Hydrogeochemistry And Assessment of Groundwater Quality In Mahabubnagar District, Telangana State, India With Special Emphasis on Fluoride Distribution And Its Impact on Health

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Abstract- Hydrogeochemical studies carried out in southwestern part of Mahabubnagar district possessing hard granitic rock terrain of Archaean age and sedimentary rocks of Proterozoic age. The area consisting of basic water, and it is chemically characterized by the intermediate class at most locations. The entire area is devoid of primaryalkalinity and secondary-salinity waters. The Schoeller indices values (Schoeller 1965, 1967) are negative except in some locations showing a cation – anion exchange (chloro-alkaline disequilibrium). Based on the Hydrogeochemical analysis results reveals that the ions like F, Cl, NO3 are exceeded the permissible limits in certain areas. The analytical data plotted on the US salinity diagram (USDA, 1954) illustrates that 25% of the groundwater samples fall in the field of S1C4, indicating low sodium and very high salinity, 75% of samples fall in the field of S1C3, indicating low sodium and high salinity water in the pre monsoon season. The same diagram states that 8% of samples fall in the field of S1C4 indicating the low sodium and very high salinity water, 2% of samples fall in the field of S2C4 indicating the medium sodium and very high salinity water, 89% of samples fall in the field of S1C3 indicating the low sodium and high salinity, 1% of samples fall in the field of S2C3 indicating the medium sodium and high salinity water, which can be used for irrigation on all types of soil without danger of exchangeable sodium. Which need adequate drainage to overcome salinity problems for irrigational purposes.

Keywords- Groundwater, Hydrogeochemistry, Water quality, Fluoride, Mahabubnagar, Telangana

I. INTRODUCTION

Water is very vital for nature and can be a limiting resource to the mankind and other living beings. Without a well-functioning water supply, it is difficult to imagine productive human activity be it agriculture or

livestock. Water quality is influenced by natural and anthropogenic effects including local climate, geology, and irrigation practices (CGWB, 2007). The quality of water is of uttermost importance in planning water supply programmes. The chemical character of any groundwater determines its quality and utilization. The quality of water is a function of the physical, chemical, and biological parameters and could be subjective, since it depends on a particular intended use.

hundreds of millions of people in urban and rural areas depend on groundwater for domestic supplies, which can be highly vulnerable to pollution. In general, Ground water quality is strongly influenced by bedrock geology and climate, but may also be attributed to the impacts of industrial and agricultural pollution. The present study includes determination of ionic concentrations, chemical classification, chemical relationships, ion-exchange processes, and irrigation suitability by studying groundwater samples collected in parts of Mahbubnagar district, Telangana.

II. STUDY AREA

The area under study is about 578.86 sq km and is bounded approximately by 77^035^0 to 77^055^040 East and 16^0 6[']56["] to 16^0 23['] 33["] North (fig 1 & 2). Groundwater forms the main source of drininking water in the majority of the study area.

The study area is in the drainage basin of the Krishna River is ephemeral nature and the basin receive water only during the rainy season. A well-developed, Dendritic drainage system is observed in the study area, which is a characteristic feature of granitic terrain. It indicates the presence of rocks of uniform resistance, which do not have any structural control. The area under investigation is in a semi-arid zone, with a hot and

humid climate. Usually this region receives its first rainfall from pre-monsoon conventional showers in the month of June however, its occurrence is erratic.

Geology

The area consists of granites and pegmatites of igneous origin of Archaean age and located in Cuddapah basin. Sedimentary rocks of Cuddapah Basin of Proterozoic age occupy the south-eastern part of the study area.

