

Fluoride Toxicity Cripple Life of Villagers in Amravati District, Maharashtra

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Abstract: Fluoride is found in all natural waters resources to some degree. It can be extremely high in groundwater, depending on a number of factors, such as the types of rocks and minerals of that region. Drinking water is the one of the major sources of fluoride consumption in India. Both urban and rural areas, lack access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation; nearly half the population is illiterate, not at all aware of the water borne diseases affecting their health. Except that a variety of vegetables and fruits, grains, meat, poultry and fish (especially canned fish), milk and tea; most natural foods have minor levels of fluoride. Major problems are being faced by the country due to the presence of excess fluoride in groundwater in certain parts of country. Fluoride toxic effects that contribute to multiple health problems, including lowered IQ, dental fluorosis, bone weakness and fractures, immune and endocrine dysfunction.

Keywords: Environmental Conditions, Water Analysis, and Morphological symptoms, Mottled teeth, Leg architecture

1. Introduction

Among the water quality parameters, fluoride is one of the minor constituents in natural water. Fluoride, an electronegative element, is highly reactive, therefore, almost never occurs in elemental state in natural water. The origin of fluoride in ground water is through weathering of alkali, igneous and sedimentary rocks. The common fluoride bearing minerals are Fluorspar (CaF_2), Cryolite (Na_3AlF_6), Fluor - apatite ($\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{Ca}(\text{FCl})_2$), fluorite (CaF_2) is the principle bearer of fluoride and is found in granite, granite gneisses and pegmatite (Deshmukh et al., 1995 and Rao, 2009), Apart from natural sources, a considerable amount of fluoride may be contributed due to anthropogenic activities. Burning of coal, manufacturing process of aluminium, steel, bricks, phosphatic fertilizers industries, often contain fluoride as an impurity and are being leached down to the ground water (Deshmukh et al., 1995; Anderson et al., 1991; Smith and Hodge, 1979; Tailor and chandel, 2010). The high level of fluoride in drinking water beyond the permissible limit (IS; 10500 and WHO, 1996) has toxic effect, while its optimum level shows beneficial effect in reducing dental carries. Though fluorides enters the body through water, food, industrial exposure, drugs, cosmetics, etc., drinking water is the major source (75%) of daily intake Sarala and Rao, (1993). Major health problems cause by high level of fluoride are dental fluorosis (teeth mottling), skeletal fluorosis and deformation of the bones in childrens as well as adults (Ramanaiah et al., 2006).

In some parts, India has major public - health problems induced by use of groundwater as a source of drinking water having excess fluoride. Due to different types of natural and manmade activities groundwater resources are under threat in some parts of the country. Small quantity of fluoride is an essential component for normal mineralization of bones and prevents dental enamel. However, excess concentration may result in slow, progressive scourge known as fluorosis. More than 20 developed and developing nations are suffering from fluorosis. In India, fluoride in drinking water was first reported at Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh in 1937 and

then considerable works have been done in different parts of India.

At present, it has been estimated that fluorosis is widespread in seventeen states of India indicating that endemic fluorosis is one of the most acute public health problems of the country. More than 66 million people are estimated to suffering from fluorosis, among which 6 million children are below 14 years of age in India alone. Fluorine is widely distributed in earth's crust and exists in the form of fluorides. The natural concentration of fluoride in groundwater depends on the geological, chemical and physical characteristics of resources, types of the soil and rocks, temperature and the action of other chemical substances.

Fluoride is completely absorbed by the gastrointestinal tract and the absorbed fluoride is rapidly distributed throughout the body. Since fluorine is highly electronegative element, it has a strong tendency to get attracted by positively charged calcium ions in teeth and bones and excessive intake result in pathological changes in teeth and bones, such as mottling of teeth or dental fluorosis followed by skeletal fluorosis. BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) permissible limit for fluoride is 0.6 - 1.2 mg/lit and WHO (International Standards for Drinking Water) is 1.5 mg/lit. Thus, a large amount of fluoride gets bound in these tissues and only a small amount is excreted via urine, faeces and sweat. Skeletal fluorosis is observed when drinking water contains 3 - 6 mg of fluoride per liter and developed as crippling skeletal fluorosis when drinking water contains over 10 mg of fluoride per liter. Other sources of fluoride poisoning are food, industrial exposure, drugs, cosmetics, etc. WHO, has stated that India and China are the most affected countries to fluoride exposure.

