



## **90 PER CENT CUTTACK RESPONDENTS FEEL THAT CLIMATE CHANGE HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON THEM: TERI SURVEY**

- *99 per cent Cuttack respondents felt that the quality of environment impacts human health.*
- *89 per cent of Cuttack respondents felt that changes in the climatic patterns were due to increased human activity.*
- *More than 70 per cent of Cuttack respondents felt that environmental protection and development go hand in hand.*

**Cuttack: June 3, 2015:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) released the findings of the TERI Environmental Survey 2015 today. The survey aims 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 Tapi, Varanasi on River Ganga, and Vijayawada on River Krishna. The survey was divided into three sub-sections - overall environment, health and environment and environment in river cities.

The total sample size of the Cuttack Survey was 2008 and the respondents were distributed across different age groups, occupation, and educational background and income levels.

**Launching the findings, 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 Cuttack**

- 87 per cent of the respondents were optimistic about the success of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" in improving the quality of the river in their city.
- 54 per cent of respondents felt that the overall water quality of the river was "poor" in their city.
- 96 per cent of respondents felt that temperature had increased in the past five years.
- 72 per cent respondents felt that rainfall had decreased in the past five years.
- 90 per cent respondents identified a link between quality of river and water-borne diseases.

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. 54 per cent of the respondents felt that the overall quality of water in the river was poor, followed by 37 per cent who said it was fair and only 8 per cent of the respondents felt that river water quality was good in their city.

80 per cent of the respondents perceived that the odor in surrounding areas of the river had worsened over the last five years and 81 per cent perceived the same for presence of animals/birds around the river. 25 per cent of the respondents perceived no change in the water color and presence of fish in the Mahanadi while 12 per cent of respondents felt that water color had improved.

When asked to choose between multiple stakeholders responsible for the current quality and hygiene of the river, the opinion was divided between 53 per cent of all respondents identifying the responsibility to be that of the local government/municipal corporation followed by other stakeholders such as individual citizens (by 40 per cent of the respondents) and industry/factories (by 7 per cent of the respondents). Less than 1 per cent of the respondents identified it to be the responsibility of NGOs/Trusts & Foundation.

85 per cent of the respondents felt that there had been an increase in the amount of industrial waste dumped into the river in the last one year. 95 per cent of the respondents felt that the industrial effluents were not treated as per government norms before being discharged into the river.

99 per cent of the respondents, irrespective of gender, occupation, age, locality, and education level felt that city sewerage was a threat to the river and sewage water should be properly treated before being discharged into the river.

### **OVERALL ENVIRONMENT**

Majority of the respondents felt that the environmental indicators have deteriorated over the past five years. More than 80 per cent of the respondents said that indicators such as tree cover/green cover in the area, number of bird species and insects in the city, and air quality had worsened. 73 per cent of respondents felt that surface water quality and 66 per cent felt that surface water availability had worsened in the past five years. 53 per cent felt the same for waste and waste management.

89 per cent of the respondents felt that changes in climatic parameters was due to increased human activity, while 27 per cent of respondents felt it was a natural process.

96 per cent of the respondents felt that temperature had increased and 72 per cent felt that rainfall had decreased over the last five years in Cuttack. 98 per cent of the respondents felt that the frequency of

extreme weather events (flood, droughts, and rainfall) has increased in the past five years. Nearly 90 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that changes in climate had a direct impact on health.

41 per cent of the respondents were not aware about the existence of any government policy/legislation for water conservation. 28 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively, of the total respondents informed that they were not aware of government policies/legislations on issues of groundwater usage and climate change.

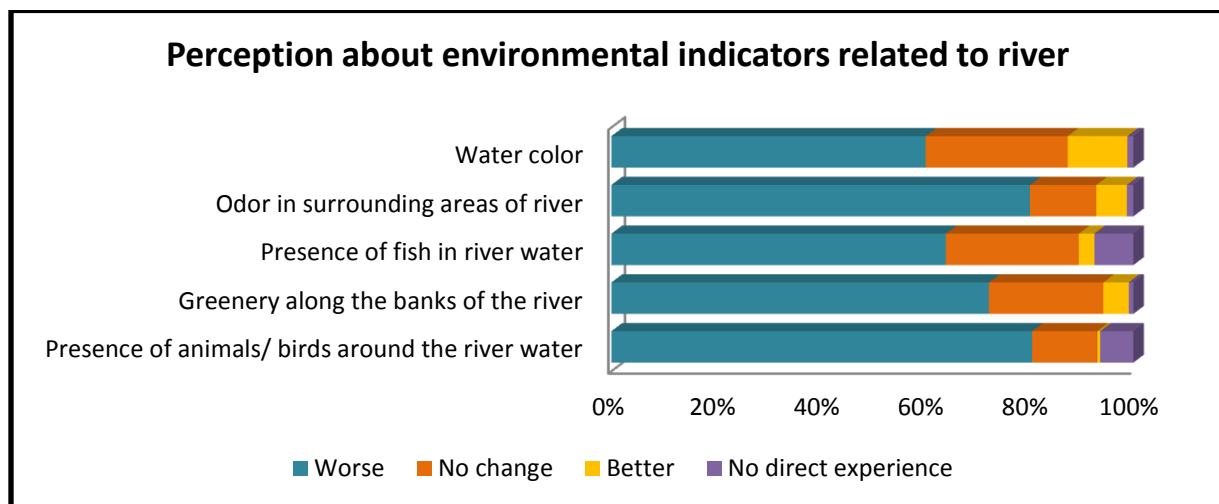
Local government/Municipal Corporations and consumers, each, were assigned Rank 1 for their efforts in improving the environment by over 30 per cent of the respondents. The State/Central government and non-profit organizations/ trusts and foundations had been assigned Rank 3 and Rank 4, respectively by about 35 per cent of the respondents. Rank 5 has been assigned to Academic institutions/ research organizations by about 28 per cent of the respondents and Rank 6 was allotted to the businesses/corporate sector by majority (more than 60 per cent) of the respondents