Mainly the area consisting of pink and grey granite occupies dominant portion, these rocks are composed of quartz, feldspars, and biotite. These are medium to course grained and equigranular in texture. The granites are pink and grey, hard, massive to foliated and well jointed (fig 3). The study area

has a rugged and undulating topography with gentle slopes, and it is characterized by isolated hillocks and narrow valleys at places. The typical grey colour is due to the presence of the plagioclase feldspars and quartz. The potash feldspars that are present in the rock are orthoclase and microcline but in less abundance. Biotite is the most predominant mineral in these rocks. The highest elevation recorded in the study area is 342 m the lowest being 274 m above msl. These rocks possess negligible primary porosity but are rendered porous and permeable due to secondary porosity by fracturing and weathering, and fractured zones locally form potential aquifers. These lineament zones are highly productive for constructing bore wells. The topography is moderately hilly with very sparse vegetation. The hillocks in the area are characteristic of granitic terrain, being small and dome shaped.

Materials and methods

Groundwater samples were collected from the bore wells and analysed for various chemical parameters in department of applied geochemistry as described by the American Public Health Association (APHA 1995) and followed by the ISI, 1983. These parameters include pH, electrical conductivity were measured by the digital meter in the itself. The total dissolved solids, and important cations such as calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium as well as anions such as carbonates, bicarbonates, chlorides, nitrates, sulphates and fluorides (table 1). Total dissolved solids (TDS) were computed from EC multiplied by 0.64 (Brown and others 1970). Sodium (Na+) and potassium (K+) were determined by flame photometer. Total hardness (TH) as $CaCO₃$, calcium (Ca^{2+}) , carbonate (CO_3) , bicarbonate (HCO_3) and chloride (Cl) were analysed by volumetric methods. Magnesium $(Mg²⁺)$ was calculated from TH and Ca₂₊ contents. Nitrate $(NO₃)$ and fluoride (F) were determined using an ion analyzer. Sulphates $(SO₄)$ were estimated using the colorimetric technique in the pre monsoon and post monsoon seasons.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

pH

The pH of water is very important of its quality and provides important piece of information in many types of geochemical equilibrium or solubility calculation. The limit of pH value of drinking water is specified as 6.5 to 8.5 (ISI, 1983).

In most natural waters, the pH value is dependent on the carbon dioxide-carbonate-bicarbonateequilibrium. As the equilibrium is markedly affected by temperature and pressure, it is obvious that changes in pH may occur when these are alerted. Most of the ground water has a pH range of 6.0-8.5.

The pH of ground water in the study area is ranging from 6.69-7.8 (table 3) during pre monsoon period and from 6.7-7.9 (table 4) during post monsoon season. pH values for all the samples are within the desirable limits. The alkaline pH is more favorable for fluoride dissolution activity (Rao and Rao, 1991). It is observed that most of the ground water is alkaline in nature. Though has no direct effect on the human health, all biochemical reactions are sensitive to variation of the pH.

IV. ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY

The conductivity measurement provides and indication of ionic concentrations. It depends up on temperature, concentration and types of ions present (Hem, 1991; Bhattacharya et al., 2012). The maximum limit of electrical conductivity in drinking water is prescribed as 1500 micro Siemens/cm (WHO, 2004). The electrical conductivity of the ground water is ranging from 820-3689 µSiemens/cm at 25°C with an average 1575 µSiemens/cm (table 3) during pre monsoon period and from 672-3584 µSiemens/cm at 25°C with an average 1637 µSiemens/cm during post monsoon period (table 4). 47% of samples were exceeded the permissible limit remaining samples were fall within the permissible limit in the pre monsoon and post monsoon.

The total dissolved solids of the ground water in the study area ranges from 524.8 mg/l to 2361mg/l with an average of 1008mg/l (table 3) during pre-monsoon and from 430.08 mg/l to 2293.8 mg/l with an average 1048 mg/l during post-monsoon the highest desirable limit of TDS in drinking water is 500 mg/l (table 4). TDS values of all samples exceed highest desirable limits in the both seasons.

Total hardness

The Total hardness of the study area ranges from 60 to 634 mg/l with an average of 256.1 mg/l during premonsoon (table 3) and from 70 mg/l to 640 mg/l with an average 286.4 mg/l during post-monsoon period (table 4). All samples exceed the highest desirable limits. Water hardness is primarily due to the result of interaction between water and the geological formations (Piper, 1944; Tatawat et al., 2008). The limit of total hardness for drinking water is specified as 300 mg/l (ISI, 1983).

