



PRELIMINARY STUDY OF EFFECTS OF IDOL IMMERSION ON FUTALA- TELANGKHEDI LAKE NAGPUR, INDIA

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Abstract:

The study area is the historic lake 'Futala-Telangkhedi' situated in the West Nagpur of Central India surrounded by wetlands, farmlands, forests and gardens etc. The variations in habitats and ecological conditions of lake are suitable for diverse range of flora and fauna. The present study is carried out at the Ganesha and Durga festivals during the month of September and October 2013 respectively. Water of this lake is examined before a week of idol immersion, at the time of idol immersion and one week after the immersion of idols. The idols are prepared from degradable and non-degradable components and paints containing heavy metals deteriorate the quality of water. It directly affects the flora and fauna of this lake. The report includes the study of effects of idol immersion on Futala-Telangkhedi Lake.

Keywords:

Ganesha, Durga, Futala-Telangkhedi, Idol immersion, Water pollution

Introduction:

In India the water bodies are related to religious sentiments but not suitable for human uses. One of the main reasons of the deterioration of water quality is the rituals, in that idol immersion plays an important role. The Idols are constructed by clay, dried grass, plaster of paris, cloths, small iron rods and wires, bamboo etc. and decorated with different chemicals used in colors, paints and varnishes etc. The input of biodegradable and non-biodegradable substances deteriorates the water quality and enhances silt load in water.

Due to the religious activities the river systems of India is adversely affected. The pollution and nutrient load were increases after idol immersion in rivers,





for example Tapi River (Ujjania and Mistry, 2012) and some other rivers of South Gujarat (Mal

Material and Methods:

During the year 2013, authors visited to the Futala lake before and after one month of Ganesha and Durga idol immersion. (The Festival of Ganesha is celebrated for ten days from Ganesha Chaturthi to Ananta Chaturdashi day in the month of Bhadrapada either in August or September and the Durga festival, Navratri utsav is for nine days in the month of Ashwin in October or November). Authors examined and recorded the alteration of water quality and pollution caused by idol immersion and effects on the flora and fauna.

Result and Discussion:

Festivals are an integral part of rich and diverse cultural heritage of India. In the Nagpur city festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm. Most of the common festivals are Ganesha and Durga festivals. The idols of Ganesha and Durga are mainly made up of plaster of paris and other biodegradable materials. Futala lake is the largest idol immersion site of Nagpur city (Fig. 1). The lake environment is clean and pleasant before the immersion of ideols (Fig. 2). The lake water is clear and rich in flora and fauna (Fig. 3). After immersion of idols the turbidity of water increases and floating wastes are seen on water (Fig. 4). Tons of garbage deposited on the shore line of lake, consisting of bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable wastes (Fig. 5). Particularly the shore line of water body is polluted by solid and dissolved wastes for months (Fig. 6). This adversely affects the population of flora and fauna.

Pollution cause by the immersion of idols has many social, religious, scientific and environmental dimensions. The material used for making idols are non-biodegradable substances like plastic, plaster of paris, thermocol, synthetic colors etc. which deter





Conclusion:

The input of biodegradable and non-biodegradable substances deteriorates the water quality and enhances silt load in the water bodies. The floating materials released during idol immersion after decomposition result in eutrophication of the lakes. Lakes and other water bodies are the most fragile, fertile, diverse, productive and interactive which have more complex ecosystem in comparison to running waters as they lack self-cleaning ability and hence readily accumulate great quantities of pollutants. Increased human activities damage the aquatic ecosystems and ultimately affect the quality of water.

SUGGESTIONS:

- The idols should be made up of traditional clay instead of plaster of paris, baked clay, thermocol etc. The idols should be small in size to dissolve faster.

Figure captions

Figure 1. The Satellite map of Futala Lake showing idol immersion sites. Courtesy- Yahoo map. (Thick line shows the immersion of large sized idols and thin line shows immersion of small to medium sized idols).

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