

Effects of domestic and industrial effluent discharges into the lake and their impact on the drinking water in Pandravedu village, Tamil Nadu, India

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Received: 15/01/2016, Accepted: 07/03/2017, Available online: 25/09/2017

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Abstract

Increasing demand for water from agriculture, industrial and domestic sectors, resulted in stress on the water resources both from quantity and quality perspectives. Due to urbanization many of the dyeing units have shifted from urban to nearby rural areas. Here safe disposal of untreated effluent from the dyeing units is a challenge and is often let into nearby water bodies. Pandravedu Lake, located in Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu, India is one such case were the present study is carried out. Water samples were collected from twelve locations during premonsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon seasons, in precleaned polyethylene cans and analyzed for physicochemical parameters like pH, total dissolved solids, electrical conductivity, total alkalinity, total hardness, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, iron, nitrate, chloride, fluoride and sulphate following the standard analytical procedures recommended by American Public Health Association (2005). The analytical results indicated that 40% to 70% of samples exceeded the drinking water quality standards prescribed by Bureau of Indian standards (BIS, 2012). Water quality index computed indicate that both the bore wells that supply drinking water to the village falls in very poor category (101 – 150) across three seasons. Correlation analysis indicated that seasonal changes in correlation among the parameters are linked to the fluctuations wastewater of discharge and its characteristics.

Keywords: Lake Water, water quality index, correlation, dye-industry effluent, domestic sewage.

1. Introduction

Surface water bodies like lakes, ponds etc. contribute to rural livelihoods and maintaining ecosystem services in many ways like drinking water supply, irrigation, livestock, ground water recharge, flood control and habitat for many floral and faunal diversity. The quality of such water bodies greatly influences the ground water quality. Most of the surface water resources are in different degrees of degradation due to encroachments, siltation and eutrophication resulting from domestic and industrial effluent discharge (Ravikumar *et al.*, 2013). Particularly many lakes that supplied drinking water a few years back are in non-potable condition with impaired flood absorption capacity, diminished fish production and threatened biodiversity (Zhang *et al.*, 2009).

Despite the wetlands, including lake systems provide multiple services, its maintenance and management has received inadequate attention in national water sector agenda. One of the major reasons as specified by Bassi et al., (2014) is limited financial and technical support from the government that led to poor maintenance of few lakes while many lakes are completely neglected. Yet another important factor is the poor understanding about the link between water and ecological health and ecosystem services and human well-being (Gleick, 2000). As an outcome, many urban and rural lake catchments are encroached, ground water is over exploited and surface and ground water are polluted due to household and industrial discharges. Changing water quality has implication on livelihoods and well-being of lake dependent communities. Periodic monitoring and assessment of water quality is an essential management strategy to control surface water pollution (Yao et al., 2010) adopting water quality index as a tool (Mishra and Patel, 2001). In this context, it is proposed to assess the water quality of Pandravedu Lake which is located in Pallipet block of Tamil Nadu state in India. One of the upstream villages of Pandravedu is Pothatturpettai, known for its dyeing units, has neither effluent treatment nor sewage treatment plants. The untreated waste water is let into the Pandravedu Lake through a lined channel. The seepage of waste water from the lake has deteriorated both surface and ground water of the Pandravedu village and the entire lake ecosystem. Hence, the present study is undertaken to assess the impact of discharging domestic waste water and effluents from dyeing industries into the lake. The specific

Hemamalini J., Mudgal B.V. and Sophia J.D. (2017), Effects of domestic and industrial effluent discharges into the lake and their impact on the drinking water in Pandravedu village, Tamil Nadu, India, *Global NEST Journal*, **19**(2), 225-231.

objectives are to compute and compare seasonal variations of (a) drinking water quality index, and (ii) correlate the physio-chemical parameters.

