

Ground Water Vulnerability Assessment for Roorkee Town

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Abstract : In the present paper, groundwater vulnerability of alluvial aquifers of Roorkee town, District Haridwar, Uttarakhand State has been evaluated. For this purpose relevant data of the shallow unconfined aquifers was collected for three years from 2004 to 2006 by establishing a groundwater monitoring network of 30 shallow wells and hand pumps in the areas. The study has revealed that though the physico-chemical quality of the shallow ground water is generally within permissible ranges for drinking, the concentration of some heavy metals like cadmium and chromium is higher in a few ground water samples. Besides, values of ambient faecal coliforms were also found to be high at a number of locations especially in premonsoon samples indicating bacteriological pollution of shallow ground water particularly towards the northwestern and southeastern parts of the study area.

Based on the relevant hydrogeological parameters like depth to water table, net recharge, soil and aquifer media, alongwith topography and nature of vadose zone, the ground water vulnerability of the study area has been worked out using the well known DRASTIC method. This indicates possibilities of groundwater pollution at Rampur-Saliar in the northwestern part of the area. A comparison of the DRASTIC indices and quality parameters indicates that the level of groundwater contamination decreases towards east and (southeast) barring a few parameters like cadmium and faecal coliforms which show random variation depending on the localized waste disposal practices.

Keywords: Groundwater vulnerability, Roorkee town, Pollution hazard, Alluvial Aquifer.

INTRODUCTION

The Roorkee town of Haridwar district in Uttarakhand State is mainly dependent on groundwater for drinking water. The Municipal Board, Roorkee has promoted sewage irrigation in the lands situated 6 km northwest of the town. Roorkee town is situated on the right bank of the river Solani, which flows southeast towards the town. Hence, there is a possibility of groundwater contamination through transport of sewage related pollutants. The aim of this study is to ascertain the possibility of groundwater contamination in Roorkee town from different sources including industrial units nearby and to evaluate the pollution hazard in the area. To achieve this objective, the quality of groundwater has been evaluated in terms of physicochemical parameters, selected heavy metals and total coliforms.

Subsequently, Drastic Index parameters based on the approach suggested by Aller et al. (1987) have been worked out from hydrogeological parameters of the study area to evaluate its groundwater potential. The DRASTIC approach for evaluation of groundwater vulnerability of the alluvial aquifers has been widely used by earlier workers (Evans and Myers, 1990; Rundquist et al., 1991; Atkinson and Thomlinson, 1994; Jaya Kumar, 1996; Dey and Bhowmick, 2002; Singhal et al. 2003, Singhal et al. 2008). However, there is a need for identifying strategy for protection of groundwater in the area.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this study are as under:

1. To assess groundwater vulnerability to pollution in Roorkee town so that vulnerability map can be used to ascertain

the possibility of groundwater contamination from various sources.

2. To evaluate existing hazards of ground water contamination in Roorkee on the basis of available quality data.
3. To develop guidelines for groundwater protection.

STUDY AREA

The Roorkee town and its suburbs (latitude 29° 50' to 29° 55' N and 77° 50' E to 77° 55' E) are situated

close to the Himalayan foothills on the right bank of the river Solani, which is a tributary of river Ganga. The Upper Ganga canal, flows through the centre of the town (Fig. 1) dividing it into old Roorkee towards the west and IIT campus and cantonment area towards the east. The study area falls in the northern part of the Gangetic plain and has a gentle slope towards southeast. The Solani river being the main stream has the southeasterly flow. Another subsidiary drain in the area is the easterly flowing Malakpur Cut.

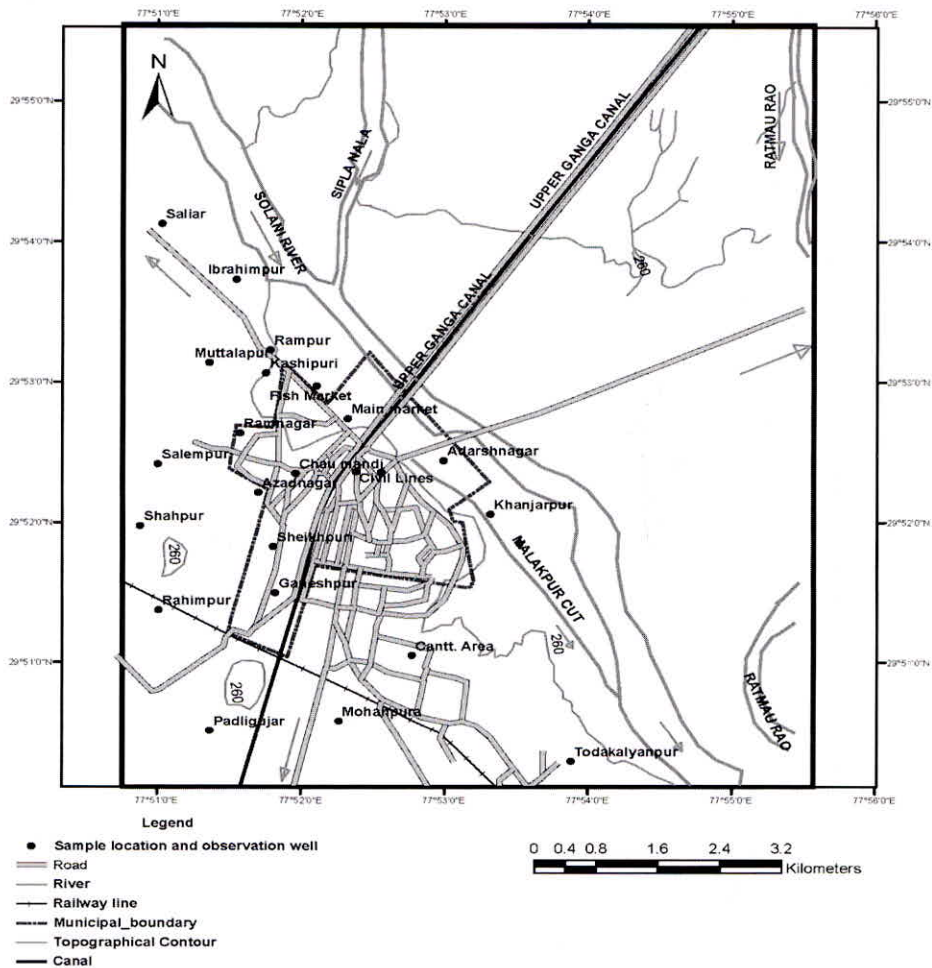


Fig.1. Location map of Roorkee and Suburbs

A total of 19 open wells and handpumps tapping the regional unconfined aquifer were selected within the study area for groundwater level monitoring from June, 2005 onward. Depth to water table was recorded at each such well during early June (premonsoon) and October (postmonsoon) month, as the monsoon season in this area begins from late June and continues upto the end of the September.

