



## 80 PER CENT RESPONDENTS ATTRIBUTE CLIMATE CHANGE TO HUMAN ACTIVITY: TERI SURVEY

- 80 per cent of respondents opined that climate change is due to increased human activity.
- 82 per cent of the respondents perceived an increase in temperature and 81 per cent of the respondents perceived an increase in occurrence of extreme events.
- 59 per cent of respondents felt that environmental protection and development go hand in hand.

**Delhi: June 3, 2015:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) released the findings of the TERI Environmental Survey 2015 today. The survey aims to gauge the perception, awareness, opinion and behavior of people towards environment in Indian cities.

This year's survey covered seven river cities in the country, namely: Delhi on River Yamuna, Cuttack on River Mahanadi, Dibrugarh on River Brahmaputra, Jabalpur on River Narmada, Surat on River Tapti, Varanasi on River Ganga, and Vijayawada on River Krishna. The survey was divided into three sub-sections - overall environment, health and environment and environment in river cities.

**Launching the findings, Dr Leena Srivastava, Acting Director-General, TERI** said *"People's perceptions may or may not reflect reality; but they do reflect their confidence levels in governments, their engagement with common cause issues and their daily fears"*.

**Mr Shri Prakash, Distinguished Fellow, TERI** said *"The report clearly brings out the deep concern of people for saving environment irrespective of age, income level and educational standard. Also, the successive annual environmental surveys indicate a growing majority of the people who believe that the development and environment protection should be given equal emphasis and not pitted against each other"*.

### Key Highlights

- 78 per cent of the respondents were optimistic about the success of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" in improving the quality of the rivers.
- 46 per cent of respondents felt that the overall water quality of the river flowing through their city was "poor".
- 43 per cent of the respondents opined that individual citizens were most responsible for the current quality and hygiene of the river in their city.
- More than 75 per cent of the respondents informed that they visited the river bank mainly for performing religious or social rites.
- 78 per cent of respondents perceived an increase in the amount of industrial effluents dumped into the river in the last one year.
- 64 per cent thought the industrial effluents being dumped into rivers are according to government norms.
- Youth were identified as the most important group to be targeted to improve the condition of the river.

The launch of the survey was accompanied by a panel discussion on 'Citizen's Perception, Opinion, Behavior and Awareness about Rivers in Indian cities'. Panelists included Dr. Sejal Worah, Programme Director, WWF-India; Mr. Vimlendu Jha, Executive Director, SWECHHA and Dr Shyamala Mani, Professor, NIUA.

### **ENVIRONMENT IN RIVER CITIES**

The survey assessed the perception of the people about the overall quality of river water. 46 per cent of the respondents believed that the overall water quality of the river in their city was poor, followed by 35 per cent and 18 per cent who identified it as fair and good, respectively.

The odor in the surrounding areas of river was perceived to have worsened by 56 per cent of the respondents. 24 per cent said there was no change, and 17 per cent said that it had become better. 86 per cent of the respondents affirmed that it was not safe to drink river water without treatment.

93 per cent of the respondents identified that city sewerage is a threat to the river, and 92 per cent believed that the sewage water, before being discharged into the river should be treated properly. 78 per cent of the respondents affirmed that there had been an increase in the amount of effluents dumped into the river in the last one year, though 64 per cent of all the respondents agreed that the effluents were being dumped according to government norms.

### **OVERALL ENVIRONMENT**

60 per cent of respondents perceived worsening of air quality and tree cover/green cover in their area of the city.

36 per cent of the respondents in case of drinking water availability and 29 per cent of the respondents each in case of drinking water quality and waste management perceived an improvement over the past five years. Over 30 per cent of the respondents observed no changes in surface water and ground water (quality and availability).

72 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement that climate change directly impacts humans, while 18 per cent 'somewhat agreed'.

34 per cent of the respondents felt that no government policies existed for air pollution, whereas 27 per cent felt that these existed but were not well implemented, followed by 19 per cent who were not aware about any such existing policies/legislations. For water pollution, including wastewater treatment, 17 per cent affirmed that policies or legislations existed and were well implemented. For water supply, 28 per cent held the opinion that they were well implemented, while 24 per cent felt that these policies existed but were not well implemented. In case of climate change, 45 per cent of the respondents opined there were no existing government policies/ legislations and 38 per cent of the respondents were not aware if policies/legislations existed.

