



E-ISSN: 2706-8927  
P-ISSN: 2706-8919  
[www.allstudyjournal.com](http://www.allstudyjournal.com)  
IJAAS 2019; 1(1): 133-137  
Received: 19-05-2019  
Accepted: 29-06-2019

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## Comparative study of physico-chemical features of the surface water of pond of Laheriasarai

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### Abstract

The present work deals with investigation of ecological status including physico-chemical characteristics of these selected ponds. The two ponds (Pond I and II located in Laheriasarai area) have been found to contain polluted water coming from the residential areas surrounding these ponds. Hence ideal step would be to devise a mechanism of treatment/cleaning the domestic sewage before its fall in the pond. This can easily be done by the municipal corporation and responsibility should be on the ward councillor of the ward in which these two ponds exist. Till this treatment is not done at least disinfection of the surface water should be done to avoid infection during outdoor bathing by the community which has been witnessed during the study. Water temperature of the pond was found fluctuating due to seasonal fluctuation in ambient temperature. The fluctuation was found due to seasonal variation.

Finally the result of the study indicates that the ponds I and II are fit for pisciculture after some remedial measures like treatment of domestic sewage before its fall in the ponds and restriction of domestic activities in the ponds as far as possible.

**Keywords:** Physico-chemical, surface water, Laheriasarai

### Introductions

Water is the most important resource biosphere and a wonderful chemical which has unique properties of dissolving and carrying in suspension a huge variety of chemical. But the sorry state of affairs is that water resources are being subjected to ecological alternations on account of human activities population growth etc. Thus it can get polluted easily as well.

Ponds are unique sources of lentic freshwater system of fundamental importance to man but are continuously exploited to meet different needs. These are important wetland located in and around human habitations. These are generally semi-natural ecosystem constructed by man in landscape suitable for water stagnation.

The most important physico-chemical characteristics of water are temperature, conductivity, pH, secchi transparency, total hardness, total alkalinity, free CO<sub>2</sub>, dissolved oxygen, chloride, phosphate, total suspended solids and volatile solids etc. The most important investigation carried out in the field of limnology are those of Secchi (1856), Hutchinson (1957), Chakraborty et al., (1959), Verma (1979), Rao (1955), Wetzel (1966), Adoni (1975), Datta et al., (1985), APHA (1989), Dixit et al., (1988), Gaur et al., (1989), Shukla and Bais (1990), Verma (2004), Kumar (2012), Kumar and Verma (2012)<sup>[23]</sup>, Kumar (2013). Noor and Alam (2001) considered the great variability in Physico-chemical nature of water and proposed a scheme of classification based on the ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus and human content of water.

The physico-chemical properties of water are influenced by a large number of factors. A number of Indian workers have contributed significantly in this area includes Ganpati (1940, 1941, 1943, 1959), George (1961), Sreenivasan (1964, 1965, 1969), Zafar (1964, 1967), Hussainy (1965) Michel (1975, 1977, 1978, 1980), Jana and Das (1980); Kaul (1983), Agrawal (1987); Bhowmik (1988); Changiwal and Chatterjee (1987); Khilare (1987); Pandey (1987); Singhal (1980); Tiwari (1999); Chatterjee (2000).

The trophic level of the lakes, ponds, swamp indicates its productive potential. Several workers have worked out certain indices related to productive potentials of a system. Bathymetric factors physico-chemical conditions and different biological characters of a water body have long been used as the indices of its trophic status.

### Material and Method

**Study Area:** The two ponds selected for the present study are known as said Nagar Pond (Pond I), Rai Saheb Pond (Pond II) are located in Laheriasarai.

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## Study of Water Sample

**Sampling and sample processing:** Observation and analysis were done every month, however the results are expressed on seasonal basis as the variations in months of a particular seasons were of less magnitude. Since the climate of the season is tropical monsoonic three seasons have been categorized viz rainy (July-October), winter (November-February) and summer (March-June). The sampling was done during forenoon (9-11 AM) and the water samples were collected from the surface and the river bed of the water body as the depths were quite variable. The samples were taken into one liter plastic bottles for estimation of the physico-chemical parameters.

### Physico-Chemical Analysis of Water

**Temperature:** Surface water temperature was recorded with the help of mercury thermometer while bottom water temperature was recorded by a reversible thermometer.

**Hydrogen ion concentration (pH):** The pH of water was recorded with the help of Griph meter (electronic), Hanna Japan.

**Electrical conductivity:** It was recorded with the help of conductivity meter and the value was expressed as Micro Siemens/cm.

**Dissolved oxygen (DO<sub>2</sub>):** It was analyzed by the Winkler's method (volumetric) with azide modification. The sample was collection in BOD bottle without bubbling and was fixed with 2ml of MnSO<sub>4</sub> followed by 2ml of alkaline iodine. The resultant brown precipitate was dissolved by the addition of 2ml of conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. 50ml of the above solution was titrated against N/40 Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Using starch as an indicator.

