



PRESS RELEASE

GLOBAL THINK TANK TERI RELEASES THE FINDINGS OF THE DELHI CHAPTER - ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY 2013

The survey was carried out in six major cities of India namely Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. It aimed to gauge people's perception, behavior, awareness and opinions pertaining to various environmental issues.

New Delhi: 3rd June, 2013: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) today released the findings of the Delhi Chapter of its Environment survey 2013 today. The sample size of the survey was 1,114 and the respondents were distributed across different age groups, occupation, education and income levels.

Launching the key findings, **Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director General, TERI** said "We are releasing the findings of the Survey which we have found out by way of public attitudes in the six metros of the country. Our purpose is to see that issues related to environment and development get embedded in the consciousness of the people, and of course if we carry out an assessment of people's attitude, and how they view these issues, then clearly we are also creating awareness on the major changes that are required to ensure we move on the path of sustainable development".

He further added that "TERI Environmental Survey 2013 provides a useful basis for initiatives that can bring about effective action on the part of the public, driven by appropriate attitudes and values. The survey is an accurate indicator of current attitudes and values". *(To view the full report, please click: <http://www.teriin.org/pdf/Environmental-Survey.pdf>)*

Dr. V.Rajagopalan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India said "I value such a survey which provide very valuable inputs on civil society's perception on what's happening on the ground".

Dr. Ligia Noronha, Executive Director, TERI said "In order to bring about any improvements in environmental quality in metros, we need to align different interest groups – civil society, government, business. Understanding how people of a city perceive the environment and its quality is key to building such alliances, knowledge networks and specific action points".

The six themes selected for the study were: *overall environment, air quality, water quality, waste and waste management, climate change and forest/green cover.* *(To view the full report, please click: <http://www.teriin.org/pdf/Environmental-Survey.pdf>)*

The key findings of the Delhi Chapter are highlighted below:

OVERALL ENVIRONMENT:



The survey indicated that the following environmental domains have worsened over the last five years: surface air quality and availability, (85 per cent); ground water availability (83 per cent); tree cover (79 per cent): waste and waste management (80 per cent), and number of birds or animal species in the city (87 per cent), while a very small percentage (6 to 16 per cent) perceived that things are getting better. Forty per cent stated that the air quality in the city is getting worse, while 39 per cent stated that it is getting better. Similarly, 41 per cent mentioned that drinking water quality and availability in the city was getting better, while 39 per cent stated the same to be getting worse.

Majority of the respondents in Delhi were not aware that government policies exist for the following: climate change (80 per cent), forest conservation (76 per cent), waste management (81 per cent), water availability (76 per cent), water pollution (67 per cent), and air pollution (68 per cent).

According to the respondents, the responsibility for improving the environment rested with government (60 per cent) . Besides the government, business sector (14 per cent), consumers (13 per cent), non-profit organizations (12 per cent) were other responsible agents identified for the same.

On the balance of environment and development in a developing country like India, 59 per cent of the respondents said environment protection and economic development go hand in hand, while 14 per cent feel that the environment and development goals should be treated separately.

