J. Biol. Chem. Chron. **2015**, *2(1)*, 25-33
ISSN (Print): 2454 – 7468
ISSN (Online): 2454 - 7476
www.eresearchco/jbcc/

Assessment of Physico Chemical Parameters for Analysing Water: A Review

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(Received 05 Oct, 2015; Accepted 05 Jan, 2016; Published 15 Jan, 2016)

ABSTRACT: Water is the most important in shaping the land and regulating the climate. It is one of the most important compounds that profoundly influence life. People on globe are under tremendous threat due to undesired changes in the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of air, water and soil. Due to increased human population, industrialization, use of fertilizers and man-made activity water is highly polluted with different harmful contaminants. Natural water contaminates due to weathering of rocks and leaching of soils, mining processing etc. It is necessary that the quality of drinking water should be checked at regular time interval, because due to use of contaminated drinking water, human population suffers from varied of water borne diseases. The availability of good quality water is an indispensable feature for preventing diseases and improving quality of life. It is necessary to know details about different physico-chemical parameters such as colour, temperature, acidity, hardness, pH, sulphate, chloride, DO, BOD, COD, alkalinity used for testing of water quality. Heavy metals such as Pb, Cr, Fe, Hg etc. are of special concern because they produce water or chronic poisoning in aquatic animals. Some water analysis reports with physico-chemical parameters have been given for the exploring parameter study. Guidelines of different physico-chemical parameters also have been given for comparing the value of real water sample.

Keywords: Water; Physico-chemical Parameters; alkalinity; Chloride; DO, BOD, COD and Heavy metals.

INTRODUCTION: Water is one of the most important and abundant compounds of the ecosystem. All living organisms on the earth need water for their survival and growth. As of now only earth is the planet having about 70 % of water. The increased demand of water as a consequence of population growth, agriculture and industrial development building construction has forced environmentalists to determine the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of natural water resources (Regina & Nabi, 2003). Therefore it is necessary that the quality of drinking water should be checked at regular time interval, because due to use of contaminated drinking water, human population suffers from varied of water borne diseases. It is difficult to understand the biological phenomenon fully because the chemistry of water revels much about the metabolism of the ecosystem and explain the general hydro - biological relationship (Basavaraja Simpi et al., 2011). Good quality of water resources depends on a large number of physico-chemical parameters and biological characteristics. To assess that monitoring of these parameters is essential to identify magnitude and source of any pollution load. These characteristics can identify certain condition for the ecology of living organisms and suggest appropriate conservation and management strategies. Many researches are being carried out till present (Rajesh et al., 2002, Jayaraman et al., 2003, Sharma & Gupta 2004; Rajasekar et al., 2005; Sridhar et al., 2006; Anilakurmary et al., 2007; Prabu et al., 2008; Raja et al., 2008; Pradhan et al., 2009; Srivastava et al., 2009; Damotharan et al., 2010; Prasanna and Ranjan, 2010).

The availability of good quality water is an indispensable feature for preventing diseases and improving quality of life. Natural water contains different types of impurities are introduced in to aquatic system by different ways such as weathering of rocks and leaching of soils, dissolution of aerosol particles from the atmosphere and from several human activities, including mining, processing and the use of metal based materials (Ipinmoroti and Oshodi, 1993, Adeyeye

