



## 92 PER CENT OF DELHI RESPONDENTS ASSESS THE WATER QUALITY OF YAMUNA AS 'POOR': TERI SURVEY

- *More than 75 per cent of Delhi respondents were optimistic about the success of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” in improving the quality of the river in their city.*
- *74 per cent Delhi respondents perceived a reduction in the flow of Yamuna particularly in the non-monsoon season.*
- *99 per cent felt that the water of Yamuna was not safe for drinking without treatment.*

**Delhi: June 3, 2015:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) released the findings of the TERI Environmental Survey 2015 today. The survey aimed to gauge the perception, awareness, opinion and behavior of people towards environment in Indian cities.

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

The total sample size of the Delhi Survey was 3016, 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 Delhi

- Approximately 90 per cent of respondents identified increased human activity as the main cause for changing climate patterns in the city.
- 68 per cent of respondents felt that environmental protection and development go hand in hand.
- The city sewerage was considered a threat to the rivers by 95 per cent of the respondents.
- 89 per cent of the respondents claimed that they observed an increase in temperature, while 93 per cent felt that they had witnessed a decrease in rainfall over the last five years.
- 93 per cent of the respondents agreed that the quality of the environment had an immediate impact on their health.

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**

The survey assessed the perception of the people about the overall quality of river water. 92 per cent of those surveyed felt that the condition of river Yamuna was poor, while only 5 per cent of them felt that it was fair and less than 1 per cent felt it to be good.

67 per cent of the respondents perceived the water color of the Yamuna to have worsened over the last five years and 64 per cent of the respondents felt the same for odor in surrounding areas of the river. Presence of fish was perceived to have worsened by 62 per cent of the respondents, greenery along the banks by 53 per cent and presence of birds and animals around the river by 63 per cent of the respondents, over the last five years. Less than 3 per cent of the respondents felt an improvement in these indicators and over 25 per cent of the respondents indicated no change in these indicators

According to the survey, the following were identified as the stakeholders responsible for the quality and hygiene of the river: Industries, factories and NGOs (by 47 per cent of the respondents), individual citizens (by 30 per cent of the respondents), and local government/municipal corporation (by 22 per cent of the respondents).

City sewerage is considered a threat to the Yamuna by 95 percent of the respondents , and 99 per cent felt that sewerage should be treated properly before being discharged into the river to avoid further damage.

86 per cent of the respondents said the amount of industrial effluents being dumped into the river has increased in the last one year. However 90 per cent of the respondents thought that these effluents dumped in the river after treatment were as per the government norms.

66 per cent of the respondents were interested in being associated with the Yamuna Action Plan. Only 51 per cent of the respondents indicated having seen some work or activity being carried on as part of the Yamuna Action Plan, and this work was mostly seen around the river banks with nearby sewage openings.

### **Overall Environment**

Over 60 per cent of the respondents perceived deterioration in air quality, followed by 27 per cent of the respondents feeling no change, and 10 per cent who felt it to have improved.

Nearly 54 per cent of the respondents perceived that the tree or green cover in their area had worsened in the last five years, and 27 per cent felt no change in it, while only 11 per cent of the respondents noticed an improvement in its condition.

82 per cent of the respondents strongly linked the impact of climate change on humans, and 8 per cent 'somewhat' agreed on the same.

The survey revealed that 68 percent of the respondents felt an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts and floods.

47 per cent of the respondents felt that polices to address air pollution exist but are either not implemented well or are inadequate. 26 per cent felt of respondents that there are no polices to address air pollution. Only 12 per cent felt that policies were well implemented.

Over 95 per cent of the respondents were aware about the problem of overpopulation in Delhi and its adverse impact on availability of water and other resources. The increase in population of the city due to migration and other factors has been identified to be causing a water shortage problem in the city by over 95 per cent of the respondents.

