

Drinking Water Quality and the Cost of Illness: Study in Chennai

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Abstract

Out of pocket expenses in India on drinking water scenario followed the lines and survey methodology done by Verma and Srivastava (1990). Losses in productivity on account of incapacitation due to illnesses were computed by multiplying daily income of the individuals by the total number of days lost to them due to water related illnesses in a year for each region separately. The total cost of illness was finally estimated by considering losses in productivity and expenditures incurred.

The findings from this study could be the basis for budgetary allocation in control and preventive programs on water-related diseases in the area. Our results, despite limitations, on annual episodes of diseases, income losses owing to illness and expenses incurred on treatment during such illness are of great value to the health professionals.