1994 and Asaolu 1997). The increased use of metal-based fertilizer in agricultural revolution of the government could result in continued rise in concentration of metal pollutions in fresh water reservoir due to the water run-off. Also faucal pollution of drinking water causes water born disease which has led to the death of millions of people. (Adefemi and Awokunmi, 2010). Atmospheric contaminants are also derived from human practices (such as gaseous emissions from automobiles, factories and even bakeries, etc.) Disease- causing (pathogenic) microorganisms, like bacteria, viruses and protozoa can cause health problems. Fish and shellfish are affected along with the people who eat them. Some serious diseases like polio and cholera are waterborne. Atmospheric contaminants are also derived from human practices (such as gaseous emission from automobiles factories and even bakeries etc.).Disease causing microorganism like bacteria, viruses and protozoa can cause health problems. Fish and shellfish are also affected along with the people who eat them. Some serious diseases like polio and cholera are water born. (Jaidhav et al., 2007) People on globe are under tremendous threat due to undesired changes in the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of air, water and soil. These are related to animal and plants and finally affecting on it (Misra and Dinesh, 1991). Industrial development (Either new or existing industry expansion) results in the generation of industrial effluents, and if untreated results in water, sediment and soil pollution (Fakayode and Onianwa, 2002 and Fakayode, 2005). Having mainly excessive amounts of heavy metals such as Pb, Cr and Fe, as well as heavy metals from industrial processes are of special concern because they produce water or chronic poisoning in aquatic animals (Ellis 1989). A high level of pollutants mainly organic matter in river water causes an increase in biological oxygen demand (Kulkarni, 1997), chemical oxygen demand, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids and fecal coli form. They make water unsuitable for drinking, irrigation or any other use (Hari, 1994). There are trends in developing countries to use sewage effluent as fertilizer has gained much importance as it is considered a source of organic matter and plant nutrients and serves as good fertilizer (Riordan, 1983). Farmers are mainly interested in general benefits, like increased agriculture production, low cost water source, effective way of effluent disposal, source of nutrients, organic matter etc, but are not well aware of its harmful effects like heavy metal contamination of soils, crops and quality problems related to health. Research has proven that long term use of this sewage effluent for irrigation contaminates soil and crops to such an extent that it becomes toxic to plants and causes deterioration of soil (Quinn, 1978 and Hemkes, 1980). This contains considerable amount of potentially harmful substances including soluble salts and heavy metals like Fe^{2+}, Cu^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Pb^{2+}. Additions of these heavy metals are undesirable. Plants can accumulate heavy metals in their tissues in concentrations above the permitted levels which is considered to represent a threat to the life of humans, and animals feeding on these crops and may lead to contamination of food chain, as observed that soil and plants contained many toxic metals, that received irrigation water mixed with industrial effluent (Adnan Amin, 2010). The quality of ground water depends on various chemical constituents and their concentration, which are mostly derived from the geological data of the particular region. Industrial waste and the municipal solid waste have emerged as one of the leading cause of pollution of surface and ground water. In many parts of the country available water is rendered non-potable because of the presence of heavy metal in excess. The situation gets worsened during the summer season due to water scarcity and rain water discharge. Contamination of water resources available for household and drinking purposes with heavy elements, metal ions and harmful microorganisms is one of the serious major health problems. The recent research in Haryana (India) concluded that it is the high rate of exploration then its recharging, inappropriate dumping of solid and liquid wastes, lack of strict enforcement of law and loose governance are the cause of deterioration of ground water quality (Gupta, 2009).Lakes serve as an important life support system by helping in recharging of aquifers and regulating hydrological regimes. Restoration and recharge of water table is possible due to the lakes, so the lakes play important role in our life. The degradation of lake is due to encroachment and eutrophication loads sils. The main causes for the water pollution of lake are due to pollutants entering from fixed point sources and pollutants entering from non point sources. (Khare and Jaidhav, 2008)

Most of the rivers in the urban areas of the developing countries are the ends of effluents discharged from the industries. African countries and Asian countries experiencing rapid industrial growth and this is making environmental conservation a difficult task (Agarwal Animesh, 2011). Sea water contains large number of trace metals in very small concentration. This is a challenging matrix for the analytical chemist due to

the very low concentrations of many important trace metals (Robertson 1968).