2. Materials and Methods

13°18'0"N

13°17'0"N

13°16'0"N

2.1. Study area description

Pandravedu Lake is situated between latitudinal parallels of 13°14′04″ N and 13°18′17″ N and longitudinal meridians of 79°21′59″ E and 79° 30′47″ E. Capacity of the lake is 2.392

79°28'0"E

Kilometers

79°28'0"E

79°29'0"E

79°29'0"E

million cubic meter (MCM), total water spread area is 0.86 km² while the command area is 12.14 km² and lake bund length is 1.3 km. Pandravedu village has a total population of 2,556. About a decade ago,this lake was serving multiple uses such as drinking, irrigation, livestock, fishing, domestic and habitat for flora and fauna.But now both surface and ground water quality has deteriorated due to the inlet of untreated waste water into the lake by the upstream villagers affecting the livelihoods and ecosystem services.

79°31'0"E

Lakes Village boundary

79°31'0"E

Waste water drain



79°30'0"E

79°30'0"E

Figure 1. Study area map with sample locations

2.2. Water sample collection

A total of 36 water samples were collected during three season viz. pre-monsoon (12), monsoon (12) and postmonsoon (12) during May 2014, Nov 2014 and Jan 2015 respectively. Among twelve water samples two are from bore wells that supply drinking water, two from lake water spread area, three from bore wells, three from open wells and two samples from wastewater drain (one from source and another from confluence point). Samples were collected from bore wells after pumping it out for 10 minutes. In open wells the samples were collected below 30 cm from the water level. Along with the ground water samples, tank water and wastewater samples were collected for analysis. All the water samples are collected in plastic cans which were cleaned with 1:1 nitric acid. Then they were washed with soap solution and rinsed with double distilled water. Samples were transported to lab on the same day, filtered and acidified for further analysis for physico-chemical parameters like pH, TDS (total dissolved solids), EC (electrical conductivity), TA (total alkalinity), TH (total hardness), Ca2+ (calcium), Mg2+ (magnesium), Na+ (sodium), K⁺ (potassium), Fe²⁺ (iron), NO₃⁻ (nitrate), Cl⁻ (chloride), F⁻ (fluoride) and SO₄²⁻ (sulphate) following the standard analytical procedures recommended by American Public Health Association (2005). The methods used to analyse the parameters are as follows: pH - electrometric method, TDS - instrumental method, EC - instrumental method, bicarbonates - acidimetric neutralization method, TH - EDTA titrimetric method, Ca^{2+} - EDTA titrimetric method, Mg^{2+} - calculation (TH- Ca+), Na⁺ - Flame photometric method, K⁺ - Flame photometric method, Fe²⁺ - phenanthroline method, NO_3^- - Colorimeter, Cl⁻ argentometric method, F⁻ spectrophotometer and $SO4^{2-}$ spectrophotometer. Biological Tests were also carried out to measure *Escherichia coli*. With the results of physicochemical analysis, water quality index (WQI) was computed. Correlation analysis was done with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 21).

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Characteristics of wastewater

Two sources that pollute the Pandravedu Lake are (i) waste water drain that carries both untreated dye-industry effluent and sewage water from the households of Pothatturpettai village, (ii) a private dye-industry that lets out its untreated effluent through a buried pipeline directly into the confluence point of the drain. Hence to understand

13°18'0"N

the polluting source, characterisation of waste water is done by collecting samples during pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon season from two locations namely waste water discharge point and the confluence point. The analytical results are shown in the Table 1. During postmonsoon season it was noticed that more discharge came from the private dye-industry with black colour and foul smell, this attributed to the very high values of EC (6240 μ mho/cm), TDS (4368 mgl⁻¹), TH (1100 mgl⁻¹), Na⁺ (787 mgl⁻¹) and Cl⁻ (1750 mgl⁻¹) proving that raw wastewater is being let. Discharge of untreated wastewater through the drain was consistent during premonsoon and monsoon seasons. Therefore, in Pandravedu village the pollution was influenced mainly by the quantum and characteristics of wastewater discharged by the industries.

