

## **Effect of Waste Water and Ash of Thermal Power Station on Hydrological Features of River Tapi at Bhusawal, District Jalgaon Maharashtra**

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**Abstract:** An insentive investigation was conducted at Deepnagar Power Station to determine the water quality status. Two sampling stations established along the stretch of Tapi river upstream (US) and downstream (DS) TO Deepnagar power plant (DPP) for collection of water samples. Water samples were processed for their physico-chemical parameters at both sampling stations was compared. sampling station to DPP showed higher water temperature and PH than that of sampling station upstream to DPP indicated that discharge from DPP increased pollution load in river Tapi. Transparency of the water was reduced during monsoon season in both years of the study. Estimated values of BOD, COD, total alkalinity, chloride, magnesium nitrate and phosphate were statistically differ significantly at sampling station DP to DPP from the values for these parameters at Hatnur reservoir. There were no considerable differences in the estimated values of sulphate. Total dissolved solids (TDS) and total hardness (TH) of the water remained statistically higher. This clearly revealed that hot water from cooling tower along with ash discharged from Deepnagar power plant had positive correlation with TDS and TH of the river water.

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### **I. Introduction**

Thermal electric power plants use the steam-water energy cycle. Heated waters discharged into aquatic environment change physical-chemical properties of water, such as density, viscosity, surface tension, solubility of gases and steam pressure. The influence of heating on aquatic ecosystems is ambiguous, and at different levels of heating it may be both positive and negative. The most important ecological factor is the exclusion of excessive heat dumping exceeding the buffer (compensating) capabilities of the aquatic ecosystem. Thermal loads can cause negative processes in local areas of aquatic environment, such as overgrowth of blue-green algae deteriorating the water quality, changes in the composition of plankton and dynamics of its numbers, disruptions of the structure of fish communities, and microclimatic changes.

Thermal releases are superimposed on chemical discharges (phosphorus and nitrogen compounds, metals, petroleum products and others). It is a combination of thermal releases and chemical contamination leads to local disturbances of ecological equilibrium, such as accelerated eutrophication, changes in the species structure of aquatic ecosystem. As a rule, nuclear and gas power plants prove to be cleaner than coal and fuel-oil TPPs in the extent to which they create chemical contamination of aquatic ecosystems. Among the important factors of the impact on aquatic biota are injuries to aquatic organisms in the water-intake facilities and condensers of the cooling system of power plant, resulting in mass death of plankton and young fish.

Power generating units are mega project, which require not only huge capital investment but also various natural resources like, fossil fuels and water, thus create an immeasurable and everlasting impacts on the environment and generate tremendous stress in the local eco-system in spite of stringent government norms to control and mitigate the damages to the environment by the power plants.

Due to continuous and long lasting emission of SO<sub>2</sub> & NO<sub>2</sub>, which are the principal pollutants coal based plants, surrounding structures, buildings, monuments of historic importance & metallic structures too are affected very badly due to corrosive (Acid rain) reactions. Well known example of this is the victimized Tajmahal of Agra which is being deteriorated due to these toxic gases. It is also worth to note that very high amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission (0.9-0.95 kg/kwh) from thermal power plants contribute to global warming leading to climate change.

The water requirement for a coal-based power plant is about 0.005-0.18 m<sup>3</sup>/kwh. The water requirement can marginally reduced from about 0.18 m<sup>3</sup>/kWh to 0.15 m<sup>3</sup>/kwh after the installation of a treatment facility for the ash pond decant. Still the water requirement of 0.15 m<sup>3</sup>/kwh = 150 Liters per Unit of electricity is very high compared to the domestic requirement of water of a big city. Ash pond decant contains harmful heavy metals like B, As, Hg which have a tendency to leach out over a period. Due to this the ground water gets polluted and becomes unsuitable for domestic use.

The effect of power plants on the socio-economic environment is based on three parameters, viz. Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R & R), effect on local civic amenities and work related hazards to employees of the power plants. The development of civic amenities due to the setting up of any power project is directly proportional to the size of the project. The same has been observed to be the highest for the coal based plants followed by the natural gas based plant and lastly the hydroelectric plant. The coal based plant has the highest number of accidents due to hazardous working conditions.

Depending upon the nature and intensity of utilization of fresh water and thermal effluents, the ecosystem may either reestablish the previous equilibrium or establish a new one, or it may remain in prolonged disequilibrium. In view of the above, periodic observations are necessary to estimate exact response of biotic communities to changing salinity, suspended load and temperature, enabling retaining better quality of river water and associated fish habitat.

Considering the need of hour, the present study is to be undertaken to evaluate the impact of Deepnagar Power Station on hydrobiological features and status of fish species in river Tapi near Bhusawal in Jalgaon District of Maharashtra. The possible outcome of the results will be in the form of valuable data related to disappearance of fresh water fishes, if any. It will also help to develop the strategies for conservation of fish species.