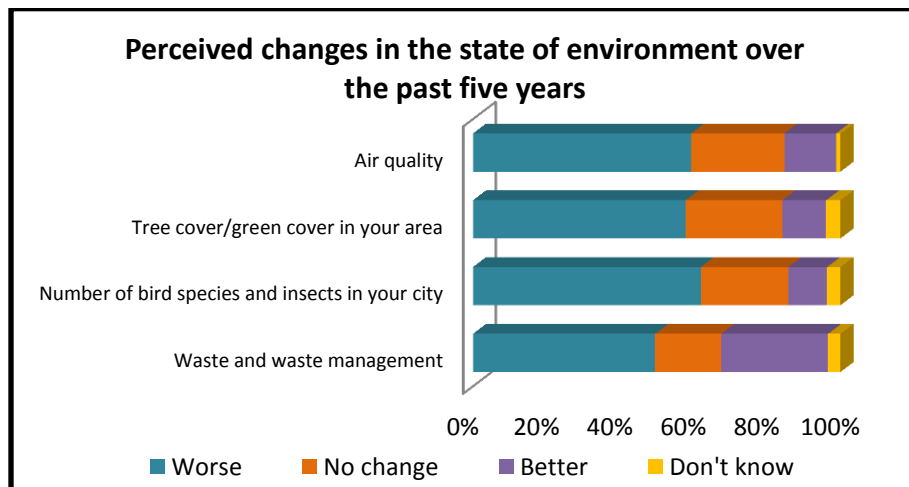
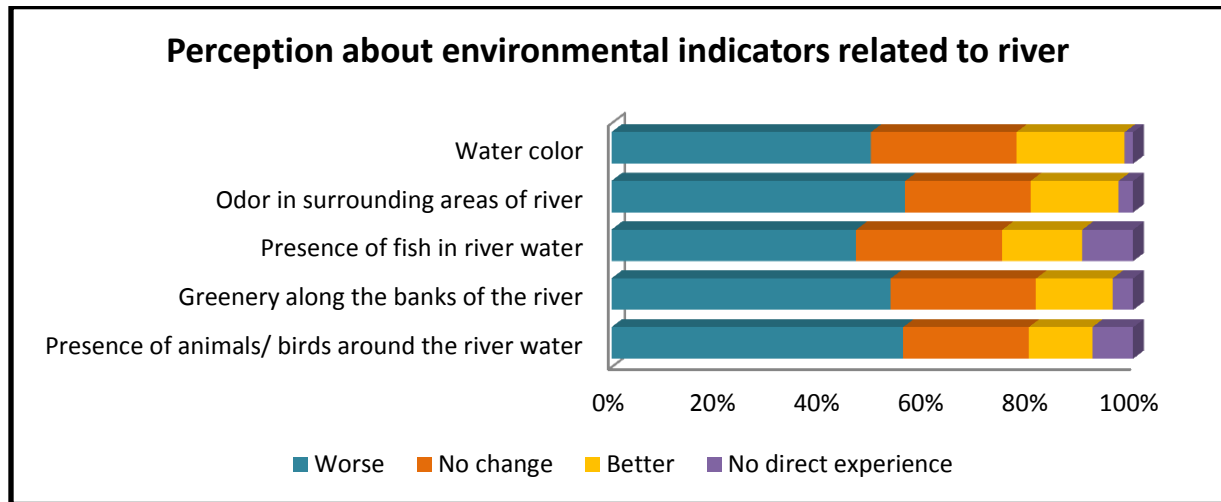
78 per cent of the respondents were optimistic about the success of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” in improving the quality of the rivers.

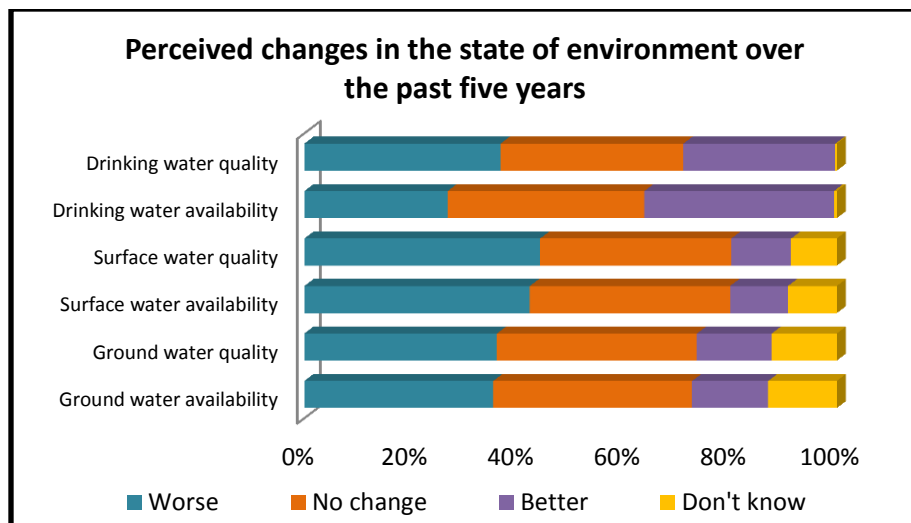
**Health and Environment**

93 per cent of the respondents opined that the quality of environment has an immediate impact on their health. 38 per cent of the respondents identified water quality as an issue with the most visible impact on health; 32 per cent identified waste and 30 per cent of the respondents identified air quality.

89 per cent respondents affirmed that the quality of river flowing through their city had an immediate impact on their health. 81 per cent of the respondents noted the existence of a link between river water and water-borne diseases.

90 per cent of the respondents identified Television as the most important source of information on environment-related issues and 32 per cent identified this to be local/regional newspapers.





For detailed findings of the report, please click: <http://www.teriin.org/environmentalsurvey/>

### **About TERI**

TERI is an independent, not-for-profit research institute focused on energy, environment, and sustainable development and devoted to efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. Since its inception in 1974, TERI has emerged as an institution of excellence for its path-breaking research, and is a global brand widely respected by political leaders, policy makers, corporate entities as well as the civil society at large.

For more information please contact:

<p><b><u>TERI</u></b></p> <p><b>Avni Gupta:</b> 9811472993  <a href="mailto:avni.gupta@teri.res.in">avni.gupta@teri.res.in</a></p> <p><b>Zainab Naeem:</b> 8800286575  <a href="mailto:Zainab.naeem@teri.res.in">Zainab.naeem@teri.res.in</a></p>	<p><b><u>Ketchum Sampark</u></b></p> <p><b>Prashant Gunjan:</b> 9650026623  <a href="mailto:prashant.gunjan@ketchumsampark.com">prashant.gunjan@ketchumsampark.com</a></p> <p><b>Sharat Shyam:</b> 9953860601  <a href="mailto:Sharat.shyam@ketchumsampark.com">Sharat.shyam@ketchumsampark.com</a></p>
---	---