

## SOMAYAG INFLUENCES ON DIFFERENT PARAMETERS OF NARMADA RIVER.

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**ABSTRACT** - 6 day Somayag was held in the Homa Therapy center Maheshwar from 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2011 to 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011. Homa Therapy is based on the Ancient Science of the Vedas. Agnihotra is the basic healing fire of Homa Therapy – it is a simple fire done exactly at the time of sunrise and sunset in a copper pyramid of specified size and shape, accompanied by two simple Sanskrit mantras. There are other Homas, all based on the same Vedic knowledge, and Somayag is one of the most elaborate of these. According to the ancient Science of the Vedas, Agnihotra and Homa Therapy purify our atmosphere, soil, and water resources. The following article describes an attempt to verify this claim of ancient Vedic knowledge with the methods of modern science.

The main emphasis of our present work is to study the influence of Somayag on physiochemical and bacteriological parameters of Narmada River water. The water was collected each day during Somayag from the River just flowing behind the Homa Therapy centre and was kept in a metal vessel inside the Somayag Shala through out the yajnya from morning to evening. After that different tests were performed in Biotechnology department of Shri Umiya Girls College Mandleshwar. The results were very exciting when compared with the control water sample. The pH of tested waters were comparatively high then that of the controlled one. There was a drastic reduction in Water Hardness from 188 mg/ml to 124 mg/ml. The coliform numbers were also seemed to be reduced in the tested sample when compared with the control. The control water has more than 300 coliforms/100 ml whereas the tested water shows only 7.6 coliforms/100 ml. The overall work concluded that the Somayag performed has a positive effect to improve the quality of water.

**KEYWORDS** : Somayag, Agnihotra, Physiochemical Parameters, Bacteriological studies

### INTRODUCTION

Rivers in India, are the lifeline of majority of population in cities, towns and villages located on their banks. Therefore, the river water quality monitoring is most essential aspect of resorting and maintaining the water quality of various designated uses like drinking, bathing, municipal supply, irrigation, fishing and wildlife apart from power generation<sup>1</sup>. The concept of water quality management in India was initiated with the identification of beneficial uses of water in terms of Primary Water Quality Criteria. The pollution levels in rivers have been detected by monitoring physico-chemical parameters. However, with the growing concern for loss of bio-diversity in Indian rivers on account of habitats degradation over the years,

Pollution is the biggest problem. Besides our atmosphere and the soil also all water resources are affected by pollution. We have poisoned our Earth, our seas and rivers and also the air we breathe. We have developed a lifestyle totally contradictory to natural rhythms.

Shree Vasant Paranjpe, a great visionary, took a new initiative for a pollution free future in the name of Homa Therapy following the guidelines given to him by his teacher, Shree Gajanan Maharaj from Akkalkot. Through Homa Therapy he gave the opportunity to think ahead and to proceed thoughtfully during the turbulent period of change. Fivefold Path Mission NGO was formed by Shree V. Paranjpe to teach the practical ways of how people can prepare for this inevitable shift. Fivefold Path Mission, now

headed by Abhay V Paranjpe, educates and works with individuals and organizations across different countries on all continents.

Homa Therapy Centre is situated in Ladvi village of Maheshwar Madhya Pradesh, located at latitude (DMS) 22°10'60"N and longitude (DMS) 75°34'60"E. Homa Therapy centre is famous for many traditional activities such as Agnihotra, Homa Organic farming, Homa Psychotherapy etc. Agnihotra is the basic healing fire of Homa Therapy – it is a simple fire done exactly at the time of sunrise and sunset in a copper pyramid of specified size and shape, accompanied by two simple Sanskrit mantras. There are other Homas, all based on the same Vedic knowledge, and Somayag is one of the most elaborate of these. According to the ancient science of the Vedas, Agnihotra and Homa Therapy purify our atmosphere, soil, and water resources. Agnihotra can neutralize the effect of pollution on plants, animals and human beings and at the same time give nourishment (Johnson and Heschl 2009).

A Committee of Western people had organised six days Somayag in Homa Therapy centre from 2<sup>nd</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The technical term Yajnya denotes a process of removing the toxic conditions of the atmosphere through the agency of fire (Selvaraj et al 2009). The present work is to compare different physiochemical and bacteriological parameters of water kept during the Somayag for different days and that with the control one. **Materials and Methods** Water samples were collected each day during Somayag from Narmada River flowing just behind the

Homa Therapy centre and were kept in a metal vessel inside the Somayag Shala throughout the Yajnya. One sample was kept as a control which was collected and directly brought to the laboratory for different tests. Tested samples were brought on the same day after Yajnya and tested within 24 hrs. All the tests had been carried out in Biotechnology Laboratory of Shri Umiya Girls College Mandleshwar.

Different physiochemical parameters discussed below have been studied by using methods given in APHA (2002) and Welch (2000).

Quantitative Coliform analysis was carried using the MPN method given in APHA (2002)

## RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The physicochemical and bacteriological characteristics of water samples are presented in Table:

Parameter	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Control
pH	6.50	7.92	7.85	8.11	8.01	7.10
Alkalinity Carbonate (mg/lit)	6	4	4	2	4	6
Alkalinity Bicarbonate (mg/lit)	216	48	54	56	50	206
Total Hardness (mg/lit)	172	126	128	121	132	188
Chloride (mg/lit)	1.702	1.561	1.498	0.206	1.842	1.702
Total Solid (mg/ml)	0.198	0.192	0.188	0.206	0.17	0.148
Coliform/ 100 ml (24 hrs)	21	2.6	12	15	7.6	>300

pH gives an ascending variation for the test samples, in which day 0 pH is low as compared to the control one where as day 1 to 5 increases rapidly. Carbonate and Bicarbonate alkalinity also shows a drastic decrease as compared to the control sample. Carbonate concentration decreases from 6 mg/lit to 2 mg/lit whereas Bicarbonate decreases from 206 mg/lit of control to 50 mg/lit in the 4<sup>th</sup> day treated water sample. The treated water samples also gives a drastic lower value of hardness of 132 mg/lit as compared to that of the control one having 188 mg/lit. Chloride value shows variation every day having a high value of 2.050 mg/lit on 3<sup>rd</sup> day. There is increase in the amount of total solid from 0.148 mg/ml to 0.206 mg/ml on 3<sup>rd</sup> day treated water sample. The main effect of Yajnya has been seen in coliform count which decreases to only 7.6 coliform per 100 ml of water which

have been found to be more than 300 in control water sample.

Thus the experiment concludes that the Somayag environment has purified the Narmada River for drinking and other domestic purposes such as cooking and washing clothes, so giving an experimental proof that the Yajnya gives positive effect on the surrounding environment, thus purifying our own environment.

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