5. Water supply & Sanitation

5.1 Introduction

Most of the households in Pakistan do not have access to adequate potable or shallow water. Many of them also lack toilets and adequate sanitation systems. The Government aims to expand access to clean facility drinking water and to improve sanitation particularly in rural areas. The main Government strategy in water supply is to improve the performance and operation of water supply systems by promoting community responsibility for the management and maintenance of systems. To improve sanitation, the government is promoting the construction of household latrines, the construction of open surface drains with street pavements and providing hygiene education.

In this chapter, information is presented on water supplies, toilets and sanitation.

5.2 Sources of Drinking Water

The main source of drinking water in Pakistan is the hand pump (Table 5.1). Hand pumps and motor pumps together provide 65 per cent of household's drinking water in 2005-06, as compared to 62 percent in 2004-05. However, comparing with the previous surveys in 2001-02 and 2004-05 the usage of Hand pump is declining where as it is increasing for the motor pump both in urban and in rural areas. Moreover, the percentage of households depending on lower water sources i.e. dug well" and other either remained unchanged or slightly decreased. Usage of tap water[3] during 2004-05 and 2005-06 remain at the level of 34 percent, NWFP has the best water supply of 47 percent in 2005-06 compared to 44 percent in 2004-05 amongst the provinces in terms of tap water. The vast majority of the population of Punjab (68 percent) has water either from hand pump or motor pump and only 5 percent of the population depend on a dug well or other sources (river, canal or stream). Sindh has remained at almost same level in terms of tap water (43 percent) in 2005-06 as compared to 44 percent in 2004-05. Balochistan province has shown increase in Tap water from 33 percent in 2004-05 to 36 percent in 2005-06, increase is more evident in rural areas (22 percent to 25 percent) in spite of the fact that in urban areas same has declined.

The water supply situation in NWFP and Balochistan has improved as compared to 2004-05. In these two provinces, 32 and 60 percent of the rural population in 2005-06, as compared to 45 percent & 70 percent respectively in 2004-05, depend on water from a dug well or from a other (river/canal/stream).

[3] In PSLM survey, interviewers were told to record the ultimate source of drinking water. For example, water piped directly from a stream and delivered through a tap, without passing through a settlement tank, would have 'stream' as its source, not 'tap in house'.

Richer households are substantially more likely to have water piped to a tap in the household (Table 5.2). This relationship is strong in urban areas, but very weak in rural areas. On the other hand the use of dug wells and river/canal/stream is more likely for poor households.

A small proportion of households pay for drinking water (Table 5.3). In the population as a whole, only 24 per cent of households pay for water and this proportion reaches only 12 per cent in rural areas. Since 2004-05, the proportion paying has remained Increasing in rural and in urban areas.

The 2005-06 PSLM recorded information on who installed the water system used by the household (Table 5.5). It shows that households themselves are the largest single supplier of drinking water, having arranged their own supply in 57 per cent of cases. Provincial and local government – in the form of the LG&RDD, the PHED and other local government bodies – installed the water supplies of some 35 percent of households. They installed 92 per cent of all piped water supplies; however the coverage of Local government was least important in Punjab and played the largest role in Balocistan.

Households that depend on the poorest supplies also have to travel the furthest for the water (Table 5.6). Some 8 percent of households whose drinking water comes from a river, canal, stream or pond travel zero to 0.5 km for the water. Comparing provinces, Punjab is favoured with the best access while Balochistan has the worst, with over half of the households depending on sources outside the home.

5.3 Toilet Facility and sanitation.

In Pakistan as a whole, 30 per cent households do not have any toilet facility (Table 5.7). This varies largely between urban and rural areas i.e. 3 per cent of urban households have no toilet compared to 44 percent of rural households. The percentage of households with no toilet facility is highest in rural Balochistan (56 percent) and lowest in NWFP (29 percent) in 2005-06.

The use of flush toilets is 93 percent for the urban households, Punjab with 95% is highest and Balochistan with 61 percent is the lowest.

Richer households have much greater use of flush toilets than poor households (Table 5.8). The use of flush toilets is 98 percent almost universal for the richest urban households, compare to 64 percent in richer rural area.

Some 58 per cent of rural households do not have any form of sanitation system in 2005-06 compare to 66 percent in 2004-05 (Table 5.9). Balochistan rural with highest 92 per cent households are with out any system while Punjab rural with 48 per cent is the lowest one.

As would be expected, richer households are more likely to have a connection to a sanitation system than poor households (Table 5.10). The relationship is much stronger in urban areas, 92 percent as compared to 42 percent in rural areas.

79 percent of households reported that they had no garbage collection system, reaching 97 percent in rural areas (Table 5.11). In rural areas, the pattern is more or less same for all the four provinces. Even in urban areas, only 44 per cent households benefited from municipal garbage collection services and 43 per cent of urban households had no garbage collection system at all in 2005-06.