

6.2. Water Consumption

Resource depletion and shrinkage is of concern for sustainable development. Water is one such natural resource which is required by human beings for daily activities. Though the dependency on water varies among the nations, the access to water is of utmost priority. Access to water in rural areas in India is of prime concern due to several factors *viz.*, lack of pipelines, potability, approachability, overexploitation, climate change, etc. The WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) programme by UNICEF (United Nation Children's Fund) is a global initiative to provide every child access to safe drinking water in addition to sanitation facilities. In line with United Nations SDG goals, Sri Sri University is committed to monitor water consumption across the campus by tracking water usage on a daily basis. The average water consumption per day in Sri Sri University is 550 m³ with a campus population of 3,714. Thus, the average water consumption per person per day is only 0.148 m³.

6.2.1. Water Consumption Tracking

The mechanism of tracking water consumption by us has helped in a sizable reduction in average water consumption from the previous year. The following measures are taken by Sri Sri University to track the water consumption on a daily basis.

- To track the freshwater quantity used, the buildings are fitted with a water meter and recorded by the concerned staff. The average water consumption in Sri Sri University is 550 m³. This quantity includes harvested rainwater after treatment for consumption, water from main supply, groundwater extraction from wells (**Plate 6.2.1a**).
- Around 15,00 m³ to 20,00 m³ of rain water is harvested in the campus in quarries (**Plate 6.2.1b**). The harvested rain water is passed through the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) consisting of sand filters, activated carbon filter. Upon removal of odour and iron through WTP, the water is stored in tanks for future use (**Plate 6.2.1.c to Plate 6.2.1d**). The WTP removes odour, iron and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) from the water to the desired limits as prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). This water is then used for bathing purpose also.
- The Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha hosts 03 water wells. This water is filtered through Reverse Osmosis (RO) and used for consumption.



Plate 6.2.1a. Water Recharge structure i.e. wells in SSU



Plate 6.2.1b Quarry in SSU



Plate 6.2.1c WTP installed in SSU



Plate 6.2.1d Meters installed for tracking