

Impact of effluents from different industries on growth of plants

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Due to explosion of population, change in attitude of life and development of high degree of scientific researches have yielded rapid growth of industrialization to fulfill the human needs in the last two decades of twentieth century. This phenomenon has generated laterally most serious problem concerned with human health and other welfare. Albeit water consumption in the industries has third rank, but many industries are generating effluent not only of high amount but they contain high level of organic components which act as suitable media for growth and multiplication of both virulent and avirulent micro-organisms. They are concerned in reducing oxygen level resulting adverse effect on aquatic biota. Pathogenic organisms present in the effluent may cause epidemics if surface water is contaminated with these effluents. Besides this, several industries are concerned with such type of products having high toxicity level in the effluent to existence of chemical or heavy metal salts. Even after proper treatment, effluent should not be discharged in an aquatic system or near by recreation point in order to control the outbreak of any kind of epidemic. But as in our conditions where maximum number of cities and industries do not possess adequate treatment plants, it is customary to discharge untreated raw sewage either in aquatic reservoir or a land surface. Since this raw sewage contains high amount of organic components and even treated effluent also possess certain amount of organic components, both may serve the need of nutritional requirement to the plants as a fertilizer. Therefore, in order to find out alternative suitable means of safer sewage disposal as well as minimizing the investment in agricultural cost, various studies have reported that waste discharged from industries

is capable of inhibiting seed germination and seedling growth.

Chemical industry:

The effect of chemical industry effluent was studied by Swaminathan *et al.* (1989) on germination, plants growth, foliage and chlorophyll content, flowering and fruiting in case of *Hibiscus esculentus* L. They reported that in 5% effluent, germination, seedling development, plants growth, foliage and chlorophyll content increased where as flowering and fruiting days were observed to be reduced. Kumar *et al.* (1990) studied the effect of chemical industry effluent on germination, root-shoot length, dry matter accumulation, crop productivity in *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* L. and it was observed that at 5%, 10% and 15% concentrations, there was increase in crop productivity, root and shoot length and dry matter accumulation. However, at higher concentrations of effluents (25%) growth retardation was observed and no seed germination was observed on cent per cent effluent.

Dairy effluent:

The impact of dairy effluents on germination, seedling growth and pigment content in *Phaseolus aureus* were studied by Kumar *et al.* (1990). It was seen that with the increase in effluent concentration, there was decrease in seed germination, seedling growth and pigment content. Prasanna *et al.* (1997) also found similar results in case of *Phaseolus aureus* and *Phaseolus mungo*. Kulkarni and Dharwadkar (1998) studied the effect of dairy effluents on germination and biomass in wheat and it was seen that with increase in dilutions, rate of germination increased. Gautam and Bishnoi (1990) studied the effect of dairy effluents on germination

and growth behaviour in wheat. They found that seed germination was slow in pure effluent as compared to that of diluted and control.

Dying and textile effluent:

Dayama (1987) studied the impact of dyeing and textile effluent on germination, seedling growth and biomass in *Cicer arietinum*. He observed that high concentration of effluent were toxic while lower concentration were not toxic. Swaminathan and Vaidheeswaran (1991) also studied the effect of dyeing and textile effluent on germination and seedling development in case of *Arachis hypogaea*. They observed that diluted effluent increase the chlorophyll carbohydrates and protein contents of the seedling while pure effluent decreased the amount of physiological parameters. Siyatha *et al.* (1992) found that in *Vigna radiatus*, the germination energy index showed a gradual decline from 0.966 in control to 0.107 in 100% effluent treatment. Gupta and Nathawat (1992) found that in *Pisum sativum*, with increasing concentration of effluents there was decrease in root and shoot length and total biomass. Rao *et al.* (1993) observed that increased concentration of effluent affects the biological activity of soil. Vijayaregam and Lakshmanacharya (1994) found that in green gram, effluents at low concentrations enhanced the growth and dry weight of seedlings whereas higher concentrations carried deleterious effect on seedling growth. Aggarwal *et al.* (1994) studied the effect on tree species and soil properties. They observed that highly sodic textile effluents can be used for growing the tree species and its deleterious effect can be mitigated by the addition of gypsum in the soil.

Distillery effluent:

The increased concentration of distillery effluents causes gradual decrease in the germination percentage and seed germination index in *Cajanus cajan*. Naidu and Raman (1995) studied the effect of distillery effluents on *Arachis hypogaea* and reported that higher concentrations inhibited germination and seedling growth.

Similarly, Sharma *et al.* (2002) studied the effect of distillery effluent in *Beta vulgaris* and noticed that higher concentrations (>5%) of effluent were found to be toxic.

Fertilizer factory effluent:

The impact of fertilizer factory effluent was studied by Sahai (1998) in *Sesamum indicum* L. It was observed that upto 5% concentration, germination percentage and seed of germination increased. Upto 10% , length of radicle and plumule, seedling biomass and pigment content

considerably increased. Sahai (1988) also observed that in *Oryza sativa* upto 5% concentration, positive results were observed in germination and seed of germination index. Sahai and Srivastava (1998) observed that in *Phaseolus vulgaris* and *Momorodica charantia*, with increase in effluent concentration, there was corresponding decrease in the parameters like germination, seedling growth and pigment content.

Sahai and Srivastava (1998) also studied the effect of fertilizer factory effluent on germination and seedling growth in *Brassica oleracea*. They noticed that with the increase in effluent concentrations, there was corresponding decrease in percentage germination and speed of germination index. Aggarwal and Gupta (1992) studied the effect of effluent in *Brassica campestris* and found that germination energy index showed a gradual decline from 0.966 in control to 0.107 in 100% effluent concentration and decreased pigment concentration with increased concentration of effluent.

