

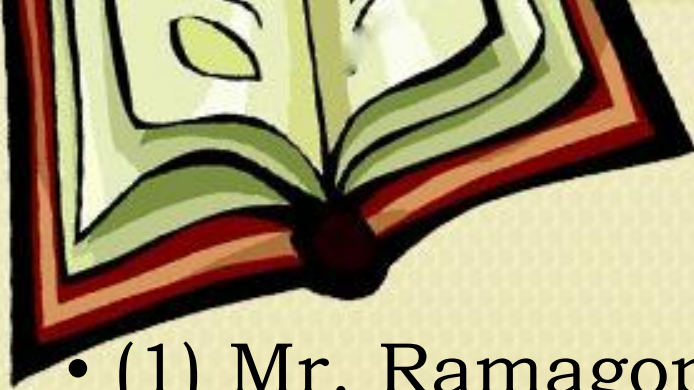


ISWK SHARING KNOWLEDGE

TOPIC: PUBLIC FACILITIES (CIVICS)

CLASS : VIII

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WATER AND THE PEOPLE OF CHENNAI

- (1) Mr. Ramagopal of Anna Nagar uses tap water lavishly.
- He also arranges water by water tanker.
- (2) Subramanian's apartments in Mylapore suffers from water shortage.
- Municipal water comes once in two days.
- Residents at Mylapore depend on private borewell water too.
- Subramanian spends upto Rs 500-600 per month to buy water from tankers.





- (3) Siva of Madipakkam lives on a rent house.
- Siva gets water that comes once in four days and she buys bottled water.
- (4) Padma in Saidapet lives in a slum area which lacks other living facilities.
- 30 hutments use one common tap and water comes from a borewell for 20 mts twice a day.
- In summer they suffer from water shortage.
- People have to wait long hours for water tankers.





WATER AS PART OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO LIFE

- Water is essential for life and good health.
- It is necessary to meet our daily needs.
- Safe drinking water can prevent many water –related diseases.
- Access to safe drinking water can prevent the death of children.



RIGHT TO WATER

- The Constitution of India recognizes right to water is a part of Right to Life under Article 21.
- Right to water means universal access to water.
- Sufficient amounts of water to fulfil daily needs at an affordable price.
- There have been several court cases in which the High Court and the Supreme Court have held that the right to safe drinking is a Fundamental Right.
- Eg: The verdict of Andhra Pradesh High Court in 2007.





PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Water, healthcare, sanitation, electricity, transport, schools and colleges.
- Characteristics of Public Facilities;
- Once provided, its benefits can be shared by many people.
- E.g.: A School in a village will enable many children to get educated.
- The supply of electricity in an area can be useful for many people.





THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

- Public Facilities must be made available to everyone by the Government.
- Private companies are not interested in the provision of public facilities. E.g.; keeping the drains clean and an anti-malaria campaign.
- Private companies are interested in other facilities such as schools and hospitals.
- They supply drinking water in sealed bottles.
- When public facilities are provided at a price, some can only afford. Ability to pay for a public facility will deprive many from having the facilities.
- Public facilities relate to people's basic needs, therefore the government has a responsibility to provide these.



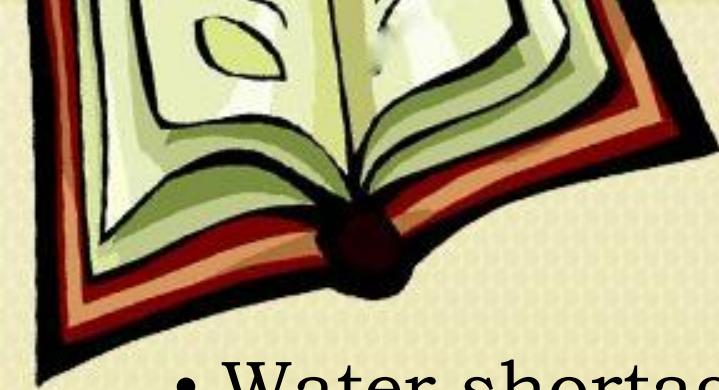
WATER SUPPLY TO CHENNAI: IS IT AVAILABLE TO ALL?

- Public facilities should be made available to all, but there is a great shortage of such facilities.
- E.g.: Water supply in Chennai.
- Municipal supply meets only about half of the people in the city.
- There are areas very close to the storage point that get water regularly than others.
- The poor are the most affected.



- The middle class depend on digging borewells, buying water from tankers and using bottled water.
- Access to safe drinking water is also available to some who can afford to buy.
- Universal access to sufficient and safe water becomes a far cry.





IN SEARCH OF ALTERNATIVES.

- Water shortage is common in other cities of India.
- The shortage in Municipal water is filled by an expansion of private companies.
- The supply and use of water from person to person differ.
- Shortage of Municipal water is a sign of failure of the Government.
- Some argue for private companies as there is shortage of Municipal water.



- Why should not the government withdraw the task of supplying water?
- 1. Throughout the world, water supply is a function of the government.
- There are very few instances of private water supply.
- 2. There are areas in the world where public water supply has achieved universal access.
- 3. Wherever the private companies were allowed to supply water riots broke out due to unaffordable price and forcing the government to take back this service.



- 4. There are cases of success in government water supply
- E.g.:(a) The water supply department in Mumbai
- (b) The water supply department in Hyderabad.
- (c)In Chennai, the department has taken up rain water harvesting to increase the level of groundwater and allowing private companies to transport and distribute water with government rate for water tankers.



CONCLUSION

- Public facilities are related to basic needs.
- The Indian Constitution recognizes the right to water, health and education as Right to Life.
- It is a role of the government to ensure adequate public facilities for everyone.
- The shortage in supply causes inequality in distribution.
- Towns and villages are under-provided.
- Poorer localities are under-serviced.
- Provision of public facilities by private companies is not always the right answer.
- Every citizen of the Country has a right to public facilities which should be provided in an equitable manner.



THANK YOU & ALL THE BEST