

Abstract | 6. Community Health Konferenz

Titel
Revival of Traditional Stone Spouts (Hiti) in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal: A Sustainable Solution for Urban Water Supply and Preservation of Cultural Heritage.
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The demand for water supply is increasing with rapid urbanization in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. The traditional stone spouts (Hiti) which date back to 550 AD play a great role in fulfilling such water demands in the valley. These intricately carved stones are supported by traditional groundwater supply components such as traditional canals, ponds, and wells which are considered elaborate and intricate in design and technology. Spout water is traditionally regarded as a clean drinking water source; however, it is mostly used by low-income homes in the present day. These functional spouts fulfilled their main supply of drinking water and had a total discharge of 2.4 MLD. Kathmandu Water Supply Development Board (KVWSMB) identified 573 spouts in the valley, out of which only 224 were functional at the time of the survey and 94 were completely lost. Traditionally, these stone spouts system located in a plaza were also a source of community engagement and a place for performing religious rituals bonding a healthy society.

This case study documents the successful revival and renovation of the Alko hiti, a traditional stone spout in the Newar community of Ikkhache tol in Lalitpur, Nepal. In the year 2000, a bone mill factory's waste infiltrated a conduit in Alko hiti. The locals who drank this water experienced diarrhea and vomiting, which sparked a significant conservation movement in Patan. In 2003, active community participation played a vital role in the revival of the Alko hiti complex. Thereafter, the activism not only developed the systematic use of hiti water but also revived the surrounding complex that contained the tangible and intangible heritage of the community like temples, statues, chaityas, paati (traditional resting place), pond, rajkulo (traditional canal). This hiti now serves fresh water for more than 300 households. The exploratory research approach was done to understand the sub-surface structure of the indigenous stone spout system, tangible heritage, and its cultural practices were identified to analyze its contribution towards creating a healthy neighborhood. This case study can be a lesson for indigenous knowledge of a sustainable water supply system and its ripple effect towards preserving intangible heritage through their cultural practices.