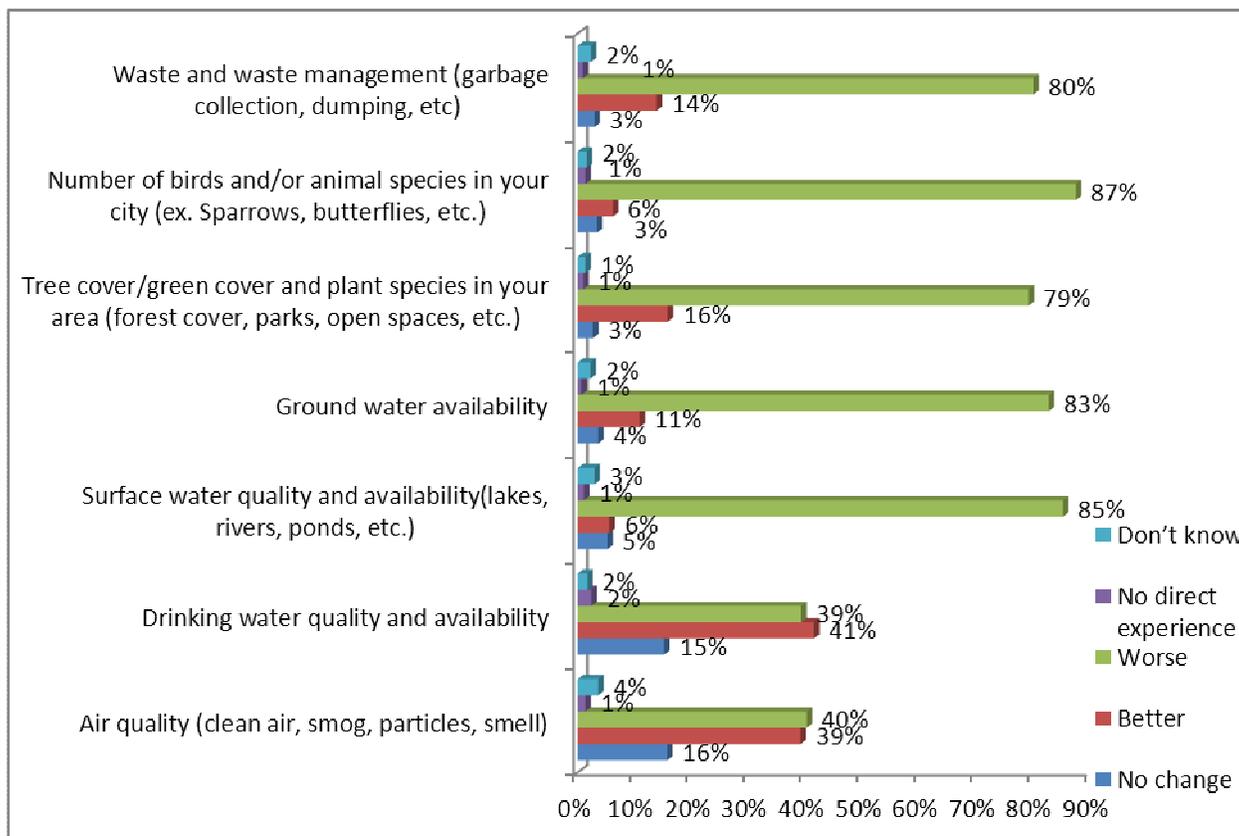


Figure 1.1: Changes in the State of the Environment in the Past Five Years in Delhi

Air :

According to the survey, transport sector (45 per cent), industries in and around the city (31 per cent) and garbage burning (15 per cent) are the major sources of air pollution. Eighty per cent of the respondents agreed that air pollution is the cause of respiratory and skin diseases, while 18 per cent agreed partially, that air pollution is only one of the contributing factors for these diseases.

Fifty four per cent of the respondents are found to be using public transport in the city at least thrice a week, while 46 per cent did not use public transport. The reasons for using the public transport were: cost saving (12 per cent), time saving (15 per cent), and minimizing pollution (6 per cent). The reasons for not using public transport were: inconvenient to use (27 per cent), lack of good frequency (25 per cent), and safety issues (22 per cent).

Water

The survey indicated that 94 per cent perceived that water is being wasted in the city. The reasons identified for water wastage were: excessive consumption (58 per cent), leakage during distribution (49 per cent), and leakages in taps and faucets in the house (27 per cent).

On the issue of water pricing, 61 per cent of the respondents felt that citizens should pay the actual cost of water, while 11 per cent felt that the government should bear the actual cost.

With regard to the water supply for daily consumption, 89 per cent of the respondents felt that billing mechanism to price water supply should be metered/consumption based, while 10 per cent supported fixed charges/flat rates.

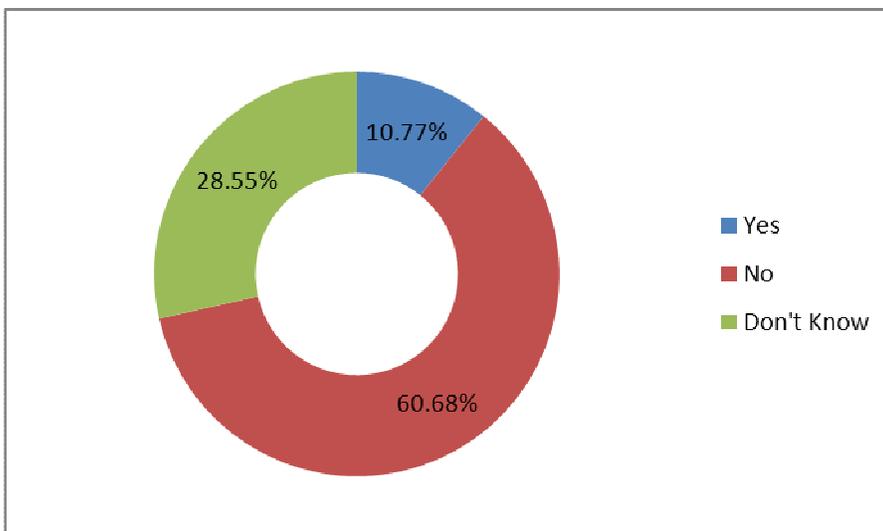


Figure 1.2: Should we pay the actual cost of water in Delhi?



Forest & Green Covers:

The survey revealed that 48 per cent of the respondents visit the park in their neighbourhood more than once a week, while 10 per cent stated that they visit a forest in the city or in an adjoining area once a year.

