

## **A STUDY OF DRINKING WATER IN RURAL HARYANA**

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### **Introduction**

The amount of water on the earth is finite and a third of the world population live in the water stress countries. The share of such population is increasing with time. Further, in India, 92 per cent fresh water used in agriculture, three per cent used in industry and five per cent for a domestic purpose. Water scenario is fast changing as a result of increasing population, rising demand for irrigation to raise high yielding variety of crops, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, electricity generation, impact of global warming and erratic rainfall. The global consumption of water is doubling every 20 years more than twice the rate of human population growth. India has four per cent of world's water availability and 17.5 per cent population to sustain. The half of the villages in India does not have availability of protected drinking water.

The coverage of the rural population by piped water supply is a major aim of the government. To provide safe and adequate drinking water to the rural households, the Central and State Government introduces many programmes and schemes though drinking water is a state subject in the Constitution of India. The first major initiative in the drinking water sector was Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The Government of India introduced ARWSP in 1972 to the pace of coverage of drinking water supply by assist the states and union territories . The programme was accorded Mission approach with the formation of a Technology Mission on Drinking Water which was later renamed as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission in.

In 2002, the Government of India launched *Swajaldhara* programme by decentralises the service delivery responsibility to rural local governments. Drinking water supply was also one of the six components of Bharat Nirman (Chhabra, 2010). In 2009, National Rural Drinking Water Programme was launched by Central Government by modifying the earlier ARWSP and subsuming earlier submissions, miscellaneous Schemes and mainstreaming Swajaldhara principles. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation upgraded as

separate ministry in shows the seriousness of the government regarding drinking water .The Government of Haryana also boost the efforts by introducing Augmentation Water Supply Schemes, Indira Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme etc.

Even if the State's allocation on water sector has increased enormously, but simultaneously it is found that a large segment of the population in the country is deprived of their basic right to drinking water. Even after more than six decades since the independence there was a only 30.8 per cent rural households use tap as a source of drinking water in India as a whole in 2001 the share was by less than one-fourth households. The hand pump with tube well/borehole covered more than half of the total rural households, increased slightly with three per cent point from. The well as a source of drinking water was used by 13.3 per cent households while in it was used by 22.2 per cent households. Thus in India as a whole the change in sources of drinking water was less significant with changed by less than or more than 10 per cent point from 2001 to 2011.

The Government of Haryana has done far better work in providing tap water supply to its villages. In 1966, when Haryana become a new state piped water supply was available to its 182 villages but by 1992 it covered all of the villages by piped water supply and in 2001, the use of tap as a source of drinking water in rural households was 37.8 per cent in the year 2001 and 63.6 per cent in the year 2011, registered an increase of about 26 per cent point in the state as a whole.

### **Methodology**

The paper examines the availability of various sources of drinking water in rural Haryana and the change that have taken place from 2001 to 2011. The paper tries to attempt the following research questions:

- i. Which are the major sources of drinking water in rural Haryana and how these sources are distributed on the space?
- ii. How the sources of drinking water changing with time from 2001 to 2011?

For the purpose, the data on drinking water source (2011) have been picked up from the Tables on Houses, Households Amenities and Assets, published by the Census of India, 2011 and available from the Directorate of Census Operations Haryana, Chandigarh. The data related to government programmes and schemes is collected from the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Public Health Engineering Department, Haryana. The district is the unit of study.

The Census of India 2001, published the data on eight sources of drinking water as tap, well,  
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hand pump, 2011, the data of tap is further collected as tap from treated sources, Tap from untreated sources, and well as a source of drinking water is also further divided into covered well and uncovered well, for making it comparable these source are analyses as per Census of India (2001). The spring, river/canal, tank/pond/lake and others, are analysed compositely as other sources because their use was less than one out of every twenty households in both the census years. Haryana was administered as a part of the Punjab province of British India and was carved out on linguistic lines as India's 17th state in 1966. Haryana is located in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent.

The state extends from 27°39' to 35°55' North latitude and 74°28' to 77°36' East longitude. It is bordered by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to the north and by Rajasthan to the west and south. The river Yamuna defines its eastern border with Uttar Pradesh. Haryana also surrounds the country's capital Delhi on three sides, forming the northern, western and southern borders of Delhi. Consequently, a large area of south Haryana is included in the National Capital Region for purposes of planning for development. The entire state spans into 44212 km<sup>2</sup>, which covers 1.34 per cent of the total area of the country, Haryana is the 21<sup>st</sup> largest state of India. The state covered 2,53,53,081 or 2.09 per cent of the total population of India. Out of it 65.21 per cent of the population lived in rural areas.

Geographically, the state of Haryana can be divided into four physical divisions (a) Hilly area of Shivalik, this hilly area is the north-eastern part of the state and its height is from 900-2300 meters and river Ghagghar, Tangari, Markanda emerge from this hilly are, (b) Plain area covers largest area of the state from north to south and its very hot in summer and several cold in winter,

(c) Sandy area lies in western part of the state adjacent to Rajasthan and here small sand dunes found part of Mahendragarh, Bhiwani, Sirsa and Hisar districts, (d) Dry plain area of Aravalli ranges are found in southern part of Haryana Aravalli ranges are situated in the Mewat area of Gurgaon districts. There is no single perennial river passing through Haryana. There is a large variation in the monthly weather regime from place to place depending on the distance from the mountains, and location with reference to the Thar Desert. Haryana has a climate of subtropical continental monsoon type. Annual rainfall in Haryana varies from 25 centimetres in the western part and 110 centimetres in north- eastern part (Ambala and Panchkula).

