



The World Water Day 2016; Jobs in water related sectors

World Water Day is marked on 22 March every year. It's a day to celebrate water and make a difference for the members of the global population who suffer from water related issues. It's a day to prepare for how we manage water in the future. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March as the first World Water Day. Since then the World Water Day is celebrated around the world every year on 22 March, shining the spotlight on a different water related issue.

The World Water Day 2016 focuses on the central role that water plays in creating and supporting good quality jobs. Today, half of the world's workers - 1.5 billion people - work in water-related sectors. Moreover, nearly all jobs, regardless of the sector, depend directly on water. Yet, despite the indelible link between jobs and water, millions of people whose livelihoods depend on water are often not recognized or protected by basic labour rights.

In South Asia most of the fresh water resources are polluted due to dumping of untreated sewage and other waste in river and other water bodies. As a result the fresh water related jobs are increasing as clean water supply business is booming. More and more water supply companies are being established as the demand for clean fresh water is on the rise. To me bottling freshwater and installing water filtration plants are just short term interventions to supply clean water to citizens and the sustainable long term option is protection of surface and ground water from pollution coupled with watershed management aiming at increasing the rate of infiltration.

Watershed management and sanitation are the most important areas that public sector agencies must work on. This will not only help in protection of water resources from pollution but also increase the job opportunities. Water resource management capacity is another area that would require attention of the policy makers in South Asia. Trained human resource can increase the chances of securing jobs in water industry.

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