

## Read and Understand

# Clean Water is Life

Clean water is crucial to human health and life. It is everybody's responsibility to keep our water sources clean.

Globally, **diarrhoea** is the leading cause of **illnesses and deaths**.

**30,000 deaths** occur **every week** from unsafe water and unhygienic living conditions.

 **90 per cent of deaths** are children **under five** years old. 

 **88 per cent** of diarrhoea-related deaths are due to unsafe drinking water, lack of access to sanitation facilities and inadequate availability of water for hygienic purposes.

**Clean water also means better quality of life for women and girls.**

 In Africa, **90 per cent** of the work of gathering water and wood is done by women.

 Women and girls often spend up to **six hours every day** fetching water.

 This amounts to **40 billion hours** spent every year walking for water in Africa alone.

 In some nations, **only 50 per cent of girls** are enrolled in schools due to lack of toilet facilities.



Find out more about water by clicking:  
<http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

**Clean water is needed for food production.**

In **2050** an increase in population will require 60 per cent more food.

Agriculture accounts for roughly 70 per cent of global fresh water withdrawals and up to 90 per cent in some fast growing economies.

**GLOSSARY**

**crucial** extremely important  
**sanitation** the equipment and systems that keep places clean, by removing human waste

Protecting water sources from pollution is everyone's responsibility. Appropriate and adequate action must be taken to prevent pollution. Human life and prosperity rest on our actions today. Our lifestyle and activities determine the quality of water. Reduce wastage and manage water efficiently and ensure that we do not pollute the rivers so that we can have an endless flow of clean water supply.



Adapted from:  
<https://thewaterproject.org/why-water/10-ways-clean-water-changes-the-world>

1. Find the meanings of the words as used in the text:

availability      constitutes      adequate



2. Tick (✓) the correct statements.

- In many countries, diarrhoea is the main cause for illnesses and deaths.
- More adults than children die as a result of diarrhoea.
- The demand for clean water increases with the increase of population.
- In Africa, parents spend a lot of time fetching water and wood.
- Many children in Africa spend a lot of time fetching water for domestic use.



3. List three uses of water as stated in the text.

4. Answer the following questions.

- Why is diarrhoea the leading cause of death in some countries?
- What does the expression 'This amounts to' mean?
- How will clean water change the lives of women and girls in Africa?