Table 1. Seasonal variation of waste water characteristics

Sassans / Paramatars	Pre-mo	Pre-monsoon		soon	Post-monsoon		
SedSUIS / Parameters	WWDO	WWDC	WWDO	WWDC	WWDO	WWDC	
Appearance	Turbid	Turbid	Turbid	Turbid	Turbid	Turbid	
Color	Brown	Brown	Pink	Colorless	Black	Black	
Odour	None	None	Foul smell	None	Foul smell	Foul smell	
Turbidity NT Units	41.2	36.7	32.7	4.8	61.6	138.7	
рН	7.53	6.92	7.52	7.23	7.79	8.1	
TDS (mgl ⁻¹)	1413	1391	1217	1150	1068	4368	
EC (μ mho/cm)	2019	1987	1738	1643	1526	6240	
TA (mgl ⁻¹)	532	500	484	488	392	340	
TH (mgl⁻¹)	712	640	404	472	384	1100	
Ca ²⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	219	198	126	109	126	304	
Mg ²⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	39	35	21	48	16	82	
Na ⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	157	138	181	139	147	787	
K ⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	13	16	9	9	9	39	
Fe ²⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	2.81	1.75	0.4	0.3	0.38	0.51	
NO ₃ ⁻ (mgl ⁻¹)	39	34	20	10	19	23	
Cl⁻ (mgl⁻¹)	244	274	204	224	180	1750	
F⁻ (mgl⁻¹)	0.81	0.98	0.58	0.34	0.74	0.7	
SO4 ²⁻ (mgl ⁻¹)	92	76	37	15	82	87	
E.coli	NA	NA	16000	14000	NA	NA	

(WWDO – Waste water drain origin, WWDC – Waste water drain confluence)

3.2. Assessment of drinking water quality

The seasonal statistical variations of physico-chemical parameters, water quality index and irrigation indices for twelve samples collected from the sites in Pandravedu Lake, summarized for three seasons viz. pre-monsoon (April 2014), monsoon (Nov 2014) and post-monsoon (Jan 2015) are shown in table 2. Generally pH indicates the acidic or alkaline nature of water. The analytical results indicate that pH of the samples were within acceptable limit of 6.5 to 8.5 (BIS 2012). Total dissolved solids constitutes both organic and inorganic salts. TDS values in all the samples exceeded the acceptable range of 500 mgl⁻¹ (BIS 2012). Electrical conductivity is a measure of total dissolved salts. Higher EC values than the acceptable limit of 1000 mgl⁻¹ (BIS 2012) were recorded in almost all the samples. High EC values lead to formation of scales and corrosion in pipes and boilers.

Alkalinity measures the ability of water to neutralize the acids. High alkalinity values were observed in all the samples during the three monitoring seasons. Higher concentrations than the acceptable limit of 200 mgl⁻¹ (BIS, 2012) were recorded in almost all samples. Thus, higher alkaline value results in bitter taste and it is harmful for irrigation since it damages the soil and reduces crop yield (Sundar and Sasidharan, 2008). Total hardness of all the

samples exceeded the acceptable limit of 75 mgl⁻¹ (BIS, 2012). The total hardness present in the water could be attributed due to salts present in the dye industry effluent. There are some studies which show incidence of urolithiasis, anencephaly, pre-natal mortality, some types of cancer and cardiovascular disorders with long term consumption of extremely hard water (Agrawal and Jagetai 1997; Durvey *et al.*, 1991).