Eighty nine per cent of the respondents never participated in the management of parks in their neighborhoods, while 1 per cent participating more than once in a week or month. The study also indicated that 82 per cent of the respondents reported that they have never planted a tree. Seventy one per cent of the respondents did not engage in gardening at all, while 93 per cent of the respondents were not involved in the felling of trees.

Climate Change:

The survey revealed high levels of awareness about climate change among the citizens. Seventy nine per cent of the respondents thought that climate change is occurring, while 18 per cent said it is not.

The respondents felt that temperature (99 per cent) and rainfall (97 per cent) are the two climatic variables perceived to have gone through some or a lot of change. Eighty five per cent of the respondents viewed some or a lot of change in wind pattern, whereas 62 per cent of the respondents felt the same in case of other extreme events.

Waste and waste management:

Sixty nine per cent of the respondents felt that there are very severe health impacts due to improper waste management, while 4 per cent considered the same as moderate.

According to the Survey, the following should be responsible for collecting waste from households: public entities (13 per cent), private/private and public entities (29 per cent), while 23 per cent indicated that that they are not aware about the same.

Six per cent of the respondents expressed strong willingness to segregate waste, while 49 per cent expressed strong unwillingness for the same. The reasons identified for unwilling to segregate waste at source were: space constraints (36 per cent), cumbersome task (23 per cent), it is the responsibility of the local authorities (23 per cent). Amongst those who expressed their willingness to segregate waste at source, 33 per cent were already segregating the waste, 37 per cent make compost out of the household waste, and 25 per cent consider it to be good for the environment.

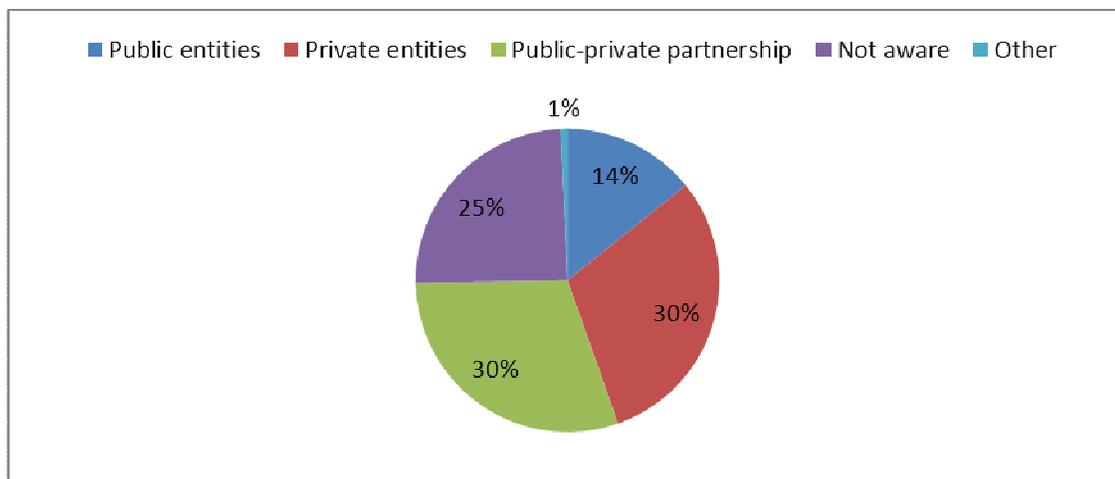


Figure 1.3: Who collects garbage from your household in Delhi?

KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT:

- The following measures were suggested to improve forest/green cover in the city: declaration of protected areas (33 per cent), reclamation of wasteland for green cover (31 per cent), improved new government policies (23 per cent) and public-private partnership (8 per cent).
- The following measures were suggested on the best possible way to deal with the problem of solid waste: segregation of waste at source (28 per cent), improved recycling (25 per cent), generate less waste in the house (20 per cent).
- The following measures were suggested to improve air quality : provision of public transport (26 per cent), greening the industries (28 per cent), heavier taxation regime to discourage private vehicles (24 per cent), and setting up industrial clusters with common environmental facilities (18 per cent).

The launch was followed by a panel discussion moderated by **Mr. Pranay Gupte**, renowned Author and Columnist. The panelists included **Dr. V.Rajagopalan** Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India; **Mr. Ravi Agarwal**, Founder Director, Toxic Links; **Mr. Paras Loomba**, Senior Technical Consultant, National Instruments, India; **Ms. Rintu Thomas**, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Black Ticket Films; **Dr. Ligia Noronha**, Executive Director, TERI and **Mr. Srinivasan Iyer**, Assistant Country Director and Head Energy and Environment Unit, UNDP.



Last year, TERI had also conducted an online survey using limesurvey.com to assess perception, behaviour, awareness and opinion of people in Delhi. However, the reach of this survey was limited to respondents who have internet access. This year the survey aimed at overcoming last year's limitation, hence, face to face interviews were conducted to gauge people's perception.

(To view the full report, please click: <http://www.teriin.org/pdf/Environmental-Survey.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.

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