HYDROGEOLOGICAL FEATURES

The study area is comprised of unindurated alluvial sediments of Recent age. These sediments contain alternating layers of sand, clay, kankar and at places, gravel. The distribution of subsurface

layers is shown in the Lithological Fence diagram (Fig. 2). From this diagram, it can be observed that the top soil layer (3-6 m thick) consists of very fine to sandy loam, except in southern part where clayey soil is found. The sandy horizon, which is 3-27 m thick serves as an unconfined aquifer. Below the top aquifer, a layer of clay and kankar is found with the thickness of 14 m (Singhal et al., 2003). Another aquifer occurs below this layer of clay and kankar is composed of medium sand to gravel, being the main horizon tapped in the deeper handpumps installed for drinking water purposes. However, the piped water supplies to the population of the town are obtained from the deeper aquifers which are partly shown in Fig. 2.

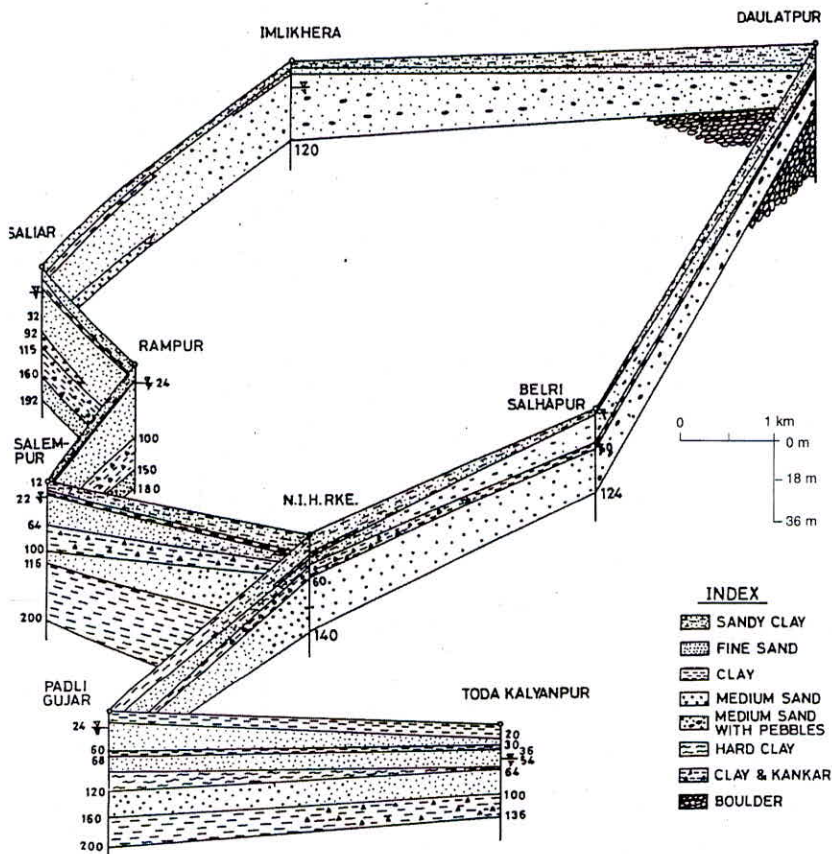


Fig.2. Fence Diagram

The groundwater flow has been studied in the area by preparing watertable elevation contour maps from the isobaths (water table contour) map for the premonsoon period, 2005 (Fig. 3). It is observed that the groundwater flow on the right

bank of Solani river is generally towards southeast, trending almost parallel to the river. Yet, in the southwestern part, the watertable contours locally indicate the groundwater flow occurring towards Solani river.

