

Economic Status and Opinions of the Packed and Non-Packed Drinking Water User

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INTRODUCTION

This study deals with the data regarding economic background and opinions of respondents regarding packed drinking water, as this study was selected for the study of 'Commercialization of drinking water a Sociological study with special reference to south western Maharashtra.' Availability of pure drinking water has become serious issue, due to the water pollution. Using packed drinking water is not affordable to entire people of the society, taking in account such issue i have tried to focused on economic condition and affordability of both the people such as packed and non-packed drinking water as well as using water purification unit of drinking water at home.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the economic background of respondents of packed drinking water user and non-user
2. Affordability of water by different economic groups.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As the present study has its focus on the social status of the people using packed and non-packed drinking water in Kolhapur. All the respondents who are using and not using water purification units. The descriptive research design has been adopted for the present study.

UNIVERSE AND SAMPLING

For the micro level study, Tarabai park, Pratibhanagar and Daulatnagar, have considered and these three wards of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation have 6000 (Six Thousands) of households. Taking in to consideration researcher's time, money and energy, 5 percent of samples (i.e. 300) belongs to upper class, middle class, and lower class were selected as sample.

OPINIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The second section deals with the data regarding opinions of the respondents regarding the drinking water normal as well as packed.

TWENTY YEARS AGO, THE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER

Source of drinking water	Frequency	Percentage
Public Tap	108	36.0
Own Tap	192	64.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in the table indicates that most respondents had their own tap for drinking water were as 192 or 64.0 percent of the respondents had not their own tap, they were using public tap for drinking water, through this above data it is clear that, because of poor family background 36.0 percent of the respondents were using public tap for drinking water and 64.0 percent of the respondents had good family background therefore they were using their own tap.

QUALITY OF THE DRINKING WATER

Quality of the Drinking Water	Frequency	Percentage
Pure	53	17.7
Impure	08	02.7
Medium	239	79.7
Total	300	100

The data presented in table regarding the quality of drinking water before twenty years ago it is clearly shows that majority of the respondents 239 or 79.7 percent were getting medium kind of drinking water means it was not pure as well as not impure. Apart from that 53 or 17.7 percent of the respondents were getting pure water and remaining 08 or 2.7 percent of the respondents were getting impure water so this is the fact regarding drinking water, therefore there is variation between about getting drinking water. Pure, impure and medium kind of water supply is depend on the area were the water is going to supply by the municipal corporation water department. Also, the maintenance of the water tank which is going to maintained by the water supply department of Municipal Corporation.

GETTING SUFFICIENT WATER

Getting sufficient water	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	202	67.3
No	98	32.7
Total	300	100

The data presented in the table indicates that twenty years ago 202 or 67.3 percent of the respondents were getting sufficient drinking water were as 98 or 32.7 percent of the drink. Through the data presented in the above table clearly shows that, those who were getting sufficient drinking water mostly they belonged to Tarabaipark and Pratibhanagar area or ward because they had their own tap get sufficient drinking water they all were belongs to Daulatnagar area and they didn't have their own tap therefore they were using public tap for getting water.

SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER AT PRESENT

Source of drinking water at present	Frequency	Percentage
Own Tap	236	78.7
Own Tap+ Bore Well	33	11.0
Public Tap	31	10.3
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table indicates that majority of the respondents having their own tap for drinking water at present. Subsequently 33 or 11.0 percent of the respondents are having their own tap as well as bore well it means these people are using both the sources for drinking as well as other purpose. And remaining 31 or 10.3 percent of the respondents are using public tap means they have only public tap means as a source of drinking water at present. Because of poor family background they are unable to use own tap for drinking water, apart from these facilities are not available.

GETTING SUFFICIENT WATER IN PRESENT DAYS

Getting sufficient water in present days	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	263	87.7
No	37	12.3
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table indicates that majority of the respondents were getting sufficient drinking water from tap water of Municipal Corporation and subsequently 37 or 12.3 percent of the respondents are not getting sufficient drinking water from tap water of Municipal Corporation. The number of getting sufficient drinking water is very less because these people are not having their own tap for therefore, they are using public tap for drinking water. Apart from this through some of the respondents have their own tap but because of having more members in the family, they are not getting sufficient.

WATER PURIFICATION UNIT AT HOME

Water purification unit at home	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	219	73.0
No	81	27.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table indicates that majority 219 or 73.0 percent of the respondents are having water purification unit at home and apart from that remaining 81 or 27.0 percent of the respondents are not having water purification unit at home. The reason behind not having water purification unit at home is poor family background and do not have awareness about water purification unit.

