



## GLOBAL THINK TANK TERI RELEASES THE FINDINGS OF THE MUMBAI CHAPTER OF ITS ENVIRONMENT SURVEY 2013

*The survey was carried out in six major cities of India namely Mumbai, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai. It aimed to gauge people's perception, behavior, awareness and opinions pertaining to various environmental issues. TERI will be releasing the key findings of other cities soon.*

**Mumbai: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) released the findings of the Mumbai Chapter of its environment survey at the **ITC Grand Central today**. The key findings were presented by Dr. R.K.Pachauri, Director General, TERI to Chief Guest **Mr J.K . Banthia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra.**

The sample size of the survey was 1010 and the respondents were distributed across different age groups, occupation, education and income levels.

Speaking at the occasion, **Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director General, TERI** said "Protecting the environment and conserving our natural resources requires efforts by all stakeholders, including government, business, civil society and people at large. This 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"

The survey indicated that around 42 per cent of the respondents felt that the ground water availability has worsened over the last 5 years, while 39 per cent perceived that there has been improvement in the drinking water quality and availability. 46 per cent respondents felt there has been an improvement in waste and waste management over the same period.

Respondents felt that, while policies existed, they were either inadequate or lacked proper implementation for air pollution (51 per cent), forest conservation (64 per cent), and climate change (47 per cent). However for policies on waste management (47 per cent), water availability (41 per cent) and water pollution (49 per cent), the respondents felt that they existed and were well implemented.

**Chief Guest- Mr J.K . Banthia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra** said "The study will generate debate, interest and can make an impact on the government".

On the balance between environment and development in a developing country like India, 62 per cent of the people residing in Mumbai felt that environment and development were conflicting in nature and should be treated differently, while 34 per cent felt that both can go hand in hand.

Nearly everyone (99 per cent) felt that the deterioration of urban air quality due to pollution is the cause of respiratory and skin diseases. On the source of air pollution, respondents felt that factories (45 per cent) and transport (44 per cent) were the biggest causes. On a positive note, 88 per cent of the respondents used public transport, and 37 per cent of them gave the reason for the same to be to reduce their contribution towards air pollution.



**Mr Ajit Gulabchand, Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Construction Co Ltd** “To think of there being a quarrel between environment and development is a big mistake”.

The survey also revealed that the responsibility for improving the state of the environment in the city rested with the government (66 per cent). Besides the government, non governmental organizations (40 per cent) and business (14 per cent) were other responsible agents identified for the same.

**Mr. Debi Goenka, Executive Trustee, Conservation Action Trust** said that segregation at source of waste is the best way to deal with garbage. It is important to make source segregation as mandatory and needs to be enforced.

**Mr. Narinder Nayar , Chairman, Mumbai First** said “Climate change has severe implications on food, health, water support and national agro system”.

With regard to payment for water supplied for daily consumption, 69 per cent of the respondents felt that billing mechanisms to price water supply should be metered/consumption based while 31 per cent supported flat rates and fixed charges. 65 per cent of the respondents thought that the main reason of water wastage is leakage during distribution, while 51 per cent have identified leakage from taps/faucets in houses as another key reason.

Climate Change was perceived to be happening by 79 per cent of the respondents in Mumbai. Specifically, respondents perceive some change in temperature (45 per cent), wind pattern (40 per cent) and extreme events (31 per cent). In terms of changes in rainfall patterns, 41 percent of the respondents perceived a significant change.

The responses in context of waste and waste management were surprising. 80 per cent of the respondents were not willing to segregate the waste before disposing it, even though it is considered as an important strategy to manage the problem of solid waste by the same respondents. In the survey, 51 percent of the households indicated collection of garbage by public entities and 36 percent highlighted the role of private entities in garbage collection. It was also depicted by the results that 86 per cent of the respondents have not engaged in any activity related to cutting/chopping of trees. A significant number of respondents visit a forest or participate in management of parks or tree plantation once a year.

#### **KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT:**

- 1) Seventy five per cent of the respondents suggested conversion of polluting industries to environment friendly units, while sixty seven per cent suggested the imposition of congestion and other taxes to discourage private vehicles.
- 2) Fifty four per cent suggested declaration of protected areas, reclamation of wasteland for parks, implementation of public private partnership as the strategy for improving the green cover in Mumbai.
- 3) Forty eight per cent of the respondents believe that segregation of waste at source is the best strategy to manage the problem of solid waste. Concern for the environment (63 per cent) was the main reason for those who were willing to segregate waste at source.

The launch witnessed the presence of eminent luminaries ranging from Government, business, academia.



**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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