

# Mathematical computation of water quality index to determine surface water quality of manyad storage tank, Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, India

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## Abstract

The present work aims to assess the water quality index (WQI) of Manyad Storage tank, of Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, India. The surface water sample were assessed for physico-chemical parameters namely pH, Electrical Conductivity, Total Dissolved Solid, Total Hardness, Bicarbonate, Chlorides, Sulphates, Nitrates, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Potassium and Fluoride in post-monsoon season of 2020. For calculating the water quality index (WQI), thirteen parameters namely, pH, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, total hardness, bicarbonate, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, chloride, sulphate, nitrate and fluorides were considered. Weighted arithmetic water quality index method was used to find surface water quality index (WQI). The water quality index of surface water found to be 96.24 indicating poor water category, which shows that whole water from the Manyad Storage tank is of very poor quality and treatment must be given before use for drinking purpose.

**Keywords:** Water Quality Parameters; Water Quality Index; Manyad Storage Tank; Parala; Maharashtra.

## 1. Introduction

Water covers 71% of the Earth's surface and is vital for all known forms of life. Clean, safe and adequate freshwater is vital to the survival of all living organisms and the functioning of eco systems, communities and economies. The quality of the world's water is increasingly threatened as human populations grow, industrial and agricultural activities expand, and as climate change threatens to change the global hydrologic cycle. Due to rapid growth of population, urbanization, industrialization, and agriculture activities, all water resources are under stress (UN-Water, 2010; Aher, 2017; Aher and Dhumal, 2017). Water quality refers to the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of water (CIA, 2014; Diersing and Nancy, 2009; Boah, et al,2015). The quality of surface water in an inland water bodies have a profound effect on the ground water table and ground water quality of the nearby aquifers due to existence of direct interaction between surface and ground water. surface water quality depends not only on natural processes such as precipitation inputs, erosion, and weathering of crustal material, etc. but also on anthropogenic influences such as urban, industrial, and agricultural activities (Papatheodorou et al. 2006; Ravikumar, et al, 2013).

The rainfall is most important hydrometeorological factor that plays a very significant role in their charge of surface as well as ground-water system. Rainfall is a usually followed expression for the liquid form of precipitation, which contributes in solving the problems related with water bodies like dams, tanks, lakes as well as reservoirs (Dangi et al, 2018; Dhumal and Aher,2019). Water quality is mostly affected by geochemical characteristics, dissolved ion content, climate, lithology, mineral weathering, geochemical reactions, solubility of salts, dissolution/precipitation reactions, ion exchange, wet and dry deposition of atmospheric salt and by various anthropogenic activities (Jiang and Yan, 2010; Zhang et al.,2012; Varade et al.,2014; Bozdog and Gocmez,2013; Sheikhy , et al., 2014; Sridharan, and Nathan, 2017; Wagh et al., 2018; Aher et al, 2019). The water quality index (WQI) summarizes large amounts of water quality data into simple terms such as excellent, good, bad, etc. for reporting to managers and the public in a consistent manner (Boyacioglu,2010). The indices are among the most effective ways to communicate the information on water quality trends for the water quality management (Jagadeeswari and Ramesh, 2012). WQI is valuable and unique rating to depict the overall water quality status in a single term that is helpful for the selection of appropriate treatment technique to meet the concerned issues (Tyagi et al.2013; Shah, and Joshi,2017). The assessment of drinking water quality using water quality index (WQI) is one of the best tools which was developed in the 1970s by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to summarize and assessing the status of water quality (Brown et al., 1972; Tiwari and Mishra 1985; Singh 1992; Mishra and Patel 2001; Naik and Purohit 2001; Chatterjee, and Raziuddin, 2002; Yogendra and Puttaiah, 2008; Alobaidy et al., 2010; Latha and Rao, 2010; Ketata et al., 2012; Tyagi et al., 2013; Li, 2016; Krishan et al., 2016; Aher, and Gaikwad, 2017; Bidhuri, and Khan, 2020; Deshpande et al., 2020; Aher, et al. 2020; Aher et al, 2020a ). Water quality index (WQI) is one of the most effective tools to communicate information on the quality of water to the concerned citizens and policy makers as it is an important parameter for the assessment and management of surface/ground waters. Hence, the present work has been carried out to know the water

