

“EAU CANADA THE FUTURE OF CANADA’S WATER”

“BOOK REVIEW AND ANALYSIS”

I found Eau Canada the Future of Canada’s Water book very interesting and very informative and really an eye opener. Before reading the book I thought that water is only used for drinking, cooking, washing and other household purposes but now after reading the book I am really amazed and shocked that I was wrong, water is really a priceless blessing and very important for survival. The use of water is vast and in almost every industry of life.

The book edited by Karen Bakker has used a very systematic approach towards the understanding of the issues related to water and the general thinking about the water resources. The book goes in a systematic way starting with problem identification and then explained the water shortage problems and also gives solution towards the problem.

Personally I liked the book a lot and I found that it is easily readable and understandable too. This book can be used **by public health officers working in the environmental health** because this book is based on facts and figures. Even I would recommend this book to a common man too who wants to know about the importance of water, issues and crisis related to water. Not only the public health officers working in the environmental health can take benefit from this book but also people associated with other fields like those studying ecosystems, constructors, industrialists and policy makers. **Some of the important points and suggestions made in the book are as follows:**

According to the book the Canadians have false hopes that water is abundant in Canada as we see lots of fresh water sitting in all Canadian lakes and renewable supply from rain, all of which moves to the sea. The book stated that many factors have contributed to the misconception of surplus water supply by Canadians like many quotes from magazines and newsletters have led to the misconception, also social and political implications have contributed to the misunderstanding that Canada has largest water supply. Although in actual terms Canada is among the third in the world, after Brazil and Russia in water supply. This public perception and media misinformation has also influenced political decisions and some government leaders have also evoked the myth of abundance in their statements. The book made a point that the increase in Canadian water demand will increase with time. This increase in human population has led to the climate change which affects water distribution and irrigation because of the potentials needs for water, it is utmost important to keep a realistic approach towards Canadian water resources and their future role. The ecological system has also been adversely affected by man manipulation.

The book discusses the use of water and water management. The problems of water crisis has been identified in 1970s and investments have been made for improvement of water management but to this date no significant improvement is seen even by incorporation of citizen empowerment and economic instruments which supplemented the existing regulatory

frame work. Two ways have been suggested in the book for water use management. The first suggestion is to make existing mechanisms better and second way suggested for improvement of water use management offered by David Brookes is soft path concept. This concept depends on relatively small scale and renewable sources of supply, coupled with ultra-efficient ways of meeting and use demands in order to improve efficiency. Traditional approaches have been characterized as requiring a top down administrative structure and have not considered using alternative resources to provide the services that are currently being provided by existing water resources like making the existing hole bigger. The soft path reflects a new way of solving the problem like digging a new hole. Both traditional and soft path approaches may offer a feasible route towards a better water future in Canada.

One of the challenge in water use management involves balancing withdrawal and in stream uses. A point made in the book is that plans should be made to conserve water than revenue generation. Also efforts should be made to balance human and natural ecosystem like temporary and voluntary restriction of water use often in form of municipal lawn watering bans, has become a regular feature in water conservation efforts in many provinces.

There is a need to get knowledge about the fresh water resource issues including uncertainties such as climate change impact on water supply and distribution as well as methods for protecting water quality and aquatic ecosystems. It is very important to sustain Canada's fresh water resources and social, economic and environmental future of its population, depending on our understanding and approaches we use to achieve effective and equitable water management. This can be done by addressing social, economic and environmental obstacles and this is our duty to protect and improve fresh water resource allocation, use and protection.

The book also informed about the ground water which is an important source of water and Canadians rely on ground water in both obvious and hidden ways. Legally bottled spring or artesian water came from underground water sources, although exact portion of all sales is unknown. Mining, oil, gas, manufacturing and other industries extract ground water too, often in large amounts. Ground water contamination in Walkerton, Ontario caused seven deaths and thousands of illnesses in May, 2000. Also it is mentioned that drinking water in Canada is not safe as well, because Canada unlike Europe and America does not follow enforceable laws setting drinking water quality standards. Repeated calls have been made for all levels of government to strengthen drinking water quality laws.

Canada's municipalities depend on ground water like Quebec has greatest number of municipal systems depending on ground water but Ontario has largest population using ground water. Over one quarter of Canadian municipalities have experienced water shortages in last decade. So it is a wakeup call for all and citizens should also be get involved in making decisions about use of ground water and it can be done by providing sufficient access to quality information about ground water.

The book has also explained the different legal aspects associated with division of water among provinces and with the America too. Also the control of water by federal government has been suggested when some important issues about water division among provinces could not be solved at provincial levels.

I want to use the **Kohlberg-Sinclair prism** for the book review. To my understanding I think we may have got the cart before the horse like the water crisis and shortage problem in Canada has been identified and different laws related to the water management has been made since 1970 but till this date these laws have not been implemented and the problem is the same, like the problem have been identified but maybe we are working in a wrong direction that's why problem is not solved yet. Although people in the society is now becoming more and more aware of the water management problem and I can use **cognitive-developmental approach** after reading the book and this will help to make critical choice after initiating active individual thinking about moral issues associated with water crisis and then developing an ethical reasoning move through moral stages towards a better solution for the problem.

I want to apply **the Preconventional level** presented by the **Kohlberg** to the problem of water shortage at the gross root levels, there should be a generalized awareness among us all about the problem and the result should be judged in terms of solution to the problem. By **the Conventional level** the problem related specifically to the water crisis is identified at the individual and national levels and efforts should be made at maintaining the ecosystems and the biological life of it, stopping the unnecessary water diversions and identifying solutions to conserve water. **The post conventional level** of the Kohlberg a principled approach is made to define moral values and principles that have validity and appreciation apart from the group or individual liking but looking for a better resolution, a better response, and a better ethical state of action as well as reasoning. This can help to make better solutions towards solving the water crisis in Canada.

So I really liked reading the book and it really enhanced my knowledge about the water crisis and the book has also presented solutions to the water shortage faced by the Canadians. The book is easy to read and to understand and is practically applicable in many ways.