Awareness of arsenic contamination in tube well water at Bashailbhog village, Bangladesh

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In order to investigate the relationship between people's awareness of arsenic pollution and concentration of total arsenic in their tube well water, we conducted questionnaire survey of the people (n=126) and collected twenty three tube well water samples (shallow and deep tube well waters) in Munshiganj district, Bashailbhog village, Bangladesh. The average concentration of total arsenic in shallow tube well waters was approximately 350 μg L^{-1} and that in deep tube well waters was approximately 8 μg L^{-1}. The level in shallow tube well water exceeded the drinking water standard for arsenic (10 μg L^{-1}) set by the World Health Organization (WHO). On the other hand, approximately 80% of the respondents were satisfied with the quality of their shallow tube well water, probably because they never experienced acute sickness directly from using their arsenic-contaminated tube well waters. The significant difference in annual income was shown to exist between shallow tube well water users and deep tube well water users by *t*-test. This indicated that the shallow tube well water users were compelled to use shallow waters because they did not have enough money to dig deep tube well.