NAME OF THE WATER PURIFICATION UNIT

Name of the water purification unit	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	81	27.0
Water filter	99	33.0
Acquaguard	120	40.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in the table shows that majority of the respondents 120 or 40.0 percent are using acquaguard at home as a water purification unit subsequently 99 or 33.0 percent of the respondents are using water filter at home as a purification unit and remaining 81 or 27.0 percent of the respondents are not using acquaguard as well as water filter because of the poor family background and do not having awareness about drinking water. These 27.0 percent of the respondents are using drinking water as it is coming from the tap which is going to supply from the water supply from the water supply department of Kolhapur Municipal Corporation.

THE PERIOD OF USING WATER PURIFICATION UNIT:

Period of using water purification unit	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	81	27.0
5 years	44	14.7
10 years	93	31.0
15 years	82	27.3
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table indicates that the period of water purification unit going to use by the respondents since past years, these purification units are water filter and aquaguard, water filter is more older than aquaguard. Majority 93 or 31.0 percent of the respondents are using water purification unit since last 10 years then 82 or 27.3 percent of the respondents are using water purification unit since last 15 years, Subsequently 44 or 14.7 percent of the respondents are using water purification unit since last 5 years and remaining 81 or 27.0 percent of the respondents are not using water purification unit for drinking at home, Again the same reason behind is that, poor family background of the respondents therefore they are using direct tap water without any purification unit.

THE REASON BEHIND USING WATER PURIFICATION UNIT

Reason behind using water purification unit	Frequency	Percentage
Not Applicable	81	27.0
Getting pure water	219	73.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in above table indicates that 219 or 73.0 percent of the respondents are using water purification units at home for getting pure water, some of them are using water filter and some of them are using acquaguard, Because the available tap water is not pure and there are more chance of water borne diseases therefore as a

precaution, they are using water purification units at home. Apart from this 81 or 27.0 percent of the respondents are not using any utilising tap water as it is because of poor family background and not having health awareness.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF WATER PURIFICATION UNIT

Annual maintenance in rupees	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	81	27.0
500 to 1,000	03	01.0
1,000 to 1,500	91	30.3
1,500 to 2,000	40	13.4
Above 2,000	85	28.3
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table regarding annual maintenance of water purification unit in rupees, clearly shows that majority means 91 or 30.3 percent of the respondents are spending rupees 1,000 to 1,500 annually, subsequently 85 or 28.3 percent of the respondents are spending above 2,000 annually, then 40 or 13.4 percent of the respondents are spending rupees 1,500 to 2000 annually and only 3 or 1 percent of the respondents are spending rupees 500 to 1,000 annually. Through this data it is clear that when the respondents are spending rupees on maintenance it means they are paying money for water, because water should be available naturally, but due to pollution its not happening therefore water has become commodity.

USING PACKED DRINKING WATER

Using packed drinking water	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	54	18.0
No	246	82.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in above table indicates that majority of the 246 or 82.0 percent respondents are not using packed drinking water were as only 54 or 18.0 percent of the respondents are using packed drinking water. The reason behind do not using packed drinking is that some of the respondents have poor family background, some of have better family background but they are having negative approach about packed drinking water, and some of them are not affordable to purchase packed drinking water.

THE PERIOD OF USING PACKED DRINKING WATER BY THE RESPONDENTS

Period of using packed drinking water	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	246	83.0
5 years	50	16.7
10 years	04	1.3
Total	300	100

The data presented in table shows that 50 or 16.7 percent of the respondents are using packed drinking water since last 5 years, subsequently 4 or 1.3 percent of the respondents are using packed drinking water, since last 10 years and remaining 246 or 82 percent of the respondents are not using packed drinking water. Majority of the respondents are not using packed drinking water because some of them have poor family background, some of them are using acquaguard for getting pure and clean water.

REASON BEHIND USING PACKED DRINKING WATER BY THE RESPONDENTS

The reason behind using packed drinking water	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	246	82.0

Health Awareness	54	18.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table indicates that majority of the respondents are not using packed drinking water, were as only 54 or 18.0 percent of the respondents are using packed drinking water. The reason behind not using packed drinking water is there are three different classes of the respondents namely upper class, middle class and lower class therefore there is variation of economic condition of the respondents and this condition results in using packed drinking water also the approach and attitude about packed drinking water, though some of the respondents are not using packed drinking water, their economic condition is good but for them acquaguard is better than packed water.

MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF PACKED DRINKING WATER BY THE RESPONDENTS

Monthly Expenditure of packed drinking water in Rupees	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	246	82.0
1,000	03	01.0
1,500	36	12.0
2,000	12	04.0
Above 2,000	03	01.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table regarding monthly expenditure of packed drinking water shows that 36 or 12 percent of the respondents have Rs. 1,500 monthly expenditure, Subsequently 12 or 4.0 percent of the respondents have Rs. 2,000, monthly expenditure and remaining respondents have monthly expenditure of packed drinking water is 1,000 and above 2,000. Apart from this 246 or 82 percent of the respondents are not using packed drinking water.