Study Area

For studied three villages are selected of Amravati district, under Bhatkulli Tahasil situated in N - W part of the Amravati city, nearly 18 km. away. The longitude of study area is $77^{\circ}38'11.2''\text{E}$ and latitude is $20^{\circ}56'40.2''\text{N}$ which

include in map of survey of India toposheet No.55 L/12. These villages are Alangaon, Kund and Khurd.

2. Material and Methods

2.1 Methodology of study

The method of work can be divided in two parts. First is the field work and another is laboratory work. The field works have been done in Alangaon, Khurd and Khund villages. The samples were collected at various locations of the villages. The samples were collected in air tight bottle and sealed by giving the sample number on bottle. After collecting the samples we have to do chemical analysis in laboratory, Such as pH, total hardness and the fluoride concentration. Results after the physio - chemical analysis of water sample is given below in Table no - 1, Table 2 and Table 3 respectively. Following are the analysis has done to found the parameters from the water samples.

2.2 Sampling Process

Water samples from fifteen different areas located in and around study area territory were collected in brown glass bottles with necessary precautions such as label the sample bottle with source, location, date and time. All the chemicals used were of AR grade. Double distilled water was used for the preparation of reagents and solutions. The water quality parameters considered for the examination in this study are Temperature, pH, Total hardness, Sulphate, Phosphate contents measured by water analysis kit and manual methods. Calcium hardness of water was estimated by complexometric titration methods.

2.3 Analysis of sample

The samples of drinking water were collected for analysis of free fluoride ions at the different 1 sites from tap water The analysis of fluoride ions would be expressed as parts per million (ppm) or mg/l. The water samples were collected and analysed for free fluoride. The obtained water samples were filtered through a 0.45 μ m membrane filter. One part of each water sample was mixed with one part TISAB reference buffer. At the same time five fluoride standards varying between 10 - 1M and 10 - 7M were prepared in 50% TISAB buffer and a calibration curve was set from where the fluoride concentration of the sample was determined with the use of a combination fluoride ion selective electrode (Orion). Three different fluoride dilutions were made from each water sample, the fluoride concentrations in each determined.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Analysis of Water Samples

The physico - chemical data of the hand pump, tap water and bore wells water sample collected in Feb 2017 and Mar - 2018 are recorded in table 1, Table 2 and Table - 3 respectively. The results of the samples vary with different collecting places because of the different geological nature of the soil and anthropogenic activity.

Temperature: In the present study Temp. ranged from 38.30C to 42.00C.

pH: In the present study pH ranged from 7.4 to 8.79. The tolerance pH limit is 6.5 – 8.5.

Calcium Hardness: The calcium hardness ranged from 8.00 to 88.90 mg/L. The tolerance range for Ca hardness is 75 – 200 mg/L. All the sampling stations (the hand pump, tap water and bore - well water wise concentration of fluoride) were categorized as follows; Category 1 - Fluoride concentration below 1.0 mg/l. Category 2 - Fluoride concentration between 1.0 - 1.5 mg/l. Category 3 - Fluoride concentration between 1.5 - 3.0 mg/l.

The concentration of fluoride distribution in hand pump, tap water and bore - well water as shown in table 1, table 2 and table 3 respectively. The coloured comparative charts and bar charts are also prepared as shown in figure - A, B, and C. Fluoride concentration in hand pump, tap water and bore - well water samples in the study area of Amravati dist. ranges from 1.22 - 3.37 was recorded. In the study area maximum concentration (3.37 mg/l) was recorded at Khurd village in Amravati district.

