

# Water Scarcity: A Global Issue

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## Abstract

This chapter explores about the problems that we are facing because of water scarcity. Water is very important in our life and its scarcity can lead us to many problems. Basically, water scarcity is the lack of sufficient available fresh water resources to meet water demand. It affects every continent and is the largest global risk. 0.014% of all water on Earth is both fresh and easily accessible. The unequal distribution results in some wet and some dry geographical locations. Today, humanity is facing water crisis and we are continuously wasting the water available with us. At the current consumption rate, the situation will only get worse. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population may face water shortage. There will be many affects of water scarcity such as lack of availability of drinking water, hunger, diseases, sanitation issues, etc. In Cape Town, forecasters have forecasted that the water available with them will last till 16 April. To use the available water for longer, South African Government has reduced the consumption of water from 87 liters to 50 liters a day. If we want to overcome this problem, then we must take certain steps. We must educate people not to waste the water, store water, etc so that this problem of water scarcity can be easily solved.

**Keywords:** Scarcity, Global risk, Water crisis, Unequal distribution

## Intoduction

Water is very important in our life. Water is everything. Without water, we cannot imagine our life. Water is needed for manufacturing, agriculture, commerce, many types of energy, human existence and other life forms, etc. but we are constantly wasting the water available with us. Current situation of water is that we have lots of water but not always where it is needed. The issue of water scarcity was first raised in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. In 2017, the theme for world water day is "Why Waste Water?" Clean drinking water is scare and there are millions of people across the globe who spends their entire for searching it. Yet, people who have access to safe, clean drinking water take it for granted and don't use it wisely. This practice of wasting has to be reduced otherwise we will have to suffer for a single drop of water every day.

## Water Wastage in India

In 2016, 13 states including UP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and MP suffered acute shortage in supply of drinking water. India's economy is largely dependent on agriculture and shortage in water supply will adversely affect the economic progress of the country. A recent study suggests that by 2040, there will

be no drinking water in almost all of India. Between 2030 and 2040, many parts of the world will face fresh water scarcity and India is likely to be one of the worst affected countries. In India, about 76 million people don't have safe drinking water available with them.

## Causes of Water Scarcity

There are many causes of water scarcity but the most common causes of this problem are:

### Overuse of water

Water is being overused by people who have it. They keep on using it in access even though they are not in need of the water. This leads to the wastage of water which results in the reduction of water available with us which causes water scarcity.

### Pollution of water

The waste and harmful water of the industries are discharged in lakes, rivers, etc without purifying because of which whole water gets polluted and the problem of water scarcity arises.

### Population growth

Population is increasing at ha high rate. The increasing population also consumes large amount of water and

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How to cite this article: Jain S. Water Scarcity: A Global Issue. *J Adv Res Alt Energ Env Eco* 2018; 5(3): 12-14.

they waste the water as well which causes water scarcity.

### Industrial growth

Today is age of industrialization and many new industries are emerging day by day. In industries, lots of water is required and a heavy use of fresh water is done. Instead of fresh water, other water can be used to solve the problem of water scarcity.

### Effects of Water Scarcity

#### Lack of access to drinking water

The biggest problem of water scarcity is that people are not able to get fresh, drinking water. Lack of drinking water can result in a number of problems such as hunger, diseases, etc.

#### Reduced output

As there is scarcity of fresh water, then the output with us in agriculture will be reduced as we are not having sufficient water available with us for farming.

#### Higher cost

Production requires water. If there will be scarcity of water in the industries then they would have to import the water which will increase the cost of production. Lack of water will also results in less production because of which cost of the product in the market will also rise.

#### Hunger

As there will be less production of the commodity, the demand in the market will rise because of which price of the product will also rise. This will lead poor people not to purchase the product due to high cost and the problem of hunger and starvation will arise.

### Alarming Statistics

- Per capita availability of water in India has gone down from 6042 cubic meter in 1947 to about 1545 cubic meter in 2011.
- By 2050, India's burgeoning population and water scarcity will reach alarming proportions.
- Over 90% of the waste water discharged into rivers, lakes and ponds is untreated and leads to further contamination of fresh water sources.
- India has no desalination facilities to use the abundant seawater resources.

### Solution for Water Scarcity

#### Education

By educating the people who are not dealing with water scarcity, the problem can be solved as they will take some initiative and will do something to overcome this problem.

#### Recycle water

There are plenty of technologies that allow you to recycle the water. Recycling the water will not only prevent scarcity

but also saves you from money as well.

### Advance technology related to water conservation

There has been a lot of work in the world of water conservation, but there is also a lot needs to be done. New effective technologies have to be planted to prevent scarcity.

#### Improve sewage systems

Clean drinking water starts with a good sewage system. Without proper sanitation, the water in an area becomes ridden with disease and any number of problems. By improving the sewage system, we can prevent the water scarcity from becoming any worse.

#### Support clean water initiative

There are organizations located the entire world that are looking to bring clean water to the areas that don't have. By donating these organizations either by our skills, money, time we can support the clean water initiative.

### Conclusion

Water, which is considered as most essential element in our life is very scare with us and we are blindly wasting it. We are overusing the water available with us without thinking of the near future or about the people who are not having easy access to the clean water. Constant overuse of water like this will adversely affect the world as the availability of clean water all over the world is scare. While using the water, we must keep in mind not to waste or use the water in access. We must not pollute the sources of fresh water available with us. In order to solve the problem of scarcity of water, Government must take certain steps. Industries must be ordered to install the plants to treat the waste and harmful water and not to discharge into the lakes and seas. There must be a high penalty over the access use of water and actions must be taken against those industries who don't have water treatment plant with them. Government must also introduce the budget to solve the problem of water scarcity and a proper plan must be made to solve the problem of water scarcity. We must also take initiatives to overcome the problem of scarcity. We must store the rain water as it is the purest water available. We must use our waste water in cleaning our house and should reduce the access use of water. If we keep on wasting the water like this, then the time is not so far when we are going to see no water available with us and use of water will be minimized by the Government as the water has to be imported from other countries. So in order to overcome the problem of water scarcity, we ourselves must take initiative and should reduce the use of water and should fine innovative ideas to reuse the waste water.

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*Date of Submission:* 2018-11-15

*Date of Acceptance:* 2018-12-21