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RESEARCH ARTICLE



Exploring the ecosystem health of a tropical Indian estuary using mass-balanced ecosystem model

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Abstract

Estuaries provide life support to aquatic biota and livelihood support to fishermen and local inhabitants. However, the ecosystem function of estuaries is impaired due to anthropogenic stressors and hence, the assessment of ecosystem health using ecological indicators will deliver the status of stability, maturity, and integrity of an estuary. In this paper, we compiled comprehensive ecological data into an Ecopath model from 2018 to 2019 for a tropical Indian estuary, Mandovi (ME) located along the western coast of India. The functional groups (22) identified in the food web ranged from primary producers (trophic level (TL)=1) to dolphins (TL 4.4). The indices: biomass/total system throughput (0.01), primary production/respiration (11.04), and primary production/ biomass (35.7) showed that the estuary is a developing ecosystem far from maturity. The ME food web is an immature, complex and organized trophic network with a medium rate of recycling (Finn's Cycling Index = 9.75%), high total system throughput (17,132.33 tons km⁻² year⁻¹), low ascendency (19,610 tons km⁻² year⁻¹), high relative ascendency (47.8%), moderate connectance (0.36), and omnivory indices (0.26). The health indices: eco-exergy index (21,471.33 gm detritus equivalent m⁻²) and system robustness (0.153) showed that the ecosystem is immature but resilient to unexpected perturbations in the ecosystem. The ecological indicators were compared with other global estuaries, and the environmental indices were developed for the ME. Based on the ecological indices, the estuarine system is immature, moderately developed, and not well organized in terms of its ecological components. The study also indicates that an ecological approach would be more appropriate and essential in analyzing tropical transitional waters' health and sustainability.

Keywords Eco-exergy · Ecopath model · Ecosystem health · Robustness · Tropical estuary · Trophic organization

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Introduction

Estuaries are essential to coastal livelihoods and possess ecological, biological, environmental, cultural, educational, and socio-economic values (Costanza et al. 1997). Estuarine ecosystems, which are transitional, highly productive, and diverse, help aquatic species by assimilating nutrients, diversifying habitats, maintaining biodiversity, and serving as a nursery, a source of food, and a shelter. Estuaries also help in carbon sequestration and flood and storm surge control (Costanza et al. 1997) and support a variety of fisheries of high economic value—making them the most threatened ecosystems on earth (Beck et al. 2001; Selleslagh et al. 2009). The quantification of materials, biomass, or energy flow through various ecological compartments and energy efficiency in the ecosystem's assimilation, transfer, and dissipation offers crucial insights into its structure and functioning (Christensen et al. 2005). Therefore, analyzing 46 Page 10 of 19 S. G. Bhavan et al.

Table 2 Basic parameters of the mass-balanced trophic model for Mandovi estuary (Biomass in t km⁻² year⁻¹)

Groups	Trophic level	Biomass	P/B	Q/B	EE	P/Q	KSI	RTI
Dolphins	4.51	0.005	0.04	13.2	0.06	0	- 0.8	0.2
Birds	4.46	0.004	0.08	20.1	0.09	0	- 0.1	0.7
Large pelagics	4.22	0.016	2.1	6.9	0.71	0.3	-0.9	0.1
Large benthic carnivores	4.11	0.014	4.9	14	0.73	0.35	-0.5	0.6
Cephalopods	3.85	0.51	3.9	11.5	0.53	0.34	- 0.5	0.5
Bentho-pelagics	3.82	0.23	2.9	8.3	0.69	0.35	-0.2	0.8
Piscivores	3.82	0.25	2.3	7.6	0.58	0.3	-0.3	0.6
Medium benthic carnivores	3.79	0.27	3.8	10.6	0.74	0.36	-0.3	0.7
Rays and skates	3.73	0.002	1.7	7.1	0.73	0.24	-2.4	0
Small benthic carnivores	3.31	0.3	4.1	19.1	0.81	0.21	-0.3	0.9
Crabs	3.01	0.58	7.2	23.3	0.62	0.31	-0.5	0.7
Jellyfish	2.96	1.22	4.86	21.4	0.41	0.23	-0.6	0.3
Shrimps	2.71	1.34	6.8	20.6	0.79	0.33	-0.3	0.7
Benthic omnivores	2.65	7.1	3.2	12.5	0.53	0.26	-0.4	0.8
Clupeids and anchovies	2.44	4.1	7.3	22.4	0.85	0.33	-0.2	0.9
Heterotrophic benthos	2.38	18.6	3.4	12.7	0.63	0.27	-0.4	0.8
Mackerel	2.21	0.41	6.4	19.6	0.46	0.33	-0.8	0.2
Sessile benthos	2.15	18.1	7.3	32.8	0.91	0.22	-0.2	0.7
Zooplankton	2.08	5.1	23.5	83.2	0.88	0.28	-0.3	0.8
Benthic producers	1	103.2	11.2		0.09		- 1.2	0.2
Phytoplankton	1	63.7	91.62		0.22		- 0.1	0.8
Detritus	1	480			0.09			