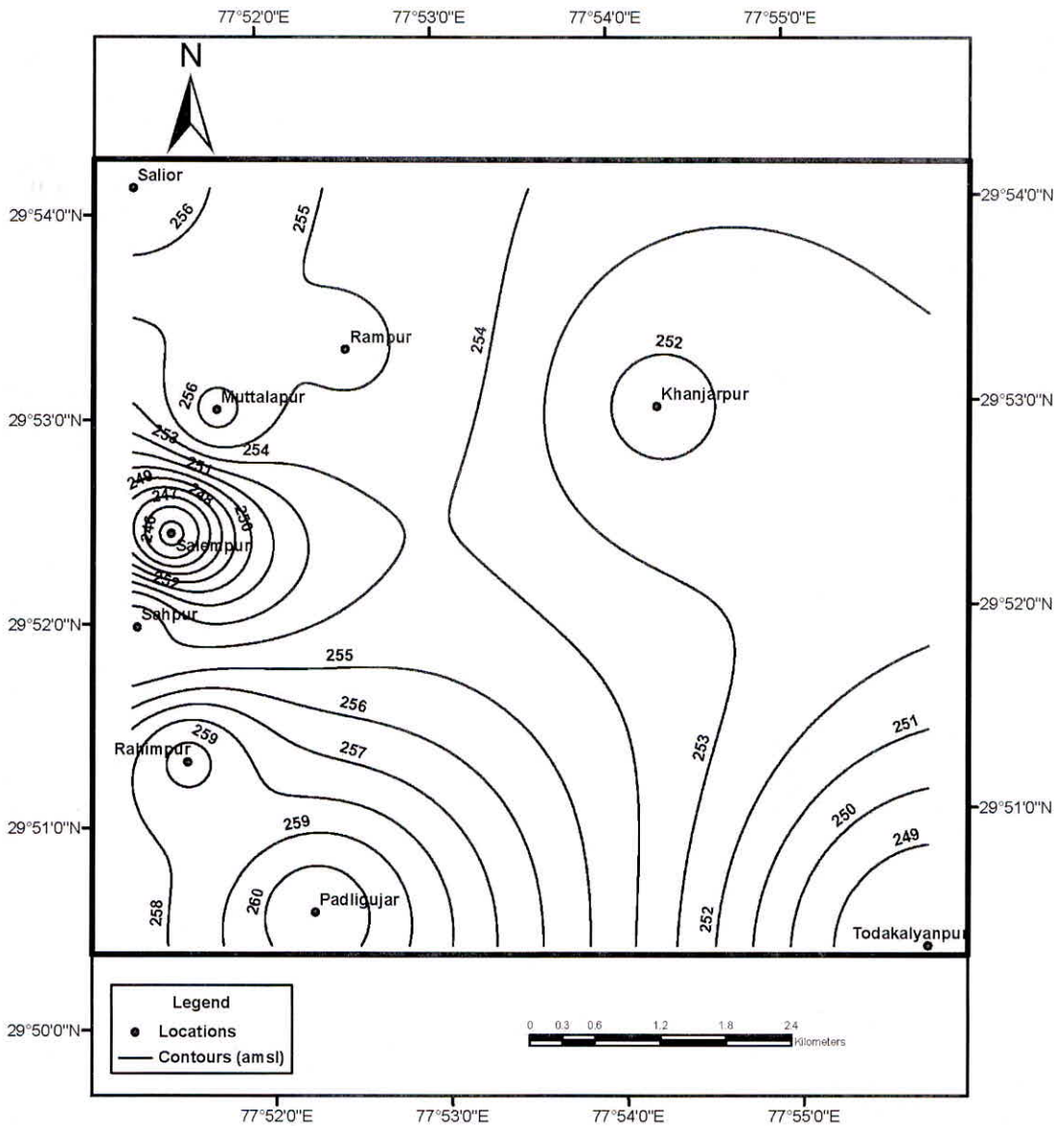


Fig.3. Contour map of pre-monsoon groundwater levels for 2005

GROUNDWATER QUALITY

For the quality analysis of the groundwater, samples were collected from 30 handpumps during the premonsoon and postmonsoon periods of 2005 of the upper aquifer (15-18 m below ground level). The results of physico-chemical and bacteriological analysis of groundwater samples have been compared with the standards of drinking water of the regulatory agencies (Tables 1 and 2).

The chemical analysis of surface water and the sewage in the area indicates high concentration of fecal coliforms at few localities, especially in the sewage. The overall quality of groundwater samples drawn from the unconfined aquifers has total dissolved solids (TDS) exceeding the permissible limits especially in the western part of the Roorkee town and at some places along Malakpur cut towards east (Fig 4.1 to 4.3). Other physicochemical parameters are generally in acceptable ranges as per Bureau of Indian Standards for drinking (BIS:10500; Table 1). However some of the parameters like Total hardness, calcium and alkalinity are found to exceed the BIS Limits at a number of localities like Saliar, Ibrahimpur, Kashipuri, Sheikhpuri, Shahpur, Geneshpur, Rampur, Ramnagar, Khanjarpur, Malakpur, Adarshnagar, Fish Market, Chau Market (Fig 4.3; Table 1). The concentration of heavy metals like Fe and Cd also exceed the permissible limits at many places like Saliar, Ibrahimpur, Kashipuri, Sheikhpuri, Shahpur, Geneshpur, Rampur, Malakpur, Fish Market, Main Market, Civil lines, Cantt Area, Todakalyanpur, Padligujar (Table 2; Fig 5.1 to 5.5). From the data of total coliforms (Table 3). It can be seen that MPN value of faecal coliforms was high during the period of premonsoon 2005 at Saliar, Sheikhpuri, Todakalyanpur, Malakpur and Main market. The overall occurrence of high concentration of some quality parameters in the eastern and southeastern part of the area seems to be logical as the higher salinity is expected to occur in the downstream parts of the study area.

GROUNDWATER VULNERABILITY

Based on the hydrogeological setting of the study area, DRASTIC method has been applied to find out the groundwater vulnerability of shallow aquifers of Roorkee town and its suburbs using the approach suggested by Aller et al. (1987).

The values of seven parameters of DRASTIC method for different locations are calculated as follows:

