

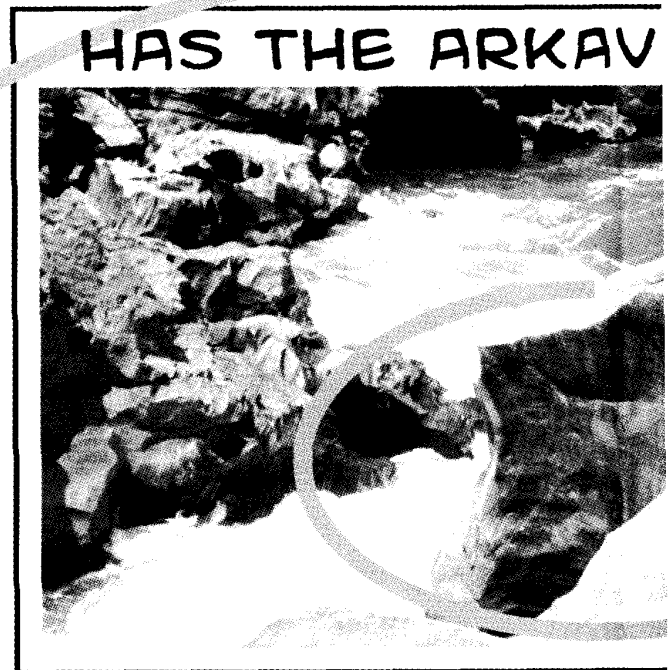
Arkavathi - Some facts

- o The River Arkavathi is a tributary of the River Cauvery in the state of Karnataka .
- o It originates from the Nandi Hills in Kolar District
- o Spanning a course of 190 kms the river runs though Doddabalapur, joining River Cauvery at Sangama.

Importance of the Arkavathi

- o Rural Areas - It is the main source for agriculture and groundwater recharge
- o Peri Urban -the river is used to draw sand and stone as raw material for construction, water for local industries and drinking water for communities
- o Urban - The Arkavathi River once supplied nearly 20 per cent of drinking water requirements for Bangalore resident
- o All dwellers from rural to urban areas have a stake in the river

Drainage Network of Arkavathi Sub Catchment



Factors Responsible for the degradation of the River:

Rural Areas:

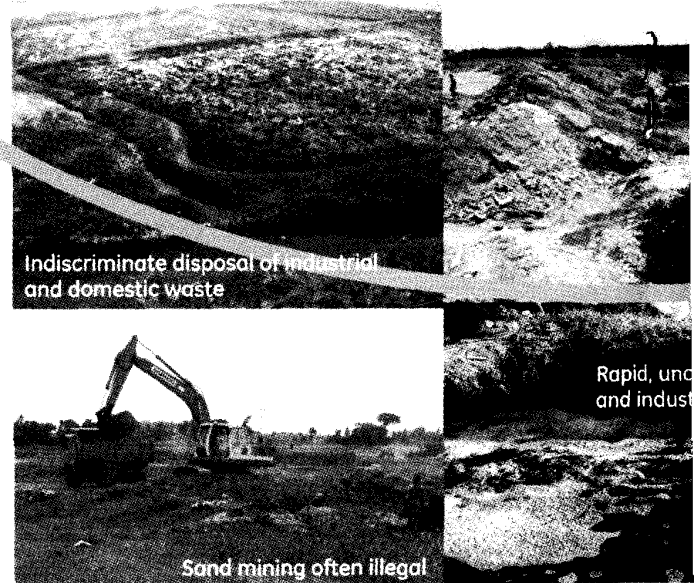
- o Solid waste dumped in water bodies.
- o Encroachment of tanks.

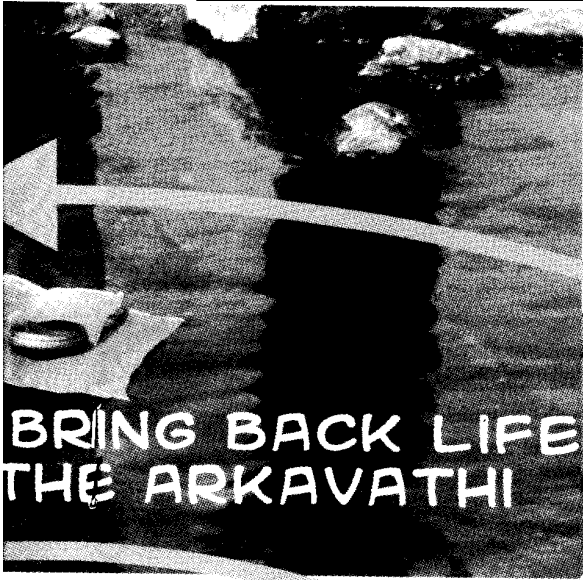
Peri Urban Areas:

- o Dyeing units consuming 2 lakh litres of fresh water everyday.
- o Effluents released into tanks along the river.

