

RESEARCH PAPER:

An assessment of the quality of water from Tiruchendur temple, Tamil Nadu

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SUMMARY

Tiruchendur is very popular sea shore temple. Being the second Aarupadai veedu of Lord Muruga, millions of pilgrims from all over India visit Tiruchendur every year. Thousands of people take the pilgrims tours every day. They require good accommodation, hospitality and drinking water. The quality of water is one of essential criteria for the tourism so the present work aimed to analyse the drinking water quality and to analyse the quality of water used for domestic purposes. Physico-chemical studies of water were made from Dec. 2006 to March 2007 at an intermittent period of four months. The study also included the collection and study of garbage materials in the beach area.

Key words :

Physico-chemical,
Characters,
Water quality,
Garbage,
Pollutants

Tourism today is one of the worlds fastest growing industries. Most of the countries considered tourism as potential economic development activity. In all the advanced countries, domestic tourism occupies predominant place. In recent year, the number of domestic tourists has gone up very high. The origin of domestic tourism in India has to be traced in pilgrimage. Pilgrimage may be reported as the oldest branch of home tourism. Tamil Nadu is a unique and fascinating state. Pilgrim tourism is one of the major segments of tourism in Tamil Nadu. They visit places of worships according to the faith. Tiruchendur is 56km from Tirunelveli and can be reached by trains and by buses.

Tiruchendur is very popular sea shore temple. Being the second Aarupadai veedu of Lord Muruga, Tiruchendur finds an important place on the world map. Millions of pilgrims from all over India visit Tiruchendur every year. A large number of pilgrims visit Tiruchendur on various religious occasions such as Soora Samharam, Thiru Karthigai, Thai Poosam, Pongal and Maasi Thiruvizha. Due to mass gathering of pilgrims on such occasion problem of garbage and sewage disposal becomes deplorable. There is a holy well Nazhi Kinaru, which is a not a drinking water reservoir. But it has a great religious value for pilgrims. The well is believed to be millions time potent than the Ganges rivers, because by bathing in the Ganges, they sets only "Mukti" but by bathing Nazhi Kinaru, one achieves affections and love

of Lord Murugan. Thus, bathing makes its water highly polluted. Similarly, during the festival day thousands of pilgrims take bath simultaneously in sea water. Being an important domestic tourist centre, it is necessary to examine water quality. So, it was realized to analyse the well, sea and drinking water to assess the state of pollution and to suggest some remedial measures.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study area:

Thiruchendur or Thiruchendur Alaivai is a holy place near Tirunelveli, in Tamil Nadu. It is situated on the coast of Manner. It is 40 Kms from Tuticorin. Geographically it is located between 9°00 to 7°30'N latitude and 78 to 30°E longitude. The physiographic feature of the coast is raised beaches with sand bars parallel to the present coastline.

Location of sampling points:

Three sampling points were selected to study the water quality of Thiruchendur. Samples were collected from the holy water tank in Saravana Theertham (Nazhi Kinaru), water available at the temple for drinking purpose and the surface sea water from seashore.

Sampling:

Sampling was carried at seasonally from monsoon to summer months of December 2006 to March 2007. The water quality was

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