

Small throw, but Great waves – it's a GLOBE initiation in Nepal

After great launch of GLOBE Nepal in 2000, ECCA initiated very difficult GLOBE program activities of implementing GLOBE protocols to learn science in an easy way. Learning and transferring information went very well but challenge of computer and internet was great that time. However, ECCA supported computers and initiated to install internet in Janakpur and Far Western Nepal – Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur District even in some schools of Kathmandu. It went well till we could do follow up and could not go well after Maoist Insurgency which was very tough time.

For a year we were trying to implement in urban schools so we can do follow up but day by day it was getting difficult due to lack of resources. As ECCA had been working in rural areas and due to Maoist movement, the project movement was very less outside Kathmandu. ECCA is known for creating youth platform but getting problem on involving them in right way.

One day it was in 2001, I was moving on the bank of Bagmati River and realized how big negative changes occurred in the areas in the name of development. I walked all length to observe and to understand how we can bring change. The next day I shared with our youth friends and ask the situation about the river. I was surprised to know that nobody had passed through that and only could say it smell bad while passing through Bagmati River Bridge.

It clicked me and shared with our GLOBE team of involving youth in understanding River situation using GLOBE protocol mainly hydrological parameters. Every Saturday the team of youth, it was always around 15-20 youth visited different spots of Bagmati River and took sample of water and monitored

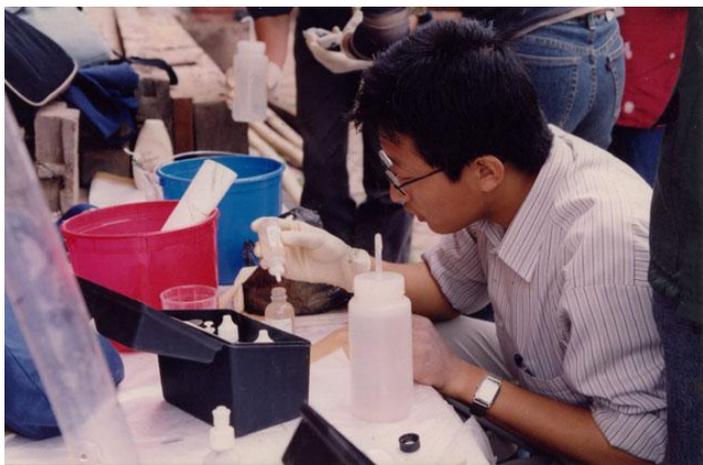


using GLOBE prototype. Every Saturday we went on visiting different spots and taking data and started involving different experts, government officials, NGO/INGO members and so on. Then we started involving local slum youth to aware on that how the situation and to let them how to go ahead. Slowly it became heritage walk.

It went for one year and become very good resource of data for many researchers as that time many researcher used to keep data in their drawer hiding from others. Many researchers started to come in ECCA for river

data. We were little hesitated to provide data as it was not so much reliable as it was taken by learners as our motive was to aware and show the people about local situation of River.

In Earth day 2002, when I was having meeting with Kathmandu Metropolitan



City, I showed the interest on behalf of ECCA to disclose data and do some interaction with local on situation of River. It surprised me that many local Kathmandu inhabitants did not know the situation of River and how it was polluted. Many of them were never passed though since many years as usage of River or benefits of river were nothing as in the past. Previously people used to swim, fish, spend most of the daily rituals nearby River but now and then there was nothing human activities like that and only drained sewage. People has very less priority to go there.



Then in Earth day 2002, during interaction many local inhabitants committed to support for reviving the River, then we thought of doing River Festival and we did it very successfully in January 2003 and involved thousands of population of Kathmandu from different sectors government officials, NGO/INGO personnel, schools, locals and many Ministers. We inaugurated the first day with the involvement of Honorable Minister of Water Resources Ministry. It became the landmark for the initiation of

government to think about Bagamati River and Bishnumati River. Since then there are many organizations who are doing River Festivals in different occasions.

ECCA thought to improve the data management and disclose the situation with right and relevant data in public through government offices like Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), Lalitpur Sub metropolitan City (LSMC) and Ministry of Environment and its unit like Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) who are responsible authorities. ECCA together with Adelphi Research, Germany and ITC, Netherland applied the project in European Union-Asia Pro Eco and succeeded to get the support. Then we did support to establish lab in DHM, data bank in KMC, LSMC, DHM for public access. We trained many government officials of different liaison offices to aware on Kathmandu river situation and study. Our effort was participatory river monitoring to aware all stakeholders from government officials to local people. We played role to bring all people in front to understand. ECCA managed to do many conversation and dialogues among different stakeholders many times. After this project government started to think about role of government on management and conservation of Bagamati and Bishnumati River and started making Bagamati river guideline and followed many outcome of this project.



Now Participatory River Clean up became the one the government successful voluntary campaign these days and every Saturday hundreds of people move to the River to clean up. Nepal Government has targeted to revive the River by 2017 but due to April 2015 earthquake and political disturbances due to blockade its speed has been reduced but it is the one of the example of Participatory project where all government and public worked hand in hand to revive the river.

It is now 15 years, we initiated then just to bring college youth and school youth in Bagmati River with the help of GLOBE prototype like transparent tube, sathy disk, and test kits of different chemical parameters. Now Nepal government with support of ADB and many other donors are in conservation of Bagmati and Bishnumati River with whom we shared our initiation of youth and simple science that we used GLOBE protocols, integrated human values and vision of youth that we saw for 2020. Today, many youth who involved in that journey, now working as expert on river conservation with different international team.

Therefore I say no work is small, no initiation is in vain, just wait, time will tell you how worth it was, it will show in future, just keep on doing.

GLOBE is small step to understand basic science that we need for society, if we blend with human values, it becomes development that you vision for future.

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