Magnesium content in the study area exceeded the acceptable limit of 30 mgl⁻¹. (BIS, 2012) in 40%, 30% and 60% of samples taken during pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon respectively. The sodium content in the present study exceeded the acceptable limit of 100 mgl⁻¹ (BIS, 2012) during pre-monsoon and 90% of the samples exceeded the limit during monsoon and post-monsoon seasons. Irrespective of the season potassium content in about 80 to 90% of samples exceeded the acceptable limit of 10 mgl⁻¹(BIS, 2012). Higher values of sodium and potassium could be attributed due to domestic sewage contamination (Bhat et al., 2001). Nitrate concentration in the study area in all the three seasons are low but can reach higher values with prolonged influent of untreated waste water into the lake. During pre-monsoon and postmonsoon seasons, chloride content in all the samples exceeded the acceptable limit of 250 mgl⁻¹ (BIS 2012).

While during monsoon season 80% of the samples exceeded the limit.

Excess chloride concentration can cause eye/nose irritation, stomach disorder (Patil *et al.*, 2012). The fluoride concentration, though it seems to be lesser than the

acceptable limit of 1 mgl⁻¹, values can exceed the limit in due course of time and hence measure to control further increase has to be taken. Excess fluoride content causes physiological disorders, skeletal and dental fluorosis, thyroxin changes and kidney damages (Latha *et al.*, 1999).

Fable 2. Descriptive statistics o	f seasonal variations o	f physico-chemical	parameters and water	quality index
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Deveneters	Pre-monsoon				Monsoon			Post-monsoon				
Parameters	Max	Min	Mean	Std dev	Max	Min	Mean	Std dev	Max	Min	Mean	Std dev
рН	8.3	6.58	7.58	0.65	8.15	7.01	7.41	0.40	8.23	6.63	7.25	0.57
TDS (mgl⁻¹)	1203	897	1074.6	98.65	2289	727	1164.5	433.85	2156	1061	1352.5	323.19
EC (µ mho cm ⁻¹)	1718	1281	1535	140.95	3270	1038	1663.4	619.89	3080	1515	1932.1	461.81
TA (mgl⁻¹)	400	268	316	41.10	408	200	270	70.46	400	240	324	42.87
TH (mgl⁻¹)	584	280	397.2	130.27	800	224	398.8	185.05	1120	352	532.2	211.69
Ca ²⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	157	75	106.6	36.12	256	70	120.3	56.07	312	94	146.7	60.64
Mg ²⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	46	22	31.3	9.68	52	10	23.6	13.68	82	23	39.5	16.85
Na⁺ (mgl¹)	229	116	157.6	38.68	316	62	166.7	74.51	234	95	173.6	42.26
K⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	17	8	11.6	2.84	16	6	9.1	3.67	14	6	10.2	2.62
Fe ²⁺ (mgl ⁻¹)	0.42	0.16	0.25	0.07	0.4	0.22	0.30	0.06	0.49	0.21	0.29	0.10
NO₃⁻ (mgl⁻¹)	37	5	17.4	13.00	27	8	18.2	5.77	32	16	20.6	4.58
Cl⁻ (mgl⁻¹)	364	206	293.4	45.48	720	170	317.4	152.61	650	272	361.2	118.60
F⁻ (mgl⁻¹)	0.68	0.36	0.52	0.10	0.75	0.47	0.64	0.10	0.84	0.51	0.68	0.12
SO4 ²⁻ (mgl ⁻¹)	24	9	16	5.25	83	12	45.1	22.16	85	43	61.6	14.79
E.coli	900	3	231.75	445.54	300	19	159.67	140.50	NA	NA	NA	NA
WQI	131.08	102.11	113.95	10.80	218.04	83.40	120.58	37.49	222.61	119.12	140.84	32.03

Sulphate concentration indicated lower values than the acceptable limit of 200 mgl⁻¹ in all the samples in the three seasons. The iron content in the water sample shows that, during pre-monsoon season 40% samples exceeded the permissible limit of 0.3 mgl⁻¹ while 70% of samples exceeded the limit during monsoon and post-monsoon season. The biological quality of drinking water specification state that all water intended for drinking should not contain *E.coli* bacteria in any 100 ml sample. The presence of *E.coli* bacteria could be due to the inlet of untreated sewage water that is fed into the lake.