PHYSICO-CHEMICAL PARAMETERS: It is very essential and important to test the water before it is used for drinking, domestic, agricultural or industrial purpose. Water must be tested with different physico-chemical parameters. Selection of parameters for testing of water is solely depends upon for what purpose we going to use that water and what extent we need its quality and purity. Water does content different types of floating, dissolved, suspended and microbiological as well as bacteriological impurities. Some physical test should be performed for testing of its physical appearance such as temperature, color, odour, pH, turbidity, TDS etc, while chemical tests should be perform for its BOD, COD, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, hardness and other characters. For obtaining more and more quality and purity water, it should be tested for its trace metal, heavy metal contents and organic i.e. pesticide residue. It is obvious that drinking water should pass these entire tests and it should content required amount of mineral level. Only in the developed countries all these criteria's are strictly monitored. Due to very low concentration of heavy metal and organic pesticide impurities present in water it need highly sophisticated analytical instruments and well trained manpower. Following different physic chemical parameters are tested regularly for monitoring quality of water.

Temperature: In an established system the water temperature controls the rate of all chemical reactions, and affects fish growth, reproduction and immunity. Drastic temperature changes can be fatal to fish.

pH: pH is most important in determining the corrosive nature of water. Lower the pH value higher is the corrosive nature of water. pH was positively correlated with electrical conductance and total alkalinity (Gupta, 2009). The reduced rate of photosynthetic activity the assimilation of carbon dioxide and bicarbonates which are ultimately responsible for increase in pH, the low oxygen values coincided with high temperature during the summer month. Various factors bring about changes the pH of water. The higher pH values observed suggests that carbon dioxide, carbonate-bicarbonate equilibrium is affected more due to change in physico-chemical condition (Karanth, 1987).

EC (Electrical Conductivity): Conductivity shows significant correlation with ten parameters such as temperature , pH value , alkalinity , total hardness , calcium , total solids, total dissolved solids , chemical oxygen demand , chloride and iron concentration of water. (Navneet Kumar et al., 2010) suggested that the underground drinking water quality of study area can be checked effectively by controlling conductivity of water and this may also be applied to water quality management of other study areas. It is measured with the help of EC meter which measures the resistance offered by the water between two platinized electrodes. The instrument is standardized with known values of conductance observed with standard KCl solution.

Carbon Dioxide: Carbon dioxide is the end product of organic carbon degradation in almost all aquatic environments and its variation is often a measure of net ecosystem metabolism (Smith 1997 & 1993 and Hopkinson, 1985). Therefore, in aquatic biogeochemical studies, it is desirable to Measure parameters that define the carbon dioxide system. CO_2 is also the most important green house gas on Earth. Its fluxes across the air-water or sediment-water interface are among the most important concerns in global change studies and are often a measure of the net ecosystem production/metabolism of the aquatic system. There are various readily measurable parameters of aquatic carbon dioxide system: such as pH (pCO_2), total dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and total alkalinity (TA). Surface water pCO_2 can be measured by photometric method (DeGrandpre 1993 and Wang Z., 2002) and DIC CO_2 is measured by coulometer or by an infrared CO_2 analyzer (Dickson 1994). Total Alkalinity CO_2 is determined by HCl titration of the water sample to the CO_2 equivalence point (Gran, 1952).

Alkalinity: It is composed primarily of carbonate (CO_3^{2-}) and bicarbonate (HCO^{3-}), alkalinity acts as a stabilizer for pH. Alkalinity, pH and hardness affect the toxicity of many substances in the water. It is determined by simple dil HCl titration in presence of phenolphthalein and methyl orange indicators. Alkalinity in boiler water essentially results from the presence of hydroxyl and carbonate ions. Hydroxyl alkalinity in boiler water is necessary to protect the boiler against corrosion. Too high a causticity causes other operating problems, such as foaming. Excessively high causticity levels can result in a type of caustic attack of the boiler called "embrittlement".

Dissolved Oxygen: DO is one of the most important parameter. Its correlation with water body gives direct and indirect information e.g. bacterial activity, photosynthesis, availability of nutrients, stratification etc.

