

## Seasonal Variation of Heavy Metals and Fish Diversity on Different Open Cast Coal Mine Pits of Satgram and Kajora Areas Raniganj, West Bengal, India

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### ABSTRACT

Open cast pit (OCP) filled with surface runoff and groundwater recharge. A total of 40 PLs were enumerated and characterized to determine their nature, position, depth, area and comparative account in RCF during the period of 2014–2017. A 1-year study of physicochemical parameters of water and soil was recorded at 27 selected mine PLs to understand its quality. During the study period, the 14 most frequently cultured/naturally occurred fish species were collected and identified from the PL. PLs aged over 20–30 years turned naturally into wetland ecosystem harbouring a good amount of aquatic biota, excellent water quality and stabilized embankment. The present study is based on the relationship between seasonal variation of heavy metals and fish diversity. During the analysis it is found that there is a direct impact on heavy metal concentration in these OCPs during different seasons. It was observed that concentration level differed among OCPs due to their different geographical location. Monsoon is the most vulnerable season for heavy metals concentration and pit lakes of Satgram area were more contaminated than those of Kajora Area. As a result of it, fish diversity and fish production were high in Parasea OCP and Ghanshyam OCP than Damalia OCP and Ratibati OCP and it may also be stated that post monsoon is most productive season in terms of rich fish diversity and fish production. The main aim of the work was to find out the relationship between the seasons and heavy metals concentration and its impact on fish diversity. It also gave emphasis to find out the probable measures for improvement of fishery sector.

**KEY WORDS:** HEAVY METAL (HM); OPEN CAST PIT; PHYSIOCHEMICAL PARAMETER; SURFACE RUNOFF; FISH DIVERSITY; WETLAND.

### ARTICLE INFORMATION

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### INTRODUCTION

In 1774 coalmining in India was first initiated in the Raniganj Coalfield, in Bengal province. Rich treasure of coal was found near Ethora, presently in Salanpur community development block by John Sumner and Suetonius Grant Heatly of the British East India Company. The exploration and mining operations were haphazard in early stage. Alexander & Co started regular mining

in 1820. In 1835, after the collieries had been bought by Prince Dwarkanath Tagore the field was led by Carr Tagore and Company. The country witnessed Raniganj coalfields as the major producer of coal for the entire 19th century and a major part of the 20th century (Chattopadhyay, 2001). But Coal mining activity badly affected the ecology, atmosphere, land, human health and water system viz. the surrounding environment of mining area. (Peplow and Edmonds, 2002; Younger, 2004). After completion of coal extraction, the pit is filled up by surface runoff and groundwater discharge. Then the pit becomes a water body or water reservoir (commonly called as Khadan) (Ghosh et al., 1984; Ghosh et al., 2005). Coal mining activity is a significant resource of soil and its heavy metal contamination (Liu et al., 2020).

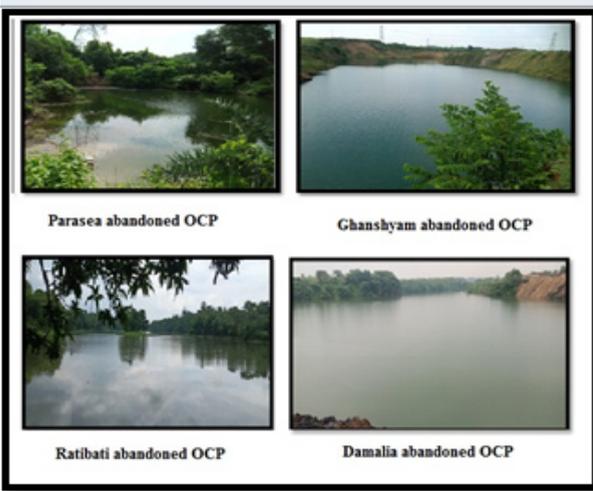
The pit water body is mainly contaminated by the materials that are present in the adjoining top soil. The soil commonly contains toxic chemicals, pollutants, heavy metals etc. i.e. less nutrients for the growth of the angiosperms or any other plants (Ghose, 2001; Dutta and Agrawal, 2002; Johnson, 2003; Ghose, 2004; Razo et al., 2004; Pagnanelli et al., 2004; Marín-Guirao et al., 2005; Mercuri et al., 2005; Maiti, 2007; Bhuiyan et al., 2010; Sheoran et al., 2010; Das and Chakrapani, 2010). In Raniganj coalfield, the pit water contains high concentration of metals like Fe, Cu, Zn, Co, Cr, Mn, Pb, Cd, etc., leads to metal pollution in the coal pit ecosystem (De and Mitra, 2002). The pit-lake aquatic system depends on the physicochemical composition and nature of the bottom sediment and the growth and development of autotroph (like macrophytes) solely depend on the sediment of a water body that is called as the reservoir of nutrients (Barko and Smart, 1986).

