

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Assessment of Groundwater Quality by Using Water Quality Index Method in Agra and Aligarh City, Uttar Pradesh, India

Girija¹, Dinesh Kumar Sharma² and Harit Priyadarshi³

^{1 2}Department of Chemistry, Mangalayatan University, Beswan, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India.

³Department of Civil Engineering, Mangalayatan University, Beswan, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India.

ABSTRACT

Groundwater is ultimate, most reasonable new water asset with nearly balanced concentration of the minerals for human consumption. But unfortunately the deficiency of the clean and pure water increases everyday due to pollution of water and overexploitation, so the drinking water analysis is very important and essential for public health. The current research is expected to assess the groundwater quality of the different locations of Agra and Aligarh city for drinking purposes and other useful human activities. The groundwater quality is assessed by the analysis of thirteen physico-chemical parameters and the calculation of Water Quality Index (WQI) of groundwater samples of Agra and Aligarh city. The Water Quality Index was calculated using Weighted Arithmetic Index Method. Physico-chemical parameters selected for the study were pH, Electrical Conductivity, Alkalinity, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Fluoride and Heavy metals (Cu, Fe, Mn, Ni, Pb and Zn). The values of these parameters are found to be above the acceptable limits, below the acceptable limits as well as partially in the range, as prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) -10500-2012. The WQI for these water samples ranges from 239.7 – 623.3 which shows very poor water quality and unsuitable for drinking. Thus, the study reveals the need for proper treatment and regularly evaluation of groundwater quality and simultaneously indicates the need for the necessary steps to be taken for the protection and up-gradation of water quality.

Key words- Groundwater, Physico-chemical parameters, WQI, Agra and Aligarh city

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INTRODUCTION

Water is extremely essential for survival of all living organisms. It is an essential component for life on Earth, which contains minerals extremely important in human nutrition. Groundwater is the subsurface water that occurs beneath the water table in the soils and geologic formations that are fully saturated [4]. Despite the large volume of water that covers the surface of the earth, only 1% is inland fresh and easily available for human use. The qualities of groundwater resources vary naturally and widely depending on climate, season, and geology of bedrock as well as anthropogenic activities [12]. Now a day's groundwater contamination is a serious global issue. Persistently expanding degree of pollution with an assortment of poisonous substances and letting down of the groundwater table due to over-exploitation to satisfy internationally expanding water need followed by the declining yearly energize have brought them under extreme conditions everywhere on over the world [15]. The uncontrolled removal of mechanical and metropolitan squanders and the utilization of chemical substances in horticulture (composts, herbicides and pesticides) are the essential causes of groundwater tainting [18]. The water supply for human consumption is often directly sourced from groundwater without any chemical treatment and it is used by the people so the pollution of groundwater has become a cause for major concern [20].

Ground water is most reasonable new water asset for human utilization in both metropolitan just as country territories. The significance of ground water for presence of human culture cannot be overemphasized. There are so many states in India where more than 90% people are dependent on groundwater for drinking and other useful purposes [6, 17, 11]. The issues of groundwater quality are

considerably more intense in the regions which are thickly populated, thickly industrialized and have shallow groundwater tables. The groundwater is accepted to be relatively much perfect and liberated from contamination than surface water [7]. However delayed release of modern industrial effluents, homegrown sewage and strong waste dump causes the groundwater to get contaminated and made health issues [13]. Groundwater contamination has gotten a significant subject of public interest for everywhere on over the world. It has been reported that in Aligarh groundwater concentration of Magnesium, Total Hardness, Alkalinity, Cadmium, Iron, pH Lead, TDS, Calcium, Copper, Sulphate, Chloride, Manganese and Chromium is higher than the permissible limit prescribed by the Bureau of Indian standards which indicates signs of water quality deterioration. So, it is necessary to take rational steps to manage water in this region before it becomes a crisis, as this will affect the economy and will also lead to various water borne diseases [8, 6].

Considering the above aspects of surface water pollution, the current research was attempted to investigate the impact of the Groundwater of Agra and Aligarh city. Along these lines in this research the goal of the current research is to analyse the groundwater quality for human consumption based on physicochemical parameters and water quality index values.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study Area-

Agra city is selected for the study because of the presence of major problems such as inadequate water supply, declining groundwater level and poor water quality. Agra is situated on the bank of Yamuna River. The Agra district is situated in western U.P., between 27.11' degree Latitude North and 78.0' degree to 78.2' degree Longitude East. Its Altitude is 169 meters above sea level. On the North Agra is bounded by Mathura District, on the South it is bounded by Dhaulpur District, on the East it is bounded by Firozabad District and on the West it is bounded by Bharatpur. The average monsoon rainfall during June to September is 628.6 millimeters. Agra has a reputation of being one of the hottest and the coldest towns in India.