## II. Aims And Objectives Of The Study

- To assess the water quality of the Tapi river at different times, places and seasons.
- To assess impact of discharge of warm water in river Tapi from Deepnagar Power plant (DPP) near Bhusawal in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.
- To estimate the quantitative use of ash released from DPP.
- To evaluate the local thermal impact on water quality of river Tapi.
- To evaluate the physico-chemical parameters of river Tapi downstream and upstream of DPP.

### Study area:

**Bhusawal** is a city (21°02'50.56"N 75°47'15.99"E) and a municipal council in Jalgaon district in the state of Maharashtra, India. The thermal power station (TPS), which produces around 12% of the electricity requirement of Maharashtra, is situated in Bhusawal near to Fekari village on the bank of the River Tapi. Bhusawal is also famous for bananas due to rich irrigation system from Tapi river. Special goods trains all over India and especially to the North Area send the bananas of this place. Deepnagar power project (DPP) extension is extended. The new plant capacity consists of two power generators of 500 mW each. Previous plant has capacity of 62+210+210 mW total capacity.



**Figure (1) a)** Bhusawal in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra State in India  
**b)** Deepnagar power plant (DPP) near Bhusawal city

## III. Materials and Methods

Two sampling stations established along the stretch of Tapi river upstream (US) and downstream (DS) to Deepnagar Power Plant (DPP) for collection of water samples and fish. The study carried out for two years on quarterly basis viz. summer, monsoon, and winter seasons. Water samples were processed for their physico-chemical parameters and prevalence or absence of fish species at both sampling stations was compared. Important physicochemical parameters like Temperature, pH, Transparency, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Total Alkalinity (TA), Carbonates, Bicarbonates, Chlorides (Cl), Sulphates (SO<sub>4</sub>), Total Hardness (TH), Magnesium (Mg), Nitrates (NO<sub>3</sub>) and Phosphorus (P) have been investigated according to standard methods given by

Kodarkar (2006) and American Public Health Association (APHA, 2008) and results were analyzed statistically as per the procedures in Gurumani (2005).

**Sampling stations:** Upstream to DPP, the first sampling station was established near Hatnur dam (750 90'E, 210 12'N) on river Tapi near village Hatnur in Bhusawal tehsil of Jalgaon district in Maharashtra. The height of the Hatnur dam above lowest foundation is 25.5 m (84 ft) while the length is 2,580 m (8,460 ft). The volume content is 3,850 km<sup>3</sup> (920 cu mi), gross storage capacity is 388,000.00 km<sup>3</sup> (93,086.15 cu mi) and having the surface area of 48,160 km<sup>2</sup> (18,590 sq mi). Whereas downstream to DPP, second sampling station was established on the bank of river Tapi near Bhusawal city.



Figure 2 (a) Satellite image of Hatnur Dam, (b) Photograph of Hatnur dam

Table 1 Physico-chemical parameters assessed to evaluate water quality of river Tapi

Sr. No	Parameters	Symbol	Reporting Unit	Method
1	Water temperature	–	0C	Thermometer
2	pH	–	pH	pH metric
3	Transparency	–	Meter	Sacchi Disc
4	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	O <sub>2</sub>	mg/liter	Winkler's Method
5	Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	–	mg/liter	Winkler's Method
6	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	–	mg/liter	Dichromate Oxidation
7	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	–	mg/liter	Evaporation of Filtrate
8	Total Alkalinity (TA)		mg/liter	Titrometric
9	Carbonates	CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	mg/liter	Titrometric
10	Bicarbonates	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	mg/liter	Titrometric
11	Chloride	CL <sup>-</sup>	mg/liter	Titrometric
12	Sulphate	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	mg/liter	Gravimetric
13	Total Hardness (TH)	–	mg/liter	Titrometric
14	Magnesium	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	mg/liter	Titrometric
15	Nitrates	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	mg/liter	Spectrophotometric
16	Phosphorus	P	mg/liter	Spectrophotometric



Figure 3. Water sampling from river Tapi near Bhusawal city(downstream to DPP).

#### IV. Results Of Water Quality Parameters Studied At Both Sampling Stations

The fresh water resources of northwest Maharashtra have not been studied despite of their richness. It is worth to assess hydrobiological properties of the River Tapi in study region. As stated earlier, River Tapi is one of the two westerly flowing rivers of peninsular India arising from Satpura range at an elevation of 670 to 1000 meter above mean sea level and flows westward through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat covering the distance of about 857 km.

