



Infrastructure Planning and Management

Class 4 - The Water sector in India



Agenda

- Characteristics of the Water and Sanitation (W&S) sector
- India's performance in the W&S sector
- Policy Initiatives



Characteristics

- The W&S sector can be considered in three parts/phases listed below
 1. Water harvesting/storage
 2. Water supply (piping and distribution from the reservoir to the consumer)
 3. Waste management and sanitation
- This sector also has monopoly and economies of scale characteristics. As a result, it is not feasible for several W&S firms to co-exist in the same area
- Social issues play a very important role in guiding the policies and the performance of this sector. There is a perception that water is a basic human right. This puts pressure on public agencies to ensure good quality of service in this sector.
 - Pricing of water is also a very contentious issue since it is considered a basic human right from some quarters. This makes it very difficult to privatize water supply services.



How is India doing?

- 50% urban households do not have a piped connection
- 44% of households have no sanitation at all
- Unaccounted For Water (UFW) - water that is lost or stolen during transmission is as high as 25-50% of stored water.
- Water is not available all day in most places
 - 2,80,000 rural people are partially or fully not covered
 - Another 2,17,000 face severe quality problems
 - Another 60,000 are exposed to arsenic etc
- The price of water is artificially low due to the social issues mentioned in the previous slide. This affects the profitability of local water boards and therefore the quality of service.
- Very often, the urban and rural poor are not connected to the municipal water supply systems. As a result, they often purchase water from water tankers at rates that are higher than what the average, connected citizen pays. The poor therefore pay more for water
- The W&S scenario in India is in need of considerable improvement.



Policies in the W&S sector

- Water Harvesting
 - NWP (National Water Policy) in 1987 has laid down groundwater recharge guidelines
 - NWP 2002 has laid down guidelines on rainwater harvesting, watershed management etc. These policies should help augment our water storage
- Water Supply
 - 11th 5 year plan discusses improving distribution and efficiency of water. The plan indicates that an initially outlay of INR 80,000 Cr is required and that all rivers are to be “bathing class”
 - RGNWDM (Rajiv Gandhi National Water Development Mission) and the ARWSP (Accelerated Rural Water Supply Program) are two centrally funded schemes set up to improve the efficiency of water supply. As per the ARWSP, the State provides matching grant funds for rural infrastructure upgradation. In addition, capacity building and community participation is also given importance. Reduction in subsidies, shifting of government role from direct service delivery to planning, policy formulation, partial financing etc, ensuring community participation and management, and school sanitation are other thrust areas of this program



More reforms and policies

- 10th 5 year plan and Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF)
 - The URIF encourages urban bodies to reform, increase operational efficiency and reduce subsidies. The plan mandates providing water access to the urban poor, setting tariffs to discourage overuse, introducing water efficient flushes etc, providing drinking water to all, increasing community participation and NGO participation and so on. In return, funding and financial incentives are given to urban bodies
- AUWSP (Accelerated Urban Water Supply Program)
 - This program is promoted by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and provides funds for providing water connections to smaller urban cities. Launched in 93-94, INR 2000 crore was spent by 2001.
- Central support for sanitation has also been increased since many people die due to water-borne diseases



Thank You!