Aligarh district is bounded by river Ganga in the west and the river Yamuna in the east. Aligarh district is a part of central Ganga plain of the state covering an area of 5498 square kilometer and lies between 27°28' and 28°10' latitude North and 77°29' and 78°36' longitude East. The city is the administrative district of Aligarh district. The entire district falling in Upper Ganga Doab. Average monsoon rainfall is 662 millimeters.

Sample Collection-Water samples were collected in pre-monsoon season and post-monsoon season from both the cities Agra and Aligarh during the year 2018. Five sampling locations were selected from Agra city namely Sikandra, Dayalbagh, Sadar, Tajmahal area and Collectrate and Five sampling locations namely Dodhpur, Sassnigate, Quarsi, Jevangarh and Jamalpur were selected from Aligarh city. Water samples were collected from thirty different plots of each sampling locations. Mostly, bore wells were considered for sampling. At certain places hand pumps were also considered for the sampling. Samples were collected in pre-cleaned transparent plastic bottles of one litre capacity with necessary precautions. After the collection of samples, sampling bottles were labeled and immediately brought to the laboratory for analysis.

Analysis of Physicochemical Parameters-The samples were immediately analysed in the chemistry lab to minimize physicochemical changes. Analysis was carried out for the determination of physico-chemical parameters of drinking water samples using standard procedures shown in table 1.

Table 1: Methods used for analysis of Physico-chemical parameters

S. no.	Parameters	Methods
1	pH	pH meter
2	Electrical Conductivity	Digital conductivity meter
3	Alkalinity	Indicator method
4	TDS	Filtration method
5	COD	Open reflux method
6	BOD	Titration method
7	Heavy metals (Cu,Fe,Mn,Ni,Pb,Zn)	Atomic absorption spectrophotometry
8	Fluoride	Ions selective electrode method

Determination of Water Quality Index(WQI)–In this research 13 parameters were selected for the calculation of WQI. It has been determined by using drinking water quality standards recommended by

WHO and BIS [3, 19]. The Water Quality Index was calculated using Weighted Arithmetic Index Method. Basically a WQI is a compilation of number of parameters that can be utilized to determine the overall quality of water. The mathematical relation used to calculate WQI is given as-

- $WQI = \sum Q_i W_i / \sum W_i$
- Where Q_i - Quality rating scale
- W_i - Relative weight
- $W_i = 1/S_i$, S_i - Std. permissible value
- $Q_i = 100 [(V_n - V_i) / (V_s - V_i)]$
- V_n - actual or test value of the parameter
- V_i - ideal value of the parameter
- V_s - recommended WHO std of the parameter

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The mean values of different physicochemical parameters at ten sampling locations are represented in table 2 and 3.

Table 2: Physico-chemical parameters and WQI of Agra city

WHO /BIS	Samples-Parameters	Sikandra		Dayalbagh		Sadar		Tajmahal Area		Collectrate	
		Pre.	Post.	Pre.	Post.	Pre.	Post.	Pre.	Post.	Pre.	Post.
6.5-8.5	pH	6.80	6.85	7.10	7.20	7.0	7.5	7.20	7.30	7.10	7.20
5-50	Cond.	2.39	2.36	3.36	3.35	2.35	2.32	2.38	2.37	2.54	2.52
200	Alkalinity	740	746	810	818	808	812	938	942	848	852
500	TDS	710	700	1020	1014	680	670	718	706	760	764
10	COD	150	148	106	102	110	108	60	56	100	94
6.0	BOD	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.2
1.0	Fluoride	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
.05	Cu	0.046	0.042	0.036	0.034	0.048	0.044	0.042	0.040	0.044	0.040
.3	Fe	0.196	0.192	0.100	0.098	0.120	0.118	0.150	0.146	0.214	0.210
.1	Mn	0.024	0.022	0.030	0.028	0.036	0.032	0.036	0.032	0.042	0.040
.02	Ni	0.983	0.974	0.752	0.750	0.846	0.840	0.896	0.892	0.932	0.928
.01	Pb	0.092	0.086	0.216	0.218	0.306	0.306	0.344	0.338	0.130	0.128
5.0	Zn	0.523	0.518	0.706	0.704	0.520	0.510	0.462	0.460	0.668	0.662
50-100	WQI	246.6	239.7	279.9	276.5	358.4	351.8	385.7	380.5	262.1	255.9

