Introduction

Water is one of the most important and most precious of natural resources and a regular plentiful supply of clean water is essential for the survival and health of most living organisms. Freshwater ecosystem is considered as one of the most essential natural resources for all the living organisms on the earth. The freshwater ecosystem include rivers, ponds etc.

The freshwater ecosystem is considered one of the most essential natural resources for all the living organisms on the earth. The various freshwater ecosystems include rivers, ponds, lakes etc. Nowadays, the significant increase in population as a result of the amount of disposal has created a major problem for its disposal. As a result, it has increased the level of water pollution and as a result the ponds have been given eutrophication. Among, further risks to the development of ponds under the present study are the process and the increase in a human settlement near the pond. It has deteriorated the health of those ponds owing to the discharge of untreated sewage water from the nearby settlements into them [1]. Many studies have found that phytoplankton and zooplankton can be used as indicators of water pollution [2-4].

The rate of growth and development of plankton depends on various biological as well as biological factors such as light, temperature, available nutrients, oxygen concentration, pH, etc [5,6]. The phytoplanktons from the basic trophic level and are succeeded by the zooplankton as the next level [7]. The population of zooplankton is influenced by the physicochemical characteristics of the body of water and it also changes according to the changes of the variation in the seasons [8,9].

The Ramgarh Lake embodies an impressive landmark for the city of Gorakhpur (eastern Uttar Pradesh, India) and has great potential for development as a center for fisheries development, recreational activities and many other beneficial purposes [10]. The maheshra tal is situated in the South-East of the Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh in a rich diversity of phytoplankton and zooplankton. Rapti River is the major tributary of Gaghara river eastern Uttar Pradesh is located in the west of Gorakhpur region.

The study was conducted to assess the water quality and phytoplankton and zooplankton status of the Ramgarh lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river in Gorakhpur district of eastern Uttar Pradesh (U.P) India. The study was conducted to assess the mainly phytoplankton and zooplankton status of the Ramgarh lake, Maheshra tal, and Rapti river in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh, India by examining the biological parameters. The most important planktonic group encountered in the present study was cyanophyceae and Zygnematophyceae Nostocale and Desimidiale encountered as other genera which existed in the Ramgarh lake, Maheshra tal, and Rapti river water of the habitat. The study found that the members of protozoans group animal contribute 50 percent of the total zooplankton population during the year of the study period.
Uttar Pradesh, India by examining the physicochemical and biological parameters.

**Materials and methods**

**Study area**

Water samples of Ramgarh Lake, Rapti river and Maheshra tal were collected monthly in the mid month ± 1 day at three sampling sites from March 2020 to June 2020. Samples from the surface and bottom layers were collected at each site using one liter water sampler bottle. All the glass wares were rinsed with 10 % HCl, deionized water and double distilled water Figure 1.

Water analysis for various physicochemical parameters the parameters were within the following range in the study total alkalinity 43-62 ppm, pH 6.8-7.7, dissolved oxygen 6.3-7.3 mg/L, total ammonia 0.29-1.59 μg at N /I [11].

**Qualitative and quantitative estimation of Plankton**

The plankton samples were collected from the surface only from the same spots and at the same time when and where from the water samples were taken. Each sample was collected by filtering 50 liters of surface water through a bolting silk net made of 20 μm mesh size means of a bucket of 10 liters capacity. The plankton concentrate thus obtained was immediately preserved in 5% formaldehyde solution. This sample was thoroughly mixed before further analysis. The samples were then brought to the laboratory, Department of Zoology, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University Gorakhpur for qualitative and quantitative analysis of plankton. The water samples containing the plankton were dropped on the slides and were then observed under a microscope for the assessment of plankton diversity. Identification was done up to the genus level with the help of published literature [12,13] A sub sample of 1 ml was transferred to Sedgwick–Rafter plankton counting cell for differential numerical analysis. The organisms were identified up to species wherever possible and up to genera in other cases. The quantity of each species or genus was then calculated as numbers per liter in the lake water by Welch’s (1935) formula [14]:

\[ n = \left( \frac{a}{1000} \right) \frac{c}{l} \]

Where \( n \) = number of plankton per liter of original water.

\( a \) = average number of plankton in all counts in Sedgwick Rafter Cell.

\( C \) = volume of original concentration in ml.

\( l \) = volume of original water expressed in liters.

