

Project title	Evaluation of World Bank aided Water Supply Schemes
Source of funding	Science Technology and Environment Department, Government of Kerala
Year	2003

Abstract

Water supply and sanitation are recognized as vital inputs for maintaining the health and quality of life of the population. The Kerala Water Supply and Sanitation project funded by the World Bank with a proposed outlay of SDR 42.70 million was approved on 16th July 1985 and made effective on 9th December 1985. Though the original project period for setting up water supply schemes was over by 1995, completion as envisaged in the original proposal was not achieved at least in some cases. An evaluation study of seven World Bank aided projects was undertaken by KSI during 2001– 2002.

The aim of the project was to improve the institutional, operational, and financial performance throughout the water supply and sanitation sector in Kerala. Physical status and the current condition of the structures and their running were collected during February. The seven subprojects covered by this study were in Puthencruz and adjoining panchayats, Water supply scheme to Greater Cochin Development Area (GCDA), Water supply project for Kottayam and adjoining panchayats.

Because of the lack of proper upkeep of records such as the implementation details in stages, the description of individual project details, was not always uniform. In the subprojects in GCDA and adjoining panchayats, it was proposed to utilise the existing 1050 mm diameter conveyance main to convey the treated water to ten out of the twelve panchayats of the project. The above lapse resulted in inadequate supply of potable water to four of the panchayats in the southwestern part of Cochin.

It was reported that same problems occurred in two other filter beds earlier. Splashing of water through the sides was a regular feature. It was reported that sanction was accorded for the construction of chemical feeding arrangements. In the subproject in Chithara and adjoining panchayats, the filter plant units were not working to the desired level. Mud wall formation was noticed in the filter beds. In some areas, even one third of the quantity of water proposed was not being supplied.

During the visits to the project areas and the production centres, the water that was produced and supplied, physically looked good. Lack of periodical cleaning of reservoirs and non-scouring of distribution lines would cause turbidity in the supply at times. It was noticed that the KWA did not prepare a completion report of these seven projects. The KWA should have arranged/ordered at least a self-assessment of each of these projects to take action for its improvement.