quality index (WQI) of the surface water of Manyad Storage tank, Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, India. The Manyad storage tank is an earthen embankment type dam. It is situated on Manyad river near village Parala in Vajjapar block of Aurangabad district. The Manyad storage tank which was built in 2003 serves as the major source of water for nearby villages and having capacity of 6.11 thousand cubic meters out of which 5.38 thousand cubic meters is live storage. The Manyad water irrigate near about 880 hector land of surrounded area of Manyad valley. All water is reserve for only irrigation purpose however same nearby village having drinking water supply scheme from this storage tank. Geologically study area is covered by the deccan trap lava flows of upper Cretaceous to lower Eocene age and the basaltic lava flows belonging to the deccan trap is the only major geological formation (Aher and Deshpande, 2011; Deshpande and Aher, 2012).

## 2. Materials and methods

The surface water samples collected from the Manyad storage tank in a one litre pre-cleaned polyethylene bottles in post-monsoon season of 2020. The physicochemical analyses encompassing estimation of major cations calcium magnesium, sodium and potassium anions bicarbonate, chloride, sulphate, nitrate and fluoride besides general parameters such as pH, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solid and total hardness. In situ parameters like pH, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solid was measured immediately in the field immediately after sampling. The standard analytical procedures as recommended by the APHA (2012) were employed in the present study. The hydrogen ion concentration (pH), Electrical conductivity (EC) and total dissolved solids (TDS) were measured using digital portable meters. Calcium, magnesium bicarbonate and chloride were analysed by volumetric titration methods, sodium and potassium were measured using the flame photometer, sulphate, nitrate and fluoride were determined by spectrophotometric technique. The WQI provides a comprehensive picture of the quality of surface/ground water for most domestic uses. WQI is defined as a rating that reflects the composite influence of different water quality parameters (Sahu and Sikdar 2008). WQI is calculated from the point of view of the suitability of surface and/or groundwater for human consumption. Hence, for calculating the WQI in the present study, 13 parameters namely, pH, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, total hardness, bicarbonate, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, chloride, sulphate, nitrate and fluorides have been considered.

There were three steps for computing WQI of a water sample (US EPA 2009):

- 1) obtain measurements on individual water quality indicators
- 2) transform measurements into subindex values to represent them on a common scale
- 3) aggregate the individual subindex values into an overall WQI value.

Horton (1965) used the arithmetic aggregation function for the WQI. Brown et al. (1970) also employed basic arithmetic weighting, although without the multiplicative variables. The calculation of WQI using Weighed Arithmetic Index method after Brown et al. (1972) was used which involve the following steps:

Step 1. Calculation of unit weight ( $W_n$ ) factors for each parameter by using the formula

$$W_n = \frac{k}{S_n} \quad (1)$$

Where,

$$K = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{S_1} + \frac{1}{S_2} + \frac{1}{S_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{S_n}} = \frac{1}{\sum \frac{1}{S_n}}$$

$S_n$  = standard desirable value for  $n^{\text{th}}$  parameter

On summation of all selected parameters unit weight factor,  $W_n = 1$  (unity)

Step 2. Calculate the sub-index ( $q_n$ ) value by using formula

$$q_n = \frac{V_n - V_o}{S_n - V_o} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

$V_n$  is the mean concentration of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  parameter,

$S_n$  is the standard desirable value of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  parameter

$V_o$  are actual values of the parameter in pure water, generally  $V_o = 0$ , for most parameters except pH

For pH, the ideal value is 7.0 because of pure water and a permissible value is 8.5.

So, the calculation of quality rating for pH is calculated from the following equation:

$$q_{pH} = \frac{V_{pH} - 7}{8.5 - 7} \times 100 \quad (3)$$

Where  $V_{pH}$  = observed value of pH.

Step 3. Combining step 1 and step 2 WQI is calculated by the following equation.

$$WQI = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^n q_n w_n}{\sum_{n=1}^n w_n} \quad (4)$$

Water quality index (WQI) was computed to evaluate the groundwater suitability for drinking purposes. For computing WQI, the above three steps are involved in WQI calculation, the computed WQI values are then categorized into five classes, excellent, good, poor, very poor and unsuitable for drinking purposes. The table 1 shows classification of water quality, based on its water quality index values.

