

TWO CASE STUDIES OF PONDS IN GOGHAT, HOOGHLY, WEST BENGAL

A. DAS PUKUR : A CASE STUDY OF A DRINKING WATER POND

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Das Pukur of village and P.O. Goghat is well known to the local community to serve as drinking water pond. Littoral region is sandy with sparse macrophytes which help cleansing water. In a freshwater pond known as 'Bankajethe' of Goghat many bamboo poles tied with several horizontal ropes were planted overhanging the pond to prevent unwanted fishing which may be cost effective and less labour intensive and can also be employed in other areas. Enumeration and evaluation of drinking water pond database is desired for formulating sustainable strategies for conservation of such ponds in West Bengal.

Keywords: pond ecosystem, macrophytes, freshwater pond, pisciculture

Pond and lake water can be good sources of drinking water for a community if the watershed feeding the pond or lake is uninhabited (<http://www.clean-water-for-laymen.com/clean-pond>) The present case study of the pond known as Das Pukur of village and P.O. Goghat, District Hooghly in West Bengal (ca. 10 ha in area) was well known to the local community to serve as drinking water pond even in 1970s and 1980s. It is an isolated pond with high embankment without the inflow of outside water, even though an entry-cum-exit point exists on the north. Littoral region is sandy with sparse macrophytes which help cleansing water, which was hardly used for pisciculture. The pond embankment was earlier with a few trees, away from water edge, now there is eucalyptus plantation away from water margin. Local women used to bring drinking water daily from this pond, and sometimes from tube well located nearly a kilometre away. This pond water was also used for socio-religious ritual (marriage and puja) purposes, even now-a-days. This year, on April 3, 2022, the pond water apparently looked clean and almost without unwanted aquatic vegetation (Figs 1-2). Drinking water ponds are known to exist in several villages of Hooghly and adjoining districts of southern West Bengal. As such, herein Block Development level enumeration and evaluation of drinking water pond database is desired for formulating sustainable strategies for conservation of such ponds in West Bengal.



Fig. 1. Broad eye view of Das Pukur – earlier a drinking water pond



Fig. 2. Recent photo of clean water view

B. BAMBOO POLES AND ROPE AS NOVEL FISHING PREVENTION MEASURES FROM A FRESHWATER POND

On 3rd April, 2022, an interesting and unauthorized hand-held net (*Gantijal*) fishing preventive measure was attracted the author's attention which is communicated hereunder. In a freshwater pond known as 'Bankajethe' of Goghat village under Hooghly district of West Bengal this novel measure was noted. Many bamboo poles tied with several horizontal ropes were planted overhanging the pond (Fig. 1) to prevent unwanted fishing using hand held type cast net (*Gantijal*) made of two slender bamboo poles (Fig. 2-3), used by the villagers. Earlier village ponds were usually placed with unclean bamboos with its branches along the littoral region to prevent unauthorized fishing. The present newly evolved measure might be cost effective and less labour intensive. Thus, it can also be employed in other areas and even for preventing throw-type cast net (*Kheplajal*) from pond ecosystems in the country.



Fig. 1. Showing bamboo poles and rope as novel measure of unauthorized fishing



Fig. 2. Showing hand held cast net (*Gantijal*). Fig. 3. Operating hand-operated *Gantijal*