

Vehicle Washing and Water Security in Pakistan

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Abstract

Vehicle washing is a universal phenomenon. Automobile services stations are increasing in Pakistan due to increasing number of vehicles. This study is conducted to observe the people's behavior towards the use of water for vehicle washing and to check how much amount of water is used to clean vehicles at service stations in Faisalabad city. Large quantity of water is pumped from underground water for washing purposes that causes exhaustion of water, deterioration of underground water and surface water as well. A questionnaire is used to collect data from twenty five vehicle service stations to determine number of vehicles being washed per day and water utilization per day. On average 28 vehicles which include bikes, cars, jeeps, vans and land cruisers are washed daily on every vehicle wash service station while on the special occasions or on weekend number of vehicles being washed increases. Pakistan is already facing the shortage of water reported in different researches. Descriptive analysis of water consumption per vehicle and total amount of water used to wash the vehicles is carried out and found that about 78 to 240 litres of water is consumed to wash a vehicle depending upon the size of the vehicle. It is concluded that use of drinking water for washing vehicles in the city is being viewed as a criminal waste of water which needs to be avoided by utilizing recycled water and use of water reclamation system.

Keywords: Water security, Vehicle washing, Vehicle Services Stations, Underground Water, Reclamation, Sustainable Development, Pakistan.