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# **Research Article**

## ANALYSIS OF HEAVY METAL CONCENTRATIONS IN BHAVANI RIVER WATER

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT				
Article History: Received 05 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016 Received in revised form 08 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016 Accepted 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016 Published online 28 <sup>st</sup> August, 2016	Heavy metals are natural constituents of the fresh water environment. Apart from nature sources, anthropogenic sources of heavy metals includes emissions from industries, untreated urban sewages, pesticides and fertilizers, atmospheric deposition in fresh water environment. Economic growths have affected the rivers in different ways and rivers have received increasingly large discharges of industrial effluents, fertilizers and pesticides from agricultural practices and domestic wastes. The concentrations of trace metals such as cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, lead,				
Key Words:	manganese were determined in Bhavani river in different locations from Sirumugai to				
Bhavani River, Heavy metal concentration, Surface water	Kalingarayanpalayam using Atomic absorption Spectrophotometer. These pollutants affect the aquatic environment and fishes. Fishes are used as bio-indicators playing an important role in monitoring heavy metals pollution. The pollution status and heavy metal contaminants level varies				

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Modern technology progresses the natural environment suffers from the determined effects of pollution. In aquatic ecosystem, heavy metals are considered as the most important pollutants. The metal contamination in aquatic ecosystem is yet considered to be unsafe not only for the human beings, but also for the wild organisms. The present review considers the special emphasis on the heavy metal pollution status in river. Bhavani river having many dangerous chemical elements, it releases into the environment accumulate in the soil and surface of the water bodies.

Metals are inherent component of the environment that poses a potential hazard to human being and animals. Fresh water sources like rivers are the major resources and aquatic inhabitant of fishes, due to which fishes are heavily exposed to pollution. Fishes in comparison with other water living organisms are more sensitive to many toxicants and are a convenient test subject for indication of ecosystem. In addition, Fishes are located at the end of the aquatic food chain and may accumulate metals and pass them to human beings through food thus causing chronic or acute diseases.

The objective of the present study is to briefly describe the level of heavy metals Bhavani river water. The heavy metals like Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Copper (Cu), Iron (Fe), Lead (Pb) and Magnesium (Mg) concentrations are studied in Bhavani river at six different locations and it is observed from the month of June 2015.

#### Study Area

in water with reference to different locations and in seasonal variations.

The Bhavani River is one of the tributaries of Cauvery River in its mid-reach whose sub-basin lies between latitudes 10\*56'03" N and 11\*46'14" N and Longitudes 76\*24'41" E and 77\*41'11" E. The Bhavani River rises at an altitude of about 2,634 in the Billimala range of Nilgiri hills in Tamilnadu. It is the major resource of water supply in Erode district and the second largest river in Tamilnadu. It arises in the states of Kerala and flows through various places in Tamilnadu. This river is also affected and got pollution by various factories and industries and the impact of bleaching and dyeing effluents was noted in surface water quality in terms of Physics ore. The river Bhavani, Cauvery and Amirthanadhi are mingled together in one place at Bhavani and it is also named as "Kooduthurai". The Kooduthurai is also called as "Mookkudal".

The famous temple which is called as Sangameswarar temple is located in the same place. Bhavani river covered almost all over the industrial region. So, water samples are taken from six different locations of the river for analysis of heavy metal concentration.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS: SAMPLING SITES**

The present study, the area in Bhavani River is selected. The selected areas were categorized into six locations. Overall six sampling sites samples were collected for analysis. The description of station is given below and locations are given in figure 1:

Station 1 is located in Sirumugai Station 2 is located in Sathyamangalam Station 3 is located in Kodiveri Station 4 is located in Athani Station 5 is located in Perunthaliyur Station 6 is the end of the Bhavani River (Kalingarayanpalayam)

#### Method of Sampling

Collected samples were preserved in pre-cleaned plastic bottles prior to analysis from the above mentioned sites. Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Iron (Fe), Lead (Pb) and Magnesium (Mg) concentrations were determined using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) after appropriate treatment and digestion.

#### **Collections of Samples**

The samples were collected from the surface water and kept in sterilized plastic bottles with the addition of 2ml concentrated  $HNO_3$  in order to preserve the metals and also to avoid precipitation and transported to laboratory immediately for further analysis. The analysis for the heavy metals was done using atomic absorption Spectrophotometer.

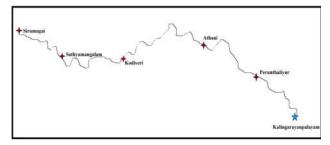


Figure 1 Map of Collected Samples

#### RESULTS

All the surface water samples collected form the different effluent exposed sites of the river Bhavani were analyzed for Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Fe, Mg. Metal concentration in river water is illustrated in Table 1. It is observed that the maximum cadium value is 0.1 ppm, chromium value is 0.2 ppm, Fe value is 0.01 ppm, Pb value is 0.2 ppm, and Cu values are 0.01 ppm. The magnisum values are vary in the six locations such as location: 1) 9.2, location 2) 12.16, location 3) 11.18, location 4) 15, location 5) 27, and location 6)32. In urban areas variation due to various large and small industries are concentrated in these areas. As the effluents from industries are directed in to the river, most of the dissolved heavy metals showed slightly high concentrations during the summer periods than that of the winter sessions.

