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A GIS-Based Study of Air and Water Quality Trends in Madurai City, India

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INTRODUCTION

Rapid industrial development, employment opportunities, and urbanization have led to the large-scale migration of people into developed cities (Patel & Burkle 2012, Muthukannan et al. 2019). Migration and industrial development create a negative impact on the environment especially on water, air, and soil (Huff & Angeles 2011, Cassidy et al. 2014). Air and water are the most important for all forms of life on Earth, and polluting either one or both will be a serious problem. The Government is taking all initiatives to monitor and control air and water pollution. Air and water quality monitoring networks have been established to assess the daily pollution level and improve policymaking to monitor pollution. Madurai city is now facing all kinds of water pollution and air pollution and as a consequence, environmental degradation is taking place. Madurai is one of the districts in Tamilnadu, which is known for its cultural heritage and historical importance. Today, the city is facing a lot of problems due to the increase in population, vehicle, and development in all four directions. As a result of urbanization, extensive quarrying, a rise in automobile population, and mining activities, the historical city's air and groundwater have been polluted. (Prince et al. 2020). Hence, there is a pressing need to study the present

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to assess the air quality and water quality at Madurai city using the spatial interpolation technique of the Geographic Information System (GIS). Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW), Kriging, Gaussian- Kriging methods of interpolation are used in the study. The study area is divided into 8 zones and primary data is collected through direct sampling for water. The air pollution concentration data on Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), Respirable Particulate Matter (RPM), and Lead are collected from an air quality monitoring network system of Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB). The results indicate that the Kriging interpolation method performs well with an error value of 0.02. The data collected from the years 2006 and 2020 are compared using GIS and observed data. The comparison of results indicates that there is a good accord with the predicted value using Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) and Kriging interpolation with the observed data. The analysis report indicates that the pollution level at all 8 blocks was severely affected in 2020 and it is above the prescribed standard of TNPCB. Particularly, Kalavasal, Arapalyam, and Periyar blocks are severely affected. This work also presents suitable mitigation measures to reduce pollution.

and past status of pollution in the city and as well as to develop a database tool for prediction.

Air and water quality monitoring and evaluation have become a critical issue in the past years and every year the severity is increasing steadily (Varol et al. 2012). The recent study shows that for assessing air quality and water quality various techniques have been used by the researchers, Water Quality Identification (WQI) (Xu 2005, Shankar & Sanjeev 2008), Single Factor Pollution Index (SFPI) (Guo 1999), Complex Pollution Indices (CPI) (Meng et al. 2009), fuzzy and Artificial Neural Network (ANN) (Jiang et al. 2006, Liu et al. 2010), Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) (Pang et al. 2008). However, all the practicing methods are focused on a single location, are parameter centric and data are spatially discontinuous. As a result of the data discontinuity, it is impossible to identify hazardous and vulnerable locations and implement mitigation measures. (Gerdol et al. 2014). The air quality and water quality involve a large number of variables and the associated factors need to be evaluated individually (Yan et al. 2015). Hence, GIS is the most powerful tool for spatial interpolation of data, which creates surface grid maps and facilitates spatial analysis (Vairavamoorthy et al. 2007).

A Geographical Information System (GIS) is a tool, which is used to store, manage, retrieve and analyze all

types of spatial data, and provides excellent analysis and solutions to spatial problems (Kumar et al. 2015, Facchinelli et al. 2001). GIS and modeling have been used by various researchers for air pollution monitoring (Maantay 2007, Sohrabinia & Khorshiddoust 2007, Dikshit 2020), air pollution and health impact assessment (Lai et al. 2012), water quality and environmental impact (Donohue et al. 2006, Chang 2008, Jiang et al. 2014, Jasmin & Mallikarjuna 2014). Many studies have been conducted using GIS and spatial interpolation. Kim et al. (2014) studied air quality data monitoring using spatial interpolation methods, Ryan & Lemasters (2008) conducted epidemic logical studies. The study conducted by various researchers has used air and water quality models for mapping of air quality (Kumar et al. 2015), however, it is observed that the air and water quality models underestimate the pollution level (Kumar et al. 2015, Rood 2014). In addition, some unidentified ground-level data are also found missing and have uncertainty in prediction due to multiple assumptions. As a result, the observed air and water quality data are used in this study to make accurate inferences about the impact and policymaking. The study also uses the interpolation technique for air and water quality levels in the study area. Finally, the study compares the interpolation

values to the observed data to ensure that the results are reliable.

