



98% Jamshedpur citizens feel climate change is occurring

Jamshedpur, June 3: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has released the findings of its Environmental Survey 2014, which was initiated to gauge the perception, awareness, opinion and behaviour of people towards environment in India. This year, the survey covered eight cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Indore, Jamshedpur, Kanpur and Pune. The focus of the survey was on the general environment, and in particular, water and waste related issues.

In his video message on the occasion, Dr R K Pachauri, Director General, TERI, said: "This time, we have focused on cities which normally don't get the kind of attention they deserve. If we want to bring about improvement in environmental quality, then the foundation on which any such effort would rest, would be on the awareness of the public. I hope through this survey we are able to bring about the level of awareness that really lays the foundation for action in the right direction. If we don't, then we would all be taken over by urban blight."

Dr Prodipto Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, said: "TERI's Environmental Survey 2014 of residents of eight major cities of the country provides usual insights into the attitude and perceptions regarding India's environment. Urban respondents felt government and consumers played a positive role for improving the environment. The survey will be of immense value to policymakers in identifying areas where sound environment management policy can play a significant role, and where greater efforts of outreach and awareness building are necessary."

The findings from Jamshedpur

Almost 81 per cent of the respondents perceived the air quality to have worsened in recent years, 56 per cent felt that green cover in the surrounding areas had declined, and nearly 70 per cent felt that waste management had worsened. Around 50 per cent of the respondents felt that drinking water quality and availability had improved.

Almost all the respondents (98 per cent) felt that climate change was occurring with 93 per cent of those surveyed indicating a rise in temperatures and 71 per cent indicating a decline in rainfall in recent years.

About 45 per cent of respondents felt that protecting the environment went hand in hand with the objectives of development, while about 42 per cent felt that the government should prioritize development over environment. Across environmental issues, respondents were either of the opinion that relevant policies did not exist and where they did exist, these were inadequate or not implemented properly. In terms of efforts for protecting environment, maximum number of respondents assigned the first rank to consumers, and assigned the lowest rank to the government.

Jamshedpur is located in the East Singhbhum district of the State of Jharkhand in India on the Chota Nagpur plateau and is surrounded by the Dalma Hills and the rivers Subarnarekha and Kharkhai. It is home to the first private iron and steel company in India and spans an area of 64 square kilometers. It is also the largest and the most populous urban agglomeration in the state of Jharkhand and regarded as one of the major industrial zones in eastern India. As per the 2011 Census of India, the population of Jamshedpur in 2011 was estimated to be 629,659. Jamshedpur has one of the highest literacy rates in the state of Jharkhand, estimated at 77 per cent. The survey comprised a sample of 11,214 citizens spread across the selected urban agglomerates of India.

Water

More than 50 per cent of the respondents felt that there was an improvement in drinking water quality (52 per cent) and drinking water availability (55 per cent). Forty five per cent of the respondents felt that the key reason for water wastage was excessive water consumption. A high majority (about 83 per cent) of respondents were aware about the subsidized price of water. However, most respondents were not in favor of cost-based pricing. Respondents were also asked about their views on the reasons for wastage of water. The survey results revealed that majority of people felt that the consumption was more than the needs of the people (45 per cent). However as high as 33 per cent of respondents felt that water was not wasted at all. Leakage of water during distribution as well as from taps at home was identified as a cause for wastage of water by about 21 per cent of the surveyed population.

Waste

The best strategy to manage solid waste, according to almost 87 per cent of the respondents, was to generate less waste at the household level itself. Only 12 per cent of the survey respondents expressed willingness to segregate wastes before disposal. The reason most commonly cited by people (48 per cent) for this reluctance was that they felt this was the responsibility of the civic authority. Reuse and recycling of e-waste was reported to be widely practiced. A large majority felt that recycling could be improved through greater awareness. About 96 per cent of the respondents agreed with imposing a ban on the use of polythene bags.

Environment indicators

As far as perception with respect to education is concerned, nine per cent of the respondents educated up to primary school felt that waste management had improved as against 27 per cent of under graduates or above who had the same perception. On the main sources of information on environment used by the respondents, television and national newspapers were identified as the two most important sources by 78 and 61 per cent of respondents. On the question of linkage between environment and development, almost 45 per cent of the surveyed population felt that protecting the environment is not against the objectives of development, and they rather go hand in hand.