ecosystems, correlation in-between nutrient and energy cycles, and indicating to sudden environmental disturbances like acidification, thermal conditions, pollution, water flow and level of salinity, etc. (Litchman et al., 2013; Lokko et al., 2017; Pocięcha et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2018). The scarcity of water is a regular problem in Raniganj coalfield area which is supplied water by rain fed rivers - Damodar, Ajay and Barakar. This problem can be solved by of getting water stored in the open cast mine pits of this area and at the same time these water bodies can be used for pisciculture (Tiwary and Dhar, 1994). This present study aims at finding out how the accumulated heavy metals make an impact on fish diversity in different pits of two areas of Eastern Coalfield Limited in Raniganj coalfield in respect of different seasons.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

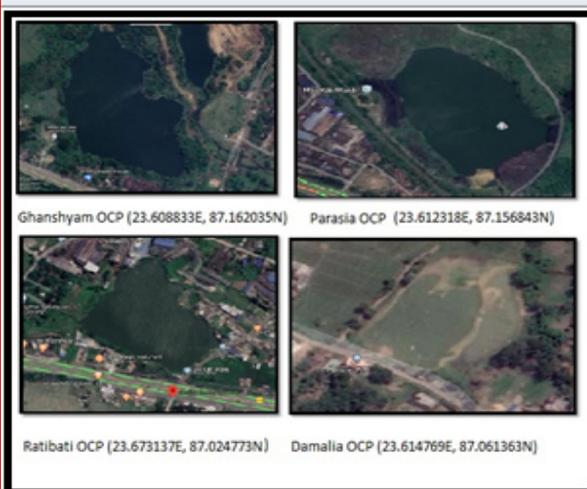
**Study Area:** The present study sites Ratibati & Damalia are now abandoned OCPs since 2017 and 1989 respectively, situated in Satgram area which is geographically around 23.674889°N Lat and 87.082754°E Long in Asansol sub div and Parasea & Ghanshyam OCPs both are abandoned since 2015-16 in Kajora area, located around 23.632407°N Lat and 87.171593°E Long in Durgapur sub div, Paschim Bardhaman. The Satgram and Kajora areas both are in E.C. Ltd. The Satgram area is surrounded by the Sripur Area and Kunustoria Area on the North, Kajora Area /Andal CD Block on the East, Bankura district on the South and Asansol sub div on the West. The Kajora area is confined by the Kenda Area on the North, Bankola Area on the East, Andal CD Block on the South, and Kunustoria Area on the West.

Figure 1: Images of Four OCP



The availability of zooplankton from an OCP has lots of versatile bio indicating properties (Das and Chakrapani, 2011). These are: short life cycles, adaptation to changes of environment, vast distribution in various aquatic

Figure 2: Satellite View of Four OCPs



The primary samples were collected from four study sites of three consecutive seasonal phases, these are pre-monsoon, post-monsoon seasons.

