

Treated tap water accessible to only 30.8 percent of rural population

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<http://post.jagran.com/Treated-tap-water-accessible-to-only-308-percent-of-rural-population-1357992074>

New Delhi: India might be recognized as world's one of the fastest growing economies, but most of its people are destined to live without basic facilities like safe drinking water.

Availability of tap water for drinking is confined to a very small part of India especially in its rural parts. Here we have standard quality specifications for soft drinks, but none for potable water.

According to a report released by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, under the Ministry of Rural Development, millions of households do not have access to tap connections in dwelling places. It stated that only 30.8 percent of the rural population has access to treated tap water. As a result, majority of the rural population depends extensively (for domestic water supply) on private wells, hand pumps, bore wells, ponds and tanks, which provide untreated water.

Poor people in the rural are coerced to compromise on their basic needs. Generally, women spend a lot of time everyday to collect water from distant sources. Sources which provide adequate quantity of water in these regions are found to be of poor quality with hazardous impact on health especially on women and children.

The report showed that, while Union Territory Chandigarh and Puducherry top the list in providing safe water to its rural population while the national capital, Delhi, stand at 12th position. According to it, 95.2 percent rural people residing in Chandigarh, 95 percent rural people in Puducherry and 59.4 percent in Delhi have access to treated tap water.

The survey listed Bihar among the poorest states in terms of access to safe drinking water for its rural people. Here only 2.6 percent households are getting drinking water from a tap.

Notably, households amenities and assets Census for 2011, had revealed that almost a third of Indian households, having mobile phones, don't have access to safe drinking water.