STUDY AREA

Madurai is the third-largest city in Tamilnadu and twenty fourth in India consisting of 100 wards. The city is located at 9.93°N latitude and 78.12°E longitude. The altitude of the city is 101m above sea level. The temperature during summer is 40°C max and 26.3°C min and during winter 29.6°c max and 18°c min and the average rainfall is 85.76 cm. The city extends to an area of 147.97 km² and the population is 14.62 lakhs as per the 2011 census. The river Vaigai flows across the city from North West to South East. The National Highways NH 7, NH 45B, NH 208, and NH 49 pass through Madurai. The State Highways, SH 32, SH 33, and SH 42 connect various parts of Madurai city. Fig. 1 shows the location map of Madurai city and the roads in the city.

DATA COLLECTION

The water samples were collected from all the eight blocks of Madurai namely, Matuthavani, Arapalayam, Thepakulam, Goripalayam, Kalavasal, Periyar, Palanganatham and



Fig. 1: Location map and road map of Madurai city.

Avaniyapuram. The houses were identified using a random numbering system that took into account the distance between them. The bore water samples were collected, labeled according to the blocks, and stored for analysis. To study the air pollution in all these eight blocks, air samplers were used. Air pollution concentration data on SPM, RPM, and Lead were collected from an air quality monitoring network system. These monitoring stations are operated continuously by Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board (TN-PCB). TNPCB monitors air quality data at eight locations. The suspended particulate matter, irrespirable particulate matter, lead and carbon monoxide content was examined in the study area and recorded. Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) board kit was used for testing the water samples in the field and laboratory. Fig. 2 shows the TWAD board kit.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To study the pollution level, it is required to formulate the following objectives (i) To study the past and present status of water and air pollution at Madurai city (ii) To develop GIS structure based on different attributes using Arc View 3.2 software (iii) To compare the air and water quality standards with WHO requirements and study the impact of air and water pollution in the study area (iv) To compare the interpolation values with the observed data to ensure the reliability of the results (v)To suggest possible solution for mitigating air and water pollution.

A shapefile for Madurai city was collected with geo-referencing associated with physical earth space using ArcGIS. Madurai city was divided into eight blocks and a point shapefile for water quality and air quality monitoring stations was created. The water quality and air quality concentrations of alkalinity, hardness, chloride, total dissolved solids, ammonia, fluoride, phosphate, residual chlorine, SPM, RPM and lead were attributed to the concerned point shapefile. The average annual concentrations were obtained



Fig. 2: TWAD Board kit for testing water samples.

from TNPCB and compared with the observed data. Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW), Kriging, and spline are the interpolation technique used in GIS (Colin 2004, Jha et al. 2011). In particular, IDW is used when the points are closely packed. This technique uses the grid values using a linear weighted combination of a dataset and its functions (Gunnink & Burrough 1996). The points with more weights are assigned to the point where SPM is to be interpolated. As per Equation (1) the weightage is an inverse function of distance.

$$Zj = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} W_i Z_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} W_i} \text{ and } W_i \frac{1}{d_{ji}^{P}} \qquad \dots (1)$$

Where,

Zj = jth Perception Point Wi = Weight of recorded ith point

 d_{ji}^{P} = ith to jth point distance, P= Power n = Total number of point in the neighborhood

Kriging's method of interpolation using the Gaussian process is a powerful interpolation technique (Bailey & Gatrell 1995) used for various applications like health science, geochemistry, and modeling (Griffith 1988). This interpolation technique produces better estimates assuming that the distance and direction reflect in spatial correlations. The mathematical interpolation and correlation model Kriging Gaussian is as given in Equation (2)

$$Z^{*}(u) - m(u) = \sum_{i=1}^{n(u)} \gamma_{i} \left(Z(u_{i}) - m(u_{i}) \right) \dots (2)$$
Where

Where,

u and u_i = Location Vectors indexed by i n (u) = Number of points m (u), m (u_i)= Mean value expected of Z_u and $Z(u_i)$ γ_i = Kriging Weight assigned fo datum Z (u_i) for specific locations u

To evaluate the water quality using the spatial analysis with GIS as a tool, a potentially polluted area was identified using the observed data in the study area. The water quality assessment was made with a single factor pollution index method to identify alkalinity, hardness, chloride, ammonia, fluoride, and phosphate. SPSS was used to perform mathematical and statistical analyses. Ordinary Kriging method of geospatial interpolation was done (Deutsch 1996) and compared with the observed data. The single factor pollution index was formulated as given in Equation (3)

$$Pi = \frac{c_i}{s_i} \qquad \dots (3)$$

Where,

 $P_i = Pollution index of i units$

 C_i = Concentrations of i units pollutants (mg.L⁻¹)