## **Tap**

Tap was the major and dominant source of drinking water in rural Haryana with used by 63.6 per cent of the total rural households. There are, however, wide inter-district disparities in this regard. It was ranged from a high of 87.5 per cent in Panchkula district to a low of 32.2 per cent in Mewat (Table 2).

In four districts of Panchkula, Sirsa, Ambala, Kurukshetra and Karnal more than three-fourths of the total rural households use tap as a source of drinking water in 2011. Except Sirsa which falls in western Haryana all four districts fall in eastern Haryana, where ground water quality is better as compared to the western and southern Haryana and majority tap water supply is also based of ground water while in Sirsa it the majority of water works were canal water based. In 2001, there were not districts in this category.

In thirteen districts of Yamunanagar, Jhajjar, Fatehabad, Hisar, Rohtak, Mahendragarh, Bhiwani, Gurgaon, Palwal, Sonipat, Panipat and Kaithal 50 to 75 per cent households use tap as a source of drinking water in 2011. The districts falls in this category falls in all parts of the state. In 2001, only three districts were fall in this category (Map 3).

## **Tubewell/Borehole**

Tubewell/borehole was the next major source of drinking water used by about one-seventh of the total rural households in Haryana, in 2011. There were inter-district variations in this regard. At district level it was ranged from high of 30.0 per cent in Gurgaon district to a low of 4.4 per cent in Hisar.

In three districts of Gurgaon, Kaithal and Mahendragarh tubewell/borehole as a source of drinking water was used by more than one-fourth of the total rural households, in 2011. While in 2001, there was only one district (Mahendragarh) in this category. In next category, in ten districts of Sonipat, Panipat, Jind, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, Rewari, Bhiwani, Karnal, Mewat and Faridabad, more than one-tenth of the total rural households use tubewell/borehole as a source of drinking water in 2011. These districts cover almost parts of the state. While in 2001, only two districts of Bhiwani and Rewari fall in this category.

## **Hand pump**

The use of hand pump as a source of drinking water in rural households was 35.7 per cent in the year 2001, a decreased to 14.2 per cent by the year 2011. While there were inter-district variations in this regard. In 2011, use of handpump as a source of drinking water was ranged from a high of 36.4 per cent in in Faridabad district to a low of 1.3 per cent in Mahendragarh district.

In two districts of Faridabad and Palwal more than one-fourth of the total rural households use handpump as a source of drinking water in 2011. While in 2001 there were 15 districts in this category and notably, in five districts of Yamunanagar, Karnal, Kaithal, Panipat and Ambala more than half of the total rural households use handpump as a source of drinking water in 2001 (Map 5). All these five districts were falls in eastern Haryana.

In 12 districts of Mewat, Panipat, Yamunanagar, Jind, Kaithal, Hisar, Rohtak, Sonipat, Jhajjar, Bhiwani, Fatehabad and Ambala 10 to 25 per cent of the total rural households use handpump as a source of drinking water, in 2011. Except Mewat, Bhiwani and Fatehabad all the districts fall in the eastern Haryana. On the other hand, in 2001, there were only two districts of Rewari and Panchkula fall in this category. There were seven districts in 2011, where less than 10 per cent of the total rural household use handpump as a source of drinking water on the other hand, in 2001 there were only two district fall in this category.

### **Other Sources**

The other sources include tank/pond/lake, river/canal, spring and others. The other sources of drinking water in rural households were used by 2.4 per cent in the year 2001 and 3.5 per cent by the year 2011. In 2011, there were only two districts of Mewat and Mahendragarh where 12.9 per cent and 7.2 per cent rural households use other sources as a source of drinking water. In rest of the districts less than five per cent households use other sources as a source of drinking water. While in 2001, Sirsa and Panchkula districts where more than five per cent rural households use other source for drinking purpose. The use of other sources was found more in the small habitations where ground water quality was not potable and tap water was not available.

**Conclusions:** Tap was the major and dominant source of drinking water used by rural households in 18 out of total 21 districts in Haryana in 2011. The use of tap as a source of drinking water is growing at the cost of handpump and well as a source of drinking water. The government scheme named “Indira Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme” play an important role in providing tap water supply to scheduled caste households and play an important role in growth of tap as a source of drinking water. The use of tubewell/borehole and handpump as a source of drinking water was about one seventh households each. But the use of tubewell/borehole as a source of drinking water was growing at the cost of handpump from 2001 to 2011. The use of well as a source of drinking water is also decreasing with time and in three districts of Mewat, Bhiwani and Jind more than one-tenth of the total rural households use well as a source of drinking water. Though less than five per cent of the total

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rural households use other sources as a source of drinking water in Haryana in 2011 but the share is growing with time due to unavailability of Tap, and non-potable drinking water quality. Though the use of tap as a source of drinking water is increasing with time but at the same time tubewell/borehole is also growing. So the government should focus to cover the households with tap or piped water facility based on canal water. The special focus should be on Mewat, Jind and Faridabad districts.

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