



## **91% Kanpur citizens feel climate change is occurring, says TERI Survey**

**Kanpur, June 3, 2014:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has released the findings of its 2014 Environmental Survey, which was initiated to gauge the perception, awareness, opinion and behavior of people towards environment in India. This year, the survey covered eight cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Indore, Jamshedpur, and Pune. The focus of the survey was on the general environment, and in particular, water and waste related issues. The total sample size of the Survey was 11,214 and the respondents were distributed across different age groups, occupation, educational background, and income levels.

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 and Director Earth Science and Climate Change, 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".

## **OVERALL ENVIRONMENT**

Many respondents felt that green cover, the number of bird species, surface water quality and availability, and air quality has deteriorated in the city. However, waste management and drinking water quality has improved. About 91 per cent felt that climate change was occurring; 88 per cent of perceived that temperature had increased, and 96 per cent felt that rainfall has decreased in recent years.

With regard to efforts being made to improve the environment, respondents ranked one to the government (54 per cent) and ranked five to business (37 per cent). Respondents felt that, while policies existed across environmental parameters, they were either inadequate or not well implemented.

Nearly 95 per cent respondents felt that newspapers are the main source of information on issues related to environment, followed by television (53 per cent).

The survey revealed that 94 per cent of the respondents felt that quality of the surrounding environment had an immediate effect on human health. According to them, the environmental problem which has the most visible impact on people's health is air quality (48 per cent), followed by waste (40 per cent).

## **ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

The survey perceived that 17 per cent of the respondents felt that environment and development go hand-in-hand. However, 45 per cent felt that the two must be treated differently. Forty eight per cent respondents found air quality has the most visible impact on people's health, followed by waste (40 per cent).



### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- ✓ 91 per cent of the respondents felt that climate change was occurring.
- ✓ Majority of respondents felt that across environmental parameters, policies existed but were either inadequate or not well implemented.
- ✓ In ranking the efforts being made to improve the environment, majority assigned rank one to the government (54 per cent) and rank 5 to business (37 per cent).
- ✓ 17 per cent of the surveyed population felt that environment went hand in hand with development, while 45 per cent felt that the government must prioritize environment over development.
- ✓ 90 per cent of the respondents felt that generating less waste was the best strategy to manage the problem of solid waste.
- ✓ About 50 per cent of the respondents expressed their willingness to segregate waste before disposal.
- ✓ Almost 74 per cent of the respondents felt that polythene bags must be banned

### **WATER**

Majority of the respondents felt that water was being wasted. The reasons cited are as follows: leakage of water during distribution (38 per cent), and over use of water and leakages from taps/faucets in homes (30 per cent).

About 57 per cent revealed that users should be charged the actual cost of water to discourage its wastage. However, a majority of regular salaried government employees (38 per cent), and retired respondents (44 per cent) were not willing to pay the actual cost of water. The following were the preferred billing mechanism for water consumption: slab wise consumption (58 per cent), meter-based consumption (22 per cent) and fixed charges (20 per cent).

On the role of different stakeholders in water conservation measures, the respondents felt that individual citizens (54 per cent), central government (43



per cent), local government (46 per cent), and non-government organisations (49 per cent) were performing their roles “somewhat poorly”. However, nearly 57 per cent felt that the state government was performing well in protecting water resources.

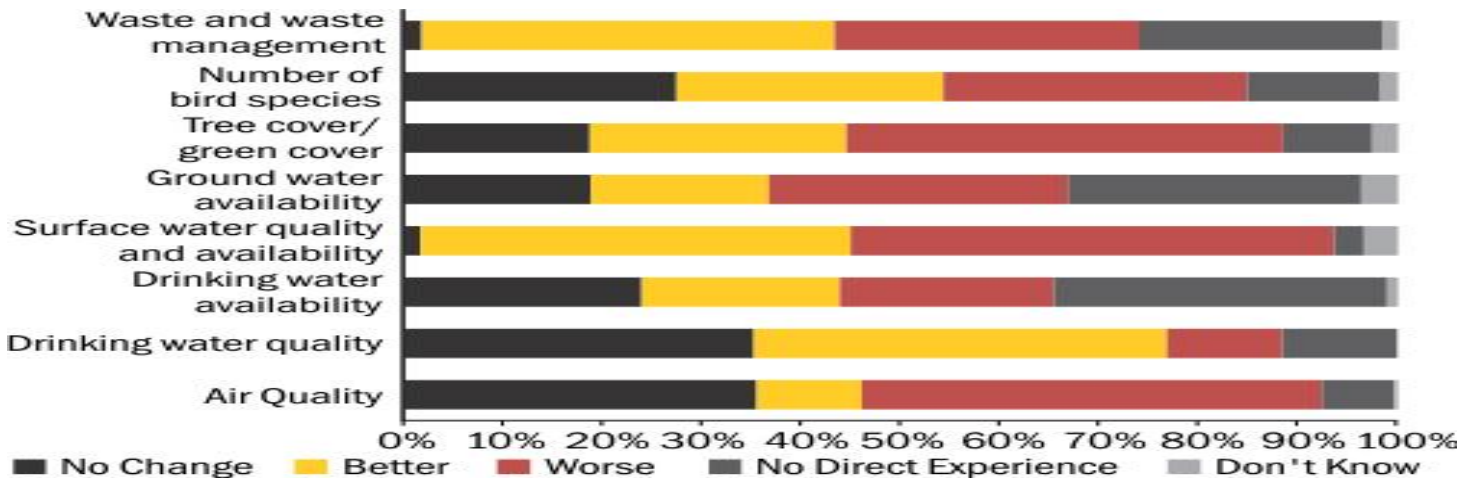
## **Waste Management**

About 90 per cent of respondents perceived that generating less waste was the best strategy to handle waste management. Regarding the linkage between human health and improper solid waste management, 66 per cent respondents felt that the impact of improper solid waste management on human health was severe. However, 22 per cent of respondents felt that there were no negative impacts.

About 57 per cent of respondents felt municipal corporations and other government agencies should have the responsibility for disposing the city’s solid waste and garbage, while 25 per cent of the respondents felt that the responsibility was on the individual citizens or households.

Interestingly, 98 per cent of the respondents were aware of the problem of electronic waste. The survey indicated that household appliances such as refrigerators and television were repaired and reused by almost 42 per cent of the respondents, while 41 per cent sold them in the second-hand market. About 54 per cent felt that a charge or deposit fee on recyclable items could promote re-use.

According to the Survey, 74 per cent of the respondents felt that polythene bags must be banned. Nearly 95 per cent of the respondents from high and middle income localities favored such a ban, while 42 per cent of respondent from low income localities agreed.



## Changes in the state of environment in Kanpur over the past five years

For detailed findings of the report, please click:

[http://www.teriin.org/pdf/environmental\\_survey-report-14.pdf](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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