brickwork recharge pit.

The cost of plastic drum recharge pit is Rs.(57890/13379) = 4.32 about to 1/4th less than brickwork recharge pit. Hence it promoted to rainwater harvesting system to install in our houses, buildings, industries, land etc. wherever catchment area and runoff available.

Hence we recommend for adopting the recycled plastic drum recharge pit for rainwater harvesting system because it is very economical and becomes a solution for disposal of unserviceable plastic drums or containers .

4. Conclusion

Values obtained for percentage removal of some constituents in experiments is quiet comparable to the theoretical values of percentage removal of those constituents.

Though the experiments were conducted only for some pollutants and about 50% were not experimentally checked, but by taking into account the comparability between the theoretical values and experimental values or remaining constituents, it can be concluded that the system works quiet effectively for these constituents and if only these constituents are considered, the filtered water has these constituents in a range that is safe enough to permit water to be directed underground. The cost comes very low by using of plastic drum recharge method in place of R.C.C., brickwork recharge pit as detailing pertains to above calculation sheets.

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