

# Importance of Conservation of Water

Importance of Conservation of Water / Water, Water Everywhere...With only 1% of water available for human consumption, doesn't it make sense that we should treat our water supply with more respect? Importance of conservation of water Water conservation should not be considered an option any longer. Current circumstances require our full attention if we hope to thrive as a civilization. If these statements sound dramatic, it is because much of the world is currently suffering due to a lack of clean water. Importance of Conservation of Water / Stats Statistics around the reveal that our fresh water supply is practically nonexistent. That is why it is so important to seek out, find and start using all the innovative water conservation solutions and methods that are available today. Whether you live in Australia or China or the US, it is time to wake up and take responsibility. It is easy to practice water conservation in the home, but there is more to be done. Our world needs help on a commercial level as well so that our waste can be controlled in such areas as agriculture and irrigation. Water Conservation ideas are cropping up in exciting legislation. That's why our participation in the voting process is so important. Let's act now, so our kids will have a brighter, greener future. Demands are increasing every year for water while resources are becoming more and more limited. Since many individuals are unaware (or, sadly, just don't care) that this issue needs attention, it is up to more informed and proactive individuals and companies to take up the slack. A 40% increase is expected in water demand over the period of next two decades. The increase in water demand is a contribution of various factors including growing population, increased agricultural needs, industrial use of water and water needed for electricity production. The problem of water waste is severe in countries where people are using the same inefficient methods for irrigation of agricultural land. Water needs are increasing every year and the proven fact is that clean water is not available to 1 out of 5 people on earth. Solutions are clearly needed. The increased demand in water combined with the pollution of water has had many adverse effects on the environment, growth and economy of many countries. Increased expenditures on pipeline development, sewage and other infrastructure to supply the water to the households and industries. Investment to build more dams to fulfill the water demands and

increased electric supply. • Huge amounts of money going out every year for recycling, cleaning and purification of the water. Large amounts of industrial pollutants dumped in the rivers which are responsible for destroying and upsetting the ecosystem of the whole planet. Rising instances of erosion of land because of increased demand of agricultural land and irrigation. In some parts of world like Australia (known for its extremely dry terrain) rainfall is much less frequent than is needed to make up for water consumption. This situation accounts for the amount of salt increasing in the underground water tables, turning regions into deserts. The problem of water is local as well as global. The resources of water on earth are limited and are reducing every year. Due to the effects of global warming the frequency of rain has become unpredictable. In some parts of world there is rain throughout the year, while in other parts individuals are suffering the consequences. Widespread dry spells are occurring over much of Europe and Asia, Canada, western and southern Africa, and eastern Australia. And in parts of the world where rainwater is available, major problems are still prevalent because of a lack of proper systems to clean the water. Pollutants like oil, cigarette butts and other impurities make the percentage of usable water practically nonexistent. Methods of water conservation must be implemented in these areas if our planet is to continue to sustain itself. The United Nations has predicted that by the next two decades there will be 17% more demand of water compared to resources available. The unpleasant fact is that the most people remain careless and do not recognize the importance of water conservation. Huge campaigns are conducted every year by many government organizations and NGOs to spread awareness of the importance of water conservation. As citizens of this planet it is our individual responsibility to take an active role in water conservation. The simple tasks we perform every day like gardening, tending to laundry, washing our cars, etc. are opportunities for us to make a difference. Change begins with us, and if we lead by example, others are more likely to follow. I sincerely believe the consciousness of the planet is changing. And even though some statistics may appear grim, other stats reveal a growing awareness. There has actually been a decrease of water consumption in some areas due to more water efficient toilets and appliances.

