



## 80 PER CENT VIJAYAWADA RESPONDENTS SAY CHANGES IN CLIMATIC PARAMETERS ARE DUE TO INCREASED HUMAN ACTIVITY: TERI SURVEY

- 97 per cent of Vijayawada respondents believed that there has been an increase in temperature and extreme events in the last five years.
- 98 per cent of Vijayawada respondents believed the amount of rainfall had diminished over the last five years.
- 53 per cent of Vijayawada respondents believed that environment protection and development go hand in hand.

**Vijayawada: June 3, 2015:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) released the findings of the TERI Environmental Survey 2015 today.

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

The total sample size of the Vijayawada Survey was 2040 and the respondents were distributed across different age groups, occupation, and educational background and income levels.

**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 from Vijayawada

- 62 per cent of the respondents were optimistic about the success of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" in improving the quality of the river in their city.
- 70 per cent of the respondents perceive the overall water quality of the river in their city to be 'fair'.
- 91 per cent of the respondents believed that there was an increase in the amount of industrial effluents dumped into the river in the last year.
- 70 per cent of the respondents identified youth as the most important group to be targeted as a pressure group to bring in a difference in the condition of river.
- 96 per cent of the respondents felt that slums posed a threat to the health 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**

According to the survey, 63 per cent of the respondents felt that the overall quality of the river in Vijayawada was fair, 28 per cent perceive it to be poor, and only 9 per cent considered it to be good.

64 per cent of the respondents felt that the greenery along the banks of river had worsened. The presence of fish in the river water was thought to have not changed since 2010 by 48 per cent of the respondents.

99 per cent respondents agreed that the city sewerage was a threat to the river, and 86 per cent of the respondents felt that sewage water should be treated properly before being discharged into the river. More than 90 per cent of the respondents said that there was an increase in the amount of industrial waste being dumped into the river during the last year and 53 per cent of the respondents affirmed that the effluents are being dumped as per government norms

93 per cent of the respondents identified local government or Municipal Corporation to be responsible for the current quality and hygiene of the river, whereas only 3 per cent felt that individual citizens were responsible for it.

Approximately 33 per cent of the respondents opined that the water of the river (without treatment) was safe for drinking.

More than 75 per cent of the respondents said that the local government had given enough emphasis to the issues related to the river. 96 per cent identified local government/Municipal Corporation to be most responsible for improving the quality and hygiene of the river.

### **Overall Environment**

84 percent of the respondents in Vijayawada perceived that air quality had worsened, followed by green cover (74 per cent) during the past five years. Waste and waste management water was observed to have become better by only 30 per cent of the respondents and availability of drinking by 26 per cent of the respondents.

80 per cent of the respondents perceived the changes in the climate to be due to increased human activity. 97 per cent of the respondents believed that there had been an increase in temperature and extreme weather events whereas 98 per cent, of the respondents, believed that the amount of rainfall

had diminished over the past five years. 80 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that climate change directly impacts humans.

With regard to the Government policies related to air pollution, 25 per cent of the respondents believed that there were no policies and legislations, while 30 per cent thought that policies and legislations existed but were not well implemented.

62 per cent of the respondents had positive views on success of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan' in improving the quality of rivers whereas 38 per cent had negative views about the same. A larger proportion of respondents who were regular government salaried employees (79 per cent) and students (76 per cent) had positive views about the cleanliness drive, compared to 58 per cent housewives. The ones who believed in the success said that it is important that everyone join hands to clean the river Krishna.