**Table 1. Season Wise and OCP Wise Concentration Of Heavy Metal**

HEAVY METALS	Pre Monsoon						Monsoon						Post Monsoon						Permissible Limit as per MoEF Schedule-VI Standard						
	Damalia		Ratibati		Parasia		Ghanshyam		Damalia		Ratibati		Parasia		Ghanshyam		Damalia			Ratibati		Parasia		Ghanshyam	
	OCP		OCP		OCP		OCP		OCP		OCP		OCP		OCP		OCP			OCP		OCP		OCP	
Arsenic (As) (mg/lt.)	0.015	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.015	0.015	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.036	0.01	0.011	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.2	
Lead (Pb) (mg/lt.)	0.055	0.053	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.1	
Hexavalent Chromium (Cr) (mg/lt.)	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.1	
Total Chromium (Cr) (mg/lt.)	0.1	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.096	0.16	0.16	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2	
Copper (Cu) (mg/lt.)	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	3	
Zinc (Zn) (mg/lt.)	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.025	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.018	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5	
Selenium (Se) (mg/lt.)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05	
Fluoride (F) (mg/lt.)	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.02	0.02	0.021	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2	
Manganese (Mn) (mg/lt.)	0.01	0.011	0.013	0.013	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.013	0.019	0.019	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2	

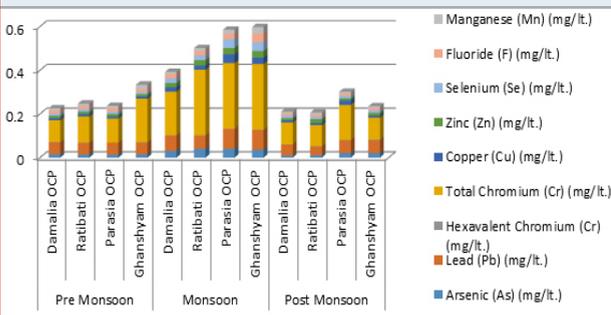
After that these were brought to the laboratory for analysis by using APHA 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1060. Parameters like As, Pb, Cr, Cu, Zn, Se, F, Mn were considered for observation. So many statistical methodologies were used in this study to explore the actual result. Arithmetic mean, ANOVA, frequency distribution (bar or comparative bar) was used. Standard protocols and methodologies were maintained during sampling and analyses of the mine water (BIS 1987). Whereas Correlation statistics was performed by using SPSS statistical software version 16.0 for analysing the data set and get better result. To know the seasonal nature of fish diversity in different abandoned OCP Shannon Weiner's Species Diversity Index (SDI) was applied. It is the most useful statistical

tools to determine the species diversity in different time scale or in different area or condition. The formula used for Shannon Weiner's Species Diversity index:

$$H = - \sum_{i=1}^s p_i \ln p_i$$

Where, H = Shannon-Weiner species diversity index (SDI);  $P_i = n_i/N$  ( $n_i$  = Number of individuals of  $i^{th}$  species and N= total number of individuals of all the species in the quadrate).

Figure 3: Showing season wise HM concentration in Four OCPs



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For this study, water samples were collected from 4 OCPs for heavy metals analysis, among which Damalia and Ratibati OCP fall under Satgram area of E.C. Ltd. and Parasea and Ghanshyam OCP fall under Kajora area of E.C. Ltd. Various types of heavy metals, i.e. As, F, Se, Zn, Cu, Cr, Pb, Mn were taken into consideration for the study. Due to high amount of heavy metals channelized through surface runoff in monsoon months, the water quality deteriorated in high scale.

Table 2. Two-way ANOVA for showing Season wise and OCP wise variation of significant levels of HM concentration

Source of Variation	ANOVA ON PRE MONSOON SEASON DATA					
	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between HM's	0.0475	7	0.0067	22.5226	1.35	2.7641
Between Seasons and OCPs	0.0006	2	0.0003	1.1553	0.343238	3.7388
Error	0.0042	14	0.0003			
Total	0.0524	23				
Source of Variation	ANOVA ON MONSOON SEASON DATA					
	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between HM's	0.1988	7	0.0284	571.4103	4.22	2.7641
Between Seasons and OCPs	0.0007	2	0.0003	7.4107	0.006381	3.7388
Error	0.0006	14	4.97			
Total	0.2002	23				
Source of Variation	ANOVA ON POST MONSOON SEASON DATA					
	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between HM's	0.0328	7	0.0046	27.0924	4.21	2.7641
Between Seasons and OCPs	0.0005	2	0.0002	1.4996	0.25	3.7388
Error	0.0024	14	0.0001			
Total	0.035763	23				

Notes: SS = Sum of Squares, df = Degree of Freedom, MS = Mean Sum of Squares, Fobs = Observed F, P- value = Probability, Fcrit = Critical F.