Impacts on human health

Highlighting the inherent linkage existing between health and environment, almost all the survey respondents (99 per cent) felt that quality of the surrounding environment had an immediate effect on human health. Almost 82 per cent of respondents attributed a variety of respiratory diseases to poor environmental quality. The survey respondents were asked to select an environmental problem that, according to them, had the most visible impact on people's health. The percentage of respondents who felt that air quality had the most visible impact was high at 86 per cent.

Perceptions from Jamshedpur

Almost **81 per cent** of respondents perceived air quality to have worsened in recent years

Almost all respondents (**98 per cent**) felt that climate change was occurring

93 per cent of those surveyed indicated a rise in temperature

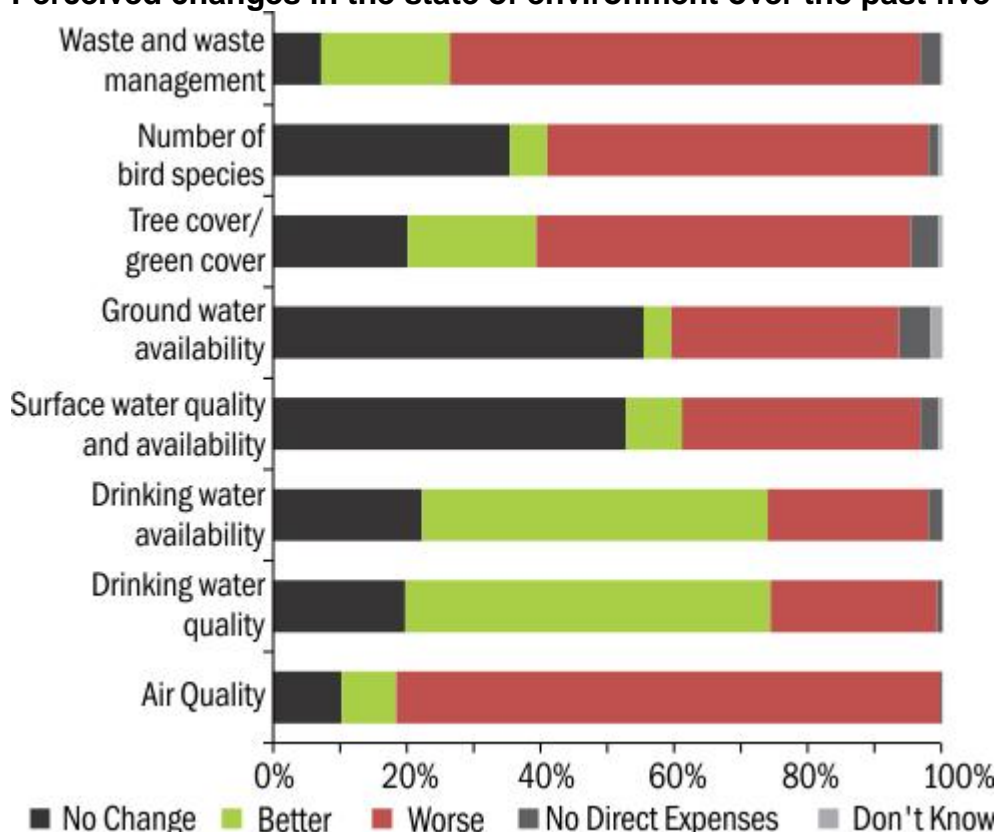
71 per cent indicated a decline in rainfall in recent years

About 83 per cent were aware about the subsidized price of water

About 96 per cent agreed with imposing a ban on the use of polythene bags.

Almost 45 per cent felt that protecting the environment is not against development

Perceived changes in the state of environment over the past five years



For detailed findings of the report, please click:

http://www.teriin.org/pdf/environmental_survey-report-14.pdf

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 the political leaders, policy makers, corporate entities as well as the civil society at large. For more details, please click: <http://www.teriin.org/index.php>

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