



## WATER HARVESTING: CULTURAL PRACTICES OF WATER PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

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### ABSTRACT

Water in its purest form is odorless, nearly colorless and tasteless. It is in our body, the food we eat and the beverages we drink. We use it to clean ourselves, our clothes, our cars and everything around us. We can travel on it, and jump into it to cool in summer days, it is used in manufacturing things of our daily used. All form of life in earth need it otherwise they die. Water is one of the elements required for the possibility of life on the earth and makes it unique from other planets. The people of early civilization needed water for drinking and for their crops, so they settled near rivers. One civilization, named Mesopotamia, was established between Tigris and Euprates rivers in what is now the nation of Iraq. The capital of this civilization was the city of Babylon, another early civilization was founded by the Egyptians in the Nile River Valley. The Harappan civilization settled along with Indus River. With technological development artificial water resources developed like tube-well, hand-pump, well, artificial lakes etc. and human started settling anywhere according to his convenience because he had technology to fulfill his need of water through artificial water resources instead of natural water resources. Increasing population resulted in more consumption of water which resulted into shortage of water in natural water resources, even decline in under-ground water level. The rate of consumption is now more than the rate of restoration. Several types of water related problem occurred in front of human due to his own ignorance, such as water contamination, drinking water shortage, falling under-ground water level etc. This paper focuses on shortage of drinking water which is a matter of concern and raised an alarm to look into it, and now many agencies, institutions, organizations and government all over the world is formulating schemes and projects to resolve this problem.

**KEYWORDS:** Euprates, Babylon, Harappan civilization, Nile River Valley, harvesting system