

Assessment of noise quality in different residential areas of Meerut city of Uttar Pradesh, India

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SUMMARY: The present paper deals with the assessment of noise quality in residential areas of Meerut city. There was lack of proper town planning in some areas in Meerut city. This was due to poor town planning management in private residential colonies in and around Meerut city. There was no proper demarcation, such as residential, commercial and industrial area. Most of the colonies in the Meerut city are constructed in the vicinity of industries and commercial area. The present paper reveals that in Meerut city, the sound level in most of the colonies exceeded the permissible limit recommended for residential areas. The sound level recorded was higher as it can be compared with the limit recommended for commercial-cum-residential areas by CPCB. The main reason is the rapid industrialization and urbanization in and around Meerut city. In this paper an attempt has been made to portray the noise quality due to residential effects in Meerut city. Out of the twenty sites which were selected for the study, only five namely, Civil Lines, Ganga Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Defence Colony and Cantt. area were found to be within the recommended limit in morning and night time only.

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India has emerged as a fast developing nation resulting in an increase in the activity status of its people. Due to rapid industrialization and urbanization, the environmental quality is deteriorating day by day. The already existing pollution load of metropolitan cities has increased substantially. Noise pollution in recent year has emerged as one of the important components in the environmental monitoring studies owing to its acute and chronic effects (Rao and Rao, 1990). Studies undertaken in the past have established noise as a pollutant adversely affecting physiology and psychology of the exposed object (Balgopal *et al.*, 1978). During festival season, noise and air pollution are observed in residential areas (Tiwari *et al.*, 2001).

The people in residential areas feel discomfort against the unwanted, unpleasant or disagreeable sound. A restricted study is sufficient to evaluate the effect of traffic noise due to motor vehicles in any residential-cum-commercial zone (Lewis, 1973). Some studies have already been

carried out in different cities of India (Rao and Rao 1998; Shastri and Khan, 2003). But no effort has been made to investigate the noise pollution in Meerut city.

Aim of study :

The aim of the present noise pollution study in residential areas of Meerut city was :

- To predict the noise level at different residential locations in Meerut city.
- To evaluate the magnitude of the problem as perceived by the people of Meerut city.
- To know the sources of noise which are mostly present in the residential areas.
- To review the effect of noise pollution on the residents of Meerut city.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGY

The noise pollution study was carried out by the digital sound level meter-2031 (Cygnet made) at 20 selected sites of Meerut city. The

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