

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:

86 per cent of all households in 2006-07 compared to 87 percent in 2004-05 reported that they have own dwelling unit while 7 percent of households have rented dwelling unit and about 6 percent have rented free house but a small number of 1 percent households have on subsidized housing units. (Table 4.1). In Islamabad (Federal Capital) 43 percent (37 percent in 2004-05) households live in rented or subsidized rented units compared to 52 percent (59 percent in 2004-05) 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 44 percent (50 % in 2004-05) housing units are constructed using Wood/ Bamboo (18 percent Urban and 57 percent Rural). Province- wise distribution is 40 percent (44 percent in 2004-05) in Punjab, 39 percent (41 percent in 2004-05) in Sindh, 59 percent (60 percent in 2004-05) in N.W.F.P and 78 percent (79 percent in 2004-05) in 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 69 percent (64 percent in 2004-05) housing units (94 percent Urban and 56 percent Rural). Here again in Balochistan province 20 percent (19 percent in 2004-05) units have reported the use of Burnt Bricks/ Blocks which is considerably low compared to other provinces. Except Quetta and to some extent Gwadar all remaining districts use Mud Bricks/ Mud and particularly in the rural areas this percentage is over 70.

4.3 Electricity & Gas:

Table 4.5 shows that 87 percent (84 percent in 2004-05) of households were using electricity as fuel for lighting and 12 percent (15 percent in 2004-05) of households use gas and oil as a fuel for lighting. 98 percent (94 percent in 2004-05) urban households have electricity compared to 81 percent (74 percent in 2004-05) in rural areas. Punjab with 90 percent (89 percent in 2004-05), Sindh 79 percent (80 percent in 2004-05), N.W.F.P 91 percent (90 percent in 2004-05) and Balochistan 65 percent (62 percent in 2004-05) households, are having electricity connections. Gujrat (99.50 percent), Karachi (95.62 percent), Nowshera (99.94 percent) and Quetta (97.84 percent) are the top ranked districts within the provinces having electricity connections in households.

Table 4.6 indicates that 30 percent households compared to 29 percent are using gas as fuel. Only 7 percent households in rural households are using gas compared to 74 percent in urban areas. Quetta followed by Karachi are the two top districts in the country with 92.26 percent and 92.04 percent gas connections respectively.

4.4 Sources of Drinking Water

The tap water facility has increased from 34 percent in 2004-05 to 36 percent in 2006-07. Overall Lahore 80 percent in the Punjab, Karachi 88 percent in Sindh, Haripur 68 percent in N.W.F.P and Quetta 87 percent in the Balochistan are the top districts within provinces having tap water facility. 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 56 per cent of households with drinking water in 2005-06 which decreased to 52 percent in 2006-07. In rural areas hand pumps and motor pumps usage has declined to 62 percent in 2006-07 compared to 65 percent in 2005-06. Moreover, the percentage of households is depending on lower water sources i.e. dug well and others either remained unchanged or slightly increased.

NWFP has the best rural water supply amongst the provinces in terms of tap water but at second last place as for its 41 percent population depend on a dug well or other poor sources (river, canal or stream). The vast majority of the rural population of Punjab has either hand pump or water from a motor pump¹ and only 5 per cent of the rural population depend on a dug well or other sources (river, canal or stream). Sindh-Rural has shown increase in poor water supply sources in 2006-07 compared to 2005-06 i.e. from 18 percent to 21 percent. The rural water supply situation in NWFP is still worse, and is worst of all in Balochistan. In these two provinces, 41 and 67 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.

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.

4.5 Toilets

In Pakistan as a whole, 27 per cent households compared to 30 percent in 2005-06 do not have any toilet (Table 4.8). This varies greatly between urban and rural areas i.e. 4 per cent of urban households have no toilet compared to 39 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 an improvement in the proportion of households without a toilet from 30 percent in 2006-07 to 27 percent in 2005-06. Rural Punjab has the highest proportion of households reporting no toilet at all, i.e. 44 per cent. Rural Sindh has the lowest, at 27 per cent.

The use of flush toilets is 92 percent for the urban households, Punjab with 93 percent is highest and Balochistan with 78 percent is the lowest. The top ranked districts within the province having Flush toilet facility are Lahore 93 percent, Karachi 94 percent, Abbottabad 77 percent, and Quetta 82 percent. In the Punjab (rural) with the exception of Lahore (9 percent) 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.