**Results**

In the Ramgarh lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river have hydrophytic vegetation is quite rich and includes several macrophytes and aquatic fauna. The water level of the lake, tal and river varied significantly in different parts of the year. However, the minimum value (40 cm) was recorded invariably in April during the years of study. With the onset of the monsoon, a gradual rise in water level was observed till touching the maximum level in the mid-month of September.

**Physical parameters**

Depending upon the climatic and biological conditions of the RamgarhLake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river the water changed from light grey to deep green during different months of the year. During the rainy season i.e. August to September, it...
was light to deep gray, while during April to May and November to December it was deep green due to abundant growth of planktonic algae.

The temperature of the surface and bottom water was recorded every month (on15th 1day) for one year. In 2020 month of March to June, the average surface temperature during the summer season was 30°C and that of the bottom was 20°C.

The lake water remained turbid during the summer and monsoon months. The transparency was low in summer (20.3 cm in 2020) and monsoon (19.0 cm in 2020), and did not differ much at various sampling stations.

**Plankton**

Phytoplankton: The member of the families Melosiraceae, Aphanizomenonaceae, Tabellariaceae, Microcystaceae, Cyanophyceae, Bracillariophyceae, Ulophyceae, Zygnematophyceae, Xanthophyceae, Volocaceae and Naviculaceae represented the phytoplankton community of Ramgarh Lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river constituted the dominant groups of phytoplankton. A list of phytoplankton collected from the Ramgarh lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river and their monthly occurrence has been given in the Table 1.

During the year 2020, the phytoplankton population exhibited two clear cut phases one running from March to June called the ‘summer phase’, while another running from July to December called post monsoon or ‘winter phase’. The phytoplankton of the summer phase chiefly included members of by cyanophyceae and supported by bacillariophyceae. The members of cyanophyceae made their maximum appearance from March to June. In the rest of the months either they were absent or if present they were scanty in numbers and poor in forms.

The members of families cyanophyceae, bacillariophyceae represented the phytoplankton community of Ramgarh Lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river. Among these families Melosira, Aphanizomenonaceae, Tabellariaceae, Microcystaceae, Cyanophyceae, Bracillariophyceae, Ulophyceae, Zygnematophyceae, Xanthophyceae, Volocaceae and Naviculaceae were observed predominant throughout the year and were comprised of 18 genera (Melosiraceae–01 genera, Aphanizomenonaceae–01 genera, Tabellariaceae–01 genera, Microcystaceae–02 genera, Cyanophyceae–03 genera, Bracillariophyceae–02 genera, Ulophyceae–02 genera, Zygnematophyceae–03 genera, Xanthophyceae–01 genera, Volocaceae–01 genera and Naviculaceae–01 genera), chiefly including Melosira varians, Nodularia pumigena, Asterionellopsis Formosa, Microcystis aeruginosa, Aphanizomenon flos-aquae, Nostocaceae srivularia, Nostocaceae anabena, Nodularias pinnularia, Naviculaceae stauroneis, Ulotrichale sulothrix, Ulotrichales protest, Desimidiales closterium, Desimidiales desmidium, Spirogyra, Mischoccales opioycytum, Volvox and Penales acetron (Table 1).

The most important planktonic group encountered in the present study was cyanophyceae and Zygnematophyceae. **Nostocale and Desimidiale** encountered as other genera which existed in the lake, tal and river water of the habitat.

| Table 1: Seasonal fluctuations in phytoplankton diversity in Ramgarh Lake, Rapti River and Maheshra tal during March 2020 to June 2020. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S. No. | Family | Phytoplanktons | River/lake/ Tal | Sample 1. | Sample 2. | Sample 3. |
| 1 | Melosiraceae | Melosira varians | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 2 | Aphanizomenonaceae | Nodularias pumigena | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 3 | Tabellariaceae | Asterionellopsis formosa | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 4 | Microcystaceae | Microcystis aeruginosa | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 5 | Cyanophyceae | Aphanizomenon flos-aquae | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 6 | Cyanophyceae | Nostocaceae srivularia | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 7 | Cyanophyceae | Nostocales nostoc | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 8 | Cyanophyceae | Nostocales anabena | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 9 | Bracillariophyceae | Naviculales pinnularia | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 10 | Bracillariophyceae | Naviculales stauroneis | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 11 | Ulophyceae | Ulotrichale sulothrix | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 12 | Ulophyceae | Ulotrichales protest | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 13 | Zygnematophyceae | Desimidiales closterium | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 14 | Zygnematophyceae | Desimidiales desmidium | Ramgarh + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 15 | Zygnematophyceae | Spirogyra | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 16 | Xanthophyceae | Mischoccales opioycytum | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 17 | Chlorophyceae | Volvox | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |
| 18 | Bacillariophyceae | Penales acetron | Rapti + + + | Maheshra + + + |