Raza *et al.* (1987) studied the effect of industrial effluent on soil and natural vegetation and noticed that physiological parameters showed negative correlations with chlorides, sulphates and total salinity of soil. Soils become highly saline in nature. Rampal and Dorjey (2000) also studied the effect of industrial effluent in *Lens esculenta* and found that maximum growth occurred at 50% effluent concentration.

Iron foundry effluent:

The impact of iron foundry effluent was studied on the growth and yield in cereal and vegetable crops by Gupta and Maury (1987). They reported that only spinach showed a significant increase in the yield and growth. Rest of the crops showed reduction in growth and yield.

Paper effluent:

The effect of newsprint factory effluent on germination and seedling growth in *Vigna sinensis*, *Vicia foba*, *Cassia tora*, *Cassia occidentales* was studied by Jabeen and Abraham (1997). No adverse affects were observed.

Chaudhary *et al.* (1987) studied the effect of paper industry effluent on germination seedling growth and chlorophyll content in *Zea mays* L. It was noticed that highest overall growth was found upto 25% concentration of effluent but chlorophyll content was higher at 75%. Chaudhary *et al.* (1989) also studied the effect of effluent on germination, seedling growth and pigment content in *Hordeum vulgare*. They observed that best seedling growth occurred at 25% effluent concentration, gradual decrease in germination was observed above 25%

concentration. Das and Behara (1993) studied the impact of paper industry effluent on the physiological parameters in *Helianthus annuus* and observed that with increased effluent concentration and time, decreasing trends were observed in physiological parameters. Dutta and Boissya (1996) studied the effect of paper industry effluent on germination in *Oryza sativa* L and found that in effluent affected areas, germination percentage and yield were comparatively less. In *Eichhorria crassipis* and *Spirodela polyrhiza*, Srivastava (1988) found that with the corresponding increase in concentration of effluent and duration of exposure, chlorophyll a and biomass decreased.

The impact of pulp and paper industry effluent on germination and seedling growth in jowar and bajra was studied by Karande *et al.* (1993). It was observed that untreated effluents of paper mill when employed as such or diluted showed negligible adverse effect on growth and seedling germination. Sundari and Kanakarni (2001) studied the effect of the effluent on ground water resources, soil fertility, crop production in agricultural crops and found that untreated effluent was not adequate to safeguard the environment and showed negative correlation with the parameters. Reddy and Borse (2001) studied the effect of the effluent on germination and seedling growth in *Trigonella foenumgraceum* L. and found that there was increase in germination and seedling growth upto 25% concentration and above it, there was decline in parameters. Singh *et al.* (2002) studied the effect of effluent in *Triticum aestivum* L. and noticed that diluted effluent showed increase in chlorophyll content, plant height, shoot and root biomass, grain yield etc. whereas concentrated effluent showed a decrease in parameters.

Pharmaceutical industry effluent:

Patel *et al.* (1990) studied the effect of pharmaceutical industry effluent on germination, dry matter accumulation and yield in *Brassica juncia* L. They found that there was increase in parameters upto 40% of effluent concentration and with the further increase in concentration, there was decrease in given parameters.

Rubber factory:

The impact of effluent rubber factory effluent on germination and seedling growth in *Vigna radiatus* was studied by Augusthy and Mani (2001). They observed that at concentration >50%, seed germination percentage was retarded, upto 50% concentration seedling growth enhanced.

Rice mill effluent:

Padhan and Sahu (1999) studied the effect of rice mill effluent on germination percentage in cereal crops. They found that upto 50% concentration, germination percentage increased, >50% concentration inhibitory effect was observed.

Singh *et al.* (1999) studied the effect of sewage water on biomass, morphology and productivity in *Vicia faba* and found that plants irrigated with treated sewage showed increase in parameters than plants irrigated with raw sewage.

Sugar industry effluent:

The impact of sugar industry effluent on the activity of enzymes in *Cicer arietinum*. It was observed that the activity of peroxidase and catalase was stimulated by effluent while the activity of dehydrogenase was enhanced at lower doses of effluent. The activity of enzyme acid phosphatase was inhibited. Srivastava (1988) studied the effect of effluent on flora and fauna and found that sugar factory effluent caused deterioration of water quality and flora and fauna in local water bodies. Singh *et al.* (1992) studied the effect in tomato and *Meliologyne incognita* and found that there was beneficial effect of effluent on plants and the root knot disease caused by *Meliologyne* sp. was inhibited. The effect of sugar industry effluent was studied in *Abelmoschus esculentus* by Hari Om *et al.* (1994). It was observed that upto 25% concentration of effluent, the germination, seedling growth, and biomass showed an increase and above it inhibitory effect was observed.

Soap detergent effluent:

The effect of soap and detergents effluent was studied by Somashekhar and Siddaramaiah (1993) in *Pennisetum typhoides* and *Pisum sativum*. It was found that effluent at higher concentration delayed the effect of effluent on germination seedling growth in millet and pulse crop. It was seen that at lower concentration of effluent the promotory effects were observed.

Tannery industry effluent:

Kumar and Chauhan (1993) studied the effect of tannery industry effluent on root and shoot development in *Allium cepa* and found that the effluent was unsuitable for irrigation. Madhappan (1993) studied the effect of effluent on germination, morphological characters and pigment concentration in *Phaseolus aureus* and found that the effluent was unsuitable for irrigation. Arora and Chauhan (1996) also concluded that the effluent had inhibitory effect on the germination percentage and total

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biomass in *Hordeum vulgare*. Similarly, Sharma and Mehrotra (1993) also observed inhibitory effect of the effluent on germination percentage and total biomass in *Triticum aestivum* H.D. 2204.

For convenience, review of literature on the effect of different industrial effluents on various crops/soil parameters is given in the Table 1.

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