

Access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation is both a right and a basic need. Inadequate access to safe drinking water leads to intestinal mortality and intestinal diseases. The diseases commonly caused due to contaminated water are diarrhea, trachoma, intestine worms, and hepatitis. About 27 percent and 75 percent of rural and urban households were access to safe drinking water facilities in 1981 increased to 55 percent and 81 percent of rural and urban households in 1991 respectively. The problems have become more acute in the slum areas where such basic necessities of life are either non-existent, or are inadequate and very low in standard. The percentage distribution of households having safe drinking water facilities is presented briefly. In India, almost all surface water resources are contaminated and unfit for human consumption.