The present survey reveals that out of 22 hand pump, tap water and bore - well water samples in 3 villages have fluoride concentration more than 1.56 mg/l and fall in category 3, which is above the maximum permissible limit of standards for drinking water (BIS, WHO). The concentration of fluoride is less than 1.0 mg/l it may be beneficial for preventing dental problems. In the study area percentage of fluoride was significant therefore it may be most of the children's are suffering from dental fluorosis was observed in plate no 1, 2 & 3 as well as some old people are suffering from skeletal fluorosis (plate no.3). At this concentration, mottled enamel and in some cases, the pre stage of skeletal fluorosis has been observed. The intake of fluoride through drinking water from different sources per day of their population in this was very high and it may be cause dental as well as skeletal fluorosis. The result indicate that study area of Amravati district shows significant concentration of fluoride in the different sources than other area presented in table 1, 2 and 3 from bar charts as shown in figure A, B and C, it is cleared that among 3 locations of Amravati district i. e, Alangaon, Kund, and Khurd. These villages are under dental and skeletal fluorosis. Dental fluorosis grade: grade - 0: healthy teeth, grade - 1: yellowish with white opaque, grade - 2: brown stains, grade - 3: chipped edges with brown stains, grade - 4: dark brown with loss of teeth.

Skeletal fluorosis grade: grade - 1: mild joint pain, grade - 2: restricted movements of joints due to stiffness, grade - 3: deformities of bones leading to crippled or bed ridden.

The results also indicate the persistence of high fluoride concentration in ground water, hand pump, tap water and bore - well water are the main sources of drinking water from 3 villages in Amravati dist.

4. Discussion

The mean fluoride content of the drinking water sources of Alangaon, Khurd and Kund was higher than the permissible level of 1 ppm according to WHO.1 Although fluoride levels in the water from the three sources of drinking water ranged from 1.22 to 3.37 mg/l. Earlier studies have indicated that the incidence and severity of chronic fluoride intoxication are greatly influenced by socio - economic, climatic, and nutritional status. The relationship between the levels of fluoride in drinking water and the incidence of dental fluorosis vary from place to place. Enamel mottling at 0.5 ppm and 0.9 - 1.0 ppm fluoride levels has been reported. At 6.0 ppm, 100% prevalence of dental fluorosis has been reported. Choubisa *et al* have observed a prevalence of 25.6% and 84.4% of grade II dental fluorosis in children at fluoride levels of 1.4 ppm and 6.04 ppm, respectively. In our survey report most of the children’s of all these three villages are suffering from dental fluorosis.

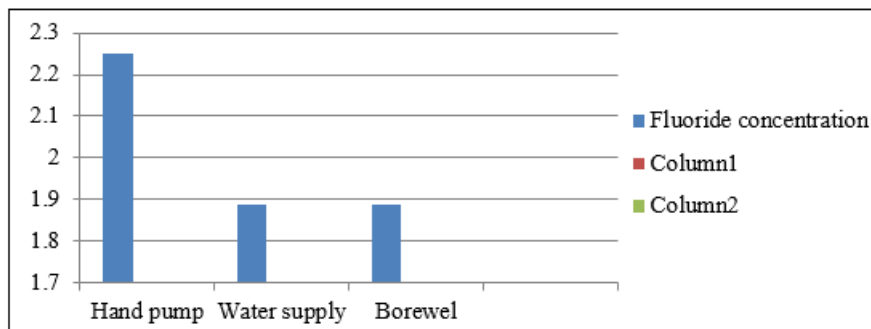
Several workers have reported skeletal and crippling fluorosis at fluoride levels above 1.4 ppm and 3.0 ppm respectively. Here an overall prevalence of skeletal fluorosis with some symptoms are showed among children and old people fluoride level of more than 3.00mg/l was observed. The prevalence of skeletal fluorosis was marginally higher in males than female. Fluoride toxicity affects children more severely and after shorter exposure to fluoride than adults, owing to the greater and faster accumulation of fluoride in the metabolically more active growing bones of children. In the present study, we found the prevalence of fluoride toxicity and associated deformities were showed in the children, low IQ level and skeletal fluorosis in old age people. Some of the adults have visible symptoms of skeletal toxic effects. However, a few of them complained of vague back pain and stiffness.

Fluoride: The % of fluoride in mg/l in STUDY AREA OF different water sources was ranges from 1.18 - 3.02 mg/l.