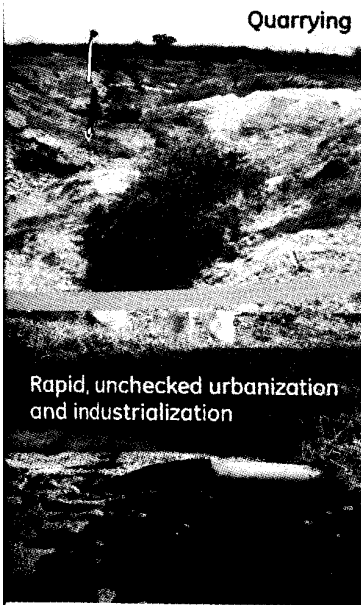
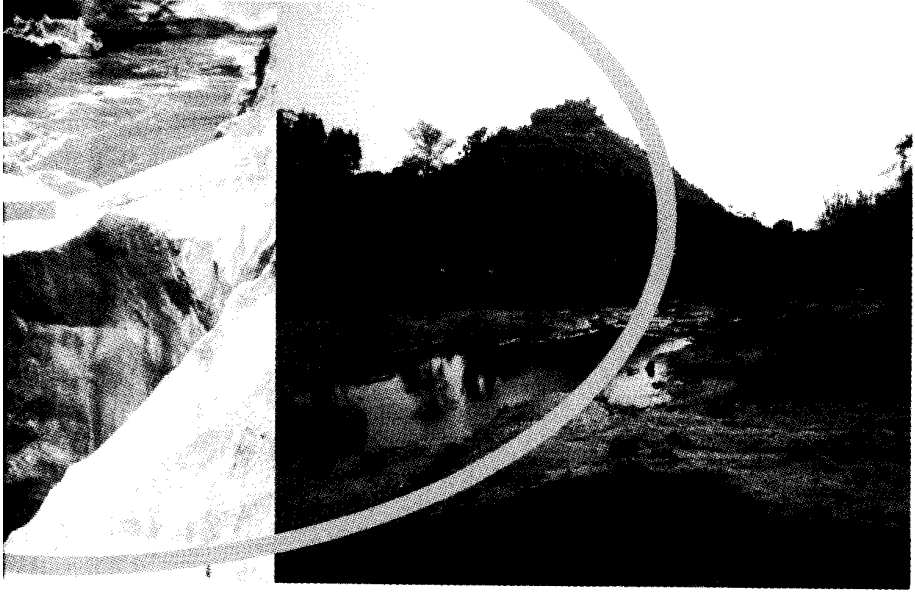
Rural Areas:

- o Almost all tanks silted - reduced capacity .
- o Water courses clogged.
- o "Sacred groves", and agricultural buffer zones declined considerably..





ARKAVATHI DISAPPEARED?



Quarrying

Rapid, unchecked urbanization and industrialization

Arkavathi and Svaraj

Svaraj has been working to sensitize communities on issues of :

- o drinking water
- o water for irrigation
- o town water planning.

This has helped to create public awareness and necessary action to meet drinking water and sanitation requirements, water for irrigation and to recharge ground water in the region.

Objectives of the Padayatra

- o Comprehensive understanding of the conditions of the Arkavathi river and possible solutions to include:
 - Reduction in the abuse of the water
 - More effective land use patterns in the sub-basin
 - Increased awareness of the state of River Arkavathi
 - Forming of local river protection committees
 - To collectively identify hot spots across the river basin
- o Documentation of factors responsible for the current state of the River Arkavathi

Padayatra

- o Svaraj and the Save Arkavathi River Campaign Committee, undertook a 10-day padayatra along the route of the River Arkavathi
- o The padayatra began from Chikkarayappannahalli tank at Nandi Hills and culminated at Sangama in Kanakapura taluk.