 S_i = Standard Water quality level

 $P_i = \le 1 =$ Better quality of water

The water quality depends on many factors and involves many components and chemicals. Hence, a comprehensive pollution index is essential to reflect all the pollutants. The comprehensive pollutants were assessed using Equation (4). The P-value indicates pollution level: Clean (0.2-0.4), Slight to medium pollutants (0.4-0.7), Medium (0.7-1.0) and Heavy pollution (1-2).

 $P = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{C_i}{S_i}$

Where,

P = Comprehensive pollution index

 C_i = Pollution concentrations i units

 S_i = Water Quality standard

N = Number of selected pollutants

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Water was collected from various places like Palanganatham, Avaniyapuram, Kalavasal, Arapalayam, Thepakulam, Matuthavani, Goripalayam and Periyar. The water quality was measured using TWAD BOARD kit to test Alkalinity, Hardness, Chloride, TDS, Ammonia, Fluoride, Phosphate, and Residual chlorine. The air quality parameters SPM, RPM, and Lead were studied and inferred. The collected water quality and air quality parameter dataset were given as input to point shapefiles. The observed value and model value were compared with TNPCB, and CPCB (2009) standards. The standard given by CPCB (2009) for air quality is 500, 150, and 0.5 µg.m⁻³ for SPM, RPM, and Lead respectively. The standard for water quality for Alkalinity, Hardness, Chloride, TDS, Ammonia, Fluoride, Phosphate, Residual chlorine is given as 500, 500, 500, 1000, 1, 1.5, 1 mg.L⁻¹ respectively. To analyze the changes in the air and water quality the data were collected from TNPCB for the year 2006 and compared with the current observed air and water quality levels. In addition, the efficiency of the developed model Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW), Kriging, and ordinary Kriging were compared with the observed data in the selected locations. Table 1 shows the observed level of concentration of Water and Air pollution and level of concentration in the year 2006.

Table 1: Observed level of concentration of Water and Air pollution in 2020 (level of concentration in the year 2006 is given inside bracket).

...(4)

		Name of the Block								
	Name of the Salt/ Pollutants	Standards in mg/ liter (Water), μg/ m ⁻³ for Air	Palaganatham	Avaniyapuram	Kalavasal	Arapalayam	Thepakulam	Matuthavani	Goripalayam	Periyar
	Alkalinity	500	620 (495)	645 (410)	725 (575)	695 (510)	550 (390)	625 (475)	630 (440)	685 (485)
	Hardness	500	700 (520)	655 (425)	745 (565)	685 (535)	630 (430)	560 (395)	680 (475)	545 (360)
NOL	Chloride	500	595 (420)	680 (375)	715 (580)	715 (510)	580 (420)	590 (465)	535 (390)	690 (450)
DLLUT	TDS	1000	2298 (1722)	2376 (1452)	2622 (2064)	2514 (1866)	2112 (1488)	2130 (1602)	2214 (1566)	2304 (1554)
TER PC	Ammonia	1	1.20 (0.77)	0.35 (0.12)	1.20 (1.10)	0.80 (0.65)	0.62 (0.23)	0.20 (0)	0.90 (0.40)	1 (0.68)
(MA)	Fluoride	1.5	1.5 (1)	1.6 (1.2)	1.7 (1.6)	1.7 (1.1)	1.6 (1.2)	1 (0.7)	1.8 (1.5)	1.8 (0.9)
	Phosphate	1	0.9 (0.86)	0.70 (0.34)	1.05 (1.01)	1 (0.88)	0.90 (0.56)	0.59 (0.23)	0.60 (0.42)	0.90 (0.84)
	Residual Chlorine	1	1 (0.82)	0 (0)	1.25 (1.13)	0.95 (0.62)	0.95 (0.65)	0.14 (0)	0.74 (0.49)	0.84 (0.76)
NOIT	SPM	500 µg.m ⁻³	985.4 (469.2)							
OLLU	RPM	150 µg.m ⁻³	258.4 (129.6)							
AIRP	Lead	0.5 µg.m ⁻³	0.48 (0.42)							

Table 1 shows that the salt content and air pollution level in the study area. It is observed that the alkalinity in all the blocks has been increased considerably up to 40 per cent in the study area. This indirectly makes the water very hard. The permissible standard for hardness is 500 mg.L⁻¹. it is observed that the hardness level is increased up to 50 per cent in the Kalavasal region compared to the year 2006. The standard permissible limit for chloride is 500 mg.L⁻¹. It is observed that Avaniyapuram, Kalavasal, Arapalayam, and Periyar blocks are affected by the increase in chloride content.

