



60 PER CENT SURAT RESPONDENTS SAY CITY SEWAGE IS A DIRECT THREAT TO RIVER TAPTI: TERI SURVEY

- 82 per cent of Surat respondents were optimistic about the success of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” in improving the quality of the river in their city.
- More than 60 per cent of Surat respondents felt that city sewage was a threat to the river.
- 50 per cent of Surat respondents felt the impact of water quality of health was most visible.

Surat: 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, 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 was divided into three sub-sections - overall environment, health and environment and environment in river cities.

The total sample size of the Surat Survey was 2003 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 Surat

- Approximately 60 per cent of the respondents assigned first rank to local government and Municipal Corporations in terms of their action and efforts to improve the environment.
- More than 90 per cent of the respondents felt that there was an increase in the amount of industrial effluents being dumped into the river in the last year.
- Proper management of sewage system was highlighted as a key intervention by 65 per cent of the respondents.
- 64 per cent felt an increase in temperature and 73 per cent felt a decline in rainfall over the last five years.

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. 38 per cent of the respondents perceived the quality of the river to be poor, 37 per cent fair and about 24 per cent perceived the quality to be good.

Approximately, 38 per cent of the respondents felt that the water color had deteriorated, while 40 per cent felt that odor in surrounding areas of the river did not change. 31 per cent perceived deterioration in the greenery along the banks of the river.

58 per cent of the respondents felt that it was the responsibility of the local government and Municipal Corporation to keep the quality of river water hygienic and more than 32 per cent of the respondents felt that it was the citizens who were responsible for the maintaining the quality and hygiene of the river.

OVERALL ENVIRONMENT

Close to 42 per cent of the respondents felt that the air quality had worsened, while 35 per cent perceived an improvement in the same. Over 60 per cent of the respondents perceived an improvement in drinking water availability while 49 per cent perceived surface water quality to have improved over the last five years.

More than 45 per cent of the respondents perceived no change in the tree cover over the city of Surat over the last five years, while 37 per cent felt the same about the availability of bird species and insects.

Approximately 50 per cent of the respondents perceived an improvement in waste management and 22 per cent of the respondents felt that there had been no change in waste management services. However, 9 per cent reported that quality of waste management services had deteriorated in Surat.

