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## Challenge and Obstacles in Water Quality Improvement and Water Environment Conservation - Ujjani Lake Basin, India

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In this research, I will introduce a few practices on water quality improvement and the role of citizens' involvement for awareness-raising in the Ujjani Lake basin, India, as well as attempt to suggest recommendations for their further development. Pune city is one of major cities in India and located in western part of India, near Mumbai. Pune is now growing as a centre of IT industry in India and a number of IT related private sectors are coming into the city. There is Ujjani Lake (reservoir) located about 100km away from Pune. The lake basin has the Mula River and the Mula-Mutha River running through Pune and its outskirt area. One of severe problems in Ujjani Lake is degradation of water quality. The lake water exerts bad odor in some parts of its shore and creatures that habit in polluted water are observed. The amount of discharged water into the Mula River and the Mula-Mutha River has increased in proportion to the population growth and industrial development in Pune. With this background, there have been a various activities and movements taking place in Pune and its outskirt in order to improve water quality in the rivers and lake. Pune municipality government is conducting a project for sewage system development, and local experts and NGOs are working on water quality improvement project, tree planting on the river bank, paper-recycling promotion by women's groups, a campaign to stop throwing away garbage at the slums along the river, and citizens-driven water environment conservation with cultural experiences. Although there have been some difficulties in the process of developing mutual understanding between the municipality government and citizens, their awareness of water environment has been reached higher level than before. In particular, women's self-esteem has been obviously raised, and their spontaneous development has given a positive influence to raising-awareness in men. In the rural area, it is still not easy for women to participate to those activities, however, there seems to be excellent learning on water environment and respect to cultural value that have been taken over beyond the generation through those activities.

Keywords: basin management, water quality improvement, participation, gender