WHO prescribed the maximum permissible limit for TDS as 1000 mg.L⁻¹ and it is very clear that all the blocks, the TDS level are increased by 100 per cent. The standard for Ammonia is 1 mg.L⁻¹. It is observed that the ammonia level has been increased up to 40 per cent in the study area. The standard permissible limit of fluoride is 1.5 mg.L⁻¹.

The fluoride content has been increased by 50 per cent and above. The permissible limit of phosphate is 1 mg.L⁻¹ and it is evident that the level has faced 10 per cent increases in the study area. The standard level of residual chlorine is 1 mg.L⁻¹ and it is evident that the level has been increased to 40 per cent in the study area. The standard permissible limit is about 500 μ g.m⁻³. The suspended particulate matter is increased to 90 per cent in the study area.

The standard limit for residual particulate matter is 150 μ g.m⁻³ and it is clear that the RPM level got increased to 80 per cent in the study area. The standard level for lead is 0.5 μ g.m⁻³ and it is clear that the lead level got maintained below the standard limit. Fig. 3 (a-k) shows the effect of water pollution and air pollution in the study area. Fig. 4 (a-c) shows the effect of water and air pollution at the station Kalavasal with the performance of the IDW and Kriging





Fig. 3a: The changes in alkalinity level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3b: The changes in hardness level at Madurai City.



Fig. 3c: The changes in chloride level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3d: The changes in TDS level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3e: The changes in ammonia level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3f: The changes in fluoride level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3g: The changes in phosphate level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3h: The changes in residual chlorine level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3i: The changes in SPM level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3j: The changes in RPM level at Madurai City.





Fig. 3k: The changes in lead level at Madurai City.



Fig. 4a: Water pollution and level of concentration at Kalavasal.



Fig. 4b: Water pollution and level of concentration at Kalavasal.



Fig. 4c: Air pollution and level of concentration at Kalavasal.

model. From Fig. 4 (a-c), it is observed that the model and observed value are similar and of error less than 2 percentage. The results of the interpolation models and observed data are shown in Table 2.

DISCUSSION

To study the impact of air and water pollution, data were collected for the years 2006 and 2020. A shapefile for Madurai city was collected with geo-referencing associated

with physical earth space using ArcGIS. Madurai city was divided into eight blocks and a point shapefile for water quality and air quality monitoring stations was created. The water quality and air quality concentrations pertaining to alkalinity, hardness, chloride, tds, ammonia, fluoride, phosphate, residual chlorine, SPM, RPM, and lead were attributed to the concerned point shapefile. The average annual concentrations were obtained from TNPCB and compared with the observed data. The Inverse Distance

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	Attribute	Standard	2006	2020	Kriging (Gaussian)	Kriging	IDW	SD	Trend	Error	RMSE
ſ	Alkalinity	500	575	725	715			3.3	Increase	1.0140	1.0282
	Hardness	500	565	745	735			2.1	Increase	1.0136	1.0274
	Chloride	500	580	715	720			4.4	Increase	0.9931	0.9862
	Chloride	1000	2064	2622	2610			3.3	Increase	1.0046	1.0092
	Ammonia	1	1.1	1.2	1.2			2.8	Increase	1.0000	1.0000
	Fluoride	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.65			2.9	Increase	1.0303	1.0615
	Phosphate	1	1.01	1.05	1.04			2.6	Increase	1.0096	1.0193
	Residual Chlorine	1	1.13	1.25	1.25			1.6	Increase	1.0000	1.0000
	SPM	500	469.2	985.4		1000	950		Increase	0.9854	0.9710
	RPM	150	129.6	258.4		270	262		Increase	0.9570	0.9159
	Lead	0.5	0.42	0.48		0.46	0.42	0.45	Normal	1.0435	1.0888

Table 2: Performance of Spatial Interpolation Models and observed data for Kalavasal Block.