SODIUM

The sodium concentration of the ground water in the study area is ranging from 24 mg/l to 80 mg/l with an average of 45.3 mg/l during pre monsoon period (table 3) and from 73 mg/l to 200 mg/l with an average of 144 mg/l during post monsoon period (table 4). The prescribed limit of sodium in potable water is 200 mg/ l (Edwin, 1994; WHO, 2004). Excessive amount of sodium in drinking water would normally affect the potability of water, and water containing up to 1000 mg/l may generally be physiologically tolerable (Ramesh and Anbu 1996). Almost all samples exceeded the desirable limits.

Potassium

The Potassium concentration of the groundwater in the investigation area is ranging from 8 mg/l to 36 mg/l with an average 13.7 mg/l during pre-monsoon (table 3) and from 2 mg/l to 200 mg/l with an average 33 mg/l during postmonsoon season (table 4). Potassium being more soluble than sodium salts are last to crystallize during evaporation (Karanth, 1989; Saleh et al., 1999; Yadav et al., 2013). The acceptable limit of potassium in drinking water is 10-15 mg/L. Almost all samples exceed the desirable limits.

Calcium

The calcium concentration of the ground water in the study area is ranging from 2 mg/l to 187 mg/l with an average of 50 mg/l during pre-monsoon period (table 3) and from 4 mg/l to 192 mg/l with an average 87 mg/l

during post monsoon period (table 4). The limit of calcium concentration for drinking water is specified as 75 mg/l (ISI, 1983).

Magnesium

The Mg concentration of the ground water in the study area is ranging from 0.8 mg/l to 75 mg/l with an average of 24.6 mg/l during pre monsoon period (table 3) and from 1 mg/l to 80 mg/l with an average 25.45 mg/l during premonsoon period (table 4). It is observed that nearly all the samples exceeded the desirable limit both during pre and postmonsoon periods.

Carbonate

The carbonate concentration of the ground water in the study area is ranging from 0 mg/l to 144 mg/l with an average of 26.9 mg/l during pre monsoon period (table 3) and from 0 mg/l to 142 mg/l with an average 22.2 mg/l during premonsoon period (table 4).

Bicarbonate

The bicarbonate concentration of the ground water in the study area is ranging from 201 mg/l to 587 mg/l with an average of 363.4 mg/l during pre monsoon period and from 3 mg/l to 677 mg/l with an average 367.9 mg/l during premonsoon period (table 3). The permissible limit of bicarbonate $(HCO₃)$ for drinking water is 500 mg/l (Jagdap et al., 2002; Singh, 2003; Dhirendra et al., 2009). Bicarbonate concentrations in all samples are within the desirable limit for drinking water.

Sulphate

The sulphate concentration of the ground water in the study area is ranging from 27 mg/l to 122 mg/l with an average 52.72 mg/l during pre-monsoon period (table 3) and from 22 mg/l to 117 mg/l with an average 48.4 mg/l during post-monsoon period (table 4). The upper limit of sulphate concentration for drinking water is specified as 150 mg/l (ISI, 1983).

Chloride

The chloride concentration of the ground water in the study area is ranging from 85 mg/l to 986 mg/l with an average 268.5 mg/l during pre-monsoon period (table 3) and from 61 mg/l to 905 mg/l with an average 312 mg/l during post-monsoon period (table 4). The upper limit of chloride concentration for drinking water is specified as 250 mg/l (ISI, 1983).

Nitrate

The Nitrate concentration of the ground water in the study area is ranging from 2 mg/l to 120 mg/l with an average 40 mg/l during pre-monsoon period (table 3) and from 2 mg/l to 105 mg/l with an average 43 mg/l during post-monsoon period (table 4). The upper limit of nitrate concentration for drinking water is specifies as 45 mg/l (ISI, 1983).