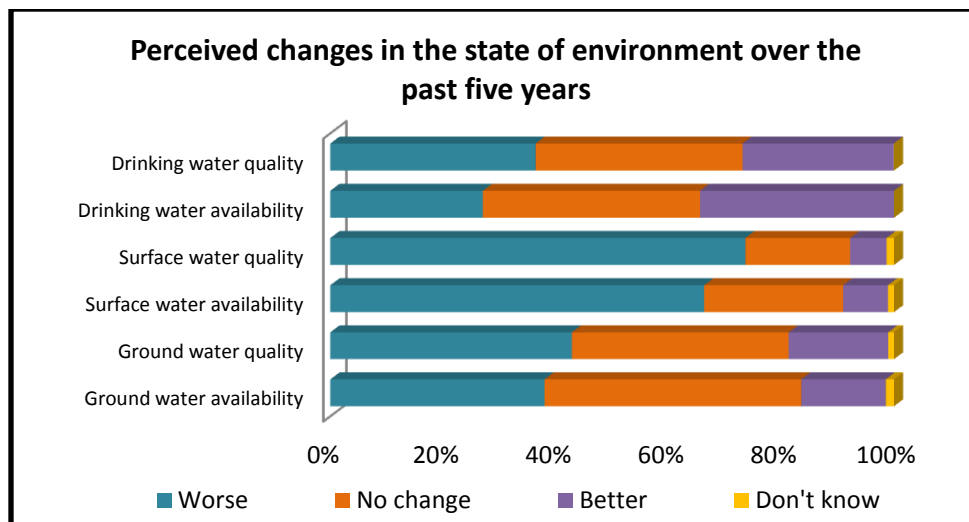
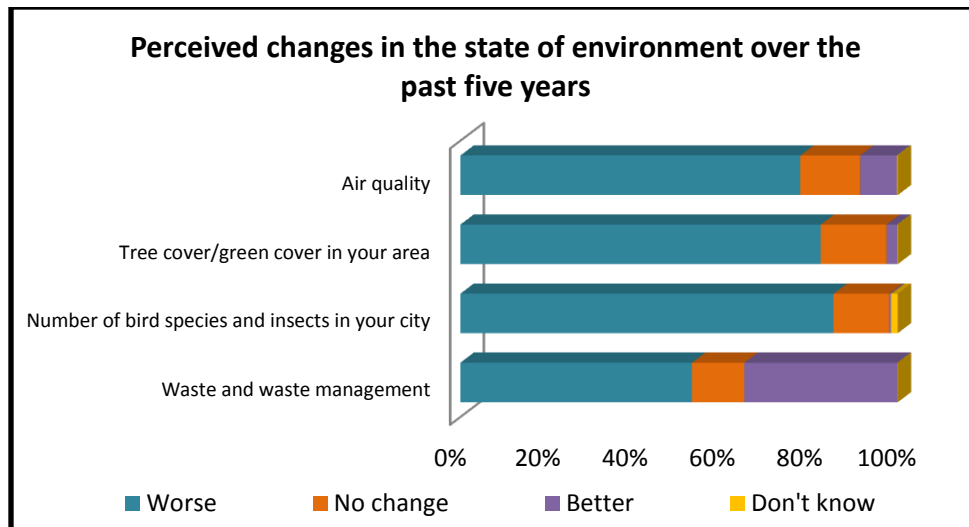
### **Health and Environment**

99 per cent of the respondents perceived that the quality of the environment had an immediate impact on health.

87 per cent of the respondents informed that water-borne diseases (diarrhea, jaundice and cholera) were mostly attributed to poor environmental quality, followed by other diseases namely, skin diseases (allergies and skin cancer) identified by 76 per cent of the respondents, and respiratory illness (asthma and lung cancer) noted by 57 per cent of the respondents.

95 per cent of the respondents agreed that television was perceived as the most important source of information.





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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