Table 3: Physico-chemical parameters and WQI of Aligarh city

WHO/BIS	Samples-Parameters	Dodhpur		Sassnigate		Quarsi		Jevangarh		Jamalpur	
		Pre.	Post.	Pre.	Post.	Pre.	Post.	Pre.	Post.	Pre.	Post.
6.5-8.5	pH	9.30	9.40	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.4	7.3	7.4	7.1	7.2
5-50	Cond.	1.78	1.74	4.77	4.76	1.90	1.84	1.97	1.95	2.56	2.52
200	Alkalinity	1494	1508	1292	1300	1080	1100	1096	1106	942	946
500	TDS	300	290	880	870	340	338	380	368	740	730
10	COD	92	85	110	106	76	72	90	88	96	92
6.0	BOD	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6
1.0	Fluoride	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6
.05	Cu	0.016	0.014	0.010	0.008	0.010	0.008	0.010	0.006	0.022	0.020
.3	Fe	0.334	0.330	0.230	0.228	0.248	0.240	0.228	0.224	0.307	0.300
.1	Mn	0.016	0.012	0.048	0.044	0.018	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.012	0.010
.02	Ni	2.010	2.008	1.046	1.040	1.30	1.224	1.582	1.58	1.882	1.878
.01	Pb	0.476	0.470	0.134	0.132	0.236	0.230	0.272	0.270	0.386	0.382
5.0	Zn	0.446	0.442	1.264	1.260	0.304	0.300	0.208	0.202	0.402	0.400
50-100	WQI	623.31	615.7	264.3	260.1	361.5	343.9	425.7	420.6	550.1	541.9

Where Pre. – Pre-monsoon, Post.- Post-monsoon, All the parameters are in mg/l except E. Conductivity which is in $\mu\text{s}/\text{m}$; TDS and Fluoride are in ppm.(All values are mean of three observations for each parameter)

pH –The permissible limit of pH for drinking water is 6.5-8.5. It was seen that the pH value of the water appears to be dependent upon the relative quantities of calcium, carbonates and bicarbonates. The water tends to be more alkaline when it possesses carbonates [20, 16]. The pH value of the samples in the study area varied from 6.8-9.4 indicating slightly alkaline nature.

Electrical Conductivity- It is a measure of water's capacity to conduct electric current. Most of the salts which are present in water in ionic form are responsible to conduct electric current. The permissible limit for Electrical Conductivity (EC) is 5.00 $\mu\text{S m}$. Electrical Conductivity value of the study area varied from 1.74-4.77 μS and most of the samples were shown low value from the standards of WHO/BIS prescribed for drinking [9].

Total Alkalinity-The Alkalinity in the water is generally imparted by the salts of carbonates, silicates, etc. together with the hydroxyl ions in Free State. The alkalinity of the samples in the study area varied from 740-1508 mg/l as CaCO_3 indicated high alkaline nature of water in the study area and all the samples were found exceeding the acceptable limit of WHO/BIS [14].

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) - The permissible limit of TDS for drinking water is 500-2000 ppm (BIS, 2012). Total dissolved solids are present due to the concentrations of all minerals in water and indicate the general nature of salinity of water. Total Dissolved Solids of the samples in the study area varied from 290-1020 ppm and most of the samples were found above the permissible limits of WHO/BIS [8].

Chemical Oxygen Demand – Chemical Oxygen Demand is a measure of pollution in aquatic system. COD values of the ground water samples in the present study area varied from 56-150 mg/l and some samples were found exceeding the acceptable limit of WHO/BIS. It may be due to seepage from sewage drainage or industrial discharge in nearby localities [8].

Biochemical Oxygen Demand –In the present study BOD values of various ground water samples were found from 0.4-1.8 mg/l and half of the samples were found exceeding the acceptable limit of WHO/BIS [10].

Fluoride (F)- Fluoride is found in all natural waters at some concentration. The WHO [19] and BIS (10500- 2012) estimates the maximum allowable limit for fluoride uptake to human's in drinking water as 1.5 mg/l. The fluoride in the ground water samples of the study area varied widely from 0.4- 1.2 ppm and most of the samples were found below with the permissible limits of WHO/BIS [2, 10].

