

'Shifting Grounds' Newsletter



About the Project

“Shifting Grounds”, a research project has been ongoing from September 2015 in the peri-urban delta areas of two countries: Bangladesh and India. The complete name of this project is Shifting Grounds: Institutional transformation, enhancing knowledge and capacity to manage groundwater security in peri-urban gangetic delta system. This project aims to build knowledge and capacities among local partners to support a transformation process for a sustainable and equitable management of ground water resources. Community people as direct stakeholders of this project are building knowledge on and conducting ‘negotiated approach’ to deal with different key actors related to basic social services. JJS takes the lead of this approach and has been working with community people of Hogladanga village of Jalma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna.

Consortium members: JJS, TU Delft, SaciWATERs, Institute for Water and Flood Management, Both ENDS, and the Researchers to implement this project. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) is supporting the project.

Now we are well informed about how to deal, and negotiate with influential people and service providers. We, in a group, decide the negotiation approach and who to talk.

Reflection from a participant on negotiated approach

Key progress in numbers



237 HHs are sensitized



1 Water Rights Farmers Group and 1 Water Rights Fishermen Group are formed



1 village profile of Hogladanga village is prepared



11 mango tree meetings are completed



1 participatory water management plan and 1 advocacy strategy are prepared



193 HHs from 2 villages are surveyed

Overall Progress

a) Community Awareness and Capacity Building through Mango Tree Meeting

There were eleven village level negotiated workshops named mango tree meetings. Members of Water rights Farmers and Fishermen Group in addition to few community people participated in these workshops. Through this workshop people learn about negotiated approach at the community level and practice it here. This contributed in building local capacity to deal with service providers (both actor and institutions), and other stakeholders, and to strengthen community based problem management. Participants discussed their local problems in these workshops, prioritized it, and came up with local negotiation plans.



b) Stakeholder Consultation

Having commitment from different stakeholders on providing supports to address main problems of Hogladanga and Matom Danga villages is the key result of a stakeholder consultation on 21st September 2017. The main problems discussed in this workshop were scarcity of safe drinking water, water logging due to blockade to natural water flow caused by canal encroachment, and pollution due to waste dumping near to those villages. Deputy Commissioner Khulna, representatives from Bangladesh Water Development Board, Department of Public Health and Engineering, Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, local elected bodies, Journalists, and community people were attended this workshop.



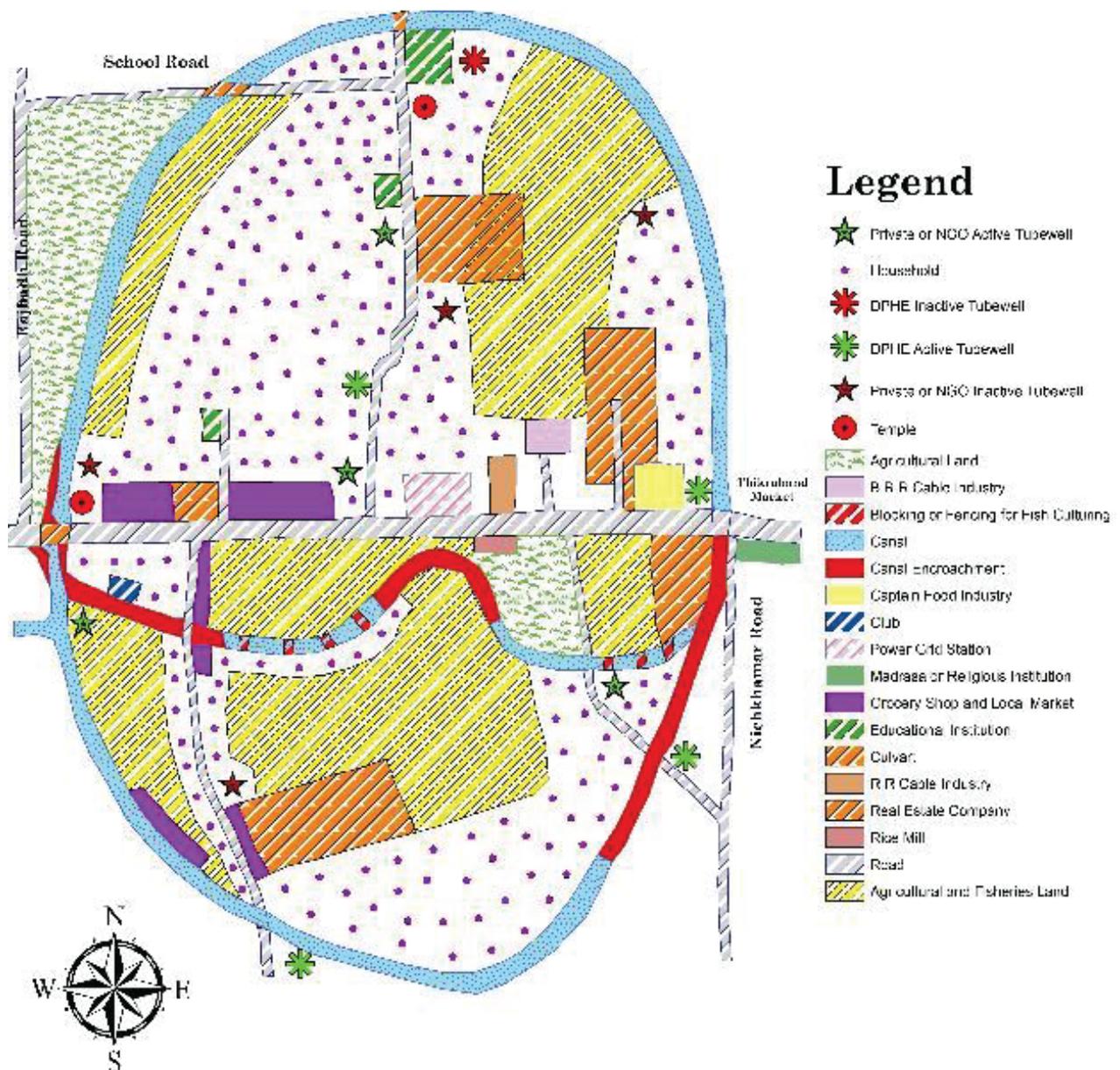
JJS has been working in these two villages for three years. Through a number of mango tree meeting (kind of yard meeting), the community people have had identified problems related to safe livelihoods and access to natural resources. A number of consultation meetings were also held in past as a background work to ensure the best result out of the negotiated approach with key service providers. One such consultation was organized on 6th August 2017 with Upazila Chairman and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Batiaghata Upazila to discuss how to implement the Water Management Plan of Hogladanga Village at Upazila Parishad, Batiaghata and get support from upazila administration. JJS also conducted another consultation with Blue Gold Team on peri urban ground water management issues like accessibility of safe drinking water, canal encroachment and water drainage problem etc. where Blue Gold opined that they can work with JJS on canal encroachment issue.

