



90% Pune citizens feel climate change is occurring, says TERI Survey

Pune, 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, Kanpur. 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, 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".



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 43 per cent of the respondents felt that air quality was getting worse, while 34 per cent thought there was no change.
- ✓ 90 per cent felt that climate change was occurring.
- ✓ 44 per cent respondents feel environment and development can go hand in hand, while 37 per cent favored prioritization of development over environment
- ✓ 50 per cent gave rank 1 to the government and 40 per cent gave rank 5 to academic institutions in their efforts to improve the environment.
- ✓ 41 per cent perceive that consumption patterns of individuals causes wastage of water in the city.
- ✓ 57 per cent favored cost-based tariffs for water whereas 39 per cent were against it.
- ✓ 46 per cent of the respondents felt that segregation of waste was the best strategy for waste management.
- ✓ 79 per cent of the respondents are in favor of a ban on plastic bags in the city.

OVERALL ENVIRONMENT

The quality and availability of drinking water and waste management in the city were perceived to be getting better by 73 per cent, 62 per cent and 51 per cent respondents respectively.

The survey revealed that the tree cover in the city was perceived to have increased by 45 per cent, whereas only 34 per cent feel that the diversity of birds has improved.

Nearly 90 per cent of the respondents in the city feel that climate change was occurring; 68 per cent stated that temperature was increasing while 50 per cent stated decline in rainfall over the years.

General awareness about government policies on various aspects of environment was found to be high across environmental issues, the majority view was that the policies are well implemented for all areas of concern except for climate change.

According to the Survey, television and local newspapers were ranked as the two most important sources for environment related information, followed by national newspapers and internet.



Amongst different stakeholders that contribute to improving environment, government was ranked the highest, followed by individual citizens (26 per cent) and academic and research institutions (14 per cent).

The survey revealed that the following health problems are associated with poor environmental quality- respiratory illnesses (37 per cent), water borne diseases (25 per cent), skin diseases (15 per cent), whereas 23 per cent felt that environmental pollution caused all these diseases.

Air quality, among other environmental problems in the city, was perceived to have had the most visible impact on people's health (64 per cent) of the respondents, followed by problems due to waste (24 per cent) and water quality (12 per cent).

Environment and Development

Fifty four per cent respondents perceived that environmental protection and development should be treated differently with 37 per cent favoring prioritization of development while, 17 per cent favoring prioritization of environmental protection over developmental objectives.

Water

According to the survey, the following are the reasons for water wastage: usage pattern (41 per cent); leakage during distribution (39 per cent), and leakage from taps and faucets in the house (34 per cent).

The survey perceived that 63 per cent of the respondents were aware that the government subsidizes the water charges that the citizens pay, and the remaining 37 per cent expressed their ignorance on this issue.

Nearly 57 per cent respondents viewed that they should pay the actual cost of water, whereas 39 per cent were not in favor of paying it.

The most preferred billing mechanism indicated by 61 per cent of respondents was metered consumption charges, while 31 per cent preferred fixed charges/flat rates.

Residential water conservation measures were perceived to be very important by 37 per cent of the respondents while 29 per cent consider this as important.

Amongst different stakeholder's role in protecting the water resources in the city, municipal corporations (MCs) were ranked highest (51 per cent).

Waste and Waste Management



The survey revealed that 46 per cent of the respondents felt that segregation of waste was considered the best strategy to address waste management, while 44 per cent of the respondents emphasized upon generating less waste in households as the best strategy.

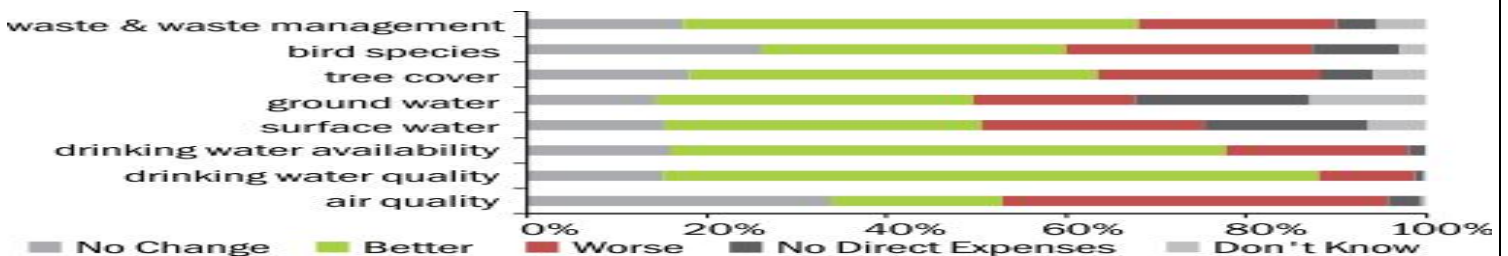
Forty two per cent of the households expressed their willingness to segregate their household waste into biodegradable before disposing it, while 48 per cent perceived it was the responsibility of Municipal Corporation to do so.

With regard to the household e-waste, 61 per cent of the respondents get electronic appliances like television and refrigerator repaired, while 19 per cent sold these in the second hand market.

The best strategies identified for promoting recycling were picking up recyclables from curb side (37 per cent), followed by awareness creation (29 per cent).

Thirty seven per cent of the respondents consider that the greatest responsibility in disposing the solid waste in the city is of the Municipal Corporation or other government agencies, while 10 per cent opined that all the stakeholders have roles in managing the solid waste.

The survey indicated that 79 per cent of the respondents were in favour of a complete ban on plastic bags in the city.



Perception about changes in the state of environment in Pune over past 5 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>

For more information please contact:

<p><u>TERI</u></p> <p>Zainab Naeem: 8800286575 SS Jeevan: 8447208963</p>	<p><u>Ketchum Sampark</u></p> <p>Vipul Bondal : 9920384555 Pragati Tiwari: 9930501748</p>
---	--