Result of physiochemical parameters are given in Table 1, 2 and 3

Table 1: ALANGAON

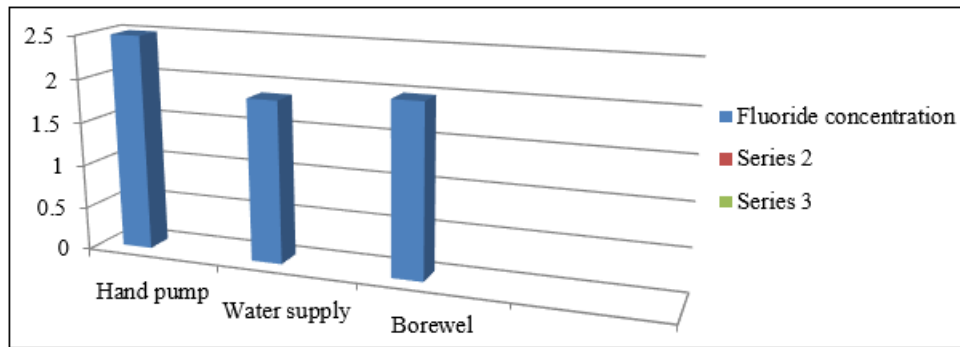
Sr. No.	Parameter	Unit	Requirement (MAX) IS: 105000: 2012	Permissible Limit (MAX) IS: 105000: 2012	Method of Test	Source of Sample		
						Hand Pump Water	Tap Water	Borewell Water
1	P ^H AT 38°C	-	6.9 - 8.3	No Relaxation	IS: 3025 (PART - 11)	8.30	7.34	7.30
2	Temperature	°C	38 - 42	No Rel.	Thermo - metric	36	37	36
3	Total Hardness (AS CaCO ₃)	Mg/l	200	600	IS: 3025 (Part - 21)	700	820	880
4	Fluoride (AS F ⁻)	Mg/l	1.2	1.7	IS: 3025 (Part - 60)	2.25	1.89	1.89



Graph 1: Concentration of fluoride of different sources in the village of Alangaon

Table 2: KUND

Sr. No.	Parameter	Unit	Requirement (MAX) IS: 105000: 2012	Permissible Limit (MAX) IS: 105000: 2012	Method of Test	Source of Sample		
						Hand Pump Water	Tap Water	Borewell Water
1.	P ^H AT 27°C	-	6.5 - 8.5	No Relaxation	IS: 3025 (PART - 11)	8.3	7.53	7.2
2.	Temperature	°C	35 - 44			35	35	36
3.	Total Hardness (AS CaCO ₃)	Mg/l	200	600	IS: 3025 (PART - 21)	690	790	730
4.	Fluoride (AS F ⁻)	Mg/l	1.0	1.5	IS: 3025 (PART - 60)	2.49	1.87	1.98

