

1. Title

Evaluation of monitoring data from three major rivers in India: Examination of present policies and exploring the ways to maximize the efficiency of existing data.

2. Authors

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3. Biographical Sketch

K. Lenin Babu awarded Doctoral Degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He served with Central Pollution Control Board – apex organization for pollution control activities in India, where he was involved in activities like ambient air and water quality monitoring, with specific emphasis on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons. He worked with National Law School of India University, working on functional efficiency of various environmental legislations like Water Act, Air Act and Environmental Protection Act. Till recently he joined Department of Environmental Sciences, Bangalore University as Fellow. Apart from research studies, he offers two papers – Water Pollution and Environmental Law & Policy to M.Sc students.

R.K. Somashekar holds Doctoral Degree in plant sciences. He is working with Bangalore University for 14 years. Presently, he holds the Chairman ship of Department of Environmental Sciences. His main interests are Environmental Impact Assessment studies.

4. Abstract

India has fourteen major rivers, draining the length and breadth of the country. With the enactment of the first central legislation to control water pollution – Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act in 1974, Pollution Control Boards both at State and Federal levels were established. As part of their functions, they have classified the water bodies into five classes, A- E, Class A being the potable with traditional treatment, while the Class E representing very poor water quality. Further, to develop a comprehensive data bank on the water quality of the national rivers two major studies have been undertaken Viz. Global Environmental Monitoring System and National River Development Program. Under these studies, extensive network of stations were established to monitor the river water quality. An examination of monitored data reveals that instead of improvisation of water quality, there is a steady drop.

Hence the need of making better use of the data to achieve the desired result of protection of rivers by taking data to a) policy makers in effective sense, b) reexamination of science behind the present policies to evolve better a law.

This paper intends to present a detailed examination of three major rivers namely – Ganga, Yamuna, and Cauvery and examine the possible reasons for the deterioration in water quality. Further, this paper explores various other means to make use of the data to bring more awareness in society regarding water resources.