

Coping with Erratic Water Supplies and Willingness to Pay for Improved Water Quality in the Rawalpindi City

By

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Introduction

- Every human being on Earth requires at least 20 to 50 liters of clean, safe water a day for drinking, cooking, and simply keeping themselves clean, as it is human necessity to survive.
- Some 1.8 million people die every year of diarrheal diseases like cholera due to highly polluted water available to them. Tens of millions of others are seriously sickened by a host of water-related ailments, many of which are easily avoidable.

Introduction

- It is estimated that, in Pakistan, 30% of the diseases and 40% of the deaths are due to poor quality water. Estimates revealed that every year over 200,000 children in Pakistan die due to diarrhea alone (USAID 2009).
- According to data collected by 'The News', two of the three teaching hospitals in town including Holy Family Hospital and Rawalpindi General Hospital have received nearly 3,000 patients with gastroenteritis within past one-and-a-half months.
- Dr Ashraf said that residents of Rawalpindi are also vulnerable to water-borne diseases due to supply of contaminated water in many areas of the city. "About 80% of Rawalpindi population drinks contaminated water. Every day, nine out of ten times, the glass of water turns out to be 'unfit for human consumption' as the situation of public water sources, storage tanks, distribution channels etc. has become horrifying."

objectives

- To analyze, whether there is access to safe drinking water for Rawal town and Potohar regions in Rawalpindi Tehsil or not.
- To determine consumers' willingness to pay (WTP) for a particular water supply service level.
- To determine coping cost associated with different coping strategies.
- To examine the socioeconomic factors that influence residential consumers' willingness to pay, for an improved water supply.
- To assess the value of WTP as a planning tool for better service delivery and potential capability of generating funds.
- To suggest recommendations to the relevant authorities and agencies for the planning and managing of effective methods of water supply service.
- It is realized that there not only the question of water quality but water supply is another serious issue (see Table 5).







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