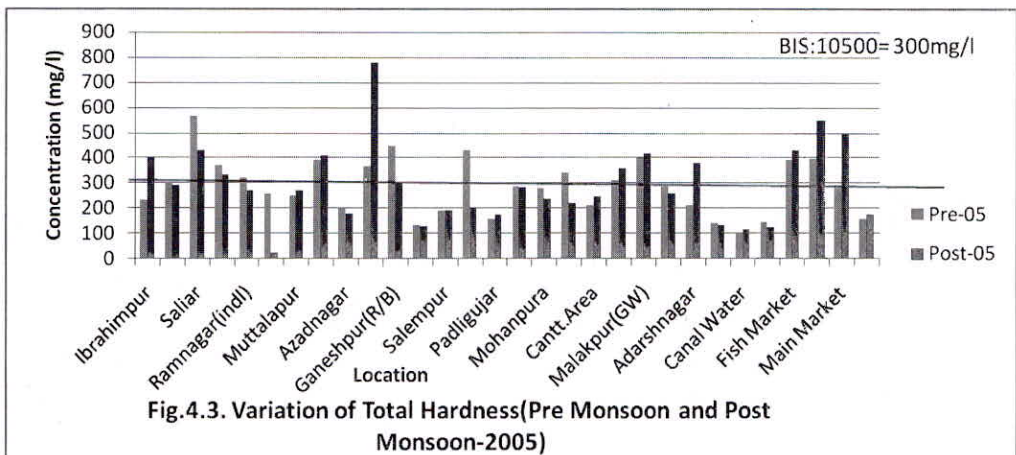
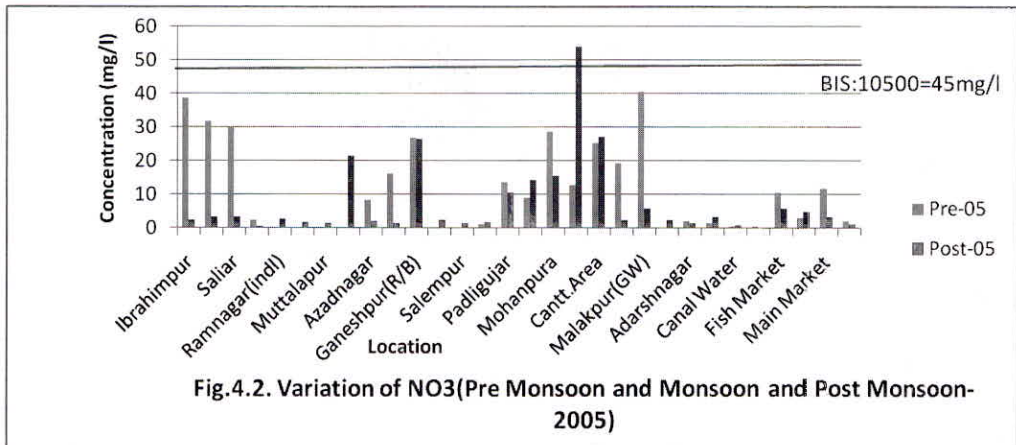
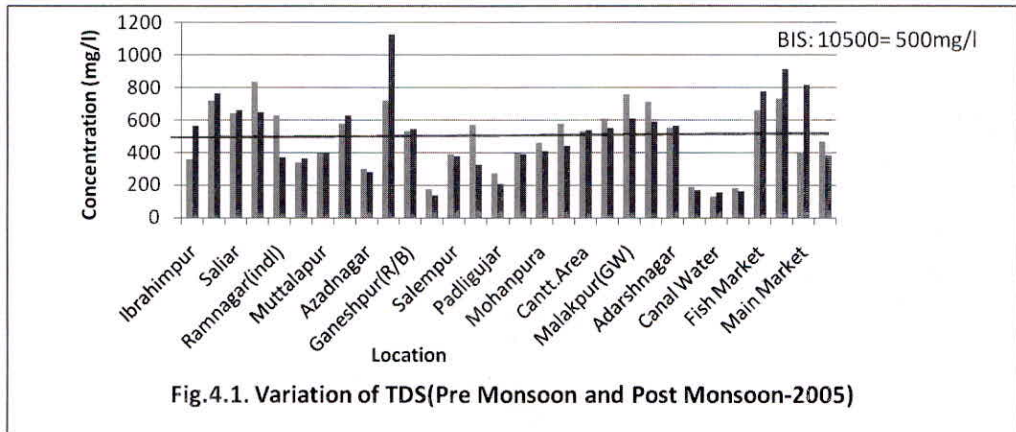
1. Depth to Water table: From the water level monitoring data (Fig.6), it is possible to fix the rating between 3 to 9 as indicated in DRASTIC and the assigned weight is 5. Highest rating is provided for shallowest water table depth.
2. Net Recharge: The range of rating is 6 to 9 and weight is 4. It indicates the amount of water per unit area of land, which penetrates the ground surface and reaches the water table.
3. Aquifer media: Range of rating is 2 to 10 and weight is 3. The value varies according to the type of materials of unconfined aquifer, which is shown in the Fence diagram. Highest rating is provided for coarse particles.
4. Soil media: Range of rating is 1 to 10 and weight is 2. The value varies according to the soil type of the upper most portion of the vadose zone, which is shown in the Fence diagram (Fig.2.). The rating value will be maximum for the coarse soil.
5. Topography: If the slope is <6%, rating is 10, however, if the slope is >6%, rating is 5. It is calculated from the ground level contour map. Weight of this factor is 1.
6. Impact of vadose Zone: Range of rating is 2 to 10 and the weight is 5. The value depends on the type of vadose zone material, which

Table 1. Physico-chemical analysis of Groundwater Samples (Premonsoon 2005)

