

Effect of idol immersion on some water bodies of Dhar town, M.P.

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SUMMARY

The study was conducted on physico-chemical characteristics of some selected ponds at Dhar town. The sampling points were selected on the basis of idol immersion sites. Sampling was done before and after the idol immersion. Results showed variation in some parameters which produced pollution in such water bodies and harmful effects on animals and fishes. This type of study will be helpful in administration of water pollution abatement and protection of beautiful water bodies of Dhar town.

Key words :

Idol, Immersion, Abatement, Water bodies

Our earth is unique and provides an environment for the evolution of life and natural resources for its maintenance. But due to man made activities these resources are consumed and regularly deteriorated. Water is one of the most important resource on earth which is direct example of this deterioration. Water pollution is most dangerous environmental pollution. It has many causes, which include the immersion of idols and worship waste materials also.

Immersion of idols of lord Ganesha is carried out every year on the Ananta Chaturdashi day in the month of Bhadrapada *i.e.* either in August or September, after ten days of worship and Navratri Mahotsav in October or November month, after nine days of worship. Thousands of these idols are immersed in different water bodies such as lakes, reservoirs, ponds, rivers and canals around different towns and cities.

These idols are made up of plaster of paris, clay and cloth supported by small iron rods and coloured with different types of paints such as varnish and water colours, when immersed these coloured chemicals are dissolved slowly leading to significant alteration in the water. Similarly idols are also immersed in the Dhar town in different ponds, wells and reservoirs etc.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Dhar district is situated between the parallels of 22° 1' 14" and 23° 9' 49" North and the meridians of 44° 28' 27" and 75° 42' 43" East. Geographically it is divided by Vindhya hills in two parts of northern plateau of Malwa and southern plateau of Nimar.

An investigation was carried out to find out

the effects of immersion of Ganesha idols on water quality of 3 ponds *i.e.* Munjsagar pond, Devisagar pond and Natnagra pond. Collecting and analyzing the water samples from the immersion sites of the ponds before and after ten days of the events for two years (2006 and 2007) with following the standard methods of APHA (1998) and Trivedi and Goel (1986).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The physico-chemical parameters is given in Table 1.

The colour of water was changed after the immersion of idols. The pH was slightly alkaline but it was in desirable limit of BIS.

The turbidity value of these ponds became higher due to immersion of idols and some other worship waste materials immersed with them. Due to this waste material disposal, the turbidity was found higher (Rohella *et al.*, 2001).

All the ponds showed higher conductivity and TDS values after the immersion of idols, because solid content of water increased higher content of solid with inferior potability, which may induce an unfavorable physiological reaction in the transient consumers.

The total hardness of all the ponds found increased significantly after the immersion of idols because calcium and magnesium increased significantly in the pond water after idol immersion. In some ponds it was above the limits of permissible standards (Mahapatro *et al.*, 2000). Though the calcium and magnesium are non poisonous, but they increase only the hardness of water,

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