

4. Housing, Water supply & Sanitation

4.1 Introduction

Most of the households in rural Pakistan do not have access to adequate potable water. Many also lack toilets and adequate sanitation systems. The Government aims to expand access to clean drinking water and to improve sanitation particularly in rural areas. The main Government strategy in rural water supply is to improve the performance and operation of local water supply systems by promoting community responsibility for the management and maintenance of systems. To improve sanitation in rural areas, the government is promoting the construction of household latrines, the construction of open surface drains with street pavements and providing hygiene education.

In this chapter, information is presented on housing, electricity, gas, water supplies and toilets.

4.2 Housing:

87 per cent of households in 2008-09 reported that they have own dwelling units as compared to 86 percent in 2006-07 while 6 percent of households have rented dwelling units, about 6 percent have rent free units and only 1 percent households have subsidized housing units (Table 4.1). In Islamabad (Federal Capital), 41 percent (43 percent in 2006-07) households live in rented or subsidized rented units as compared to 49 percent (52 percent in 2006-07) who have their own housing units. In all other districts in the country people predominantly live in their own housing units. Narowal with 97 percent, Larkana and Jamshoro with 98 percent, Chitral with 98 percent and Panjgur with 97 percent are the districts where people predominantly live in their own housing units.

Table 4.2 shows percentage distribution of households for material used for "Roof". In overall Pakistan Wood/ Bamboo 41 percent (44 percent in 2006-07) is predominantly used as material for Roof construction followed by RCC/RBC 35 percent (32 percent in 2006-07) and Sheet/Iron 24 percent (24 percent in 2006-07). The use of Wood/Bamboo as material used for roof is highest in Balochistan (73 percent) as compared to other provinces. Mianwali with 79 percent and Bahawalnagar with 1 percent in Punjab, Tharparkar with 79 percent and Karachi with 1 percent in Sindh, Uppre Dir with 90 percent and Abbottabad with 9 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Washuk with 98 percent and Quetta with 33 percent in Balochistan are highest and lowest districts using wood/bamboo as material for roof. Bahawalnagar with 91 percent, Dadu 54 percent, Karak 42 percent and Lasbilla 52 percent are top ranked districts using sheet/iron as material for roof construction.

Similarly, Table 4.3 shows percentage distribution of households for material used for the construction of "Walls". Burnt Bricks/ Blocks have been used in 72 percent housing unit in 2008-09 as compared to (69 percent in 2006-07) and (94 percent Urban

and 60 percent Rural). The use of Burnt Bricks/Blocks in Balochistan is considerably low as compared to other provinces except Quetta, Gawadar and urban Kohlu. Rajanpur with 51 percent in Punjab, Mirpurkhas with 48 percent in Sindh, D.I Khan with 69 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Ziarat with 99 percent in Balochistan are the top districts using Mud/Mud Bricks as material for walls.

4.3 Electricity & Gas:

Table 4.5 shows that 91 percent (87 percent in 2006-07) of households were using electricity while only 8 percent (12 percent in 2006-07) use gas and oil as a fuel for lighting. Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 93 percent have highest number of households having electricity connections as compared to other provinces. Rajanpur with 54 percent, Thatta with 42 percent, Kohistan with 43 percent and Kohlu with 26 percent have the lowest number of households with electricity connections in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, respectively. In rural areas of Rajanpur, Badin, Kohistan and Lasbilla more than 51 percent of the households are using Gas/Oil as fuel for lighting. Dera Bugti has the highest percentage where 57 percent of households use Candle/Other for lighting.

Table 4.6 indicates that the vast majority (68 percent) of households are using wood/charcoal or other as fuel for cooking in rural Pakistan. This percentage is higher in rural areas (93 percent) as compared to only 23 percent of urban areas. 31 percent of households are using gas as fuel for cooking at national level as compared to 30 percent in 2006-07. Only 7 percent households in rural areas are using gas as fuel for cooking as compared to 78 percent in urban areas. Karachi followed by Quetta are the two top districts in the country with 95 percent and 91 percent gas connections, respectively. Layyah, Tharparkar, Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Shangle, Bunair, Tank, Kohistan, Lakki Marwat, Awaran, Panjgur and Musa Khel are the districts where 99 percent of the households do not have gas connections.

4.4 Sources of Drinking Water

35 percent of households in overall Pakistan are using piped water as main source of drinking water. This percentage is higher in urban areas (62 percent) than in rural areas (21 percent). Hafizabad with 2 percent in Punjab, Shikarpur with 4 percent in Sindh, Kohistan with 8 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Musa Khel and Barkhan with 1 percent only in the Balochistan are the districts within provinces which have lowest number of households with piped water facility as main source of drinking water. The main source of drinking water in rural areas in Pakistan is the hand pump (Table 4.7). Hand pumps and motor pumps together contributed 54 percent as compared to 52 percent in 2006-07. In rural areas hand pumps and motor pumps usage has increased to 65 percent in 2008-09 as compared to 62 percent in 2006-07. Moreover, the percentage of households depending upon lower water sources i.e. dug well and others either remained unchanged or slightly decreased. D.G Khan with 26 percent, Mirpurkhas with 36 percent,

Kohistan with 91 percent and Musa Khel with 93 percent are the districts where the usage of Dug well/other as source of drinking water is higher than other districts.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the best rural water supply amongst the provinces in terms of tap water but on the other hand its 28 percent population depend on dug well or other poor sources (river, canal or stream). The vast majority of the rural population of Punjab has either hand pump or water from a motor pump¹ and only 5 per cent of the rural population depend on a dug well or other sources (river, canal or stream). Sindh-Rural has shown decrease in poor water supply sources from 21 percent in 2006-07 to 18 percent in 2008-09. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 32 percent of the rural population, depend on water from a dug well or from a river/canal/stream. The wide variation in water sources between provinces suggests strong cases for interventions targeted, especially, at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

4.5 Toilets

In Pakistan as a whole, 22 per cent households do not have any toilet facility as compared to 27 percent in 2006-07 (Table 4.8). This varies greatly between urban and rural areas i.e. 2 per cent of urban households have no toilet facility as compared to 33 per cent of rural households. Rural areas have much poorer sanitation provision compared to drinking water provision. Jhang with 54 percent (64 percent rural) in Punjab, Thatta with 56 percent (68 percent rural) in Sindh, Kohistan with 59 percent (59 percent rural) and Kohlu with 87 percent (92 percent rural) are the top districts without any toilet facility. However, there seems to have been significant improvement in rural sanitation, with an improvement in the proportion of households without a toilet from 39 percent in 2006-07 going down to 33 percent in 2008-09. Rural Punjab has the highest proportion of households reporting no toilet at all i.e. 39 per cent and rural Sindh has the lowest, with 20 per cent.

95 percent of households in urban areas in 2008-09 were using flush toilets as compared to 92 percent in 2006-07. This percentage is highest in Punjab (96 percent) and lowest in Balochistan (75 percent). The top ranked districts within the province having Flush toilet facility are Rahim Yar Khan 96 percent, Karachi 98 percent, Peshawar 90 percent, and Quetta 88 percent. In rural Punjab high percentage of rural households (with the exception of rural Lahore (9 percent), Islamabad (10 percent), Gujranwala (11 percent)) are without any toilet facility. In other provinces situation is not as worse as of Punjab but still majority of districts do not have toilet facility for rural population.

¹ It is assumed that water from a hand pump is, generally, cleaner than from a dug well or river/canal/stream. However, it is important to note that water from a hand pump may sometimes be contaminated. Since no tests are carried out on water quality, the PSLM must depend on the type of water source used to provide an approximate indicator of quality.