c) Local Negotiation Group and Plan

Based on the discussion in the mango tree meeting, community people find out 'probable solutions' for problems identified, and 'who' to address to get those solutions. Then a negotiation plan is prepared considering the overall discussion. Villagers also selected a six member negotiation group in the village.

d) Village Profile and Negotiation Plan Development

On April 2017, JJS prepared a GIS based Hogladanga village map considering community prepared social map where privately owned, DPHE installed, functional and non-functional tube-wells were identified and shared with all project partners. Community people prepared this social map by themselves identifying different features of the villages, problems, etc. in a participatory way.



e) International workshop

An international workshop with project advisory group, key experts and project team was organized on 6th February 2017. One of the main purposes of this workshop was to share project progress and ensure face to face discussion between guests from two project countries: Bangladesh and India. Several presentation were provided on socio-economic, institutional, and ground water researches in addition to two presentation on negotiated approach and field results. ATM Zakir Hossain, the Executive Director of JJS, informed that negotiated approach was implemented with the help of Both ENDS the Natherlands. This approach is not just focused on community participation but also their empowerment. Following presentation, a discussed was taken place and a number of points raised here including how this approach is different from participatory approach, development and dissemination of knowledge, community empowerment, local vs national water management plan, etc.



f) Stakeholder Mapping

The community people of Hogladanga are facing many problems related to water and environment. Drinking water quality, canal encroachment and water contamination by KCC Waste dumping is the most prioritized issues for the community. The project has supported to form a negotiation group consist of six members to work with the related government department and other stakeholders. The negotiation group has developed a stakeholder power mapping and diagram to address the issues.

Issues: Drinking Water Quality

Level of Influence	Supporters	Fence sitters	Opponents
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Union Parishad - Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) - Community People 		
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upazila Administration - Upazila Chairman/Upazila Parishad - Khulna university - Media 		
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of Parliament (MP) 		

Issues: Water Logging

Level of Influence	Supporters	Fence sitters	Opponents
High	- Real Estate Developers	- Khulna Development Authority (KDA)	- Farmers - Community People - District Administration
Medium	- Fishermen (Fisher Folk) - Roads and Highway		- Upazila Administration - Union Parishad - Upazila Parishad - Media
Low	- Department of Fisheries (DoF)		- Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) - Department of Agriculture Extension - Member of Parliament (MP) - Khulna University (KU)