(Premlata Vikal, 2009). In the progress of summer, dissolved oxygen decreased due to increase in temperature and also due to increased microbial activity (Moss, 1972; Morrissette, 1978; Sangu, 1987 and Kataria, 1996). The high DO in summer is due to increase in temperature and duration of bright sunlight has influence on the % of soluble gases (O_2 & CO_2). During summer the long days and intense sunlight seem to accelerate photosynthesis by phytoplankton, utilizing CO_2 and giving off oxygen. This possibly accounts for the greater qualities of O_2 recorded during summer (Krishnamurthy R., 1990). DO in sample is measured titrimetrically by Winkler's method after 5 days incubation at 293 K. The difference in initial and final DO gives the amount of oxygen consumed by the bacteria during this period. This procedure needs special BOD bottles which seal the inside environment from atmospheric oxygen.

Carbonate: Whenever the pH touches 8.3, the presence of carbonates is indicated. It is measured by titration with standardized hydrochloric acid using phenolphthalein as indicator. Below pH 8.3, the carbonates are converted into equivalent amount of bicarbonates. The titration can also be done pH metrically or potentiometrically.

Bicarbonate: It is also measured by titration with standardized hydrochloric acid using methyl orange as indicator. Methyl orange turns yellow below pH 4.0. At this pH, the carbonic acid decomposes to give carbon dioxide and water.

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD): BOD is a measure of organic material contamination in water, specified in mg/ltr. BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen required for the biochemical decomposition of organic compounds and the oxidation of certain inorganic materials (e.g., iron, sulfites). Typically the test for BOD is conducted over a five-day period.

Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD): COD is another measure of organic material contamination in water specified in mg/ltr. COD is the amount of dissolved oxygen required to cause chemical oxidation of the organic material in water. Both BOD and COD are key indicators of the environmental health of a surface water supply. They are commonly used in waste water treatment but rarely in general water treatment.

Sulphate: It is measured by nephelometric method in which the concentration of turbidity is measured against the known concentration of synthetically prepared sulphate solution. Barium chloride is used for producing turbidity due to barium sulphate and a mixture of organic substance (Glycerol, Gum acetia etc.) and sodium chloride is used to prevent the settling of turbidity.

Nitrogen: It is measured spectroscopically at 425 nm radiation by making a colour complex with Nessler's reagent. The conditions of reaction are alkaline and cause severe interference from hardness in water.

Calcium: It is measured by complexometric titration with standard solution of ETDA using Patton's and Reeder's indicator under the pH conditions of more than 12.0. These conditions are achieved by adding a fixed volume of 4N Sodium Hydroxide. The volume of titre (EDTA solution) against the known volume of sample gives the concentration of calcium in the sample.

Magnesium: It is also measured by complexometric titration with standard solution of EDTA using Eriochrome black T as indicator under the buffer conditions of pH 10.0. The buffer solution is made from Ammonium Chloride and Ammonium Hydroxide. The solution resists the pH variations during titration.

Sodium: It is measured with the help of flame photometer. The instrument is standardized with the known concentration of sodium ion (1 to 100 mg/litre). The samples having higher concentration are suitably diluted with distilled water and the dilution factor is applied to the observed values.

Potassium: It is also measured with the help of flame photometer. The instrument is standardized with known concentration of potassium solution, in the range of 1 mg to 5 mg/ltr. The sample having higher concentration is suitably diluted with distilled water and the dilution factor is applied to the observed values.

Chloride: It is measured by titrating a known volume of sample with standardized silver nitrate solution using potassium chromate solution in water or eosin/fluorescein solution in alcohol as indicator. The latter indicator is an adsorption indicator while the former makes a red colored compound with silver as soon as the chlorides are precipitated from solution.

Silicates & Phosphate: These are also measured spectroscopically. Yellow colour is developed from the action of phosphates and silicates on molybdate ion under strong acidic conditions. The intensity of colour is directly proportional to the concentration of phosphate and silicates in the sample. Phosphate complexes are reduced by weak reducing agents such as ascorbic acid or tartaric acid (potassium antimonyl

tartarate) where as silica complexes require strong reducing conditions of hydrazine or bisulphite. The colour of reduced complex is sky blue. Most of the physico- chemical parameters are determined by standard methods prescribed by ASTM (2003) and APHA (1985), Trivedy and Goal (1986), Kodarkar (1992).