Weighting (IDW) and Kriging interpolation techniques are used with GIS and compared to the observed data to avoid any missing data and underestimating of pollution levels. The results of the observed and arrived value using interpolation spatial model are given in Fig. 3 (a-k) and Fig. 4 (a-c). Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW), Kriging and Kriging Gaussian interpolation technique predicted the pollution level accurately with an error of less than 2 percentage. Hence, the model provides efficient predictions. Overall, the population and pollution level from 2006 to 2020 has drastically increased due to large-scale urbanization, industrial development, and migration of the people into the city (Balaji & Muthukannan 2020, 2021). In most of the parameters, alkalinity, hardness, chloride, TDS, ammonia, fluoride, phosphate and residual chlorine are found to be above the standard prescribed by the TNPCB and CPCB.

The alkalinity of Madurai city has increased up to 725 mg.L⁻¹, which is above the standard value of 500 mg.L^{-1} . The effect of alkalinity will seriously affect the kidney and other functions of humans. Particularly, Fluoride which is above the limit of 1 mg.L⁻¹ will seriously affect the tooth and make dental-related problems. The increase in water pollution was observed due to continuous pumping of groundwater through bore wells and recharge well that have also not been constructed properly in which, the stations like Periyar, Mattuthavanui, and Kalavasal are found to be the highly polluted area. In 2006, only some places out of 8 zones were affected, but in 2020, all the 8 zones are above the specified limit. Hence, to improve the water quality, (i) Artificial recharge bore wells and percolation pond to be created, (ii) Check dams can be provided in the water flowing streams to retain water to recharge the bore wells, (iii) De-silting the existing water sources dams and ponds will also improve water recharge (iv) To construct in rainwater recharge wells at each house

and make it mandatory (v) Good soil management measures and practice can be adopted improve surface percolation. (vi) Good sanitation facilities to be provided to avoid mixing of sewerage in the surface water bodies.

Air quality is a serious problem in all the cities in the world. The air pollution is not only due to urbanization, industrial development but also due to the increase in the traffic into the city. As Madurai is the center place for all eight districts, all the wholesale and retail markets are available in the city Central Business District (CBD). Hence, naturally, the traffic will be heavy in the CBD of the city. From the analysis, it could be observed that the stations Matthuthavani, and Periyar are the most affected by air quality attributes like SPM and RPM, whereas stations Kalavasal and Periyar are affected by lead. The concentration of lead in these stations is due to more industries. Hence, to avoid and improve the air qualities (i) Divert the traffic through the ring road and thereby avoid air pollution into the city, (ii)To restrict the industrial development inside the city, (iii)Industry that emits pollutants like NOx and SOx should be restricted, (iv)To create awareness about air pollution among the community.

CONCLUSIONS

The study was conducted at Madurai City to assess the air and water quality changes from 2006 to 2020. The study area was divided into 8 blocks and the primary data were collected from bore wells to assess the groundwater quality and the air quality data were obtained from network stations of TNPCB. To assess the impact on air and water quality, a GIS tool was used. The study used Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW), Kriging and Kriging Gaussian interpolation technique to predict the pollution level accurately and the results were compared with the observed data and it was found that the

error was less than 2 percentage. Hence, the model provides efficient predictions. Kriging Gaussian interpolation technique performed best among all the interpolation techniques. The results of the air and water pollution assessment indicate that in 2006 only 2 blocks had pollution levels beyond the threshold level of CPCB but, in 2020 all the 8 blocks were found to be polluted and the pollution level was much higher than the standards given by CPCB. The most affected blocks were found to be Kalavasal, Arapalayam, and Periyar. The maximum water pollution and air pollution recorded in Madurai was Alkalinity 725 mg.L⁻¹ (Std. 500), Hardness 745 mg.L⁻¹ (Std. 500), Chloride 715 mg.L⁻¹ (Std. 500), TDS 2622 mg.L⁻¹ (Std. 1000), Ammonia 1.1 mg.L⁻¹ (std. 1), Fluoride 1.7 mg.L⁻¹ (Std. 1), Phosphate 1 mg.L⁻¹ (1), Residual chlorine 1.25 mg.L⁻¹(1), SPM 985 µg.m⁻³ (Std. 500), RPM 258.4 μ g.m⁻³ (std. 150), and Lead 0.48 μ g.m⁻³(0.5). Hence, immediate mitigation methods should be carried out to stop further development of air and water pollution in Madurai city. The conclusion may be very useful for efficient air and water quality management at Madurai City.

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