The DO<sub>2</sub> is calculated by the following formula:-

$$DO_2 \text{ (mg/l)} = \frac{8 \times 1000 \times N \times V_i}{V_2}$$

Where, V<sub>1</sub> = Volume of the titrant  
V<sub>2</sub> = Volume of the sample titrated  
N = Normality of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

**Free Carbon Dioxide (FCO<sub>2</sub>):** It was estimated with the help of phenolphthalein as indicator and titrated against standard alkali (N/44NaOH) solution. To 50ml of sample water, 2 drops of above indicator was added solution remains colorless which indicates the presence of FCO<sub>2</sub> in the sample. Now. It was titrated against N/44 NaOH. End point was slight pink in color.

Calculation was made as follows:-

$$FCO_2 \text{ (mg/l)} = \frac{\text{ml of titrated} \times 1000}{\text{ml of sample water}}$$

**Total Hardness:** It was determined by titrimetric method using EDTA as titrant and Erichrome Black 'T' as an indicator (APHA, 1989).

To 50ml of sample water half tablet of Erichrome Black 'T' indicator was added and shaken well. To it 1.0ml of Ammonia buffer was added followed by 0.5ml of 4N NaOH. The color of the sample developed to wine red. This

solution was titrated against N/50 EDTA solution. End point was blue color. Calculation was made as follows:-

$$\text{Total Hardness (mg/l)} = \frac{\text{ml of titrated} \times 1000}{\text{ml of sample water}}$$

**Chloride (Cl):** It was estimated by argentotitrimetric method APHA (1989), Using 0.014N AgNO<sub>3</sub> as titrant and potassium chromate as an indicator.

Calculation was made as follow:-

$$Cl \text{ (mg/l)} = \frac{\text{ml of titrant} \times N \times 35.46 \times 1000}{\text{ml of sample water}}$$

**Phosphat (PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>):** It was determine spectrophotometrically. 50ml of sample water was filtered (whatman Filter Paper). 2ml of ammonium molybdate reagent was added followed by 5drops of SnCl<sub>2</sub> solution. Blue color development. The absorbance of this blue color was read at 690mm on a Spectrophotometer (systronics) using distilled water as a blank. The value was compared with the Standard Curve and expressed as mg/l.

**Secchi Transparency:** Transparency of water was measured by a standard Secchi disc of 20cm diameter attached to a marked Plastic tape.

**Total Alkalinity:** Total alkalinity of water was obtained by adding phenolphthalein and methyl orange alkalinities i.e Total Alkalinity (T.A) = P.A+M.A.

Total Alkalinity = Phenolphthalein Alkalinity (P.A.) + Methyl Orange Alkalinity (M.A.)

### Result and Discussion

Water is the life Supporting Universal Solvent on earth around which the entire fabric of life is woven. But the sorry state of affairs is that water resources are being subjected to ecological alternation on account of human activities, population growth etc. The component of pollution contributes to greater Oxygen demand and nutrients loading of the water bodies promoting toxic algal blooms leading to destabilized aquatic ecosystem (Morrison et al., 2001). Ponds are unique sources of lentic fresh water system of fundamental importance to man but are continuously exploited to meet different needs.

Nutrient cycle vis-a-vis chemical properties of water gap has been studied by several authors. Rigler (1964), Stumm and Morgan (1970), Ponnampuruma (1972) and Donk et.al., (1993) have studied transformation of phosphate in an aquatic body. Similarly, transformation and cycling of nitrogen in an aquatic body have been intensively studied by Gambrell and Patric (1978), Mohanty and Das (1982) and Brush and Nilson (1993). The biogeochemical cycle of nutrient has also been described by Odum (1971)] Cole (1979) and Das (1989).

As depicted in (Table 1-6) the parameter studied for physico-chemical analysis of water included temperature, p<sup>H</sup>, Secchi-transparency, Conductivity, dissolved Oxygen, free carbon dioxide, total alkalinity, Chloride, total hardness and phosphates.

**Table 1:** Physico-chemical analysis of the surface water of Said Nagar Pond, Laheriasarai (Pond I) during July 2017 to June 2018

Month	Water Temperature (cc)	pH	Secchi Transparency (cm)	Conductivity ( $\mu\text{mho/cm}$ )
July	31.35	6.3	34.7	557.5
August	30.8	6.4	33.6	536.7
September	26.3	6.9	33.2	518.4
October	24.9	7.2	34.8	501.2
November	22.75	7.4	35.3	478.3
December	19.4	7.7	37.8	457.3
January	18.25	7.9	38.6	430.5
February	21.35	7.5	36.8	438.4
March	24.4	8.4	31.4	598.5
April	26.6	8.6	30.2	648.6
May	28.7	9.5	29.5	685.8
June	31.6	10.2	28.8	716.5