SOME STUDIES ON WATER OF INDIA: Physico chemical parameter study is very important to get exact idea about the quality of water and we can compare results of different physico chemical parameter values with standard values. Aftab Begum et al., (2005) studied various physico-chemical parameters and analysis of untreated fertilizer effluent. His result revealed that the parameters like EC, TDS, TSS, BOD, COD and ammonia are high compared to permissible limits of CPCB (1995), and fungal analysis showed the presence of 15 species isolated on Malt Extract Agar (MEA) medium thereby indicating the pollutional load of the effluent. Dey Kallol et al., (2005) studied various physio-chemical parameters on the samples drawn from the river Koel, Shankha and Brahmani. It was observed that dilution during rainy season decreases the metal concentration level to a considerable extent. However the enrichment of these metals by bio-magnification and bioaccumulation in edible components produced in water is accepted to produce a remarkable effect on the water of the river Brahamani which is of deep public concern.

Pawar Anusha et al., (2006) has studied the bore well and dug well water samples from a highly polluted industrial area – Nacharam. Sample were collected and analysed for physico-chemical parameters by adopting the standard methods for examination for water and waste water. The analyzed samples obtained a high values, compared with drinking water standards. Poonkothai and Parvatham, (2005) had been studied physico-chemical and microbiological studies of automobile wastewater in Nammakkal, Tamil Nadu, India indicated that the values for physico-chemical parameters were on the higher side of permissible limits of BIS. Microbiological studies revealed the presence of bacteria at high concentration and these organisms serves as indicators for pollutants. Rokade and Ganeshwade, (2005) showed high fluctuations in the physico-chemical parameters indicating the intensity of pollution. The pH ranged from minimum of 6.6 to maximum of 8.4, chlorides from 132.5 to 820.4mg/l, hardness ranged from 74 to 281 mg/ltr, CO_2 from 2.1 to 5.09, BOD from 4.437 to 112.432 mg/ltr, sulphates 0.192 to 5.12 mg/ltr, nitrates 0.5 to 1.012. The minimum pH value of 6.3 mg/ltr was found during winter season and maximum of 8.93 mg/ltr in summer. The pH shows general decline from upstream to downstream. CO_2 was found to maximum in summer reaching up to 55.44 mg/ltr and reduced to a minimum of 2.28 mg/ltr during rainy season. From the data collected it can be concluded that the inverse relationship, which is known to exist between pH and CO_2, does not exist in the present investigation (Sawane, 2006). Sharma Madhavi et al., (2005) studied ground water quality of industrial area of Kishangarh for various physicochemical parameters seasonally without and after addition of marble slurry in different proportions. From the study it is clear that these parameters increase with the addition of marble slurry leading to deterioration of the overall quality of the groundwater. Singhal et al., (2005) study reports on the treatment of pulp and paper mill effluent by *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* and the same has been compared at two different pH 5.5 and 8.5. At both the pH, colour, COD, lignin content and total phenols of the effluent significantly declined after bioremediation. However, greater decolourisation and reduction in COD, lignin content and total phenols were observed at pH 5.5. Chavan et al., (2005) was carried out investigation to study the different organic pollutants present in the Thane creek water. The creek water shows high values of BOD and COD along with 15 phenolic compounds, detergents, alcohols, ether and acetone, which are harmful to aquatic life. The origin of these pollutants is mainly from the entry of effluents from surrounding industries. Two major cement industries of the Ariyalur and Reddipalayam were selected and the waste water discharged from these units were collected and subjected to analysis. The values of different parameters were compared with the standard values given by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. The reasons for variations are analysed and remedial measures suggested (Gnana, 2005). In mineral based industry among various environmental issues the water pollution has posed most disastrous effect and complex challenges for undertaking necessary remedial measures. The sources of water pollution in different mineral based industries including mining, mineral processing, integrated iron and steel plant and nonferrous metal industries are described. Various liquid effluent treatments techniques both physiochemical and biological have been described and discussed. The process in each case being used commercially, have been outlined. (Jena and Mohanty, 2005). Premlata Vikal, (2009) has been work out the physico-chemical characteristics of the Pichhola lake

