



Human Rights- Grade 7- 11

## Infrastructure in India



### Learning Objective

Reading comprehension & vocabulary build

Identify the term, 'infrastructure.'

Describe general conditions of living in a rural area in India

Connect people's access to basic infrastructure with health and social problems.

Identify realities that prevent or challenge access to water and other 'basic necessities' in rural India.

Connect the relationship between government and people's access to infrastructure.

### Materials

- Handout: article, 'No drinking water, electricity and sanitation in 20% of rural houses: Report.'
- Handout: article, 'India losing 54 billion dollars annually due to poor water and sanitation: World Bank'
- Handout: questions on articles
- Slideshow on 'Water Access in India'.
- Access to internet and/or encyclopedias

**Time 3.5 hours**

### Part 1: What is infrastructure?

#### Group discussion

**Does anyone know what the term, 'infrastructure' means?** (the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.)

#### Is infrastructure something we take for granted here in Canada

One way to know is to ask, have you ever had to build your own:

- Toilet
- Road
- Roof
- Public bridge or staircase

Or do you remember a time the power went out, and how you felt at the time?

Who is mainly responsible for providing these things? (Government for public infrastructure such as roads, sewage, pipes, and power lines; or construction workers.)

In developing countries, people must often take responsibility for their own town's infrastructure. They do not simply 'receive' important structures like sewage pipelines; they have to build it themselves.

Access to water is not as easy as turning on the tap in India!

It often requires a lot more hard work, and communities have to figure out how to access water by themselves.

**Watch** the video 'Children Change the World' if you haven't already.

[www.youtube.com/watch?gl=IN&v=wgt1cKAGTmo&hl=en-GB](http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=IN&v=wgt1cKAGTmo&hl=en-GB)

## Part 2: Infrastructure in India

**Split** class into groups.

Half the groups get the article, 'No drinking water, electricity and sanitation in 20% of rural houses: Report.'

The other half gets the article, 'India losing 54 billion dollars annually due to poor water and sanitation: World Bank.'

Each group **answers** the handout questions for their article. (See handout sheet)

## Class Discussion

**Read, share** and **discuss** handout answers as a class.

**What is the importance of sanitation and plumbing?**

**Why is it so important that people have access to basic infrastructure?**

**Watch** the slideshow on 'Water Access in India'. **Discuss.**

## Part 3: Research

### Group Work

#### Research topics

**What is the difference between access to infrastructure for rural populations and urban populations in India?**

**In your city, where does potable water come from, and where does it go?**

**Choose one of the following communicable diseases: cholera, jaundice, malaria, typhoid, diarrhea**

**What is 'green plumbing' and why is it important?**

**... or another topic chosen by the group and cleared with the teacher.**

In groups, students select one of the above topics, and do the following:

1. **Research** the topic: Find a number of reference sources- an article, encyclopedia entry or other-written about the topic.
2. **Summarize** the topic: Give 3-5 facts about the topic.
3. **Give a brief history** of the topic. What was the situation 100 or more years ago?
4. Can you identify a **problem** with this topic?
5. Who is working to solve this problem and what are they doing?
6. How does this topic affect the living conditions of people? How does it affect their health, their social life, their family life etc.?