**Table 2:** Physico-chemical characteristics of the surface water of Said Nagar Pond, Laheriasarai (Pond I) during July 2017 to June 2018

Month	Total solids(mg/l)	Total Alkalinity (mg/l)	Total Hardness (mg/l)
July	384.46	142.75	76.8
August	398.35	154.34	77.2
September	356.25	137.72	79.8
October	336.8	121.45	82.5
November	274.7	86.54	94.8
December	251.5	75.23	89.4
January	237.4	62.58	106.5
February	301.3	69.44	112.6
March	393.85	94.87	122.4
April	401.37	106.48	128.6
May	426.85	113.43	134.3
June	448.75	129.54	142.7

**Table 3:** Physico-chemical feature of the surface water of Said Nagar Pond, Laheriasarai (Pond I) during July 2017 to June 2018

Month	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)	Free CO <sub>2</sub> (mg/l)	Chloride (mg/l)	Phosphate (mg/L)
July	6.6	3.95	6.5	86.7	0.78
August	6.4	4.23	6.4	78.9	0.69
September	6.2	3.87	5.8	69.5	0.63
October	6.7	3.29	2.6	59.3	0.59
November	6.9	2.86	0.7	46.4	0.48
December	7.5	2.57	0.5	43.7	0.42
January	7.6	2.34	0.2	39.8	0.21
February	7.2	2.6	0.3	33.7	0.07
March	5.7	3.5	0.7	48.8	0.83
April	5.5	3.7	0.6	52.7	0.87
May	5.3	3.85	0.9	53.8	0.93
June	5.2	3.96	1.5	58.8	0.98

**Table 4:** Physico-chemical analysis of the surface water of Rai Saheb Pond, Laheriasarai (Pond II) during July 2017 to June 2018

Month	Water Temperature (0°)	pH	Secchi Transparency (cm)	Conductivity ( $\mu\text{mho/cm}$ )
July	31	6.35	36.2	556.2
August	30.5	6.3	38.5	592.4
September	25.8	6.75	35.5	600.4
October	24.6	7	38.7	498.6
November	22.5	7.25	42.6	476.6
December	19.1	7.6	42.7	440.2
January	18	7.7	45.6	430.4
February	20.8	7.6	43.3	438.6
March	23.5	8.2	33.4	592.2
April	25.9	8.4	30.5	630.6
May	28.5	9.2	30.8	660.4
June	30.7	10	31.7	705.4

**Table 5:** Physico-chemical characteristics of the surface water of Rai Saheb Pond, Laheriasarai (Pond II) during July 2017 to June 2018

Month	Total solids (mg/l)	Total Alkalinity (mg/l)	Total Hardness (mg/l)
July	385.5	141	76.6
August	395.5	152.25	77.4
September	352.8	137.75	78.5

October	338.5	121.5	80.6
November	280.5	85.5	90.8
December	248.5	74.5	89.8
January	225.5	63.75	104.6
February	262.6	68.5	110.6
March	398.4	93.75	120.6
April	400.6	104.7	125.6
May	438.6	112.8	132.5
June	450.4	125.6	140.5

**Table 6:** Physico-chemical feature of the surface water of Rai Saheb Pond, Laheriasarai (Pond II) during July 2017 to June 2018

Month	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)	Free CO <sub>2</sub> (mg/l)	Chloride (mg/l)	Phosphate (mg/L)
July	6.5	3.92	6.4	82.4	0.76
August	6.6	4.25	6.2	76.6	0.69
September	6.5	3.85	5.7	67.5	0.62
October	6.7	3.45	2.0	58.7	0.58
November	7.1	2.85	0.6	46.4	0.45
December	7.5	2.55	0.5	43.2	0.42
January	7.8	2.3	0.1	38.8	0.16
February	7.4	2.5	0.25	32.6	0.07
March	5.8	3.6	0.5	48.5	0.82
April	5.5	3.7	0.5	52.5	0.85
May	5.4	3.8	0.8	53.5	0.92
June	5.6	3.9	1.4	57.6	0.96

### Conclusion

As these ponds have been found as biologically closed system hence exchange of nutrients with the surrounding system is not feasible thus lacking natural way of water cleaning and enrichment. Water temperature of the ponds was found fluctuating due to seasonal fluctuation in ambient temperature. Lower transparency was observed during summer due to high planktonic population. Maximum transparency was observed in winter months due to sedimentation of suspended solids. Minimum conductivity was found in the water of pond I due to utilization of ions by the living community. This conductivity was found to have signification positive correlation with the free CO<sub>2</sub>, total alkalinity and phosphate whereas negative correlation with pH, dissolved O<sub>2</sub>. Higher values observed during post monsoon period can be attributed to increased nutrient status of water leading to its eutrophication.

Finally, the result of the study indicates that the pond I and II are fit for pisciculture after some remedial measures like treatment of domestic sewage before its fall in the ponds and restriction of domestic activity in the pond as far as possible.

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