WATER BORN DISEASES FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS

Water borne diseases faced by the respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	259	86.3
No	41	13.7
Total	300	100

The data presented in above table indicates that majority of the respondents 259 or 86.3 percent of the respondents have faced variation water borne diseases, and apart from that 41 or 13.7 percent of the respondents have not faced any water borne diseases because they were taking precautions regarding drinking pure water, means they are very conscious about water which is going to supply by the municipal corporation.

PREFERENCE GIVEN TO DRINKING WATER AT THE TIME OF TRAVELLING BY THE RESPONDENTS

Preference give to drinking water	Frequency	Percentage
Only packed water	189	63.0
Any available water	111	37.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in above table clearly shows that at time of travelling at long distance, majority 189 or 63.0 percent of the respondents are giving priority to drink only packed water, it means they are very conscious about drinking water, and remaining 111 or 37.0 percent of the respondents are drinking any available water at the time of travelling long distance. The reason behind drinking any available water is that either they are having poor family background as well as they do not have health awareness.

SURETY ABOUT PACKED DRINKING WATER BY THE RESPONDENTS

Surety about packed drinking water	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	111	37.0
Yes	157	52.3
No	32	10.7
Total	300	100

The data presented in above table shows that majority of the respondents are sure about packed drinking water, therefore they are giving priority to drink packed drinking water at the time of travelling and remaining 157 or 52.3 percent of the respondents are not sure about packed drinking water, these we are not sure about packed water but it is better than any available water. Subsequently 111 or 37.0 percent of the respondents are never drink packed water they always drink any available water because its not affordable to them, and they are not health consciousness.

PURCHASING BRANDED OR LOCAL PACKED DRINKING WATER BY THE RESPONDENTS

Branded or local packed drinking water	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	111	37.0
Branded	157	52.3
Local	32	10.7
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table shows that majority 157 or 52.3 percent of the respondents are drinking branded packed water at the time of travelling, because these respondents are sure about purity of branded drinking water. Apart from this branded companies are always trying to maintain the quality of product which they are going to produce. Apart from this 32 or 10.7 percent of the respondents are purchasing packed water of water of local brand, these people are not taking efforts to search branded packed drinking bottles of water, because this respondents are not thinking about branded and non-branded some time these respondents are sure about purity of local brand. Finally, 111 or 37.0 percent of the respondents are never purchasing packed drinking water they are drinking any available.

KNOWING CONTAIN IN PACKED DRINKING WATER BY THE RESPONDENTS

Knowing contents	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	111	37.0
Yes	177	59.0
No	12	4.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table regarding knowing contents in packed drinking water by the respondents clearly indicates that majority of the respondents 177 or 59.0 percent know that what kind of contents having in packed drinking water also it to mentioned on the table. Also these respondents were answered that this our duty to see what exactly contents have been added by the company at the time of production therefore it is came to know that all the contents have knowing the respondents are very aware about packed drinking water. Apart from that 12 or 4.0 percent of the respondents do not know the content having in packed drinking water and subsequently they said that we are not interested to see what exactly have in that. Finally there is no question about remaining 111 or 37.0 percent of the respondents because they never purchase packed water for drinking.

TESTING PACKED WATER AT LABORATORY BY THE RESPONDENTS

Testing packed water at laboratory	Frequency	Percentage
Not applicable	111	37.0
Yes	39	13.0
No	150	50.0
Total	300	100

The data presented in the above table indicates that majority of the respondents have not tested packed water at laboratory and they said that there is no need to test packed water at laboratory because already it is tested by the company were it is going to produce subsequently 39 or 13.0 percent of the respondents have been tested by the company, we cannot put faith on then or company therefore as a consciousness we have tested if at laboratory and we are always purchasing packed drinking water of branded company only because at the time of travelling it is the question of health. Apart from that remaining 111 or 37.0 percent of the respondents are never purchasing packed drinking water therefore they are drinking any available water.

CONCLUSION

Water is most important factor to every living organism, without water what will happen we cannot imagine. Therefore, it is a duty of every individual to sustain the water and water resources which are available on the earth. Every one need pure and clean water naturally to drink but for that what one should have to do, we are not taking in account, such kind of attitude is always hazardous, it means every individual is going to become selfish.

Now days because of water pollution drinking water as it is too much dangerous to health but majority of the lower-class people were suffering from water borne diseases, it is clear that always lower-class people are going to become victim. Majority of the water borne diseases have found among lower class people. Even at the time of travelling lower class people are using available water they are not purchasing packed water, apart from this upper-class people and middle-class people are at the time travelling giving priority to only packed drinking water, they do not want to take any risk about health, in this connection all the respondents agree that plastic bottles are responsible for environmental pollution. They said that we are just using packed water in plastic bottles but we are unable to dispose it properly and this results in environmental pollution. People belongs to lower and middle class are not using packed drinking water, economically it is not affordable to them. Apart from this also they are not using water purification unit, because it is very costly as well as yearly maintenance is not affordable.

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