Physico-Chemical Analysis of Water from Harahi and Gangasagar Ponds Located in Darbhanga District

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| DOI: 10.36347/sajb.2022.v10i01.001 | Received: 31.11.2021 | Accepted: 03.01.2022 | Published: 10.01.2022 |

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Abstract

The various sources are generating a lot of polluting materials in the ponds water of Harahi & Gangasagar in the district of Darbhanga in Bihar. The sources are domestic drainages that directly discharge night soil from houses, industrial wastes from doctor’s clinic as well as industrial garbage. It is due to the presence of houses, clinics, some industries near the Harahi and Gangasagar ponds. These wastes are very dangerous and hazardous in nature on one hand, and at the other hand may contain a lot of valuable materials which protect our environment. In view of safety, it is essential to treat these wastes properly to protect the environment. There are various ways by which toxic and valuable by-products can be separated. The toxic products can be properly discarded and valuable products can be effectively utilized. The authors present the physicochemical analysis of Harahi and Gangasagar pond water. The results obtained have been compared with standard values of “Bureau of Indian standard permissible limit for drinking water.”

Keywords: Pollution, physico-chemical analysis, domestic drainage, industrial effluents, pharmaceutical wastes, toxic and hazardous.

INTRODUCTION

Darbhanga is one of the fastest growing cities in Bihar with rapid development and exploding population resulting in urbanization [1]. As result of population explosion pollution is the biggest problem in this city.

Pollution produced by people in turn affects them that make it a serious social problem [2]. Pollution production has two facts. One is the inevitable by production which is governed by natural laws. It therefore, cannot be stopped or cured without reducing the population [3]. By-product accumulation can be altered somewhat although it is debatable whether treatment measures would be significant without decreasing population growth. This type of pollution will be referred to as first order pollution.

The second fact will be referred to as the second order pollution or waste accumulation and implies waste that is formed as a result of man’s technological activities. The amount of secondary waste is also directly related to the population size.

Pure water is not found in nature. Even rain water which is in fact distilled water, collect impurities such as dust, gases, bacteria etc. during its passage through atmosphere. Thus it has to be analysed in order to ascertain its quality.

Citation: Maryam Parween, Shailza Verma, Subhra Sahoo, Arindam Kumar, Priyanka, Jyoti Mishra. Physico-Chemical Analysis of Water from Harahi and Gangasagar Ponds Located In Darbhanga District. Sch Acad J Biosci, 2022 Jan 10(1): 1-4.
Pollution may be natural or artificial. The artificial pollution forms the major part and is caused as a result of manmade activities. Artificial pollution is mainly caused by wastes from households, industries and agriculture lands. The domestic wastes include human excreta, urine, kitchen, washing and laundry wastes which do not receive any treatment and are directly discharged into reservoirs or water course. The above said problem is particularly significant in small town like Darbhanga which are situated close to flowing ponds and have poor sewer facilities. Darbhanga is locally considered as a town of ponds with many ponds available in and around the whole town. Nearly dozens of ponds are situated in this town. Additionally, there is no doubt that several diseases in men and animals are obtained from waste water from corporations, municipalities, slaughtering plants and boats sanatoria etc.

Several diseases in humans like cholera and typhoid spread by polluted water. Dr John in 1850, reported that cholera epidemic were the result of some micro-organism present in the faces of cholera victim [4]. A study was carried out in the Ipswich and Shawsheen river basin in order to find out a relation between the number of septic tank disposal system in the drainage basins and few parameters describing the water quality of the drainage [5]. The results showed that the amount of dissolved solids in the basic flow of stream was depended on housing density [6].

The present study is a comparative account of the quality of water at Harahi and Gangasagar ponds of Darbhanga town in three different seasons namely summer, winter and rainy season.

The average of the three values thus obtained was taken into study.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Collection of samples**

The samples were collected from Harahi&Gangasagar ponds and labelled as inlet of waste water into ponds (S₁H, S₁G), outlet of waste water (S₂H, S₂G) and mid pond (S₃H, S₃G), hand pump near ponds (S₄H, S₄G), drinking water from industrial area (S₅H, S₅G), industrial waste water like Aluminium-factory (S₆H, S₆G) and pharmaceutical company or wastes flowing in ponds (S₇H, S₇G).