3.3. Water quality index

Drinking water quality is assessed with the help of water quality index. As reported by Sahu and Sikdar (2008), water quality index is the rating that explains the composite influence of various water quality parameters. In the present study, water quality index is computed with the parameters viz., pH, TDS, EC, TH, TA, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Na⁺, Cl⁻, SO₄⁻, NO₃⁻, F⁻, Fe²⁺ for surface and ground water samples for above mentioned three monitoring periods.

Water quality index is calculated as given below:

$$WQI = \sum_{i=1}^{n} SI_{i}$$
 (1)

Where, SI_i is the sub index of ith parameter, n is the number of parameters. Sub Index (SI_i) is calculated as follows:

$$SI_i = W_i q_i$$
 (2)

Where, W_i is the relative weight and q_i is the quality rating. Relative weight (W_i) is calculated as follows:

$$W_i = w_i / \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i$$
(3)

Where w_i is the weightage of each parameter. Weightage for each parameter is assigned based on their relative importance in the overall quality of water for drinking purpose (Ravikumar *et al.*, 2013). Maximum of 5 is assigned to TDS, NO₃⁻ and F⁻³ was assigned to pH, EC, TH, Na⁺, Cl⁻, SO₄⁻ and 2 was assigned to TA, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺ and Fe²⁺.

Quality rating q_i is calculated using the formula:

$$q_i = \frac{C_i}{S_i} \times 100 \tag{4}$$

Where Ci is the concentration of each parameter in each water sample in mgl-1 and Si is Indian Drinking Water Standard (BIS, 2012) for each parameter in mgl-1 except for electrical conductivity (μ mho cm-1) and pH.

Water quality index computed for all the samples are represented in table 2. The computation ranged between 102.1 - 131 (pre-monsoon), 83.4 – 218.0 (monsoon) and 119 – 222.6 (post-monsoon). As per the table 4 all the samples during pre-monsoon season fall in very poor category. During monsoon season, 20% fall in poor, 70% fall in very poor and 10% fall in worst category. In post-monsoon season, 70% of samples fall in very poor and 30% sample fall in worst category. The samples that fall in worst category are from bore well at the tail end and Pandravedu Lake. The high WQI with the bore well samples can be attributed to the saline nature of the soil. The lake samples had high WQI due to the pollution from discharged untreated wastewater. Therefore, the lake water is not fit for any use without further treatment.

Table 3. Drinking wat	er quality paran	neters with star	ndards and re	elative weight.
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Parameters	Units	Acceptable limit (BIS 2012)	Weight (w _i)	Relative weight (Wi)
рН	-	8.5	3	0.0732
TDS	mgl⁻¹	500	5	0.1220
EC	µmhos/cm	1000	3	0.0732
ТН	mgl⁻¹	200	3	0.0732
ТА	mgl⁻¹	200	2	0.0488
Ca ²⁺	mgl⁻¹	75	2	0.0488
Mg ²⁺	mgl⁻¹	30	2	0.0488
Na⁺	mgl⁻¹	100	3	0.0732
Cl	mgl⁻¹	250	3	0.0732
SO₄ [−]	mgl⁻¹	200	3	0.0732
NO₃ ⁻	mgl⁻¹	45	5	0.1220
F'	mgl ⁻¹	1	5	0.1220
Fe ²⁺	mgl ⁻¹	0.3	2	0.0488
			Σ wi=41	Σ Wi=1.000

Hortons (1965) method with modification proposed by Tiwari and Mishra (1985) is adopted to compute water quality index (WQI).

