This month, we are giving the write up appeared in the Indian express on 21st April.

Tracing history, assn takes a green road by replenishing waterbodies

By Vivekananda Kendra – Nardep

Restoring water level
Coordination of the organisation, Green Rameswaram, V Saraswathi said that her team had found out the site of buried waterbodies by referring to history and holy books and their efforts helped groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting in the island.

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On one side there are many who exploit groundwater to earn colossal profits, and on the other there are a few who help replenish it to ensure a trouble-free future for humankind.

Green Rameswaram, an organisation attached to Vivekananda Kendra, is on a mission, renovating the traditional waterbodies in the island town as part of its Natural Resources Development Project.

Volunteers of the organisation, inaugurated by former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam, along with the help of residents have renovated 27 waterbodies, including Orcunis, and well in the last five years.

They have identified 64 waterbodies so far and claim that 8.5 million litres of water storage have been created to recharge the groundwater. The volunteers also claim that they have revived the traditional kuilamimate system for protecting traditional waterbodies. The renovated waterbodies are benefitting nearly 20,000 villagers.

Coordinator of the organisation V Saraswathi said that her team had found out the site of the buried waterbodies by referring to history and holy books and their efforts had helped groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting in the island.

“There were 105 water bodies in the island as per records and we are yet to find out some of those. We are presently renovating the 28th one near the historic Raman Patham temple. We revive natural fountains in every waterbody that we renovate,” she added.

“Waterbodies we have renovated in the island are different in size. A few of them are like wells. Waterbodies like Kabi located in Pamban, Mangalavanan and Ruvimmerucha in Thangachianadam and Ramar located in the island town are big in size. Meanwhile, Jadamaguda Theertham and Sarvarohanivarana located in Rameswaram - Dhanuskodi route are small,” said Saraswathi.

Explaining about past activities of her team, Saraswathi said that her team had worked to renovate waterbodies in Muthukulathur block in 1990s. “We had thought about rainwater harvesting method even before the State government had brought a scheme. We can still see the waterbodies, that we renovated in Selvanayakapuran, Thattarkudiyiruppu and Kottakudi villages, in good condition. The Central government appreciated us with a Bhoomijal Samwardhan Puraskar Award to encourage our activities,” she added.