

Whitman Direct Action: Why the Water Book?

[Whitman Direct Action](#) (WDA) is a [student-run](#) organization from [Whitman College](#) in Walla Walla, Washington USA dedicated to helping marginalized people by promoting economically and environmentally sustainable community development. Our philosophy is to support a world where sustainable practices replace destructive ones, where equitable, mutual and synergistic opportunity replaces oppression, and where critical thought and action replaces apathy and fear.

This year's [Sadhana Clean Water Project](#) aims to address obstacles to clean water access in rural India. India claims the second largest population globally with 1.25 billion people: of that, 226 million people do not have access to safe water. In the state of Maharashtra alone, approximately 700,000 people contract water related diseases annually. The problem of water access is further exacerbated by competition for the limited resources available. The demand for water in India is expected to double by 2025 with few viable alternatives for water acquisition. Our project aims to explore possible strategies with local non-profit organizations and community members to improve the conditions of water access in India.

One strategy WDA would like to emphasize in addressing clean water development is the importance of networking and collaboration. To this end, we have designed the [Water Book](#) here before you, which features a collection of case studies and essays contributed by NGOs working on clean water development projects. Our intention is that the Water Book will become a transparent resource for other NGOs, the government sector, academics, and interested individuals to glean the expertise of their contemporaries in the fields of water development and water purification technology. Additionally, the Water Book serves as a unique publication, showcasing a broad spectrum of water development projects and meditations on the water problem in India.