Traditional Infrastructure, Modern Flows: Cultural Politics of Development in the Kathmandu Valley

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Nepal earthquake

After Earthquake

After our effort
KUKL urged to supply water twice a week

REPUBLICA
KATHMANDU, March 7

Constituent Assembly (CA) member Nabindra Raj Joshi on Friday asked the Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) to distribute drinking water at least twice a week.

Joshi, accompanied by more than four dozens party cadres and consumers, reached the KUKL's head office to convey the problems faced by water-starved consumers to the authority.

"Listening to the grievances about drinking water has become part of my daily routine," he said. "I have asked the officials to distribute water at least twice a week in the areas where water does not reach through KUKL supply line and also find ways to increase the quantity," he added. Joshi said he had also urged the quality of drinking water.

In the letter, Joshi has also urged the KUKL authority to conserve historical stone spouts and wells.

He also inquired about the present status of water production and efforts made by the officials to explore new sources to increasing production. He assured the officials help from the government in their efforts.

Water-starved consumers have started to throng KUKL's main office to complain about water crisis.

Due to increasing hours of load shedding and dry season, production of drinking water has been shrinking. Consumers have to wait more than 10 days to collect drinking water.

The distribution section of KUKL said that growing demand had overwhelmed the
How do different institutions interact with the spout system?
Methods and study area
The Stone Spout System
10% of the Valley relies on spouts
2,000 years of spout water
Introduction of the piped water network
Finding 1: Correlation between income and water source access

Water Sources by Income

- **Well**: * (less than 0.01)
- **Gov. Pipeline**: * (less than 0.01)
- **Tanker**: ** (less than 0.05)
- **Rainwater**: *
- **Spout**: ** (less than 0.05)

* Pearson's Chi Square less than 0.01, ** less than 0.05
Finding 2: Income is not the only factor
Key finding 3: Infrastructure represents culture not just utility
Key finding 4: Multiple sources of water and scales of water governance matter
Kathmandu’s Water Meshwork: Overlapping Modes of Water Supply

Meshwork (Schwartz, Luque, Rusca, & Ahlers, 2015)
Key finding 5: Policies/agreements conflict between institutions

National laws:

1956 Monument Act
“Keep the monument in its original form.” Does not protect the intangible significance or function of a stone spout.

1992 Water Resources Act
Umbrella act governing all water use and water resource management in the country. Vests ownership of all water sources in the State.

International law:
Nepal is party to international treaties that could give protection to spouts i.e. UNESCO heritage or env ones, but they only enter into force when the heritage has been listed.
KMC: Melamchi project failed to repair roads

- Post Report

KATHMANDU, JAN 29 - Kathmandu
Metropolitan City officials have expressed dissatisfaction saying that the Melamchi drinking water project authorities failed to live up to their commitment to reconstruct the roads damaged due to pipe installation.

“They expressed commitment to repair each damaged road,” said Sanjay Raj Upadhyay, Road Department chief of the metropolis. “But, they have failed to do so,” he said.

As per the plans, Melamchi authorities were supposed to install pipes in smaller roads initially and switch to larger roads. However, most roads, including major thoroughfares, have been messed up due to the ongoing pipe installation work.

In recent days, the Melamchi authorities have expedited their work mostly in major residential areas in the Capital with an aim to achieve their target of facilitating entire households with drinking water by 2016. The Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited, responsible for the installing the pipes, has a target to complete the 700 kilometre water distribution network and 55 kilometre bulk distribution system in the Kathmandu valley by mid-April next year.
Thank you!

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“To give the gift of water is the greatest gift of all”