water. He studied various parameters like air and water temperature, pH, free CO_2, dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, conductivity, total dissolved solids, hardness, total alkalinity, chloride, nitrate, phosphate and sulphate. The results revealed that the values of conductivity, COD, and sulphate were found to cross the standard limits in water samples. The coefficient of correlation (r) among various physico-chemical parameters was also made.

Gupta et al., (2009) were analyzed water samples from 20 sampling points of Kaithal for their physico-chemical characteristics. Analysis of samples for pH, Colour, Odour, Hardness, Chloride, Alkalinity, TDS etc. On comparing the results against drinking water quality standards laid by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and World Health Organization (WHO), it is found that some of the water samples are non-potable for human being due to high concentration of one or the other parameter. Thus an attempt has been made to find the quality of ground water in and around Kaithal City town, suitable for drinking purposes or not. Basawaraj simpi et al., (2011) studied monthly changes in various physic chemical parameters of Hosahalli water tank in shimoga district Karnataka. Study shows that all parameters are within the limit and tank water non polluted and it can be used for domestic, irrigation and fishery purpose. Saravanakumar and Ranjith Kumar (2011) present paper studies about groundwater quality of Ambattur industrial area in Chennai City. They studied parameters such as pH, total alkalinity, total hardness, turbidity, chloride, sulphate, fluoride, total dissolved solids and conductivity. It was observed that there was a slight fluctuation in the physico-chemical parameters among the water samples studied. Comparison of the physico-chemical parameters of the water sample with WHO and ICMR limits showed that the groundwater is highly contaminated and account for health hazards for human use. Manjare et al., (2010) were studies the Physico-chemical Parameters of Tamadalge Water Tank in Kolhapur District, Maharashtra. Monthly Changes In Physical and Chemical Parameters Such as Water Temperature, Transparency, Turbidity, Total Dissolved Solids, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Free Carbon dioxide, and Total Hardness, Chlorides, Alkalinity, Phosphate and Nitrates. Were analyzed for a periods of one year. All Parameters were within the Permissible limits. The results indicate that the tank is Non-polluted and can be used for Domestic and Irrigation. Highly impure water has various effects on human being, domestic purpose as well as industrial use. Such as human beings get affected/ infected due to presence of different bacteria and heavy metals present in water. It may affect the different body organ and physiological disorder. Hard water is not suitable for domestic use such as washing, bathing, cooking as well as other purpose. Hard water is also not suitable for industrial and agricultural use. It damages the delicate machineries and affects the quality, stability and glossiness of the final product. Central water commission is maintaining a three tier Laboratory system for analysis of the parameters. The Level-I Laboratories are located at 258 field water quality monitoring stations on various rivers of India where physical parameters such as temperature, colour, odour, specific conductivity, total dissolved solids, pH and Dissolved Oxygen of river water are observed . There are 24 Level-II Laboratories located at selected Division Offices to analyze 25 different physico-chemical characteristics and bacteriological parameters of river water.

CONCLUSION: Water quality monitoring has a high priority for the determination of current conditions and long term trends for effective management. The supply of safe water has a significant impact on the anticipation of water transmissible diseases. The abundance of organic compounds, radionuclides, toxic chemicals, nitrites and nitrates in water may cause unfavorable effects on the human health especially cancer, other human body malfunctions and chronic illnesses. Therefore, it is necessary to frequently monitor water quality and hydrological condition of lakes, rivers and other sources of water, used for drinking, irrigation and other purposes.

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