

# The Water Book

**Whitman Direct Action's Water Book** was collaborative venture between WDA and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) working on the ground with India's serious water issues. Following the success of the **Biodiesel Book** from 2006, one component of the 2007-2008 **Sadhana Clean Water Project** was to compile and edit a community-contributed to **Water Book**. The resulting publication's primary focus is to educate and inspire its readers through first-hand reports from a diverse range of experiences bringing clean water access to developing communities. It is intended for a broad audience, with some stories ideally enabling small NGOs to creatively overcome challenges and others spurring thought and direction in larger organizations. The secondary audience of the **Water Book** are various media and governmental organizations in hoping to provide personal stories to raise awareness about the water crisis in India.

It was a labor of love of both the organizations involved and WDA, ultimately ending with a 12 hour editing session to get the book to the printer. Copies of the **Water Book** were made available for all attendees to the Safe and Sustainable Water Conference on 19 March 2008, and are *now freely available to download and distribute*. The entire text, unless otherwise noted, is licensed for distribution and publication under Creative Commons. *We hope you learn as much as we did through their experiences. Enjoy!*

**Whitman Direct Action (WDA)** *is a non-profit, open-source, and student-run organization from Whitman College dedicated to helping marginalized people by promoting economically and environmentally sustainable community development. Our goal is to see a world where sustainable practices have replaced destructive ones, where equitable mutual and synergistic opportunity replaces oppression, and where critical thought and action replaces apathy and fear.*

This year's **Sadhana Clean Water Project** aims to address obstacles to clean water access in rural India. India claims the second largest population globally with 1.25 billion people: of that, 226 million people do not have access to safe water. In the state of Maharashtra alone, approximately 700,000 people contract water related diseases annually. The problem of water access is further exacerbated by competition for the limited resources available. The demand for water in India is expected to double by 2025 with few viable alternatives for water acquisition. Our project aims to explore possible strategies with local non-profit organizations and community members to improve the conditions of water access in India.

One strategy WDA would like to emphasize in addressing clean water development is the importance of networking and collaboration. To this end, we have designed the **Water Book** here before you, which features a collection of case studies and essays contributed by NGOs working on clean water development projects. Our intention is that the **Water Book** will become a transparent resource for other NGOs, the government sector, academics, and interested individuals to glean the expertise of their contemporaries in the fields of water development and water purification technology. Additionally, the **Water Book** serves as a unique publication, showcasing a broad spectrum of water development projects and meditations on the water problem in India.

**The Water Book** contains the following chapters, for reading online or download. We encourage you to check it out, and leave your comments at the end of each:

- Chapter One - Experiences of ARTS in Providing Irrigation Through Small Water Harvesting Structures to Rural Poor in India - ARTS: Action in Rural Technology and Services
- Chapter Two - A NGO's Initiative on Community Participation on Water Management - Vigyan Vijay Foundation
- Chapter Three - India's Water Future: Secure or Scarce? - Sudhirendar Sharma
- Chapter Four - Safe Drinking Water Scheme in Villages: A Sustainable 4P Model - Byrraju Foundation
- Chapter Five - A Case Study of Three Villages under the 'Pani Thiye Panjo' Programme: A Multi Institutional Decentralized Solution to Drinking Water Scarcity in Abdasa Taluka, Gujarat - Arghyam
- Chapter Six - Water Security in Thar - GRAVIS
- Chapter Seven - Providing Potable Water to Millions of India's Rural Poor: Creating Models for Sustainable Development - Bala Vikasa
- Chapter Eight - Clean Water by Riverbank Filtration - Dr. Thomas Boving
- Chapter Nine - Household Water Treatment: A Summary of Methods and Techniques - Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)

*We encourage you to share this resource to colleagues and friends. Thanks for reading, and enjoy!*

**Then :** Since its founding in 2005, WDA's structure has been purposefully freeform. It is now tradition to, at the beginning of a new year, openly discuss a number of potential projects until a single project direction is settled upon. Therefore, there has been no specific project that the group has sought to "stand for," instead, the "action" that the group has taken from year to year has changed depending on the proposal passed by that year's WDA members.

Its first project, the **Build-A-House Project**, began before WDA had been formally established. The team built a home for a family left destitute by a fishing accident. Building off the success of the first project, the **Central American Biodiesel Project** in 2006 entailed hosting two international biodiesel conferences and co-founding biodiesel cooperatives and resource centers with organizations throughout Honduras and Nicaragua in order to help marginalized communities grow and produce their own fuel. WDA's most recent project, the **Sadhana Clean Water Project**, was motivated by our belief that access to clean water is a basic human right. It involved publishing a **Water Book**, which is now a resource for nongovernmental organizations across India, hosting a water conference, and conducting a comprehensive study of the water scenario in India's rural Kolwan Valley.

**Now :** We're taking on problems face by immigrants in our own community, and problems faced by their communities in Mexico.

**Whitman Direct Action**

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