Table 4. Classification of WQI

S No	WQI	Status of water quality	Use of water
1	<25	Excellent	Potable, industrial and agricultural
2	26-50	Good	Domestic and agricultural
3	51-75	Fair	Agricultural and industrial
4	76-100	Poor	Agricultural
5	101-150	Very poor	Not for agriculture
6	>151	Worst	Useful only after proper treatment

Table 5. Computation of WQI for drinking sources

Water Quality Index						
Location / Season	Pre-monsoon	Monsoon	Post-monsoon			
Drinking source 1	126.03	109.2	119.12			
Drinking source 2	131.08	130.75	126.31			

Suitability of drinking bore-wells from two sources that currently supply water to the village was evaluated by computing water quality indices with guideline values for drinking set by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS, 2012). Water quality index computed for the present study is indicated in table 5. Both the bore wells that supply drinking water to the village fall in very poor category in all the three seasons. The reason is due to higher concentration of TDS, EC, TH, TA, Ca²⁺, Na²⁺ and Cl⁻ in the water which could be attributed to the inlet of waste water into the lake. As specified by Mukerjee *et al.*, (2006) continuous disposal of industrial effluents led to ground water pollution which resulted in high concentration of salts in deep bore wells that were used for drinking purposes.

3.4. Seasonal correlation of water quality parameters

Correlation coefficient 'r', is the quantitative measure of the relationship of one parameter with the other. Bivariant method of correlation analysis is used in the present study. Its range is between -1.0 to +1.0. The correlation matrices for 14 variable were prepared. The correlation matrices are illustrated in Figure 2 (premonsoon), Figure 3 (monsoon), and Figure 4 (post-monsoon).











Figure 4. Correlation coefficients for post-monsoon season

Table 2 indicated that during pre-monsoon season pH shows strong positive correlation with Na⁺ and K⁺. TDS and EC show good positive correlation with TA, TH, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Cl⁻ and SO₄⁻. Similarly TA show good correlation with TH, Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺. TH show good correlation with Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ proving that hardness is attributed due to the presence of Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ salts. Likewise Na⁺ shows good positive correlation with K⁺. Table 3 illustrate that, during monsoon pH exhibit negative correlation with Na⁺, K⁺ and all the other parameters except F⁻. While TDS and EC exhibit a good positive correlation with all the parameters except F⁻. TA and TH exhibit good positive correlation with Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, NO₃⁻ and Cl⁻. Similarly Ca2+ and Na2+ exhibit good positive correlation with K+, NO₃⁻, Cl⁻ and SO₄⁻. NO₃⁻ and Cl⁻ show good positive correlation with SO4⁻.

As explained in table 4, during post-monsoon season pH exhibit weak positive correlation with Na^{2+} , K^+ and TA while with all other parameters it shows negative correlation. TDS and EC exhibit good positive correlation with TA, TH, Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , NO_3^- and Cl^- . TA shows good positive correlation with TH, Ca^{2+} , Na^{2+} and NO_3^- . TH exhibits good positive correlation with Ca²⁺, Mg^{2+} , NO_3^- and Cl^- . Thus seasonal correlation analysis of physico-chemical parameters in the present study indicate that changes are influenced by fluctuating quantity and the characteristics of untreated waste water discharged into the Pandravedu Lake by the above mentioned two sources.

4. Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that the discharge of untreated dye industry waste water and untreated sewage water which has been let into Pandravedu Lake has deteriorated the lake and groundwater quality in the Pandravedu village. Drinking water quality assessment indicated that during pre-monsoon season all the samples fall in very poor category. Water quality index computed indicated that both the bore wells that supply drinking water to the village falls in very poor category across seasons and most of the parameters exceed the acceptable limits of Bureau of Indian standards, (BIS 2012).Correlation analysis link seasonal changes of water quality with the variation and characteristics in waste water discharge into the Pandravedu Lake. The above quality assessment indicates that most of the samples are neither suitable for drinking nor agriculture. The study recommends proper treatment of waste water before being let into the irrigation lake. It is suggested

that the farmers should try out salt tolerant crops besides providing adequate drainage and management techniques like leaching, altering irrigation schedules and methods.

Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the support rendered by Public Works Department officials, farmers and the villagers.

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