



Over 80% MUMBAIKARS BELIEVE GLOBAL WARMING IS OCCURRING, SAYS TERI SURVEY

Mumbai, June 3, 2014: 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, 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. The total sample size of the Survey was 11,214 and the respondents were distributed across different age groups, occupation, and education 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:

Majority of the respondents felt that the environmental indicators have deteriorated over the past five years. Thirty eight per cent and 27 per cent of the respondents respectively felt that air and water quality had deteriorated. Forty seven per cent perceived that the waste management services had also worsened. According to the survey, 59 per cent of the respondents perceived that quality of drinking water have improved.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ More than 80 per cent of the total respondents believed that global warming was occurring.
- ✓ Thirty two per cent of the respondents felt that protecting the environment and development went hand in hand, while 44 per cent felt that the government should prioritize environment over development.
- ✓ Nearly 50 per cent of the respondents gave rank 1 to the government and over 60 per cent gave rank 5 to academic institutions/ research organizations in their efforts to improve the environment.
- ✓ Close to 50 per cent of the respondents felt that the best strategy to manage the problem of solid waste was to segregate waste before it is disposed.
- ✓ 43 per cent of the respondents felt that user charges for waste management should vary with the amount of waste generated.
- ✓ More than two thirds of the respondents reported that they are aware of the electronic waste. It was either being reused or sold in the second-hand market.
- ✓ A large majority was in favour of a complete ban on the use of polythene bags in the city.

Twenty three per cent of the respondents perceived that water quality in Mumbai had fallen over the last five years. More than 80 per cent of the respondents felt that global warming was occurring. Forty one per cent reported that rainfall had increased, while 53 per cent perceived that it had decreased.

Almost 43 per cent were unaware that policies existed with regard to climate change, 33 per cent were unaware about the existence of any policy for water conservation, and 38 per cent were unaware of any policy that regulates groundwater use. Most respondents felt that policies existed, but were either not being implemented properly or were inadequate.



About 75 per cent of the total survey respondents reported that television was the most important source of any environment related information. Fifty seven per cent of the respondents reported that local/regional newspapers as their second most important source. Nineteen per cent of the respondents felt that businesses were making least efforts in improving the environment.

Environment and Development

Thirty two per cent of the respondents felt that protecting the environment and attaining economic development went hand in hand while, 44 per cent felt that the government should prioritize environment over development. The following perceived that environment and development should go hand in hand: Casual Laborers (43 per cent), unemployed (26 per cent) and retired persons (12 per cent). Seventy per cent of the respondents felt that the changes in the surrounding environment affect human health. The following environmental problems have the most visible impact on health: air quality (37 per cent), water quality (36 per cent) and waste management (25 per cent).

Water

Nearly 63 per cent of the respondents felt that water was wasted. Twenty five per cent of the respondents felt that water was wasted during distribution and over consumption. Regular leakage of water from taps at home was identified as a cause of water wastage by 15 per cent of the respondents. According to the survey, 62 per cent of the respondents felt that water tariff imposed was subsidized, and 38 per cent did not know whether the water tariff was subsidized or not.

Sixty four per cent of the respondents perceived that citizens should pay the actual cost of water that reflected the scarcity value of water. With regard to the billing mechanism, nearly 50 per cent of the respondents perceived that the amount charged should be based on amount of water consumed. The respondents ranked the following activities as most relevant for protecting water resources: Awareness (33 per cent); Rainwater Harvesting (20 per cent); Conservation of residential water (19 per cent).

Waste

More than 80 per cent of the respondents reported that majority of the waste generated in their households belonged to the organic waste category.



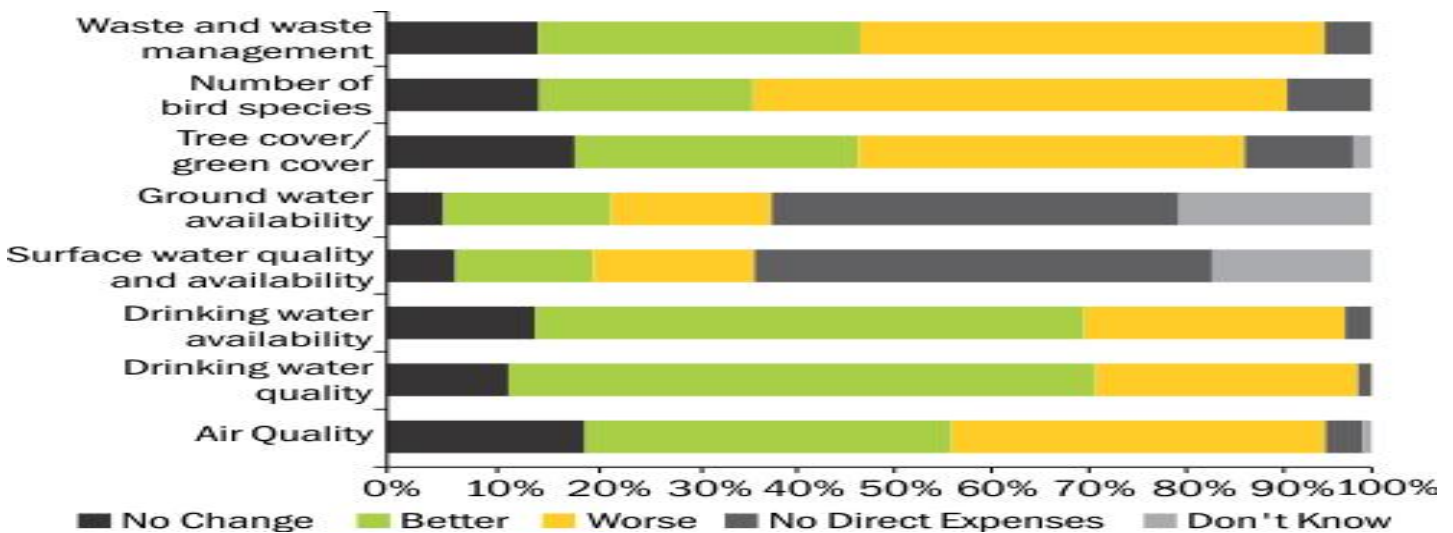
50 per cent of the respondents felt that the best strategy to manage the problem of solid waste was to segregate waste before it was disposed, while 11 per cent of the respondents felt that waste reduction at source can help in managing solid waste.

With regard to the impact of improper solid waste management on human health, 56 per cent respondents felt it is severe, while 35 per cent felt that it is moderate.

The survey indicated that 63 per cent of the respondents were willing to segregate waste. However, the remaining cited the following reasons for their inaction and unwillingness: More space is required (48 per cent), responsibility of waste segregation was with the local municipalities and not with the consumers (27 per cent), and entire exercise is futile (9 per cent).

With regard to household appliances, 59 per cent of the respondents revealed that they repair and reuse the household items.

Thirty nine per cent of the respondents felt that creating awareness was the best strategy for reducing waste, while 28 per cent felt that charging deposit fee for recyclable items can minimize waste generation and promote recycling. Twenty four per cent of the respondents felt that there should be stringent laws for waste management to deal with the problems related to waste disposal.



Changes in the state of environment in Mumbai 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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