Issues: Waste Dumping

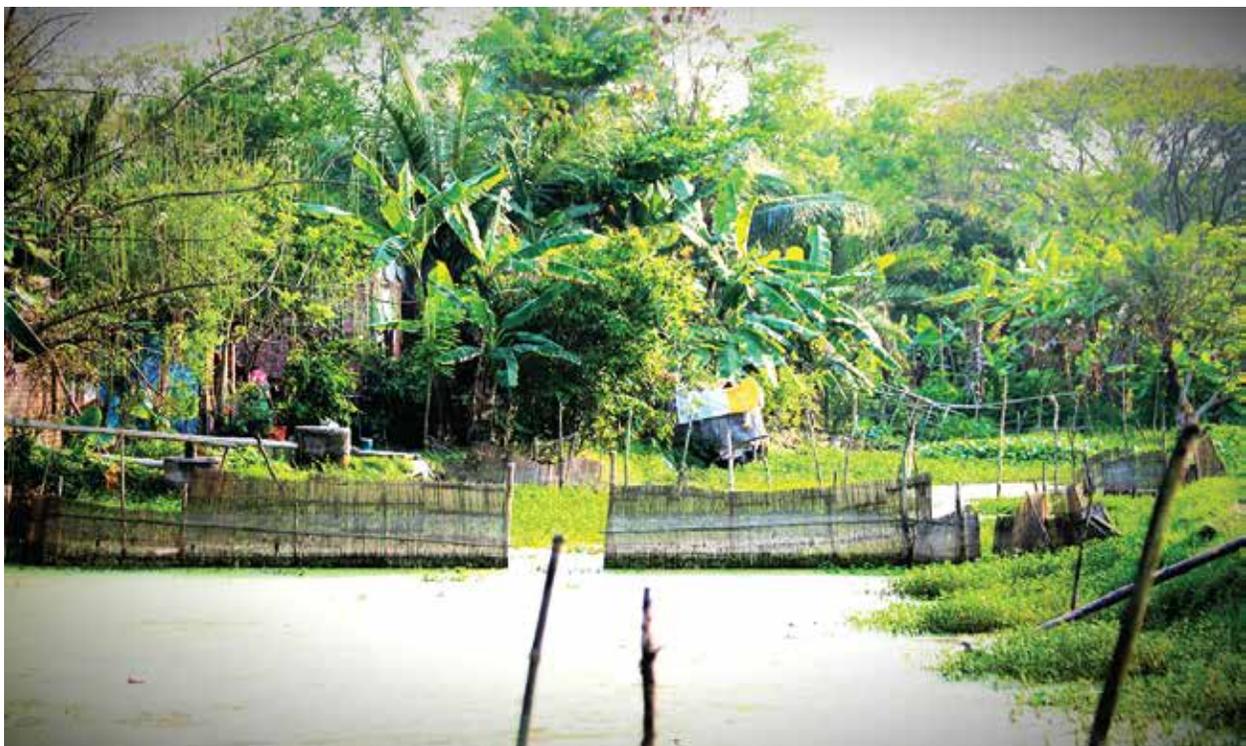
Level of Influence	Supporters	Fence sitters	Opponents
High	- Khulna City Corporation (KCC)		- Community People - Farmers - Fishermen (Fisher Folk) - Department of Environment (DoE)
Medium			- Upazila Administration - Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) - Non-Government Organization (NGO) - Media
Low			- Union Parishad - Upazila Parishad

Analysing the above considerations the community negotiation group decided to work with Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, Upazila Administration and Department of Public Health Engineering for drinking water issue; District Administration, Upazila Administration, Union Parishad and Bangladesh Water Development Board for Water Logging Issue and Khulna City Corporation & Department of Environment for Waste Dumping issue.

A blog on 'Stressed aquifers and water scarcity in peri urban Hogladanga village'

This village is located in the urban fringe or peri-urban areas of Khulna city around eight kilometers from the city centre. It is a village of *Jalma* Union under *Batiaghata* Upazila. According to the 2011 Census report of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 237 households live in this village. Migrating people are settling in the village, attracted by the nearby urban centre. Agriculture is the main occupation, with mostly tenant farmers who share their crops with landlords and water vendors. Activities in the aman (rainy months) season are shifting to white fish aquaculture instead of paddy because of low profit from rice.