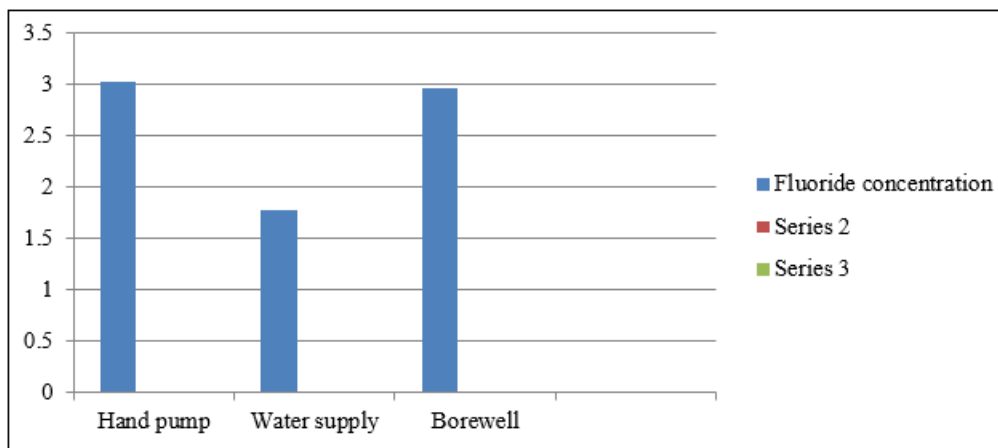


Graph No.2

Concentration of fluoride of different sources in the village of Kund

Table 3: KHURD

S. No.	Parameter	Unit	Requirement (MAX) IS: 105000: 2012	Permissible Limit (MAX) IS: 105000: 2012	Method Of Test	Result		
						Hand Pump Water	Tap Water	Borewell Water
1	P ^H AT 27°C	-	6.9 - 8.5	No Relaxation	IS: 3025 (PART - 11)	8.1	7.50	7.61
2.	Temperature		38 - 44			38	37	39
3.	Total Hardness (AS CaCO ₃)	Mg/l	200	600	IS: 3025 (PART - 21)	630	790	730
4.	Fluoride (AS F ⁻)	Mg/l	1.0	1.5	IS: 3025 (PART - 60)	3.02	1.77	2.96



Graph No. 3

Concentration of fluoride of different sources in the village of Khurd



Plate No.1

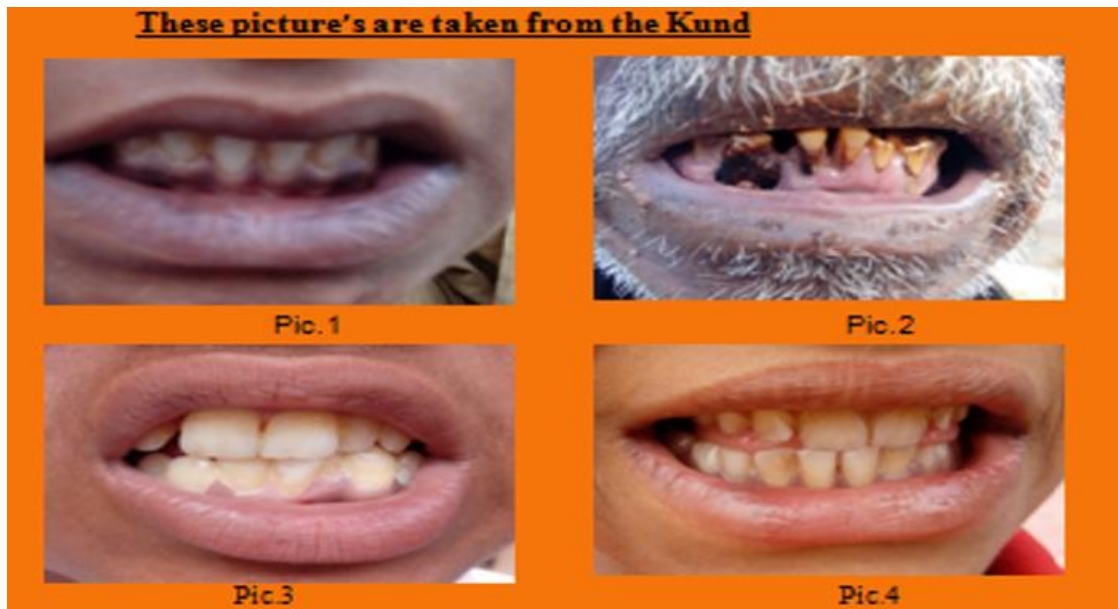


Plate No.2



Plate No.3: Photographs from village Khurd

These picture's are taken from the Alangaon



**PRIMARY
STAGES OF
SKELETAL
FLUOROSIS**

5. Conclusions

In present studied reveals significant concentration of fluoride was observed in drinking water from different sources such as hand pump, tap water and bore - well in study areas. This area was selected for the construction of Dam and all these villages are shifted on other places. If the geographical region are contain high fluoride then in future it may be the water of this reservoir should be fluoridated and its harmful to the population. According to WHO if concentration was more than 1.5mg/l then children's are suffering from dental fluorosis. In addition to typical manifestations of dental and skeletal fluorosis, the photographic pictures of the children's and old age peoples are of these three villages resembles to slandered clinical and radiological picture as an expression of environmental fluoride toxicity. In view of high fluoride content of the bore well, hand pump and tap water was associated with the fluoride toxicity among the children's and old peoples, our team has advised the local administration to provide an alternative drinking water supply.

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