Copper (Cu)- Copper is both an essential nutrient and a drinking-water contaminant. Beyond 0.05 mg/l the water imparts astringent taste and cause discoloration and corrosion of pipes, fittings and utensils. The Copper in the groundwater samples of the study area varied widely from 0.006 – 0.048 mg/l and most of the samples were found below the permissible limits of WHO/BIS [1].

Iron (Fe)-It is a known fact that iron in trace amounts is essential for nutrition. The iron in the groundwater samples of the study area varied widely from 0.098 – 0.334 mg/l and most of the samples were found below with the permissible limits of WHO/BIS (Gaur, S., et. al., 2012). The permissible limit of iron is 0.3 mg/l respectively. High concentrations of iron generally cause inky flavor, bitter and astringent taste to water.

Manganese (Mn)-Manganese at levels exceeding 0.1 mg/l, in water supplies causes an undesirable taste in beverages and stains sanitary ware and laundry. The Manganese in the ground water samples of the study area varied widely from 0.010 – 0.048 mg/l and most of the samples were found below the permissible limits of WHO/BIS [5].

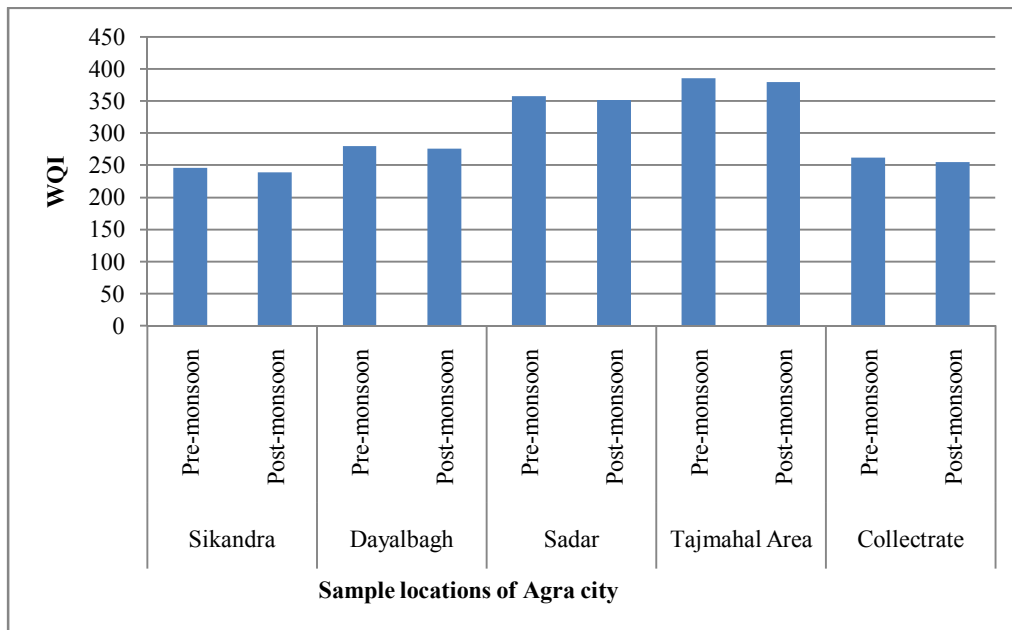
Nickel (Ni) - Nickel is found naturally in both food and water, and may be increased by human pollution. The permissible limit of Nickel in the groundwater is 0.1mg/l (BIS, 2012). The Nickel in the groundwater samples of the study area varied widely from 0.750 – 2.010 mg/l and most of the samples were found above with the permissible limits of WHO/BIS.

Lead (Pb)- Lead is one of the hazardous and potentially harmful polluting agents. The concentrations of lead in the groundwater normally do not exceed 0.05 mg/l, respectively. The lead in the groundwater samples of the study area varied widely from 0.086 – 0.476 mg/l and most of the samples were found above with the permissible limits of WHO/BIS.