**Table 2:** Classification of Water Quality, Based on Its Quality Index

| Sr. No. | WQI Values | Water type      |
|---------|------------|-----------------|
| 1       | 0-25       | Excellent       |
| 2       | 26-50      | Good water      |
| 3       | 51-75      | Poor water      |
| 4       | 76-100     | Very poor water |

|   |      |            |
|---|------|------------|
| 5 | >100 | Unsuitable |
|---|------|------------|

**Table 2:** Calculation of Surface Water Quality Index (WQI) of Manyad Storage Tank

| Parameter        | Standards Values ( $S_n$ ) | $1/S_n$ | $\sum 1/S_n$ | $K=1/\sum 1/S_n$ | $W_n=K/S_n$ | $V_n$ | $V_n$ | $V_n/S_n$ | $Q_n = V_n/S_n \times 100$ | $W_n Q_n$ |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| pH               | 8.5                        | 0.118   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0908      | 7     | 7.96  | 0.64      | 64                         | 5.810     |
| TDS              | 500                        | 0.002   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0015      | 0     | 937.5 | 1.875     | 187.5                      | 0.289     |
| TH               | 200                        | 0.005   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0039      | 0     | 560   | 2.8       | 280                        | 1.080     |
| HCO <sub>3</sub> | 200                        | 0.005   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0039      | 0     | 340   | 1.7       | 170                        | 0.656     |
| Cl               | 250                        | 0.004   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0031      | 0     | 180   | 0.72      | 72                         | 0.222     |
| SO <sub>4</sub>  | 200                        | 0.005   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0039      | 0     | 58    | 0.29      | 29                         | 0.112     |
| NO <sub>3</sub>  | 45                         | 0.022   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0171      | 0     | 47    | 1.044     | 104.44                     | 1.791     |
| F                | 1                          | 1       | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.7717      | 0     | 1.01  | 1.01      | 101                        | 77.940    |
| Ca               | 75                         | 0.013   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0103      | 0     | 98.8  | 1.317     | 131.73                     | 1.355     |
| Mg               | 30                         | 0.033   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0257      | 0     | 79.7  | 2.657     | 265.67                     | 6.834     |
| Na               | 200                        | 0.005   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0039      | 0     | 51    | 0.255     | 25.5                       | 0.098     |
| K                | 12                         | 0.083   | 1.296        | 0.7717           | 0.0643      | 0     | 0.1   | 0.0083    | 0.8333                     | 0.054     |

### 3. Discussion

Application of water quality index (WQI) is a useful method in assessing the suitability of water for various beneficial uses. Water quality index was computed to evaluate the groundwater suitability for drinking purposes. It improves understanding of water quality issues by integrating complex data and generating a score that describes water quality status and evaluates water quality trends (Boyacioglu, 2007; Aher et al, 2020). The surface water quality index has been classified into (i) Excellent water (WQI <25), (ii) Good water (WQI 26 - 50), (iii) Poor water (WQI 51 - 75), (iv) Very poor water (WQI 76 - 100) and (v) Unsuitable for drinking purpose (WQI >100) (Table 1). The table 2 gives the mean concentration values ( $V_n$ ) of the twelve selected physico-chemical parameters of water samples collected in a post-monsoon season of 2020, standard drinking water values ( $S_n$ ) according to World Health Organisation (WHO, 2011) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS, 2012), unit weights ( $W_n$ ), water quality rating ( $Q_n$ ) and  $W_n Q_n$ . The water quality index (WQI) of the Manyad Storage tank was then calculated using the weighted arithmetic index formula as follows:

$$WQI = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^n q_n w_n}{\sum_{n=1}^n w_n} = \frac{94.24}{1} = 94.24$$

Based on the water quality index, this value (94.24) falls within 76-100 of the classification indicating very poor category for drinking purpose and must therefore be treated before use.

### 4. Conclusion

Water quality index technique used to assess the suitability of surface water Manyad Storage tank for drinking purposes illustrated that Manyad Storage tank water belongs to very poor water category for drinking purpose. The high-water quality index (WQI) values are mainly due to the presence of higher concentration of total dissolved solids, electrical conductivity, bicarbonate, nitrate, total hardness, calcium and magnesium in the surface water, therefore, the analysis revealed that the surface water of Manyad Storage tank needs some degree of treatment before usage for drinking purpose.

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