The total catchment area of Tapi and its tributaries is about 65,145 sq.km of which 25% of total drainage of river system falls in Madhya Pradesh, 40% in Maharashtra, and 35% in Gujarat (Dubey, 1994). Study of various physico-chemical characteristics of river Tapi including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, dissolved solids, and suspended solids alkalinity were studied by Chaudhari and Patil (2010). Marathe et al (2011) studied sediment characteristics of river Tapi. Except these two references, there is complete scarcity of work related to assessment of hydrobiological properties of the River Tapi in the study area. The result of water quality assessment during two years i.e.2013-14 and 2014-15 of study at sampling sites located to upstream and downstream to DPP is given below:

**Atmospheric and water temperatures:** Temperature is one of the most important factors that regulates distribution and life history of organisms. In tropical waters, the temperature directly influences all metabolic and physiological processes of organisms such as feeding, reproduction, movement and distribution of organisms (Swami and Udhayakumar, 2007). During the present investigation, variations in atmospheric temperatures ranged from 35.8±1.10C to 43.8±0.90C. The observations indicated that throughout the study period the ambient temperatures during summer were remained higher, which might be due to fact that in Maharashtra, Jalgaon district experiences more summer heat than other districts. It was also noted that the sampling station downstream to DPP showed higher water temperature than that of sampling station upstream to DPP. Comparatively this change in water temperature was statistically significant at P < 0.01. This is due to release of water from cooling towers of DPP directly into river Tapi.

**pH** regulates the enzyme activities and other physiological processes in organisms (Odum, 1971). The pH of water ranged from 7.4±0.08 to 8.9±1.2 during two years of study at both sampling stations (P < 0.05). The pH is one of the most important abiotic factors that serve as an index for pollution. Since the pH values at downstream sampling station were remained higher than that of upstream sampling station indicated that discharge from DPP increased pollution load in river Tapi (Ching et al, 2004).

**Table 2.** Estimated values of water quality parameters in different seasons at Upstream (US) and downstream (DS) to Deepnagar Power Plant

Water parameter quality	Sampling station	Summer (2013-14 & 2014-15)	Winter (2013-14 & 2014-15)	Monsoon (2013-14 & 2014-15)
Ambient Temperature(OC)	US	42.8±1.4	25.8±1.2	35.8±1.1
	DS	43.8±0.9*	28.8±0.6*	36.3±1.5*
Water Temperature (OC)	US	32.8±1.2	23.8±0.9	29.8±0.7
	DS	38.8±1.3**	35.8±1.4**	33.3±2.2**
pH	US	8.5± 0.2	7.8±0.13	7.4±0.08
	DS	8.9±1.2*	8.1±0.21*	7.9±0.51*
Transparency (NTU)	US	0.78 ± 0.07	0.54± 0.03	0.34 ± 0.08
	DS	0.65 ± 0.06 **	0.58 ± 0.05**	0.28 ± 0.04**
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)	US	4.3±0.63	5.4±0.21	4.9±0.51
	DS	3.2±0.56**	4.6±0.14**	3.7±0.46**
BOD (mg/l)	US	6.5 ± 0.3	6.9 ± 0.8	8.7 ± 0.5
	DS	5.4 ± 0.5 *	6.2 ± 0.4 *	5.9 ± 0.7*
COD (mg/l)	US	55.3 ± 3.4	40.2 ± 4.2	36.7 ± 2.7
	DS	64.5 ± 4.3	48.3 ± 2.6	43.7 ± 1.8
TDS (mg/l)	US	159.5±9.5	132.2±10.7	112.6±8.9
	DS	178.6±10.8**	143.2±13.2**	123.6±10.2**
TA (mg/l)	US	64.7± 3.4	71.7± 2.5	86.5± 1.6
	DS	72.6± 4.6*	82.7± 5.1*	92.5± 7.2*
Carbonates (mg/l)	US	20.8±1.3	23.3±1.8	26.4±2.2
	DS	24.4±2.5	30.6±3.2	30.4±2.8
Bicarbonates (mg/l)	US	46.2±4.2	48.4±3.3	60.1±5.3
	DS	48.6±3.6	50.1±2.5	62.8±4.8
Chloride (mg/l)	US	29.6 ± 2.2	23.4 ± 1.6	18.6 ± 0.9
	DS	34.7± 3.1*	28.2 ± 1.8*	25 ± 1.2*
Sulphate (mg/l)	US	16.6 ± 1.4	14.8 ± 1.3	15.2 ± 1.5
	DS	17.9 ± 1.2	15.3 ± 1.1	14.8 ± 0.8
Total Hardness (mg/l)	US	125.4 ± 9.3	106.4 ± 6.7	94.4 ± 4.5
	DS	147.6 ± 8.5**	121.3 ± 9.2**	114.2 ± 8.8**
Magnesium (mg/l)	US	34.7 ± 2.5	28.3 ± 1.9	23.8 ± 1.3
	DS	43.4 ± 3.2*	34.3 ± 3.6*	29.4 ± 2.5*
Nitrates (mg/l)	US	29.5 ± 2.6	34.3 ± 3.1	45.7 ± 4.2
	DS	23.2 ± 1.8*	29.3 ± 2.4*	36.7 ± 3.6*
Phosphates (mg/l)	US	0.43 ± 0.07	0.56 ± 0.08	0.87 ± 0.05
	DS	0.22 ± 0.02*	0.34 ± 0.04*	0.58 ± 0.08*

Each value is Mean ±SD of six observations. \*\*p < 0.01 and \*p < 0.05.