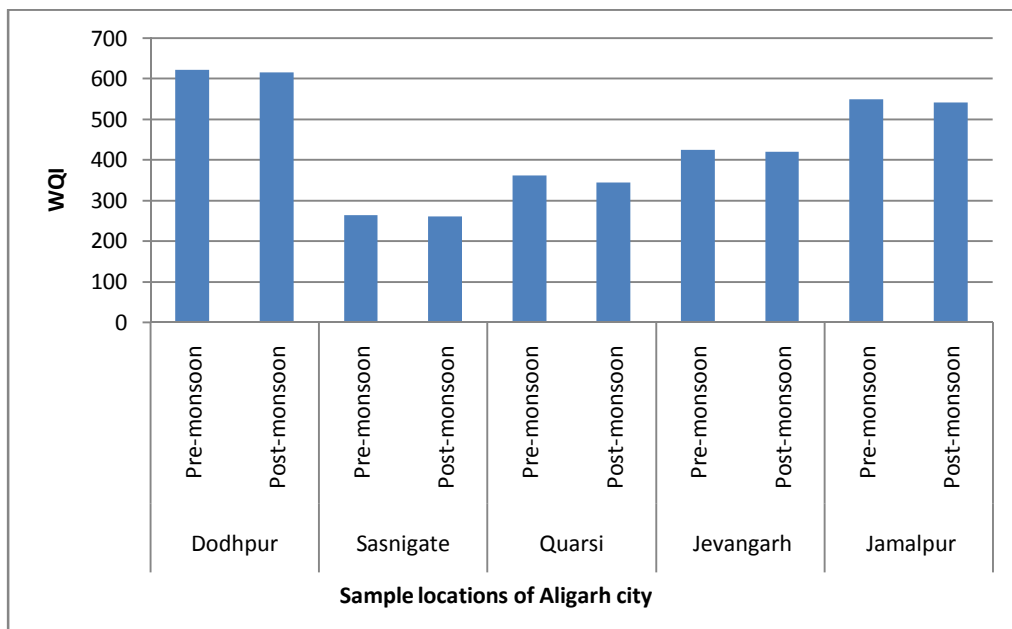
Zinc (Zn)-Zinc is an essential trace element found in virtually all food and potable water in the form of salts or organic complexes. In general, concentration of zinc in surface water and groundwater normally do not exceed 5mg/l, respectively. The zinc in the groundwater samples of the study area varied widely from 0.202 - 1.264 mg/l and most of the samples were found below the permissible limits of WHO/BIS [1].

Water Quality Index (WQI)–WQI is created through the analysis of various physico- chemical parameters of the ground water of selected cities. Values of WQI and various physico- chemical parameters of Agra and Aligarh city are presented in table 2 and 3. The values of WQI showed that the ground water quality of the selected sample locations of two cities is found very poor and unsuitable for

drinking. It may be due to the over exploitation and anthropogenic activities such as discharge of effluents from industrial, agricultural and domestic uses. There is no change in the water quality of groundwater samples of pre-monsoon and post-monsoon season. 40% groundwater samples are found very poor water quality and 60% groundwater samples are found water quality unsuitable for drinking in overall samples. From calculation of WQI it clearly shows that groundwater quality for these locations of Agra and Aligarh city is highly polluted (Graph 1 and 2). Groundwater is not suitable for drinking purposes in these locations. Dodhpur and Jamalpur sampling locations of Aligarh city and Tajmahal Area of Agra city are highly polluted due to dumping of waste materials and sewage water. Water quality classification based on WQI value is presented in table 4.



Graph 1: Variation of WQI in sample locations of Agra city



Graph 2: Variation of WQI in sample locations of Aligarh city

Table 4: Water quality classification based on WQI value

WQI Value	Water Quality	No. of water samples (Pre & Post-monsoon)	Percentage of water samples (Pre & Post-monsoon)
Less than 50	Excellent	Nil	Nil
50-100	Good Water	Nil	Nil
100-200	Poor Water	Nil	Nil
200-300	Very Poor Water	8	40
Above 300	Unsuitable for drinking	12	60
Total samples of Pre & Post -monsoon		20	100

CONCLUSION

Water is very essential for the existence of mankind and for the development of humans. Groundwater is the major source of water for drinking, agricultural and industrial need in the study area of Agra and Aligarh city. The Water Quality Index (WQI) for twenty ground water samples ranges from 239.7 - 623.3. The high value of WQI at these sampling locations are found to be mainly from the higher values of Alkalinity, Total Dissolved Solids, Chemical Oxygen Demand, Nickel and Lead in the groundwater samples. Copper, Iron, Manganese and Zinc are found below the acceptable limit. About 40% of water samples are found very poor in quality and 60% of water samples are of unsuitable for drinking. The groundwater sources of these locations is not suitable for drinking purpose without proper treatment. The groundwater quality of the study area is highly deteriorated mainly due to over exploitation and population pressure. The analysis also reveals that the groundwater of the area needs proper treatment before consumption, and it also needs to be protected from the industrial waste and sewage contamination. Regularly monitoring of groundwater quality is also important for avoidance of contamination in groundwater.

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