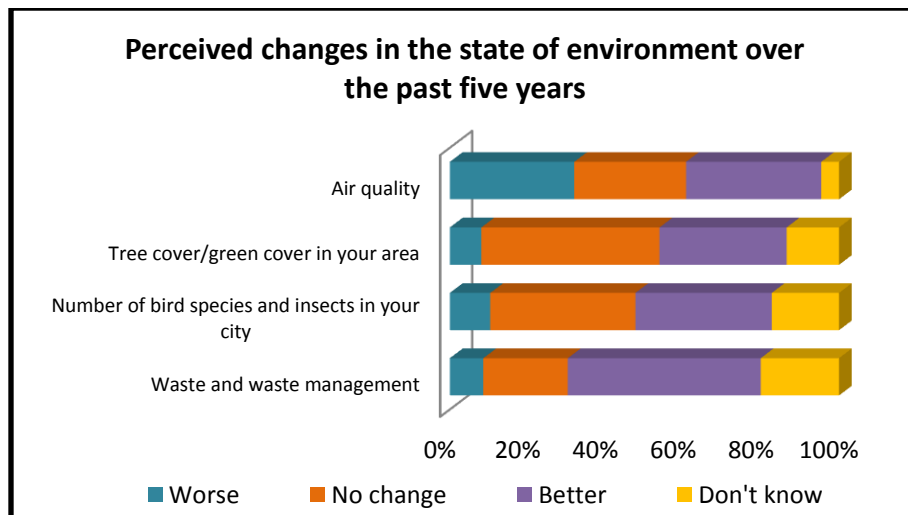
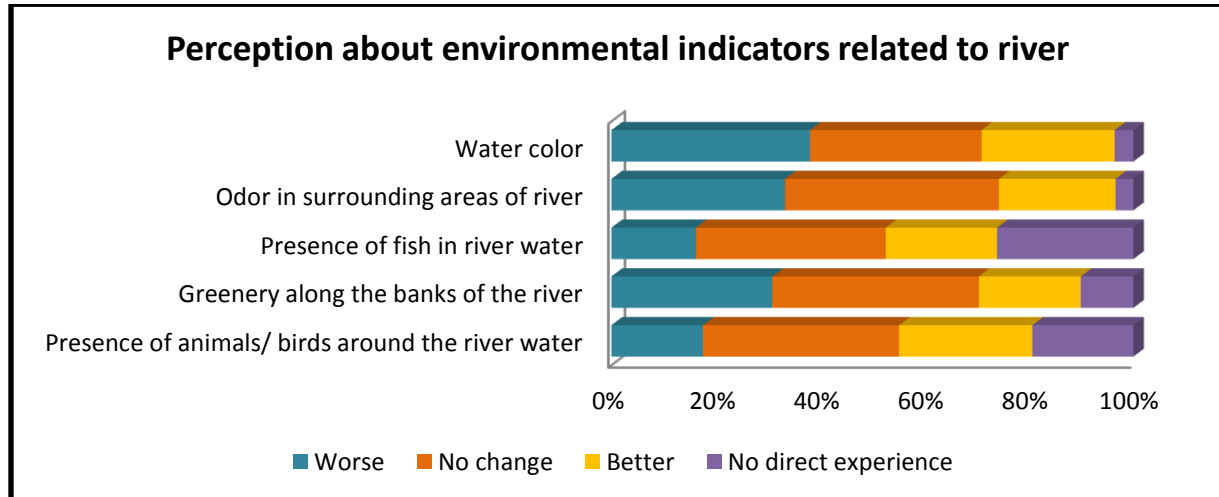
Significant share of respondents were aware of the policies relating to environmental pollution: 66 per cent for waste management, 43 per cent for water pollution, and 41 per cent of the respondents for forest conservation. However, 63 per cent and 64 per cent respectively did not know about the existence of policies on groundwater usage and water conservation. There was some variation of perspective across different occupation and educational backgrounds of the respondents. Only 18 per cent of the illiterate respondents reported that they were aware of the government policies that tackled air pollution, but 43 per cent of educated respondents (undergraduates or above), reported their awareness on such policies.

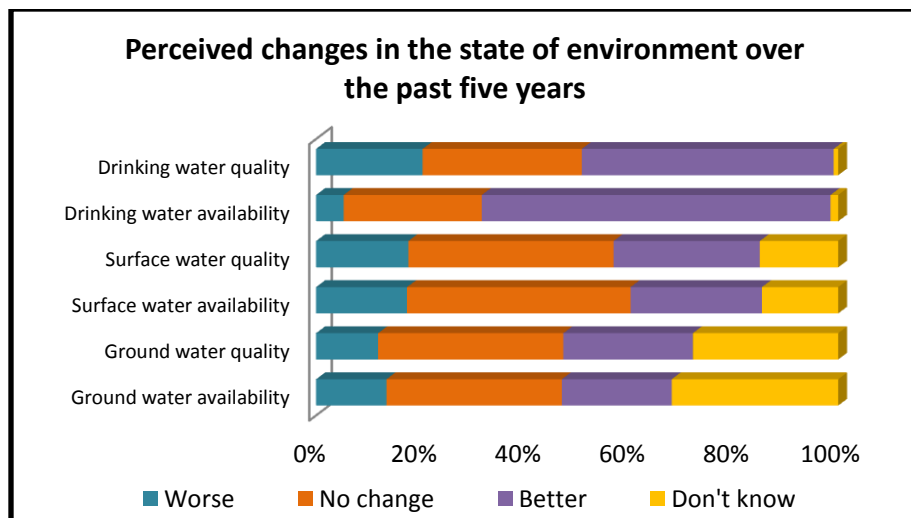
82 per cent felt that Swachh Bharat Abhiyan would be successful in improving the quality of river in the city.

Health and Environment

Almost 79 per cent of the respondents felt environmental quality affected their health.

Over 50 per cent of the respondents felt that the impact of water quality on health was most visible followed by air quality (44 per cent) and waste (5 per cent). 62 per cent perceived water-borne diseases to be the most prevalent, followed by respiratory illnesses and skin diseases.





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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