## Protection of Women from Domestic Violence

AGGRIEVED PERSONS v Are minors entitled to reliefs under this law? Yes, as the term 'child' is defined under the law, minors will also be within the ambit of the definition of 'domestic relationship'. Section 2 (b) of the PWDVA defines child as "any person below the age of eighteen years and includes any adopted, step or foster child". v Can a minor male apply for reliefs under this law? The mother can make an application on behalf of her minor child (whether male or female). In cases where the mother makes an application to the court for herself, the children can also be added as co-applicants for a relief under the PWDVA. The Court can also, whenever appropriate, appoint a guardian or next of friend to represent the child. v What is the meaning of the expression 'relationships in the nature of marriage' used in the definition of 'domestic relationship' (Section 2(f))? 'Relationship in the nature of marriage' refers to those relationships where there is no marriage between the parties, in the sense of solemnization of a marriage under any law. Yet the parties represent to the world that they are a couple and there is stability and continuity in the relationship. Such a relationship is also known as a 'common law marriage'. o Proof of such a relationship would be: the use of a common name, common ration card, same address, etc. It is useful to look at the South African case of Ethel Robinson Women's Legal Centre Trust versus Richard Gordon Volkas etc, (Case no 7178/03, in the High Court of South Africa, Cape Province Division), in which the following factors were considered in arriving at a conclusion on whether or not a relationship can be deemed to be a relationship in the nature of marriage between the parties : The commitment of the parties to the shared household. the existence of a significant period of cohabitation. The existence of financial and other dependency between the parties including significant mutual financial arrangements vis-à-vis the household. The existence of children of the relationship. The role of the partners in maintaining the household and in the care of the children. Indian cases on relationships in the nature or marriage Badri Prasad AIR 1978 SC 1557 The Supreme Court held that a strong presumption arises in the favor of wedlock where the partners have lived together for a long spell as husband and wife. Sumitra Devi (1985) 1 SCC 637. The Supreme Court held that relevant facts such as how long have the parties been living together, does society recognize them as husband and wife, etc need to be looked into to determine whether the relationship is in the nature of marriage. o Accordingly, the following categories of women are intended to be covered under 'relationship in the nature of marriage': § Women, whose marriages are void or voidable under the law, as apart from the legal invalidity of the marriage, the relationship satisfies all other criterion. § Women who are living in a shared household in a conjugal relationship without contracting marriage. Common law marriages- when a couple has been cohabiting for a number of years and have held themselves out to the world as being husband and wife. v Does the use of this term bring 'relationships in the nature of marriage' at par with marriages? The law simply provides protection from violence to all women whether they are sisters, mothers, wives or partners living together in a shared household. To the extent of providing protection, the law does not differentiate between married and unmarried women. The law, however, does not state anywhere that an invalid marriage is valid. It provides protection from violence, the right to reside in the shared household, temporary custody of children, etc. However, for succession to the property of a male partner or in deciding the legitimacy of children, the general law of the land or the personal laws of the parties will have to be relied upon. RESPONDENTS v Who can a woman complain against? A woman can file a complaint against any adult male perpetrator [Section 2 (q)] of an act of

violence. In cases where the woman is married, or lives in a relationship that is in the nature of marriage, she can also file a complaint against the male or female relatives of the husband/ male partner who have perpetrated the violence. The proviso to Section 2 (q) was included in the PWDVA as, under Section 498A of the IPC, it is possible to prosecute the relatives of the husband for cruelty, whether male or female, example, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, etc. v Who fall within the definition of 'relatives' under section 2 (q)? The word 'relative' has not been defined in the PWDVA. Hence the ordinary meaning will have to be assigned. Therefore, examples of relatives would be the father, mother, sister, uncle; brother of the respondent who may be included in the word 'relative' in Section 2(q). Section 498A also uses the term 'relative' which is not defined. Hence the ordinary meaning of the word 'relative' will include female relatives. v Can a complaint be filed by a wife against the husband's female relatives, for example, mother-in-law, sister-in-law? Yes, orders can be passed against the female relatives of the husband. However, relief of dispossession against a female relative cannot be granted according to the proviso to Section 19(1) which states that no order under Section 19(1) (b) directing the respondent to remove himself from the shared household can be passed against any person who is a woman. The aggrieved woman may obtain a protection order against the female relatives of the husband or the male partners. Maintenance (under orders for monetary reliefs) can only be obtained by those persons falling within the ambit of Section 125 CrPC. v Can a mother-in-law file an application for reliefs against the daughter in law? No, a mother-in-law cannot file an application against her daughter-in-law (Section 2 (q)). However in cases where a mother-in-law is facing violence at the hands of her son and daughter-in-law she can file an application against her son and daughter-in-law as abetting the acts of violence perpetrated by the son. She, however, cannot ask for removal of the daughter-in-law from the shared household. DOMESTIC INCIDENT REPORT v What is a "Domestic Incident Report" The format of a DIR is provided in Form I of the PWDVA. It is to be used for recording complaints of domestic violence brought by an aggrieved woman to the Protection Officer or the Service Provider. It is a record of the fact that an incident(s) of violence has been reported, in that it is similar to an NCR (report of a non-cognizable offence). It has to be signed by the Protection Officer or registered Service Provider who fills it in. It is a public document. v How is a DIR to be recorded? A DIR is meant to be a faithful record of what the woman says. This means that all complaints must be recorded in a non-biased manner as long as the act complained of falls within the purview of the PWDVA. If a woman is not able to narrate her story then the Protection Officer may call her on separate occasions to fill in the DIR. The Protection Officer can maintain a daily diary to enter details of each of the woman's visits. v What is to be done once a DIR has been recorded? The DIR is to be forwarded to the Magistrate by the Protection Officer. A copy of the DIR is to be forwarded to the police officer in charge of the police station in the jurisdiction. The Service Provider on recording the DIR may forward it to the Protection Officer and the Magistrate, if the woman so desires. If the woman so desires, the Protection Officer or a Service Provider can assist a woman to file an application for reliefs after recording a DIR and if the woman so desires. The DIR must be annexed to the application filed in Court in such cases. v What should a Magistrate do on the receipt of a DIR? A magistrate should preserve it for the purposes of maintaining a record. It may be referred to in cases where an application is filed directly by the aggrieved woman. It may also be used in cases where an application is filed by with the assistance of a Protection Officer along with a