On the other hand, the rate of contamination decreased in pre-monsoon and it becomes the lowest in post-monsoon. So, it must be argued that post monsoon months are very

favourable for aquatic ecosystem as well as fish breeding. Among the HM concentration, level of Chromium (Cr) and Lead (Pb) is very high in all season in respect of other

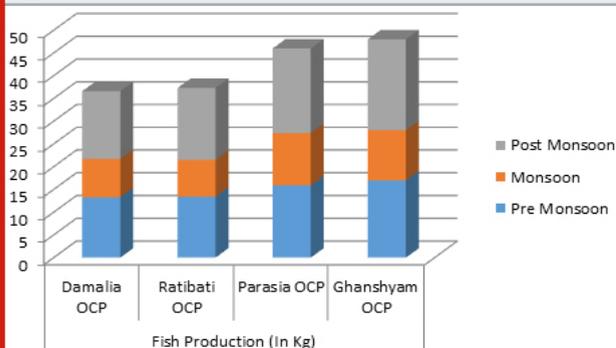
HM, but its level is maximum in monsoon months in all four OCPs. As and Se level were observed also high in respect other two seasons. Permissible limit as per

MoEF (Ministry of Environment and Forest) schedule-VI standard is the scale of consideration for measuring the magnitude of HM concentration in different seasons.

Table 3. Season wise and OCP wise fish diversity (H)

SEASON WISE FISH CATCHING (Per net in kg)																
Scientific name	Local name	PRE-MONSOON					MONSOON					POST MONSOON				
		Damalia OCP	Ratibati OCP	Parasia OCP	Ghanshyam OCP	Fish Diversity (H)	Damalia OCP	Ratibati OCP	Parasia OCP	Ghanshyam OCP	Fish Diversity (H)	Damalia OCP	Ratibati OCP	Parasia OCP	Ghanshyam OCP	Fish Diversity (H)
<i>Channa punctatus</i>	Lata	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	2.31	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	2.28	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	2.37
<i>Clarias batrachus</i>	Magur	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3		0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2		0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	
<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>	Nilontica	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3		0	0	0.2	0.2		0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	
<i>Labeo calbasu</i>	Calbaus	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.5		1.5	1.3	1.7	1.5		2.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	
<i>Catla catla</i>	Catla	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6		1.3	1.5	1.8	1.8		2.4	2.5	2.7	3	
<i>Labeo rohita</i>	Rui	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4		2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1		2.9	2.9	3.5	3.4	
<i>Labeo bata</i>	Bata	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.1		0.5	0.4	0.7	0.8		0.9	0.9	1.2	1.6	
<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	Silver carp	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.8		0.8	0.7	1.1	1.2		1.3	1.4	1.8	2	
<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>	Mrigel	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.6		0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8		1.5	1.5	1.9	1.8	
<i>Aristichthys nobilis</i>	Bighead Carp	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5		0	0	0.3	0.4		0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	American Rui	0.8	0.8	1	1.1		0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5		1	1	1.2	1.1	
<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>	Grass Carp	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8		0.5	0.3	0.6	0.8		0.8	0.8	1	1	
<i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i>	Mourala	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4		0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3		0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	
<i>Puntius sophore</i>	Punti	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2		0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1		0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	

Figure 4: Season wise and OCP wise fish production (in kg)



The samples were collected during three different seasons and getting the impactful season in respect of heavy metal concentration in those OCP water and to find out the main controlling factor of it. It was found (Figure 3) that monsoon is the most vulnerable time for HM contamination.

Two-way ANOVA was also computed to analyse the significant level among HM's in different seasons and the significant variation in respect of season wise concentration of HM's in four OCPs. From pre-monsoon

ANOVA (Table 2), it is said that there is significant difference in respect of different HM's ( $F_{obs} > F_{crit}$ ) but among seasons and in terms of OCPs, there is no significant difference ( $F_{obs} < F_{crit}$ ). From ANOVA on monsoon data regarding season wise and OCP wise HM's concentration (Table 2), it is shown that there is significant difference in terms of both cases, i.e. different HM's and Seasonal variation in OCPs ( $F_{obs} > F_{crit}$ ). ANOVA on post-monsoon data (Table 2) represents the same condition like pre-monsoon time, like significant difference in respect of different HM's ( $F_{obs} > F_{crit}$ ) but among seasons and in terms of OCPs, there is no significant difference ( $F_{obs} < F_{crit}$ ).