Location	Temp OC	pH	Cond (um/Cm)	TDS (mg/l)	Alkalinity (mg/l)	HCO3 (mg/l)	CO3 (mg/l)	Cl (mg/l)	T.Hardness (mg/l)	Ca (mg/l)	Mg (mg/l)	SO4 (mg/l)	TP (mg/l)	Na (mg/l)	K(mg/l)	NO3 (mg/l)	
Ibrahimpur	25	7.8	544	357	220	218.7	1.3	16	234	54.4	23.79	49.8	0.0185	66.6	2.4	38.7	
Saliar(sewage)	30	7.8	1102	716	418	415.54	2.46	126	306	84	23.31	85.2	1.4565	76.9	20	31.7	
Saliar	26.2	7.4	985	640	372	370.66	1.34	77	566	140	52.45	92.19	0.0265	108	10	30.3	
Rampur	26	7.5	1277	830	360	358.99	1.01	132	372	93.6	40.79	73.26	0.1457	160	30.8	2.32	
Ramnagar(indl)	29	7.6	955	627	256	255.04	0.96	80	322	114.4	8.74	71.2	0.1247	116.9	17.6	0.164	
Ramnagar	25.8	7.8	511	333	190	188.88	1.12	19	258	60	26.22	96.31	0.1032	43.2	2.1	ND	
Muttalapur	25	7.8	606	392	220	218.7	1.3	132	248	35.2	38.85	55.55	0.1328	56.9	ND	0.184	
Kashipuri	25.5	7.5	881	573	220	219.34	0.66	16	390	128	16.99	97.96	0.078	49.7	15.6	0.142	
Azadnagar	25	8	452	295	164	162.47	1.53	29	204	52.8	17.48	134.18	0.1779	31.3	4.5	8.43	
Sheikhpuri	25	7.2	1100	715	376	375.44	0.56	116	366	120.8	15.54	131.3	0.194	73.5	12.8	16.2	
Ganeshpur(R/B)	24	7.1	815	530	264	263.88	0.32	84	446	147.2	18.94	148.17	0.1296	112.3	8.7	26.9	
Ganeshpur(L/B)	27	8.3	258	174	70	68.71	1.29	20	134	28	15.54	108.25	0.1312	20.5	2	ND	
Salampur	25	7.7	592	389	240	238.87	1.13	21	190	58.4	10.68	126.36	0.1521	57.9	6.1	0.244	
Shahpur	36	7.4	856	565	312	310.87	1.13	30	430	81.6	54.88	41.16	0.1602	65.8	3.1	1.11	
Padligujar	25	7.1	419	274	146	145.82	0.18	14	160	38.4	15.54	137.47	0.1586	33.8	10.9	13.6	
Rahimpur	25	7.8	601	396	218	216.71	1.29	21	286	65.6	29.62	100.01	0.0571	53.7	ND	8.81	
Mohanpura	26	7.7	698	459	188	187.12	0.88	40	280	64.8	28.65	114.83	0.078	60.7	12.8	28.6	
Todakalyanpur	26	7.1	865	571	202	201.76	0.24	69	340	96.8	23.79	102.48	0.1312	42.8	10.6	12.6	
Camt.Area	24.5	7.8	812	531	250	248.52	1.48	35	212	92.8	2.91	101.25	0.0797	52.6	13.8	25.2	
Khanjarpur	25	7.5	913	605	314	313.07	0.93	42	314	92	20.39	80.67	0.128	61.9	15	19.3	
Malakpur(GW)	25	7.5	1153	758	226	225.33	0.67	116	400	103.2	34.48	113.19	0.1151	61.6	23.7	40.6	
Malakpur(sewage)	34	7.5	1065	707	360	358.93	1.07	54	286	88.8	15.54	194.27	1.9573	84.6	27.5	0.167	
Adarshnagar	28	7.5	840	546	298	297.11	0.89	27	212	71.2	8.25	176.98	0.0297	28	6	2.11	
Civil Lines(L/B)	20	8.2	297	184	88	86.7	1.3	19	140	38.4	10.68	106.6	0.0813	50.1	12	1.25	
Canal Water	20	8.3	194	129	70	68.71	1.29	19	100	26.4	8.25	91.78	0.0942	25	9.2	0.485	
Civil Lines(R/B)	20	8.2	276	181	102	100.5	1.5	14	144	35.2	13.59	191.8	0.0684	90	13.2	0.341	
Fish Market	25	7.8	1008	655	234	232.62	1.38	190	390	100	33.99	9.46	0.107	78.6	7	10.5	
Chau mandi	29	7.9	1123	730	342	339.46	1.54	128	396	150.4	4.85	78.2	0.1296	99	11.6	2.99	
Main Market	27	7.8	616	401	296	294.25	1.75	60	290	100	46.13	69.56	0.0539	52.8	3.6	11.84	
S. Temple III	25.5	7.7	705	467	220	218.97	1.03	27	158	54.4	5.34	100.84	0.0297	44.5	2.7	2.11	
BIS: 10500	-	6.5- 8.5	-	500	200	-	-	250	300	75	30	-	-	-	-	-	45

Table 2. Heavy Metal analysis of Groundwater Samples (Premonsoon 2005)

Location	Cd(mg/l)	Pb(mg/l)	Cr(mg/l)	Zn(mg/l)	Fe(mg/l)	Mn(mg/l)	Ni(mg/l)
Ibrahimpur	0.017	0.0069	0.016	0.051	0.039	0.016	ND
Saliar(sewage)	0.026	0.019	0.03	0.05	0.267	0.134	0.083
Saliar	0.054	0.0048	0.05	0.185	0.135	0.346	0.148
Rampur	0.012	0.00001	0.011	0.136	ND	0.227	0.01
Ramnagar(indl)	0.006	0.0079	0.017	0.101	ND	0.064	ND
Ramnagar	0.005	0.004	0.007	0.081	0.017	0.048	ND
Muttalapur	0.046	0.00004	0.019	0.112	0.056	0.144	ND
Kashipuri	0.022	0.0026	0.011	0.034	0.062	0.007	ND
Azadnagar	0.025	0.0181	0.007	0.129	0.039	0.023	ND
Sheikhpuri	0.019	0.0307	ND	0.14	ND	0.04	ND
Ganeshpur(R/B)	0.01	0.0061	ND	0.068	0.027	0.007	ND
Ganeshpur(L/B)	0.007	0.011	0.001	0.125	0.023	ND	ND
Salempur	0.003	0.0091	0.006	0.253	0.241	0.043	ND
Shahpur	0.01	0.00002	0.007	0.266	0.091	0.051	ND
Padlignajar	0.018	0.0058	0.005	0.123	0.04	0.168	ND
Rahimpur	0.017	0.0056	ND	0.067	0.092	0.04	0.007
Mohanpura	ND	0.036	ND	0.228	ND	ND	ND
Todakalyanpur	ND	0.0001	0.004	0.106	0.003	0.027	ND
Cantt.Area	0.006	0.0076	ND	0.168	ND	0.027	ND
Khanjarpur	0.013	0.0012	ND	0.063	0.003	0.018	0.068
Malakpur(GW)	0.015	0.0062	ND	0.045	0.09	0.02	ND
Malakpur(sewage)	0.014	0.0071	ND	0.047	0.128	0.139	0.01
Adarshnagar	0.009	0.0092	ND	0.333	0.385	0.138	0.003
Civil Lines(L/B)	0.015	0.0113	ND	0.122	0.191	ND	0.044
Canal Water	0.01	0.0177	ND	0.065	0.042	ND	ND
Civil Lines(R/B)	0.005	0.00019	ND	0.069	0.03	0.021	0.031
Fish Market	0.017	0.0086	0.004	0.461	0.098	0.227	0.007
Chau mandi	ND	0.0189	ND	0.498	0.029	0.139	ND
Main Market	0.003	0.00005	ND	0.486	0.09	0.073	ND
S Temple IIT	0.004	0.00001	ND	0.037	ND	0.065	0.034
BIS:10500	0.01	0.1	0.05	5	0.03	0.1	0.2