**Transparency:** It is one of the most important abiotic parameters for assessing the primary productivity of the water body. During present investigation, seasonal variations in transparency using Sacchi disc were observed during the study period and it ranged from  $0.28 \pm 0.04$  m to  $0.78 \pm 0.07$  m. Transparency of the water was reduced during monsoon season in both years of the study due to heavy rainfall and surface run off in river water at Hatnur reservoir but transparency was further statistically reduced ( $P < 0.01$ ) in the same season at downstream sampling station due to the fact that there was continuous addition of discharge from DPP. Choudhary and Bharti (2006) and Kambale et al. (2009) reported the lowest transparency values wetlands due to release of discharge from thermal power station as well as due to flood due to rainy season.

**Dissolved Oxygen (DO):** DO is the fundamental fuel of life in aquatic ecosystem. DO in water is of great importance to all aquatic organisms and is considered to be the factor that reflects the biological activity taking place in a water body and determines the biological changes which are brought about by the aerobic or anaerobic organisms (Dixit et al, 2007). DO values of Tapi water at both sampling stations were ranged from  $3.2 \pm 0.56$  to  $5.4 \pm 0.21$  mg/liter during two years of study period. In the present investigation it was significantly noted that there was inverse relationship between water temperature and DO. The DO values at downstream sampling station were remained lower due to higher temperature that might be attributed to thermal plume released from DPP affected the water quality of Tapi river.

Estimated values of **BOD, COD, total alkalinity, chloride, magnesium, nitrate** and **phosphate** were statistically differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) at sampling station downstream to DPP from the values for these parameters at Hatnur reservoir. This might be attributed to discharge from DPP into the water of Tapi. There were no considerable differences in the estimated values of **sulphate** at both sampling stations through out the course of study. The nitrate and phosphate concentrations in water samples were found higher at Hatnur reservoir during monsoon season in both years of study than that samples collected from river Tapi near Bhusawal city, which might be due to the fact that Hatnur reservoir receives huge amount of agricultural runoff from the catchment area.

Another notable fact was recorded in water samples collected from river Tapi near Bhusawal city, that estimated values **total dissolved solids (TDS)** and **total hardness (TH)** of the water remained statistically higher ( $P < 0.01$ ) than that of the values of both parameters at Hatnur reservoir. This clearly revealed that hot water from cooling tower along with ash discharged from Deepnager power plant had positive correlation with TDS and TH of the river water.

The effect on biological environment can be divided into two parts, viz. the effect on flora and the effect on fauna. The waste-water being at higher temperature (by 4-50C) when discharged can harm the local aquatic biota. The primary effects of thermal pollution are direct thermal shocks, changes in dissolved oxygen, and the redistribution of organisms in the local community. Because water can absorb thermal energy with only small changes in temperature, most aquatic organisms including fish have developed enzyme systems that operate in only narrow ranges of temperature (Easterson et al, 2000). These stenothermic organisms can be killed by sudden temperature changes. Considering the significance of the impact of thermal change on the status of fish species in river Tapi, the present investigation was extended to search out the number of fish species inhabiting the river Tapi upstream and downstream of Deepnagar Power Plant.

## V. Conclusion

In general, water and air temperature data is sufficient to reveal possible changes in mean water temperatures and summery extreme temperatures and to prove a correlation between air and water temperatures. Positive trends of water temperatures of river Tapi were identified in summer months. The thermal discharge from Deepnagar Power Plant is responsible for alteration in physico-chemical properties of river water. The change in water temperature is one of the significant factor that goes to extreme intolerable level causing decrease in dissolved oxygen level as a secondary effect leading to frequent fish kill events in months of summer season. Decrease in fish richness from the point of species diversity and mass mortality of fish due to upper lethal thermal discharge from Deepnager Power Plant is the matter of serious concerned which is to resolved soon to protect the diversity of fish of the river Tapi and protect the riverine ecosystem. Release of hot water from cooling towers and ash from Deepnagar power plant directly in to Tapi river are notorious anthropogenic activities that must be prevented or there must an corrective measure including implementation of new technology making operational changes to minimize the thermal load and to maximize the restoration of aquatic fauna inhabiting in River Tapi. Deepnagar Power Plant should have improved ecological monitoring system for dealing the most serious ecological effects of steam-electric power generators on air, water and soil in its vicinity. A stringent action plan is essential to generation an electricity on one hand and on the other hand to conserve the ecosystem.

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