Rather, it is also found that the significance level is higher in all post-monsoon months. Season wise and OCP wise nature of fish diversity was also calculated using Shannon Weiner's Species Diversity Index, which is very well known index for measuring fish diversity in various aspects. More or less 14 fish species are found in these 4 OCPs during various seasons. These fishes have common names like rui, catla, calbasu, silver carp, punti, bata, mrigel etc. In all the OCPs, the most available fishes are rui, catla, calbasu, silver carp, mrigel. But their amount is varied during various seasons. Table 3

shows that the highest fish diversity (H) was found in post monsoon months, i.e. 2.37 and lowest diversity (H) seen in monsoon months, i.e. 2.28.

In respect of fish production (Figure 4), post-monsoon months are the highest productive months then other seasons. It is also showing that Parasea and Ghanshyam OCP of Kajora Area (ECL) are more productive than Damalia and Ratibati OCP of Satgram Area (ECL). OCP wise productions of fishes are varied as:

Figure 5: Fishing activity



**Ghanshyam OCP>Parasea OCP>Ratibati OCP>Damalia OCP**

West Bengal is a state covered by tropical monsoon season. Out of 3 seasons, i.e. Summer, Winter and Rainy season, Rainy or monsoon season is the dominant season. It comes after the long summer. During hot summer, huge amount of water vapour is released over the sky of Arabian sea and the Bay of Benagal.

Trade wind move towards land mass (impact of coriolis force) as the high pressure belts are prevailing at Indian land mass. Due to formation of densed cloud, excessive amount of rainfall occurs throught the gangetic plain land. As a result of intensive rainfall, large volume of rain water flows as a surface runoff. These runoff water is contaminated with heavy metals, pollutants (both biotic and abiotic) etc. So the inland water bodies also may be contaminated. In Raniganj area, OCPs are filled with this runoff water as well as ground water. But the water recharge basically happens during monsoon months through drainage and contaminated water. These OCPs are too deep in nature. Due to season wise variation of contamination, fish diversity is also varied. Top soil parameters are also the key factors to the nature of contamination. It may be stated that as the rainy season is the most affective time in terms of HM contamination, fish diversity and fish production is low at that time.

But due to the lowest rate of contamination in dry winter or post-monsoon months, high fish production and fish diversity are observed. On the other hand the HM concentration is low in the OCPs of Kajora Area

than OCPs of Satgram Area. So fish production and fish diversity are higher in Parasea and Ghanshyam OCP than those in Damalia and Ratibati OCP. This observation is justified by Palit and Kar (2019) investigation that 15 most frequently naturally or cultured fish species occur under 4 orders, 5 families and 14 genera that were collected and identified from the OCP in Raniganj coalfield. After the analysis of OCP water quality and questionnaire survey of the local peoples, it is recomended that pisciculture project can be initiated in 25 OCPs. OCPs aged more then 20 years turned naturally into wetland, harbouring a good amount of aquatic diversity, excellent quality of water without any restriction.

## CONCLUSION

There are various future scopes regarding the optimum use of OCP water. It is observed that low nutrient level often minimises the fish foods and thus availability of primary production. It may be used for artificial or well managed fishing activities by the local people as sustainable developmental tools. For implementation of successful and sustainable fishing activity, pit lake fisheries need more considerations and attention on water quality, habitat and food sources which are the most important determinants. As these OCPs are too deep, trawl netting may be introduced for fishing.

Post-monsoon based planning may be initiated in that area as it is more productive and diversified season. Chemical water treatment through filtration may be introduced during rainy season. On the other hand, generally good water quality in OCP water contains elevated COPC which may bio magnify the OCP ecosystem and actually prevent a risk to end users and make profit for fisher men as well as local inhabitants. Proper training should be given to the local fisher men for advanced fishing techniques and procedure regarding OCP based fish production.

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