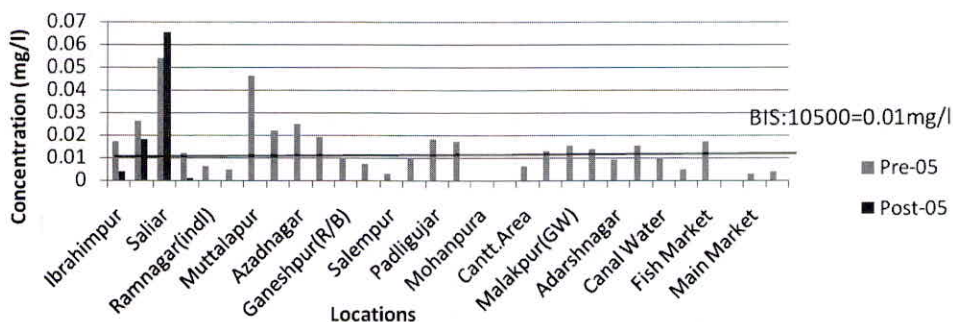


Fig.5.1. Variation of Cd (Pre Monsoon and Post Monsoon-2005)

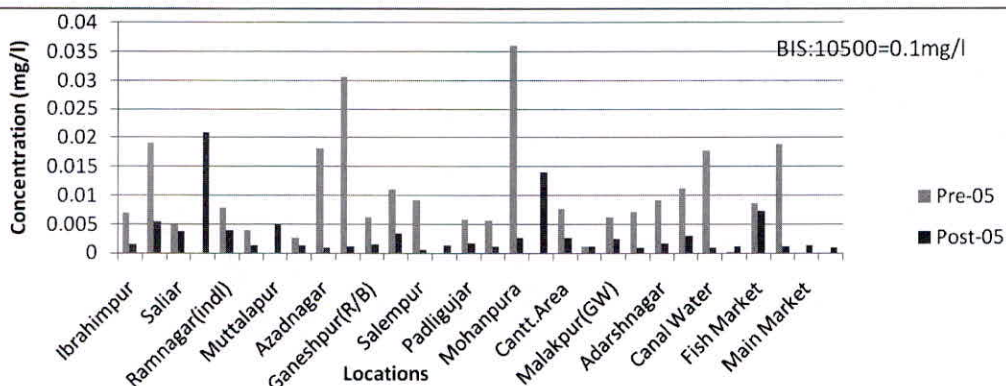


Fig.5.2. Variation of Pb(Pre Monsoon and Post Monsoon-2005)

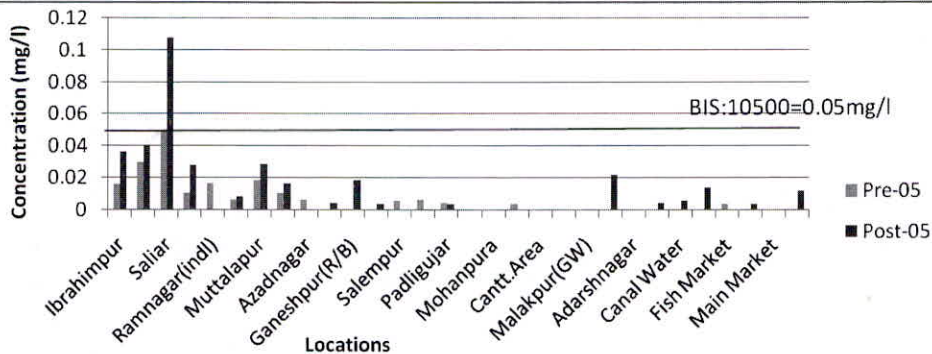


Fig.5.3. Variation of Cr (Pre Monsoon and Post Monsoon-2005)

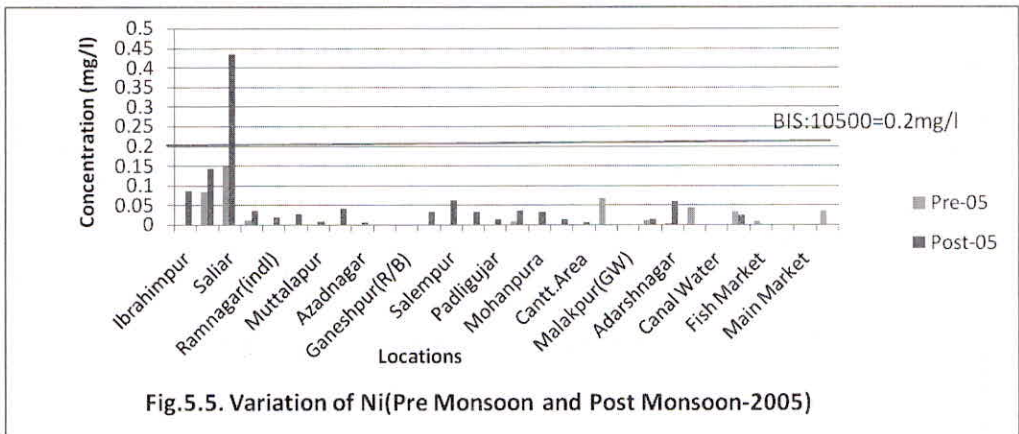
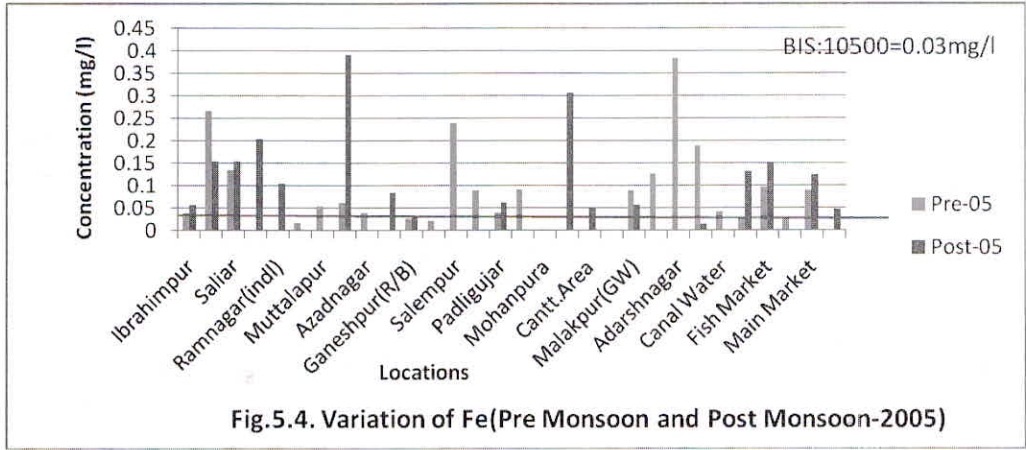