The results of Heavy Metals concentration analysis are summarized in following table 1.

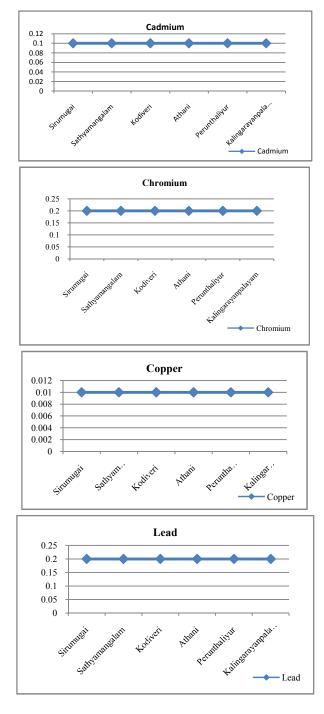
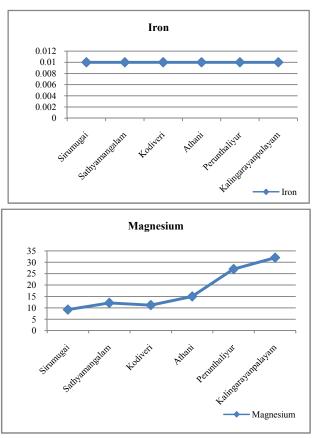
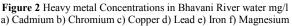


Table 1 Heavy Metal Concentrations in Water in various sampling station	Table 1 Hear	vy Metal Concen	trations in Wate	er in various	sampling station
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S.No	Location	Cd (ppm)	Cr (ppm)	Cu (ppm)	Pb (ppm)	Fe (ppm)	Mg (ppm)
1	Sirumugai	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.2	0.01	9.2
2	Sathyamangalam	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.2	0.01	12.16
3	Kodiveri	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.2	0.01	11.18
4	Athani	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.2	0.01	15
5	Perunthaliyur	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.2	0.01	27
6	Kalingarayanpalayam	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.2	0.01	32
		Tab	le 2 List of S	Standards			
S.No	Organizations	Cd	Cr	Cu	Pb	Fe	Mg
1	WHO	0.003 Mg/L	0.05 (p)	2	0.01 Mg/L	No guide lines	0.5 Mg/L
2	BIS (µg/L)	-	50	50	10	300	-





The mean concentration of the metals were observed in the order Mg > Cr > Cd > Fe (9.2>0.2>0.1>0.01). From the above results that the Mg values are found to be varying from 9.2 mg/l to 32 mg/l in the river course taken for study. This pollution may be come through industries or from drainage lines which are connected with the river Bhavani.

# DISCUSSION

The probable sources of heavy metals in Bhavani river may be caused by the various industries outlets which drains to the river and also affects the human health through the edible fish which is consumed as food. However the results vary on the basis of the seasons. The study of this research will supply valuable information on the level of Heavy Metal contamination in Bhavani River.

Recent report indicates that India is expected to face critical levels of water stress by 2025 and there will be a serious issue. For this reason, great efforts and co-operation between different authorities are needed to protect the Bhavani River from pollution and reduce environmental risks. This can be achieved by the treatment of agricultural, industrial and sewage discharge, regular approaches have to be taken from natural sources and anthropogenic activities are continuously released into aquatic systems causing serious effects of their toxicity, long persistence, bio-magnification and bio-accumulation in the food chain. A study increase in the water temperature was noticed in the river Bhavani.

This may be due to mixing of the effluent from the factories situated in the banks of the river Bhavani. Guidelines for the presence of heavy metals in river water have been set differently from many international organizations such as, World Health Organization (WHO), European Union Commission (EUC). Other organizations like Burean of Indian Standards (BIS) have also set that own river water standards.

As specified by these organizations, there are maximum admissible limits for heavy metals in the river water. Therefore effective pollution control measures are a must to save natural water resources from further deterioration. Further work with toxicity testing methods directly on fish both in laboratory and in its corresponding natural setting will be very useful in assessing possible ecological risks of heavy metals.

## CONCLUSION

The results indicate that the heavy metal concentration is remarkably high in Bhavani river water now when compared to the results evaluated in 2011. Present evaluation emphasis that special attention must be given to the issue of releasing metals into the river water. Therefore, constant monitoring of the Bhavani river water quality is needed and must be recorded. The alteration in the concentration, mitigating outbreak of health disorders and detrimental impacts on the aquatic ecosystem is to be analyzed. The Evaluation shows that the concentrations of the heavy metals (Cr, Cd, Fe, Pb and Mg) in samples are higher than the MAL by WHO 2008.

This is an indication of pollution hazards and treatment practices in these areas which in turn have implications on the health of the people through the fish. Few samples evidenced the significant metal concentration in water samples in the middle of the river catchment during summer season. It is attributed to the concentration of various textiles and associated industries along with the river course. It is due to presence of through slow rate of river water. Fishes are considered as one of the most Bio-indicators in fresh water ecosystem for the estimation of trace metal pollution. This work can further be extended to test the presence of the heavy metal concentration in Bhavani river water on fish gills and muscles.

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