Fluoride

Fluoride concentration of the ground water in the study area ranging from 0.42 mg/l to 4 mg/l with an average of 1.4 mg/l during pre-monsoon period (table 3) and from 0.13 mg/l to 2.7 mg/l with an average 0.65 mg/l during postmonsoon period (table 4). The permissible limit of fluoride in drinking water is 1.5 mg/l (ISI, 1983). It is observed that nearly 90% of the groundwater of the area exceeds the desirable limits during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods. In the study area pegmatites, granite, gneisses commonly contain fluorine-bearing minerals. High weather rates and enhanced circulation of water in the weathered rocks and due to intensive irrigation practices are responsible for the leaching of fluoride from their parent minerals.

Chemical classification and relationships

Determining the chemical relationships in groundwater in more definite terms than is possible with other plotting methods (Walton, 1970; Jha et al., 2000; Sunitha et al., 2005;). Piper's trilinear diagram method is used to classify the groundwater, based on the basic geochemical character of the constituent ionic concentrations. The analytical values obtained from the groundwater samples, and plotted on a Piper's diagram (fig 4 $\&$ 5), reveal that the major cations are sodium, calcium, and magnesium, and the anions are chlorides, potassium, and sulphates were found to be minor chemical constituents of cations and anions respectively during the pre monsoon and post monsoon.

Alkalinity hazards

Sodium replacing adsorbed calcium and magnesium is a hazard as it causes damage to the soil structure and becomes compact and impervious (Brown et al., 1974; Raju, 2006; Garg et al., 2008; Ramesh et al 2015). The analytical data plotted on the US salinity diagram (fig 6 & 7) (Kelley, 1951; Wilcox, 1962; Laluraj et al., 2005) illustrates that 25% of the groundwater samples fall in the field of S1C4, indicating low sodium and very high salinity, 75% of samples fall in the field of S1C3, indicating low sodium and high salinity water in the pre monsoon season. The same diagram states that 8% of samples fall in the field of S1C4 indicating the low sodium and very high salinity water, 2% of samples fall in the field of S2C4 indicating the medium sodium and very high salinity water, 89% of samples fall in the field of S1C3 indicating the low sodium and high salinity, 1% of samples fall in the field of S2C3 indicating the medium sodium and high salinity water, which can be used for irrigation on all types of soil without danger of exchangeable sodium.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The south-eastern part of the Mahaboob nagar district is a hard-rock terrain consisting of granites and forms a part of the Peninsular Shield of India. The groundwater samples of the study area when plotted in the Piper trilinear diagram (Piper 1953) shows that, in general, the area has basic water, and it is chemically characterized by the intermediate class at most locations. The entire area is devoid of primary-alkalinity and secondary-salinity waters. Based on the Hydrogeochemical analysis results reveals that the ions like F , Cl, NO₃ are exceeded the permissible limits in certain areas. The analytical data plotted on the US salinity diagram (fig 5&6) (USDA, 1954) illustrates that 25% of the groundwater samples fall in the field of S1C4, indicating low sodium and very high salinity, 75% of samples fall in the field of S1C3, indicating low sodium and high salinity water in the pre monsoon season. The same diagram states that 8% of samples fall in the field of S1C4 indicating the low sodium and very high salinity water, 2% of samples fall in the field of S2C4 indicating the medium sodium and very high salinity water, 89% of samples fall in the field of S1C3 indicating the low sodium and high salinity, 1% of samples fall in the field of S2C3 indicating the medium sodium and high salinity water, which can be used for irrigation on all types of soil without danger of exchangeable sodium which need adequate drainage to overcome salinity problems for irrigational purposes.

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Fig 2 location map of the study area

Fig 3 Geological map of study area

Fig 5 Piper trilinear diagram of post monsoon season of the study area

Fig 6 Groundwater samples in relation to Salinity and Sodium Hazard in the pre monsoon season.

Fig 7 Groundwater samples in relation to Salinity and Sodium Hazard in the post monsoon season.

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