

# **PROTECTION OF WATERSIDES BY ENACTMENT OF LAWS AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION BY PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**

Carolin Arul; A. Kiruthika

## **ABSTRACT**

Tanks (traditional water storage structures), found in South India are being continuously neglected. Taking this status into consideration, the Government of Tamil Nadu has enacted a historic Act, the Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachment Act, 2007, with a view to protect the urban waterbodies. This paper analyses the hurdles faced by authorities during implementation and suggests ways for sustaining, with the help of a case study. Semi-structured interview and questionnaire survey were used to achieve the objectives. A writ petition filed in the Madras High Court was analysed. Focus group discussion was conducted with the people of another tank, where fruitful initiatives have been taken to sustain the waterbody. This study revealed that, the rules framed should encourage community participation and establish proper linkages towards strengthening the local institutions. Participatory approach could be the viable solution for the sustenance of the waterbodies.

**PALAVRA-CHAVE: tanks, encroachment, participatory approach, local communities**