Table 3. Bacteriological analysis of groundwater samples (Premonsoon 2005)

Location	Fecal Coliform				Total Coliform			
	10.0ml	1.0ml	0.1ml	Per 100ml	10.0ml	1.0ml	0.1ml	MPN/100ml
Saliar	3	0	0	8	5	1	0	30
Rampur	0	0	0	Nil	0	0	0	Nil
Sheikhpuri	1	0	0	2	5	2	0	50
Fish market	0	0	0	Nil	1	0	0	2
Todakalyanpur	1	0	0	2	5	0	0	23
Malakpur	2	0	0	4	5	0	0	23
Adrash nagar	0	0	0	Nil	3	0	0	8
Main market	0	0	0	Nil	5	0	0	23
Saraswati temple (IIT)	0	0	0	Nil	2	0	0	4

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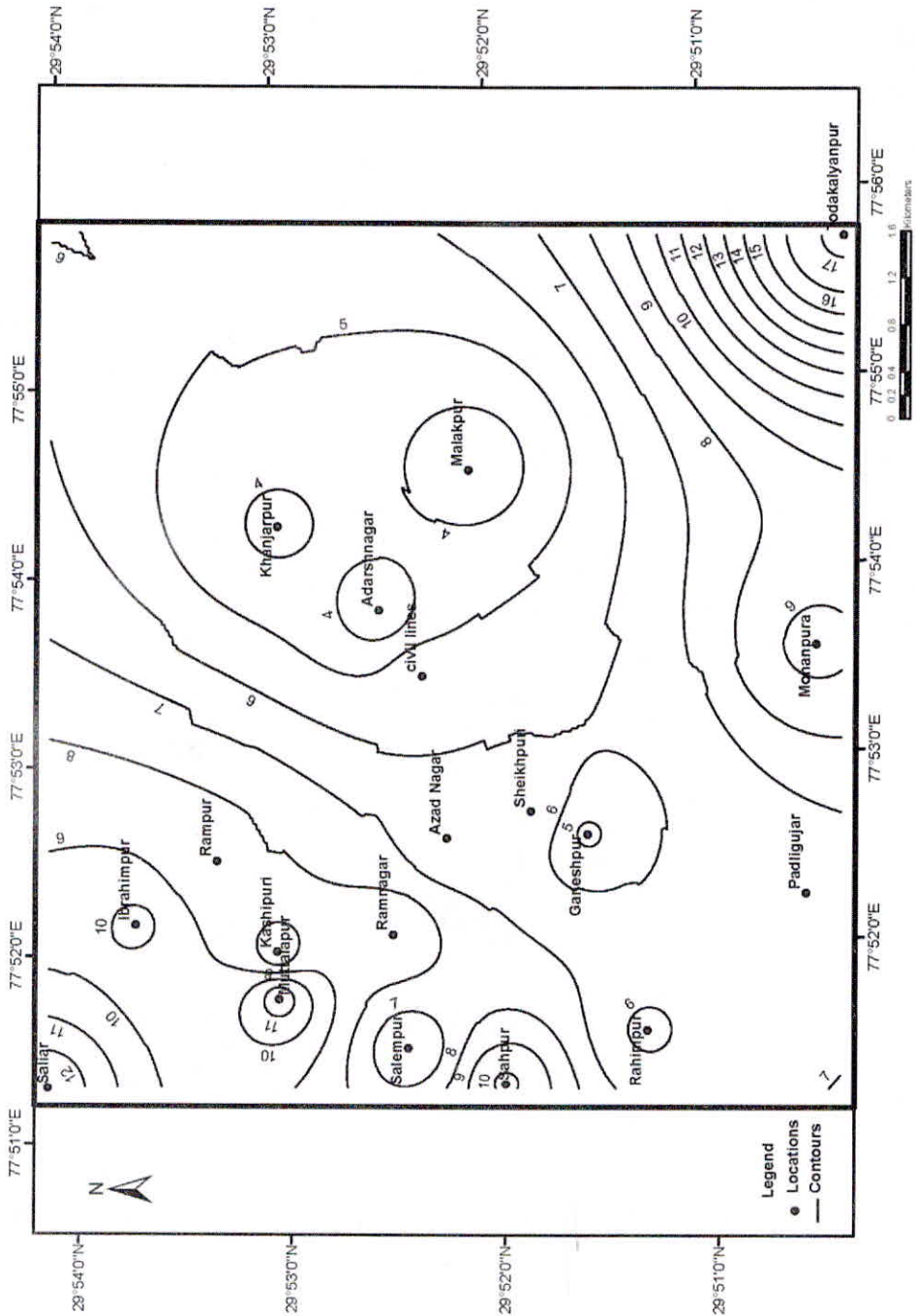


Fig.6 . Depth to water table (mbgl), Post-monsoon 2005

is available from the Fence diagram(Fig.2). The rating will be maximum for the coarse sand.

7. Hydraulic conductivity: Range of rating is 1 to 10 and weight is 3. It depends on the type of materials of the unconfined aquifer zone, which is shown in the lithological Fence

diagram (Fig.2). As the hydraulic conductivity increases , the rating is also increased.