(+) Present, (-) Absent

In Bacillariophyceae group represented by two genera i.e. Naviculate spinularia and Naviculates stauroneis. Members of this group exhibited luxuriant growth from March to June. The data reveals that diatoms preferred to colonize during the summer season was 30°C and that of the bottom was 20°C.
warmer part of the year and they had a lean population during winter.

**Zooplankton**

The various groups of zooplankton recorded during the period of investigation were, (a) Protozoa (b) Nematoda (c) Ectoprocta (d) Arthropoda. Besides, insect nymphs, larvae and protozoans.

The data pertaining to the population dynamics of zooplankton and its different components like Protozoa, Nematoda, Ectoprocta and Arthropoda are given in Table 2. These data reveal that the population density of zooplankton in the Ramgarh lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river recorded a cyclic pattern, being lowest in the rainy season, then rising through early part of winter and gradually reaching to its peak in the early part of summer in the month of April. Protozoans and aquatic insects though appeared occasionally but in negligible numbers, hence, have not been considered in the present study.

The protozoans contribute 50 percent of the total zooplankton population during the year of 2020. The period from March to June was observed to be conducive for its growth whereas the period from June to August recorded its lean population (Table 2). Eighteen genera represented this group *Amoeba verrucosa, Amoeba proteus, Amoeba vespertilio, Amoeba vulgaris, Amoeba gibbosa, Pelomyxa palustris, Diffiligia muriformes, Acanthocyctis, Lionotus fasciola, Nassula ornate, Glaucoma pyriformis, Monochilum ovale, Ophryoglena flava, Paramaecium Caudatum, Paradoxorhabditis paradoxus, and Arcella*.

The nematode contributed 20 percent to the total zooplankton population in the year, recording their presence

| S.N. | Taxonomic group | Family          | Zooplankton       | River/lake/Tal   | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Sample 3 |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1    | Protozoa        | Amoebidae       | *Amoeba verrucosa*| Rapti            | +        | +        | +        |
| 2    | Protozoa        | Amoebidae       | *Amoeba proteus*  | Rapti            | +        | +        | +        |
| 3    | Protozoa        | Amoebidae       | *Amoeba vespertilio* | Rapti       | +        | +        | +        |
| 4    | Protozoa        | Amoebidae       | *Amoeba vulgaris* | Rapti            | +        | +        | +        |
| 5    | Protozoa        | Amoebidae       | *Amoeba gibbosa*  | Rapti            | +        | +        | +        |
| 6    | Protozoa        | Pelomyxidae     | *Pelomyxa palustris* | Rapti       | +        | +        | +        |
| 7    | Protozoa        | Diffugidae      | *Diffiligia muriformes* | Rapti     | +        | +        | +        |
| 9    | Protozoa        | Acanthocistidae | *Acanthocyctis*   | Rapti            | -        | -        | +        |
| 10   | Protozoa        | Fasciolidae     | *Lionotus fasciola* | Rapti         | +        | +        | +        |
| 11   | Protozoa        | Nassulidae      | *Nassula ornate*  | Rapti            | +        | +        | +        |
| 12   | Protozoa        | Glaucomidae     | *Glaucoma pyriformis* | Rapti       | +        | +        | +        |
| 13   | Protozoa        | Monocilium ovale| *Monochilium ovale* | Rapti         | +        | +        | +        |
| 14   | Protozoa        | Ophryoglenididae| *Ophryoglena flava* | Rapti          | +        | +        | +        |
| 15   | Protozoa        | Parameciidae    | *Paramaecium Caudatum* | Rapti        | +        | +        | +        |
|   | Protozoa   | Nematoda   | Arthropoda   | Ectoprocta   |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 16 | Parameciidae | Parameciidae | Paradoxorhabditis Paradoxus | Rapti | + | + | + | Rapti | + | + | + | Rapti | + | + | + | Rapti | + | + | - | Rapti | - | - | - | Rapti | + | + | + |
| 17 | Arcellidae | Parameciidae | Paradoxorhabditis cranganorenensis | Rapti | - | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 18 | Parameciidae | Parameciidae | Paradoxorhabditis jodhpurensis | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 19 | Cylindrocorporidae | Gobindonema filicaudatum | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 20 | Haplostoma | Helicotylunchus crenacauda | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 21 | Picarilaimidae | Picanilaimus caudatus | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 22 | Nematoda | Albinema indicum | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 23 | Nematoda | Monohystera pseudomaculata | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 24 | Nematoda | Colony of statoblast | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 25 | Nematoda | Statoblast | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 26 | Nematoda | Glossiphonia webri | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 27 | Nematoda | Herpodella hexaculata | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 28 | Nematoda | Streptophthalmus dichotomus | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 29 | Nematoda | Branchinella kugenumaensis | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 30 | Nematoda | Triops longicaudatus | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 31 | Nematoda | Eocytis plumosus | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 32 | Nematoda | Dophnialae | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 33 | Nematoda | Daphnia carinata | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 34 | Nematoda | Daphnia longicamerata | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 35 | Nematoda | Ceriodaphnia | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 36 | Nematoda | Scapholebris | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 37 | Nematoda | Moina (female) | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 38 | Nematoda | Moina (Male) | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |
| 39 | Nematoda | Cyprididae | Rapti | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Ramgarh | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + | Maheshra | + | + | + |