**Sampling of water**

Five-litre capacity plastic containers with lid were taken for the collection of water samples. These containers were washed with (1:1) HCL by dipping for 24 hours. Then thoroughly cleaned with tap water and finally with distilled water. The containers were not opened before the time of filling. At the sampling sites, the containers were first rinsed with sample water and then the samples were taken from the designated site i.e. the middle or banks of ponds and at the depth of ten inches below the surface of water. These water samples from ponds, tube well and other selected sites were collected in all the three seasons winter, summer and rainy.

The samples were taken by holding containers in the hand near its base and plunging its neck downward below the surface. The containers were turned until the neck points slightly upward, the mouth being directed against the current 500 to 600 ml samples were taken in each container and which were later labelled immediately with complete details. The samples were preserved by adding 2 ml conc.H₂SO₄ per litre. The time and temperature of the selected sites were noted. For the analysis of oil and grease, the samples were taken in wide mouthed saline bottles.

**Analysis**

The collected samples were analysed for different parameters soon after collection. The parameters tested included pH, turbidity, electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS), alkalinity, total hardness, dissolved oxygen (DO), biological oxygen demand (BOD) and chemical oxygen demand (COD). The concentration of different ions like calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, iron, sulphates, fluoride, chloride and phosphates (total and dissolved) was also analysed in the representative samples. Standard methods recommended by APHA (2005) were followed for the analyses.

The results were tabulated in Table 1, 2 & 3. The results have been compared with the values given by the standard values for drinking waters suggested in the Bureau of Indian standard (BIS 1991).

**RESULTS**

The pound water is largely influenced by pollution particularly in urban cities. It has large effect on physical and chemical properties of water. Many biotic and abiotic component of ecosystem are changed. The physical characteristics of turbidity, TDS (mg/L), electrical conductivity (mho/cm) and pH was studied from 7 sites of Ganga Sagar and Harahi ponds of Darbhanga district (Table 1).

The chemical reactions studied in pond water included alkalinity (mg/L), total hardness (mg/L) oil and grease (mg/L ) dissolved oxygen (DO) of water in mg/L , chemical oxygen demand (COD) of water in mg/L and biological oxygen demand (BOD) of water in mg/L (Table 2).

The concentration of cations/anions including calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, iron, fluoride, chloride, sulphates, total phosphates, dissolved phosphates were studied (Table 3).
Table 1: Physical parameters for drinking water, ponds water and Industrial effluents during rainy season

| Parameters          | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | Desirable Limits | Permissible Limits |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| Turbidity           | 46  | 47  | 55  | 55  | 52  | 53  | 4   | 3.5 | 3               | 2.5               |
| Electrical Conductivity in mho/cm | 125 | 4   | 125 | 3   | 117 | 4   | 117 | 6   | 887             | 856               |
| Total dissolved solid (TDS) mg/L   | 248 | 2   | 249 | 1   | 256 | 7   | 256 | 5   | 274             | 275               |
| pH                  | 6.1 | 6.4 | 6.9 | 6.87| 6.3 | 6.35| 6.20| 6.24| 6.7            | 6.7               |

Table 2: Chemical parameter for drinking water, ponds water and industrial effluents during rainy season

| Parameters          | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | Desirable Limits | Permissible Limits |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| Alkalinity mg/L     | 544 | 556 | 500 | 510 | 356 | 367 | 452 | 398 | 292             | 267               |
| Total Hardness mg/L | 654 | 652 | 744 | 746 | 544 | 545 | 611 | 612 | 454             | 450               |
| Oil & Grease mg/L   | 118 | 120 | 162 | 162 | 166 | 166 | 154 | 155 | 110             | 112               |
| DO mg/L             | Nil | Nil | Nil | 7.2 | 7.4 | 5   | 4.5 | 8   | 8               | Nil               |
| COD mg/L            | 75  | 75  | 60  | 60  | 67  | 67  | 74  | 73  | 66              | 92                |
| BOD mg/L            | 108 | 112 | 117 | 115 | 114 | 114 | 118 | 116 | 115            | 122               |
| TC (MPN/100nl)      | -   | -   | -   | 1400| 1200| 160 | 110 | 8   | 7               | -                 |
| FC (MPN/100nl)      | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1400| 1200| 160 | 110            | -                 |