Using above approach, pollution potential of the study area is prepared. The basis for assigning ratings and weights is taken as suggested in the DRASTIC method (Aller et al., 1987). The ratings are decided from the regional lithological Fence diagram (Fig.2) and water table data. The

calculation of the Drastic Index has been calculated. The final calculations of DRASTIC parameters are given in Table.4. The DRASTIC Index is found to be minimum in the southern area and its value increases towards north indicating that the northern area is more vulnerable to groundwater pollution (Fig.7.).

STRATEGY FOR GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Taking note of the hazard of ground water contamination in some parts of the Roorkee area, an improved ground water quality monitoring network has been proposed to be set up near the line sources and point sources of pollution for ground water quality monitoring in future. Such a network will be of considerable help in planning a

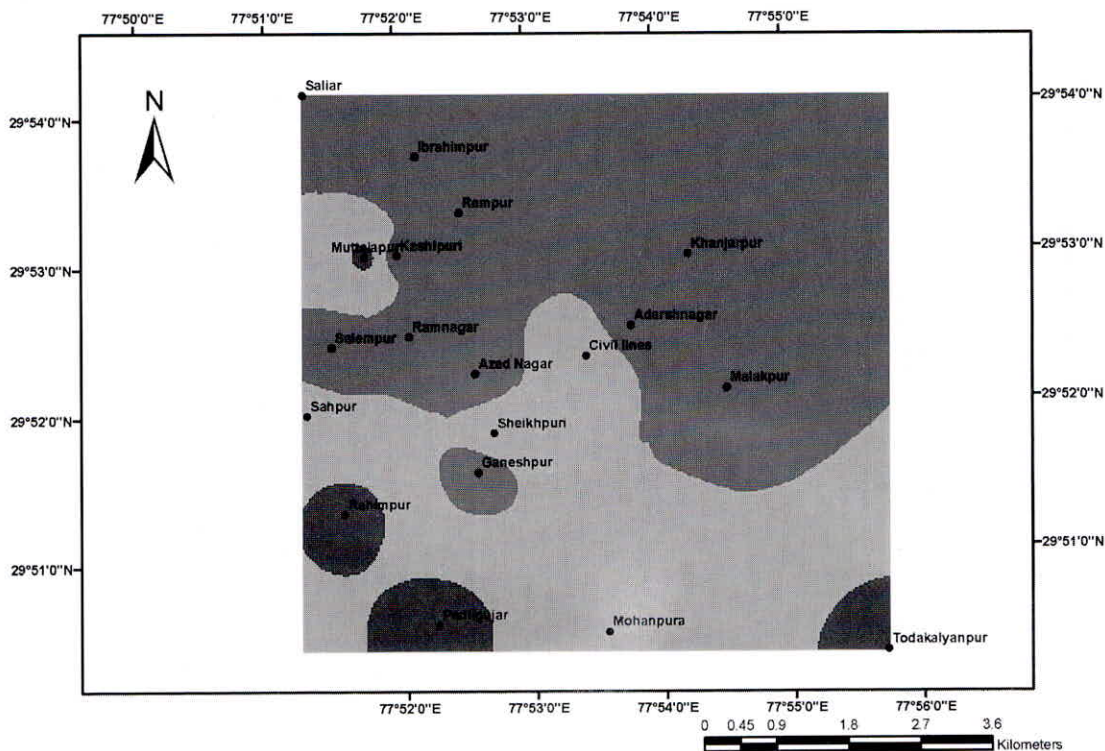


Fig.7 . Drastic Index map of Roorkee and Suburbs

Table 4. Calculation of 'DRASTIC Parameters' of different locations.

		Values of DRASTIC Parameters = Rating* Weight									
Weight	Location	Long.	Lat.	Depth to W.T	Recharge	Aquifer Media	Soil media	Topography	Impact of Vadose Zone	Hydraulic Conductivity	DRASTIC Index
				5	4	3	2	1	5	3	
	Ibrahimpur	77.86914	29.89498	25	36	24	18	10	40	24	177
	Sahar	77.85484	29.90212	25	36	24	18	10	40	24	177
	Rampur	77.74620	29.88855	35	36	24	18	10	35	24	182
	Ramnagar	77.86770	29.87488	35	36	24	14	10	25	24	168
	Muttalapur	77.86230	29.88389	25	32	24	14	10	25	24	154
	Kashipuri	77.86490	29.88395	35	36	24	14	10	25	24	168
	Azad Nagar	77.87618	29.87058	35	36	24	16	10	30	24	175
	Sheikhpuri	77.87840	29.86393	35	32	24	16	10	30	24	171
	Ganeshpur	77.87624	29.85956	35	36	24	16	10	30	24	175
	Salempur	77.85774	29.87388	35	36	24	14	10	25	24	168
	Sahpur	77.85432	29.86634	25	36	24	12	10	25	24	156
	Padligujar	77.87061	29.84258	35	32	24	6	10	15	24	146
	Rahimpur	77.85882	29.85518	35	32	24	6	10	15	24	146
	Mohanpura	77.89259	29.84137	25	36	24	6	10	15	24	140
	Todakalyanpur	77.92864	29.83858	15	24	24	6	10	15	24	118
	Khanjarpur	77.90406	29.88330	45	36	24	12	10	25	24	176
	Malakpur	77.90868	29.86830	45	36	24	12	10	25	24	176
	Adarshnagar	77.89646	29.87552	45	36	24	12	10	25	24	176
	Civil lines	77.89056	29.87223	35	32	24	12	10	25	24	162

strategy for protection of the ground water resources of the area where the majority of the population depends on the shallow ground water for drinking. As a national Ground Water Legislation is not yet enforced in the region, a series of other institutional steps are suggested for exercising greater restraints to be observed in day to day operation and management of the drinking water facilities. In this context, the role of civic authorities and NGO's can be of considerable help. This is to be followed by an effective public awareness campaigning through media and stake holders.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

From the above discussion it can be concluded that the northwestern parts of the area are more vulnerable to pollution than the rest of study area, although this is not fully supported by the groundwater quality data. The quality data indicates that the pollution hazard also exists in some southern and eastern parts of the study area, besides the localities of increased industrial activity.

Further there is a need to produce the groundwater vulnerability maps for other regions of India so that the groundwater pollution abatements can be handled in a more systematic manner.

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