P/B production/biomass, Q/B consumption/biomass, EE ecotrophic efficiency, P/Q production/consumption, KSI keystone species index, RTI relative total impact

benthos (0.83), bentho-pelagic (0.82), benthic omnivores (0.82), phytoplankton (0.81), and zooplankton (0.81) had the highest relative total impact (RTI) (Table 2). Considering the MTI and RTI values, these groups, thus, emerged as the keystone groups in the ME, forming the major links in transferring energy from the base trophic levels to the higher levels.

Ecosystem properties and indicators

In the ME, the net primary production (7920 t km⁻² year⁻¹) was high enough to support rich biomass of medium trophic levels such as zooplankton, pelagic fish (clupeids and anchovies), small benthic carnivores, benthic omnivores, and heterotrophic benthos, which indicated a bottom-up control in the food web. Higher net primary production (t km⁻² year⁻¹) is recorded from other tropical estuaries in India—Vellar, 12,300; Hooghly-Matlah, 9160; and Zuari, 10,162 and also from other estuaries around the world: Río de la Plata, 20 810; Sine-Saloum, 11 815; the Seine, 7680 (Rybarczyk and Elkaïm 2003); and Cameroon, 7105. However, the value was low (4959) in Ulhas estuary, India (Lal et al. 2021).

Diversity and biomass of benthos groups are also considered indicators of estuarine health (Sivadas et al. 2011,

2016; Gaonkar et al. 2013; Ingole et al. 2014). The diverse benthic groups (heterotrophic benthos, small benthic carnivores, benthic omnivores), provide food sources for most of the benthic carnivorous groups. Small benthic carnivores and benthic omnivores form the major secondary consumer groups, carrying energy from base groups to top benthic predators (Mohamed et al. 2008; Sreekanth et al. 2020a). Therefore, the benthos compartments provide a significant link between detritus and benthic carnivores or omnivores (Ingole et al. 2014).

Ecosystem maturity and stability

The primary ecosystem statistics of EwE and ENA indices cover all the attributes of the ME ecosystem (Table 3). The total system throughput, ascendency, relative ascendency, and FCI are the indices of an ecosystem related to its degree of maturity (Odum 1971). Total system throughput is the sum of consumption (SC), exports (SE), respiration (SR), and flows to detritus (SFD). For ME, the flows to detritus (46%) and exports (42%) seem to be the significant contributors to the TST—as they were in the Zuari estuary (SFD, 43% and SE, 38%) and indeed in most of the tropical, subtropical, and temperate estuaries. System size seems to



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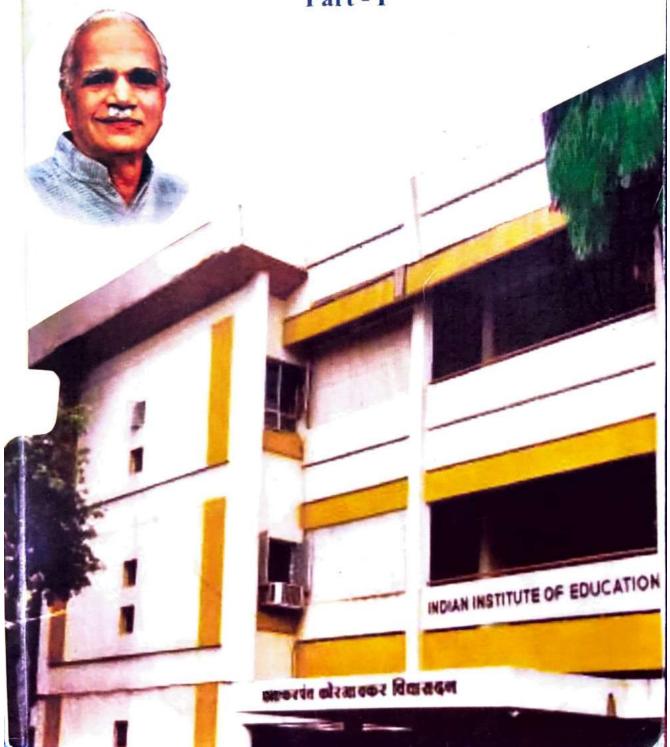
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Spatial Analysis A New Research Methodology in Spatial An Application in the Study of Women's Empowerment in India