### **Health and Environment**

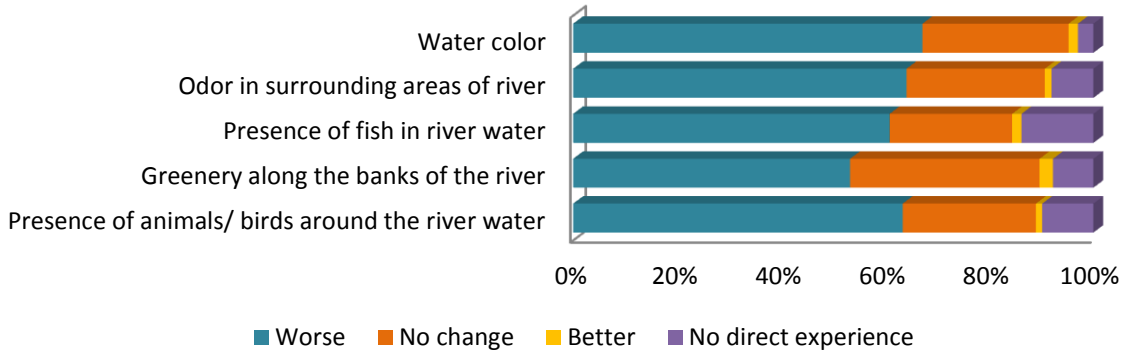
93 per cent of the respondents agreed that the quality of the environment had an immediate impact on health. 51 percent of the respondents recognized air quality as the issue with the most visible impact on health, followed by water quality (by 40 per cent of the respondents) and waste (by 9 per cent of the respondents).

87 per cent of the respondents perceive the river to have an immediate impact on their health and 92 per cent agreed that there is a direct link between quality of river water and water borne diseases.

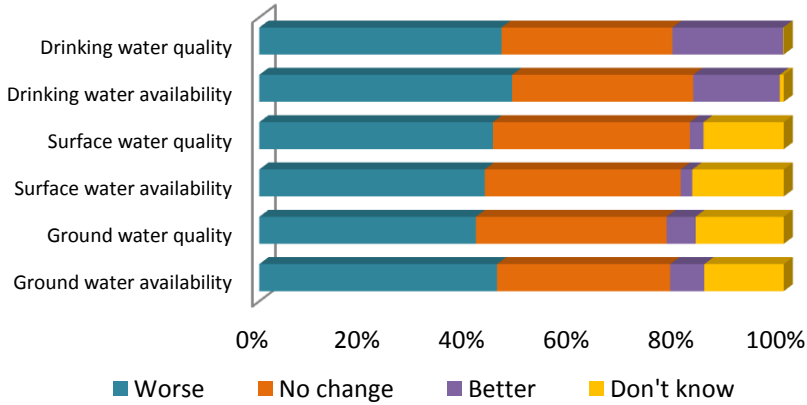
61 per cent of the respondents perceived that media plays the most important role in involving people in river improvement plans; followed by formal public hearings before the local municipality (by 44 per cent of the respondents) and informal public workshops (by 41 per cent of the respondents).

Television was identified as the most important source of information on issues related to environment, while national newspapers were identified as the second most important source of information by the survey respondents.

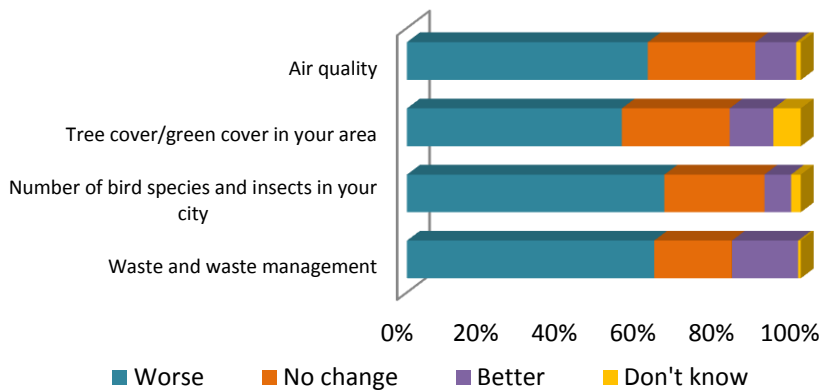
### Perception about environmental indicators related to river



### Perceived changes in the state of environment over the past five years



### Perceived changes in the state of environment over the past five years



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.

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