(+) Present, (-) Absent
Throughout the year, the nematode was represented by the families – Cyclindrocorporidae and haplodamididae.

The member of the phylum arthropoda belongs to the family streptcephalidae, tropsidae, arcellidae it belongs to the genera viz. Streptcephalus dichotomus, Branchinella kugenumaensis, Arcella, Eocyzius pulmosus, Triops longicaudatus.

Monitoring the physico-chemical parameters is very important for studying the influence of parameters on the distribution of various components of diversity in water. Water quality is influenced by geological, hydrological, climatic and anthropogenic factors. Water temperature is considered as one of the important factors that controls aquatic life.

## Discussion

Temperature plays an important role in the physical environment of the organism. It universally regulates the distribution and activities of plants and animals. According to Allen [15] and Prasad [16] temperature is a determining factor in the seasonal distribution of plankton. In the Ramgarh Lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river plankton population was observed to flourish during the period of temperature range between 30°C and 28°C.

The observed dissolved oxygen content was directly correlated with the plankton population in Ramgarh Lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river during the course of the study. The low level of dissolved oxygen content observed during summer months was associated with lesser number of plankton whereas increase in dissolved oxygen level was accompanied with an increase in the plankton population. The free carbon dioxide readily dissolves in water and combines with other substances. It plays an important role in the photosynthetic activities of both terrestrial as well as aquatic plants. Pahwa and Meherotra [17] and Ray, et al. [18] have observed the plankton population directly correlated with chloride concentration.

The members of cyanophyceae exhibited their maximum appearance during the summer month till the onset of the monsoon. The possible reason seems to be the availability of enough nutrients due to the increased decomposition rate. The variations of plankton population with respect to their number space and time may be due to the high rate of sewage pollution and affluvity for different climatic conditions.

The taxonomy of zooplankton and their seasonal fluctuation in relation to different physico-chemical factors have been variously discussed by Michael [19], Nandy, et al. [20], Balmurugan, et al. [21,22]. The zooplankton population of Ramgarh Lake, Maheshra tal and Rapti river showed a direct correlation with dissolved oxygen. It is generally assumed that the zooplankton depends upon the phytoplankton abundance and as such the peak of the latter follows the fall of the farmer.

## Conclusion

The aquatic environment is an area controlled by the changes in factors such as light, heat, humidity and contamination of various effluents in the water body. The results from this study indicated the status of plankton, followed by rich nutrients and an elevated level of zooplankton abundance in the lake, tal and river during the summer season. The study provides the role of phytoplankton and zooplanktons as bioindicators in detecting the health and trophic status of aquatic bodies. Some species withstand the extreme conditions and survive well in the polluted environment indicating high tolerance level while sensitive species were absent representing their low tolerance.

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