

# RWH for water crisis

After facing the brunt of water shortage and problems related to water tankers, residents of Sai Amber Society in Nachiket Park, Baner are finally doing their bit to curtail water crisis by installing rain water harvesting (RWH) system in their society.

## PRACHI BARI

WE had faced acute water shortage of bore water in the month of April and May. Earlier we had only one borewell connection but due to shortage of water, we have gone for another bore connection this year. We are aware that the ground water level is decreasing with every passing day. At the same time, most of us have complaints about lack of water but usually we do not pay attention towards the rain water which goes wasted during monsoons," explained Neelam Bende, chairperson of Sai Amber Society. She further added, "To meet the increasing demands of water, it becomes imperative to save water resources. Rain water harvesting is one such method to save and collect water. Hence, we have installed a rain water harvesting system in our society."

Vaidehi Gokale, treasurer of the society added, "There have been times when the tankers were not available on time. The entire summer we needed tankers almost everyday and it would be a long wait. That is when we realised that RWH is necessary. We started searching for the agencies who will guide us in this project. As a result we learnt more about this project.



**AWARENESS:** Residents of Sai Amber Society in discussion with the RWH experts

We had read about RHW in Cityplus and found that it could indeed be effective. We spoke to experts like Dr D G Deshkar of Bharatiya Jal Sanskriti who guided us about the plan to carry forward this plan."

To fight the water crisis, the entire society as a whole took initiative for the RWH project. "We had 100 per cent support from our society members who responded positively and promptly. Of course, to understand the importance of the system, we had called Prof Uday Chipalkatti and the implementation

team to give the presentation on RWH using 'Jalodaya' method," added Bende. He further said, "I am sure now we can easily collect a huge amount of rain water which shall help us during emergencies. This water can be used in many ways like bathing, general washing purposes, washing of cars etc. We will be collecting nearly 2 lakh litres of water every year which is almost more than two months of consumption. RWH not only helped us to save water but also helped in increasing the moisture levels of soil

and also helped to improve the ground water level. I am sure it will help to prevent flooding during the heavy rains as well."

Society now plans to invest in other projects like vermiculture. Also, they plan to construct a badminton court in the society's premises. While Gokhale stressed that RWH serves as a great importance in today's world. "I personally feel that every society should take up this project as it helps in a long run. In short, our society has now become a 'tanker free society'."



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VAIDEHI GOKALE, TREASURER

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