IDC- IIT Bombay

Walk for Water

India has, over the years, been shifting goalposts for providing potable water to all. In 1949, an environmental hygiene committee recommended that safe drinking water should be supplied to 90% of the country's population within 40 years. Sixty-five years since the target was set, potable water remains a distant dream in most of rural India and most of the rural population in India still walks for miles to get clean water.

Indian women can take up to six trips a day to gather and transport water. These walks in rural regions can average ten miles a day, carrying up to fifteen litres every trip. It is a great loss for these women to spend their days fetching water; they are removed from being able to make an income, better care for their children, or in a younger girl's circumstance, be able to get a proper education. Every 2nd rural woman spends 210 hours in a year for fetching water also means a loss of 27 days' wages for these households.



About Walk for Water Data Visualization

Walk for Water is a physical data visualisation of the amount of time households in different Indian states spend on fetching water each day. The iconic and cheap, blue and white rubber flip flops are a statement of durability. The wearing away of the soles of these slippers have been used to show the amount of time women spend on fetching water to their homes.

The data is acquired from Nation Sample Survey Organization of India's Key Indicators of Drinking Water, Sanitation Hygiene and Housing condition in India. The data visualisation was done for 12 states of India. The soles of the slippers were sanded off in a sanding machine. The sanding is relative to the slipper with the highest abrasion (Jharkhand where it takes 40 minutes to access a fresh water source).

Data for Walk for Water

Average time (in minutes) taken in a day by household members to fetch drinking water from outside the premises during 2012			
State/UT	Time Taken	State/UT	Time Taken
Andhra Pradesh	1.4	Mizoram	13
Arunachal Pradesh	18	Nagaland	6
Assam	70	Ødisha	16
Bihar	33	Punjab	76
Chattisgarh	18	Rajasthan	37
Delhi	9	Sikkim	16
Goa	75	Tamil Nadu	1.4
Gujarat	57	Tripura	28
Haryana	5P	Uttarakhand	25
Himachal Pradesh	19	Uttar Pradesh	22
Jammu & Kashmir	5P	West Bengal	15
Jharkhand	40	A & Nicobar Islands	1.4
Karnataka	17	Chandigarh	13
Madhya Pradesh	22	D&Nagar Haveli	1 7
Maharashtra	24	Daman & Diu	8
Manipur	15	Lakshadweep	57
Meghalaya	22	Puducherry	7

Source: Key Indicators of Drinking Water, Sanitation Hygiene and Housing condition in India, NSS 69th Round