Both surface and groundwater are the sources of water. Groundwater from deep tube-wells is mainly being used for drinking and household purposes, but also being used for irrigation to a limited extent. Use of shallow groundwater sources is limited due to salinity problems. A massive canal once flowed through the village but now it is almost dried out. Land encroachment is predominant here which is leading to the death of the canals and water bodies. Major water related issues in this area include scarcity of safe drinking water due to shortage of deep tube well, salinity intrusion in ground water, excessive iron and chloride contamination in drinking water, water logging and drainage congestion, siltation/sedimentation in canals, canal encroachment and improper management of sluice gates to maintain systematic water flows to the river and from the river. Water quality of shallow tube well less than 400 feet depth is not good. Presence of salinity and iron in shallow tube well water depth should be 1000 ft. to 1200 ft to get good quality water. People of the village have limited opportunities to avail deep tube-well water for drinking and domestic purposes, as there are only four of such tube wells in the village. Thus, many need to travel a long way to fetch water. To avoid long travel, people collect water for drinking and domestic uses from nearby shallow tube wells. Mostly women and girls collect water from the tube-wells. In addition to that declining of groundwater table make it difficult to get enough water from tube-wells in dry months. The Department of Public Health Engineering is the government department responsible for distribution of tube wells for drinking water and domestic uses. However, the villagers do not get necessary number of tube wells for the village. The villagers need to deposit BDT 6000 to the upazilla parishad to get a tube-well but in most cases they get their money back due to the shortage of quota for the village. The government allocation of tube-wells could not meet the demand of water in *Hogladanga* village. Currently more than two hundred families depend on just six deep tube wells.



Lessons learned

- Small Scale Participatory Water Management Plan is essential for identifying priority issues and solving problems through negotiation with responsible authorities and agencies.
- Community can solve their own problems by their own initiatives.
- Proper investigation for suitable layer is essential before installation of deep tube-wells for achieving success in the hard to find layers areas in the South-West coastal region.
- Ground water use is increasing day by day, rain water harvesting can be alternative way for solving scarcity of safe drinking water in this area.
- Canal re-excavation and proper maintenance of Alutola and Ramdiah Sluice gate is essential for solving water logging problems of this area.
- Proper Implementation of water body use rule in peri-urban areas is essential for stopping canal encroachment and illegal land grabbing.
- Replace and modernise of KCC Waste dumping site is essential for stopping inclusion of waste water into agriculture.



Consortium members

Delft University of Technology

Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management (TU Delft) is the largest and oldest Dutch university of technology, located in Delft, Netherlands. As part of TU Delft, the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management (TPM) wishes to make a significant contribution to sustainable solutions for social problems in which technology plays an important role, through internationally oriented education and research. TPM wishes to open new perspectives by achieving a unique co-operative relationship between the arts/social sciences and the exact sciences/technology, since recent events have shown that a one-sided approach to the above-mentioned problems leads to insufficient results.



Both ENDS

Both ENDS, based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, supports organizations in developing countries in the fight against poverty and in their work towards sustainable environmental management.

Based on the principle that people know their own problems and can come up with their own solutions, Both ENDS has helped hundreds of organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America to find funding, expand their networks, collect information, engage in dialogue with policy makers, promote recognition of local rights, and call attention to the role of gender in environmental sustainability.



Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS)

JJS is an environmental & social development organization working since 1985 in the South-west region of Bangladesh. JJS has its main base in Khulna but works in several regions of the country. It deals with pro-poor issues and poor occupational groups, vulnerable women, children and various other marginalized groups. Since its inception, JJS has been actively involved in addressing and implementing various strategies at a regional level that will alleviate poverty. It encourages greater engagement between civil society and other social actors. Major thematic areas of JJS are Governance & Human Rights; Environment & Food Sovereignty; Climate Change and Disaster Management; Child Rights & Disability and AIDS & Marginal Peoples Rights.



SaciWATERs

SaciWATERs, the South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, is a policy research institute based in Hyderabad, India. From its inception in 2001, it has focused on critical issues related to water resources management in South Asia.

A key endeavour at SaciWATERs has been to enhance the dominant water resources management paradigm in the region with a consideration of all issues using a pro-poor human development approach. The emphasis is on the accumulation of new knowledge through a combination of research, capacity building, and advocacy. Accordingly, it partners with universities and academic institutions from across global north and south to fundamentally reshape water resources knowledge systems in South Asia.



Institute for Water and Flood Management

Institute for Water and Flood Management is a premier institute for the advancement of knowledge and development of human resources in water and flood management, under the aegis of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka. The institute pursues research and capacity development in the field of water and flood management that is vital to the country's social and economic development. The institute also provides advisory and consultancy services to the government and to non-governmental organizations.



The Researcher

The Researcher is a consultancy firm, established in 2006 by Partha Sarathi Banerjee and Dr. Dayabati Roy (as partners) in 2009. Since then it had been engaged in and accomplished a number of research studies under the aegis of different research institutes and agencies, Indian and international, e.g. Understanding the issue of Land Acquisition for Industrialization from Community perspective, Study of Integrated Urban Water Management" in two cities of West Bengal and Assam, Impact of metering of Agricultural Tube wells on Groundwater use and Groundwater markets in West Bengal, Multiple use, Sustainable Rain water harvesting Model-an Impact study of Happa, Coastal Zone Management in West Bengal and Bangladesh, Impact of changes in Groundwater Act on electricity use and agricultural production in West Bengal.



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