

The Hindu 08.02.2017

## Call for water budgeting, restoring waterbodies

The city's households spend a minimum of 3% of their monthly income towards water, particularly during drought conditions, to cope with the shortfall in piped water supply.

With the growing gap between demand and water availability, it is essential to have a water budget and develop a sustainable drainage system during urban planning, experts stressed here recently.

At a media workshop on 'Floods, cyclone and drought: The puzzle of Chennai's water and climate', organised by Care Earth Trust, K.S. Kavi Kumar of Madras School of Economics said many households with piped water connection spend Rs. 553 per month towards water needs. Those without piped water supply spend Rs. 658 per month on the same.

People without municipal water supply spend nearly 6.2% of their monthly income towards sourcing water from the private

sector. Citing various studies, he said besides implementing water metering system, the government sector must change the pricing strategy. At present, the cost of water supply is nearly Rs. 13-15 per kilo litre. Economic incentives may be provided to encourage reduction in use.

***Workshop on city's water supply situation underlines the need to increase the reservoir capacity***