

CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 03

Water Resources



CHAPTER NOTES



WATER AS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE

About three-fourths of Earth's surface is covered with water, but only a small part is usable freshwater.

Where freshwater comes from

- Precipitation, surface runoff and groundwater are freshwater sources.
- The hydrological cycle continually renews surface water and recharges groundwater.
- Because water moves through this cycle, it is a renewable resource.
- Renewable does not mean that usable water is unlimited everywhere.

Why water matters

We need water for drinking, cooking, washing, agriculture and industry. Industries also use it for cooling machines and producing hydroelectric power. People have long settled near rivers, springs, lakes, ponds and oases.

Textbook forecast for 2025: nearly 2 billion people in absolute water scarcity.

This is an older forecast quoted by the chapter, not a verified present-day count.

CAUSES OF WATER SCARCITY

Water scarcity means that enough usable water is not available to meet people's needs.

Natural variation

Water availability changes from place to place and from season to season.

Seasonal and annual rainfall vary; dry regions and drought-prone areas may face shortages.

Human causes

- Over-exploitation: taking too much water from available sources.
- Excessive use and wastage.
- Unequal access between different social groups.
- A large and growing population increases domestic water needs and the water needed to produce food.

A city or region can have plenty of water resources and still face scarcity because demand is high or access is unequal. Low rainfall is not the only cause.

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND URBAN WATER

Sector	How pressure increases	Result
Agriculture	More irrigation for food grains and dry-season farming; many wells and tube-wells	Overuse can lower groundwater levels and threaten water availability and food security
Industry	Factories consume much freshwater and need power, including hydroelectric power	More demand on water and energy resources
Urban areas	Dense population, urban lifestyles and private groundwater pumps in housing colonies	Water resources become depleted

Irrigated agriculture is the largest consumer of water.

Better farming choices

The chapter stresses drought-resistant crops and dry farming techniques to reduce pressure on water.

WATER QUALITY AND CONSERVATION

Scarcity of safe water

Even where water is abundant, pollution can make it hazardous for human use.

Pollution sources:

- Domestic waste.
- Industrial waste and chemicals.
- Agricultural pesticides and fertilisers.

Jal Jeevan Mission

JJM aims to provide every rural household with a reliable, long-term supply of potable piped water through functioning tap connections.

Service level stated in the chapter:
55 litres per person per day.

Source: Economic Survey 2020-21.

Potable water means water suitable for drinking.

Why conservation is necessary

- Protect people from health hazards.
- Ensure food security.
- Continue livelihoods and productive activities.
- Prevent damage to natural ecosystems.

Over-exploitation and poor management can deplete water resources and cause an ecological crisis.

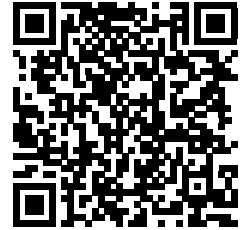


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