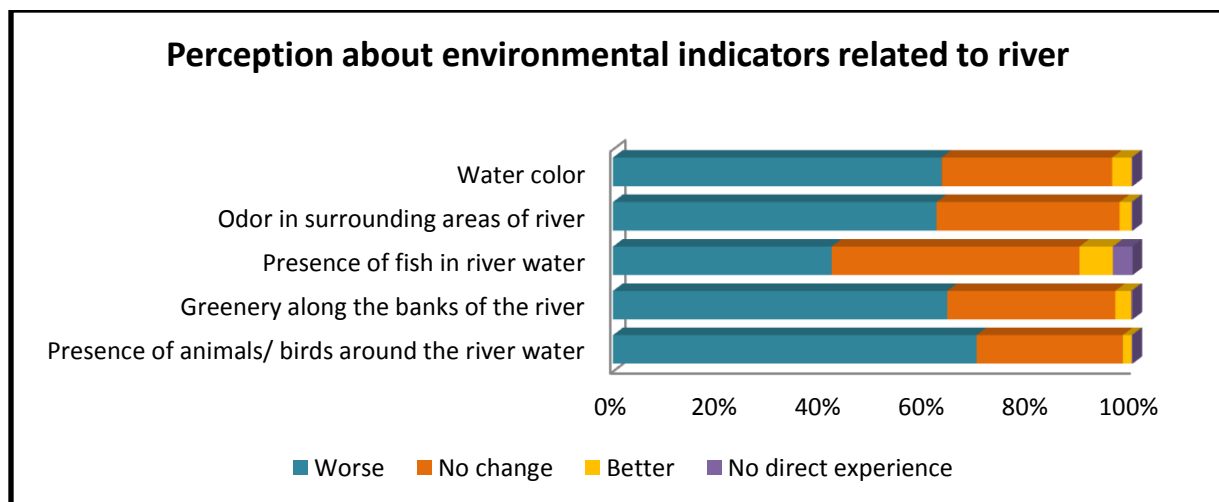
### **Health and Environment**

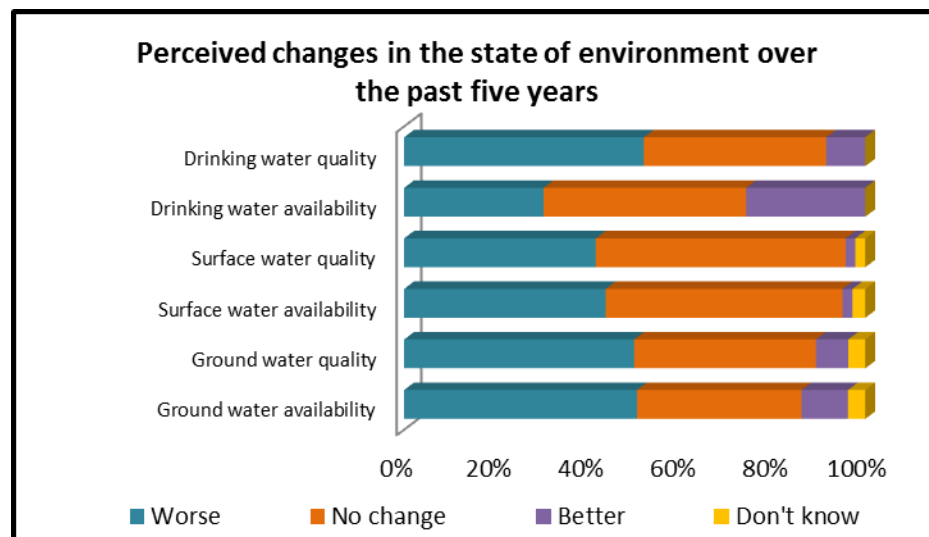
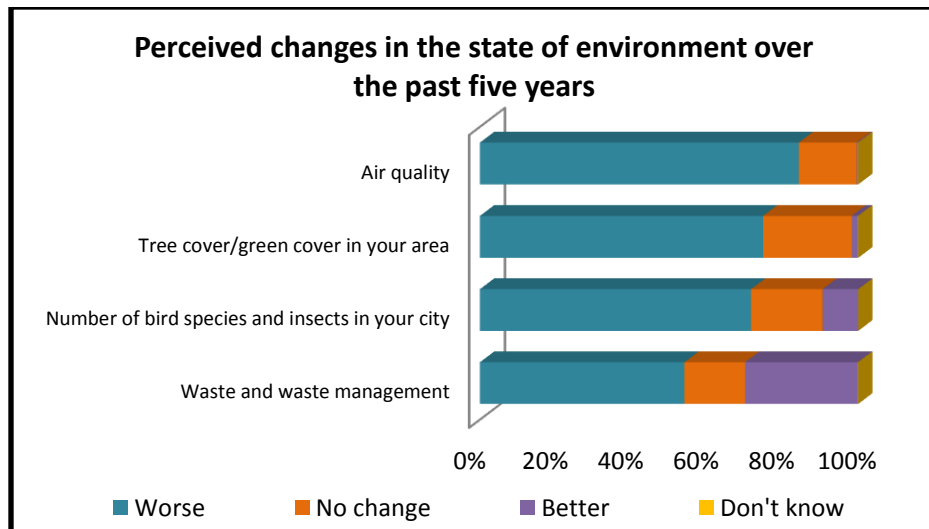
99 per cent of the respondents agreed that the quality of the environment had an immediate impact on human health. Almost 40 per cent of the respondents believed that air quality had the most visible impact on their health followed by waste (32 per cent), and water quality (28 per cent).

57 per cent of the respondents attributed skin diseases such as allergies and skin cancer to the environment followed by 43 per cent who identified respiratory illnesses such as asthma and lung cancer. Nearly 35 per cent of respondents identified the water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, jaundice and cholera to be linked to poor environmental quality.

98 per cent agreed that the quality of the river flowing through their city had an immediate impact on their health.

Television and local/regional newspapers were identified to be the two most important sources of information for issues related to the environment.





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:

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