Table 3: Concentration of cations/anions in drinking water ponds (Harali & Ganga Sagar) and industrial effluents in mg/L during rainy season

| Parameters          | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | S_H | S_G | Desirable Limits | Permissible Limits |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| Calcium             | 87  | 86  | 92  | 91  | 66  | 64  | 70  | 72  | 80              | 100               |
| Magnesium           | 45  | 47  | 54  | 55  | 47  | 40  | 42.5| 43.6| 34.2           | 36                |
| Sodium              | 35  | 38  | 31  | 30  | 26  | 27  | 35  | 34  | 28              | 27                |
| Potassium           | 24.5| 26  | 25.2| 27  | 18.4| 19  | 22.1| 23.2| 26             | 25                |
| Iron                | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 1.32| 1.4 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 4.2            | 4.5               |
| Fluoride            | 1.12| 1.20| 1.20| 1.24| 2.73| 2.75| 0.46| 0.48| 0.98           | 1.62              |
| Chloride            | 78  | 77  | 42  | 46  | 92  | 90  | 116 | 115 | 18              | 18                |
| Sulphate            | 0.42| 0.44| 0.52| 0.54| 0.32| 0.30| 0.45| 0.44| 0.21           | 0.22              |
| Total phosphate     | 1.2 | 1.10| 0.28| 0.30| 0.78| 0.80| 0.42| 0.44| 0.20           | 0.22              |
| Dissolved Phosphate | 0.60| 0.62| 0.20| 0.21| 0.24| 0.24| 0.16| 0.16| 0.12           | 0.12              |

DISCUSSION

In our study the maximum turbidity was noted at sampling sites S_H and S_G of 55 each. The minimum turbidity was noted at S_H of 4. Turbidity of pond water varies from almost zero to highly turbid, depending on the amount of suspended particles. High turbidity makes pond water unsuitable for aquatic life [7].

The maximum electrical conductivity (mho/cm) was noted at sampling site S_G and minimum at S_H with values 1756 and 765 of respectively in this study. Water becomes a conductor of electric current due to substances are dissolved in it and its conductivity is proportionate to the amount of the substances dissolved in it [8]. The conductivity of these substances depends on their charges. Conductivity measurement is useful in monitoring the total salt level in pure water supply line, in river, lakes and ponds and effluent discharge channels [9].

The maximum pH was noted at S_H and minimum at S_G with 8.7 and 6.1 of respectively. pH effect bacteria and decomposition in a pond. Most useful bacteria cannot survive overly acidic water. Moreover, high pH may also increase the toxicity of other substances.
The sum of all the chemical ions dissolved in the water is called total dissolved solids or TDS [10]. TDS is controlled by the natural source of pond water and by nearby land use activities. The highest TDS of pond water was noted at S3G (2756 mg/dl) and minimum at S1H of 856 mg/dl.

In our study it was found that alkalinity of water was maximum at S1G i.e. 556 mg/L while it was minimum at S7G i.e. 132 mg/L. The main source of alkalinity of water are carbonate, bicarbonate and hydroxide compounds. The alkalinity of water on one hand may act as buffer and on the other hand high alkalinity may lead to gastrointestinal problems and skin irritation.

The maximum biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) of the sample was observed at sites S7-H (128 mg/dl). BOD is a good index of pollution and therefore helps in deciding the suitability of water for consumption [11].

The COD of water means amount of oxygen required to oxidise organic matter. It is indicator for sewage and water pollution. The maximum value of COD varied from 64.07 mg/l to 86.70 mg/l and the maximum value was observed at S5G (94 mg/dl). Total hardness of pond water was found maximum at site S5G 746.0 mg/l.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) is an important parameter of water quality which reflects physical and biological processes taking place in water. High level of DO causes speed up corrosion in water pipes levels lower than 10 mg/ dl are not permissible for human use. The low value of DO may be due to pollution load, organic matter and photosynthetic activity. The total coliform (TC) and total coliform (FC) were also reported at few sites. The similar findings were studied by Sinha D, Arya S et al., at their independent studies [12, 13].

In our study calcium was minimum at S5G 54 mg/dl and magnesium at S1H 21 mg/dl. Lowest sodium was recorded at S5-H 18 mg/dl and highest at S5H 58 mg/dl. Potassium was highest at S5G 27 mg/dl and lowest at S1H 1.2 mg/dl. Iron ranged from 1.2-4.5 mg/dl. Our results were concordant with the studies by Bhagat P, Bhuiany J et al., [14, 15].

**CONCLUSION**

It is finally concluded on the basis of above results and discussions that the water of Harahi and Ganga Sagar ponds is not suitable for the human consumption. It is very much feared that this contaminates the ground water which is fatal for the public health and environment.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors have no conflicts of interest regarding this investigation.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

In authors are very much thankful to the Department and H.O.D. of Botany, Darbhanga University who have provided all the possible facilities for successful completion of this research work.

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