

4. Housing, Water supply & Sanitation

4.1 Introduction

Most of the households in rural Pakistan do not have access to adequate potable water. Many also lack toilets and adequate sanitation systems. The Government aims to expand access to clean drinking water and to improve sanitation particularly in rural areas. The main Government strategy in rural water supply is to improve the performance and operation of local water supply systems by promoting community responsibility for the management and maintenance of systems. To improve sanitation in rural areas, 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 housing, electricity, gas, water supplies and toilets.

4.2 Housing:

Some 87 per cent of all households reported that they have own dwelling unit while 7% of households have rented dwelling unit and about 5.32% have rented free house but a small number of 1.1% households have on subsidized housing units. (Table 4.1). In Islamabad (Federal Capital) 37% household live in rented or subsidized rented units compared to 59% live in their own housing units. In all other districts in the country people predominantly live in their own housing units.

Table 4.2 shows percent distribution of household material used for “Roof”. In Pakistan about 50% housing units are constructed using Wood/ Bamboo (28.7% Urban and 66% Rural). Province- wise distribution is 44.4% - Punjab, 41% - Sindh, 59.7% - N.W.F.P and 79% - Balochistan. In Balochistan Province with the exception of Quetta district all the remaining districts use predominantly Wood/ Bamboo.

Similarly in Table 4.3 percent distribution is given of material used for the construction of “Walls”. Burnt Bricks/ Blocks have been used in 64% housing units (88% Urban and 46% Rural) . Here again in Balochistan province 18.65% units have reported the use of Burnt Bricks/ Blocks which is considerably low compared to other provinces. Except Quetta all remaining districts use Mud Bricks/ Mud and particularly in the rural areas this percentage is over 80.

4.3 Electricity & Gas:

Table 4.5 shows that 83.9% of households were using electricity as fuel for lighting and 15.5% of households use gas and oil as a fuel for lighting. 96.4% urban areas have electricity compared to 74.3% in rural areas. Sialkot is at the top with 99.29%

households having electricity connection. Muzaffargarh (65%) in the Punjab, Tharparker (21%) in Sindh, Kohistan (47%) in N.W.F.P and Musakhel / Awaran (9%) are the lowest districts in the provinces having electricity connections.

Table 4.6 indicates that 29.5% households are using gas as fuel. Only 4.9 per cent households in rural households are using gas compared to 61.6% in urban areas. Karachi followed by Lahore are the two top districts in the country with 89.18% and 77.85% gas connections respectively.

4.4 Sources of Drinking Water

The main source of drinking water in rural areas in Pakistan is the hand pump (Table 4.7). Hand pumps and motor pumps together contributed 70 per cent of households with drinking water in PIHS 2001-02 which decreased to 53 per cent in 2004-05. Motor pumps form an increasingly relevant part of this. In fact, the most significant change in rural drinking water supplies between 2001-02 and 2004-05 is the increasing percentage of households using tap water. However, this change appears to be mainly a change in convenience since there seems to be a substitution from hand pumps and motor pumps. Moreover, the percentage of households is depending on lower water sources i.e. dug well and other either remained unchanged or slightly increased. Overall Lahore 80% in the Punjab, Karachi 86% in Sindh, Bannu 77% in N.W.F.P and Quetta 82% in the Balochistan are the top districts within provinces having piped water facility.

NWFP has the best rural water supply amongst the provinces in terms of tap water. The vast majority of the rural population of Punjab has either hand pump or water from a motor pump¹ and only 4 per cent of the rural population depend on a dug well or other sources (river, canal or stream). Sindh-Rural has shown improvement in poor water supply sources in 2004-05 compared to 2001-02 i.e. from 25 to 20%.The rural water supply situation in NWFP is still worse, and is worst of all in Balochistan. In these two provinces, 44 and 69 per cent of the rural population, respectively, depend on water from a dug well or from a river/canal/stream. The wide variation in water sources between provinces suggests strong cases for interventions targeted, especially, at NWFP and Balochistan.

4.5 Toilets

In Pakistan as a whole, 26 per cent households do not have any toilet (Table 4.8). This varies greatly between urban and rural areas i.e. 6 per cent of urban households have no toilet compared to 40 per cent of rural households. Rural areas have much poorer sanitation provision than they do drinking water provision. However, there seems to have been significant improvement in rural sanitation, with a improvement in the proportion of households without a toilet from 59 to 40 % and an increase from 26 to 30 % in the proportion reporting a flush toilet. . Rural Punjab has the highest proportion of

¹ It is assumed that water from a hand pump is, generally, cleaner than from a dug well or river/canal/stream. However, it is important to note that water from a hand pump may sometimes be contaminated. Since no tests are carried out on water quality, the PSLM must depend on the type of water source used to provide an approximate indicator of quality.

households reporting no toilet at all, at 50 per cent. Rural Sindh has the lowest, at 27 per cent.

The use of flush toilets is 86 % for the urban households, Punjab with 91% is highest and Balochistan with 63% is the lowest. The top ranked districts within the province having Flush toilet facility are Lahore 94%, Karachi 91% , Peshawar 73% , and Quetta 76%. In the Punjab (rural) with the exception of Lahore (9%) all other districts having significant portion of rural population is still without any toilet facility. Similarly, in other provinces situation is not as worse as of Punjab but still majority of districts do not have toilet facility for rural population.