



6

WATER CONSERVATION IN THE VEDAS

Dear student, we have studied about water in the previous chapter. In this chapter you will study about water conservation in Vedas. In Vedas, great emphasis is given on water conservation, and also on importance of water in our life



OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you will be able to:

- Understand the importance of water as given in the Vedas; and
- Understand the basic reason behind water conservation in Vedas

6.1 WATER CONSERVATION IN ANCIENT TIMES

Water had been considered as life in Ancient Indian culture - water is life. Very large emphasis is given to sources of water, importance of water for all living organisms, quality and usefulness of water and conservation of water in the Vedas. In Vedas, water is said to have medicinal importance. Acharya



Fig. 6.1

Charak has discussed about usefulness of groundwater in Charak Sanhita.

According to Ancient Indian Civilization, each and every type of water present in this universe should be conserved by us. Highest priority is given to the conservation of river water because they irrigate agricultural fields which are responsible for the survival of life of all living beings. Flowing water of rivers is considered pure so we must not pollute rivers.

Seven Sindhu rivers are mentioned in Atharva Ved. These seven rivers are:

1. Sindhu river
2. Vipasha (Vyas) river
3. Shatudri (Satluj) river
4. Vitasta (Jhelum) river
5. Assikki (Chenab) river
6. Saraswati river

These rivers have been given respect like mother in Rigveda.

ता अस्मश्यं पमसा पिन्वमाना शिवादेवीरशिवद।

भवन्त सर्वा नधः अशिमिहा भवन्तु।

(Rigveda 7.50.4)

Rivers satisfy all living beings by providing water, by providing food etc to them. Rivers love vegetation and they contribute in pleasure of others.



Fig. 6.2

Rigveda laid emphasis on water conservation and it is said in Rigveda that water is like our mother. Water should make us powerful and excellent as ghee makes us. Such water needs to be protected in whatever form it is present and wherever it is present-

“आपो अस्मान्मातरः शुन्ध्यन्तु दृतेन ना दृत्प्वः पुनन्तु।”

(Rigveda 10.17.10)

For water conservation, for rain water and flowing water, it has been said in Vedas O human, rain water and water obtained from other sources such as well, springs, ponds etc contains many nutrients.

Notes

You should know this and you should become energetic and powerful by using such nutritious water.

अपामहं दिव्यानामपां स्रोतस्यानाम्
रूपामह प्रणेजनेदश्वा भवय वाजिनः।

Apamahan divyanampaan srotsyanaam
oopamah prarejnedshava bhavay waajina:

(Atharv ved 19.1.4)



Fig. 6.3

Rain water should be conserved because it is the purest form of water. In this regard, it has been said in Atharved that rain water is very good for us -



Fig. 6.4

शिवा नः सन्तु वार्षिकीः।

Shiva na santu vaarshiki

(Atharved 1.6.4)

Water should be protected from being polluted and our efforts should be such that water is not contaminated. In this reference, it had been said in Yajurved that water should not be destroyed -

“मा आपो हिंसी।”

" Maa aapo hinsi"

At this instant priest ordered that do not destroy water. It is priceless.

Nine types of water had been mentioned in Atharvved

- (i) Parichara aap: - Water flowing from natural waterfalls
- (ii) Hemwati aap: - Water flowing from mountains covered with snow
- (iii) Varshaya aap: - Rain water
- (iv) Sanishyada aap: - Water flowing with great velocity
- (v) Anuppa aap: - Water of such place where there are many marshes
- (vi) Dhanvanya aap: - Water of desert land
- (vii) Kumbheybhiravaratta aap: - water present in earthen pots
- (viii) Anbhrayah aap: - Water of wells
- (ix) Utsaya aap: - water of source

Notes





Notes

In this way, it is clear that water had been given prime importance in Vedas and its all types are pointed out so that water conservation can be done. It is need of the hour that we must grasp the message of water conservation given in our ancient texts and try to conserve water.

It has been said in Vedas that water flows during rainfall and it flows in the form of rivers. Flowing water is considered pure in our culture and that's why rivers are considered respectable as mothers. It had been said in Vedic literature about holiness of rivers that such a river which originate from mountains and flows till oceans is holy. Vedic Rishis want to convey us by this message that we should conserve the flow of rivers. Rivers should be allowed to flow.



Fig. 6.5

In Athurveda, 'Mitr' and 'Varuna' had been said as God of Rain. Water is formed when Mitr and Varuna meet. Mitr and Varuna refer to hydrogen and oxygen respectively.

It had been said in Vedas regarding purification of impure water that both air and sun purify water. Rays of sun purify water by destroying germs present in water.

Saying of Rishi of Rigveda is that 'O Humans, You should consume water which is like honeydew and which has medicinal properties like them who consume it in correct way. Always be ready to praise water -

अप्स्वडन्तरमृतमप्सु भेषजमपामुत प्रशस्तये देवा भक्त वाजिनः।

Apswadantarmritmapsu bsheshjampaamut prashastayey deva
bhakt waajinah

(Rigveda 1.23.19)



INTEXT QUESTIONS 6.1

1. How many types of water had been told in Atharved?
2. What is meant by Saptasainyav?
3. Write names of any two types of water.



WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT

- Importance of water in Vedas
- Water conservation in Vedas



TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Write the names of rivers coming under 'Saptanandhav'
2. Write nine types of water.

CLASS-II



Notes



ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

6.1

1. Nine types
2. Seven rivers
3. Parichara water, Hemwati water (You can take others too)