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This paper has taken an attempt to conduct a spatial analysis of empowerment This paper has a spatial analysis of empowerment of the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports, and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian women using state level spatial data generated from NFHS-4 reports and the Indian w of the Indian serious computed a women's empowerment index for each state 2015-16. This study computed a windicators found in NFHS reason. 2015-10 Lines and the state are; considering geometric mean of six indicators found in NFHS report. These are; considering geometric mean having decision making power in the formula to the state are; considering Economic Momen having decision making power in the family, labour the percentage of women having necessary percentage of women having abour the percentage of the women, percentage of women having physical force participation rate of the women women having physical force participated house, etc., percentage of women having own bank account, asset like land, house, having own mobile, and percentage of asset like tand, momen having own mobile, and percentage of women using percentage of women having menstrual period. We start with a continuation method during menstrual period. percentage of women using hypercentage of women using hypercented during menstrual period. We start with a spatial exploratory hypercented box map give the signal of spatial pattern. hyperic means box map give the signal of spatial pattern of women's analysis using box map give the signal of spatial pattern of women's analysis using box map give the Signal of Spatial pattern of women's analysis using pattern of women's I statistic value suggests that empowerment of the Indian states. Global Moran's I statistic value suggests that empowering and spatial autocorrelation for the variable state level women's there is significant spatial autocorrelation for the variable state level women's there is significant index across the Indian states. Local Moran'I analysis using Local empowerment index across the Indian states. Local Moran'I analysis using Local empowerment index across the Indian states. empowerment analysis using Local Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA) map suggests the presence of significant Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA) map suggests the presence of significant Indicators of several regions in India in respect of women's empowerment

el Keywords: LISA cluster map, Moran's I statistic, Spatial Analysis, Women's Empowerment

In capability approach, empowering women is an important Introduction component of the process of inclusive development. Literally, empowerment means giving power to powerless in a particular situation. In UNDP Human Development Report, 1995, women's empowerment has been defined as the expansion of choices for women and an increase in the women's ability to exercise choices. Empowerment is the power of decision making i.e. autonomy (Jejeebhoy, 1995). Alsop, et al. (2005) state that empowerment is the enhancing an individual's or group's capacity to make choices and transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.

Existing literature has explored empowerment of women as a multidimensional aspect which has many indicators and socio-economic and demographic determinants. It has some developmental outcomesthrough improving income, child education, health and

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affects the empowerment level of women of it affects the empowerment. This study has tried to analysed in the literature. This study has tried to meet the happiness. However, how the empowerment level of no

degree of empowerment. The degree of empowerment definitely make identification of the linkage between women's empowered advocacy of women's empowerment. They have recognized was degree of empowerment considering several dimensions of women is important. Different studies have measure empowerment in different ways. Some studies (See, 1999) al. 2002, Sridevi, 2005. Dutta, 2017) have attempted to the development outcomes is the main contribution of the instrument In order to assess the impact of women's empower personal and social welfare which in turn enhances empone understand the determinants of it quantification of the

covariates cannot be considered for analysis and after all this is not as purpose. Against this back drop we have set two objectives as fall. cash transfer programs etc. In this state level cross-section say First, this study explore the position of the Indian states in resp women's empowerment. We find that education, income empire kvel urbanisation, different government programs like micro There are several studies which have explored the deter-

and nature of spetial autocorrelation of women's empowerment among the level of women's empowerment. We thus compute a comprehe Second, an attempt has been taken to exude the spatial disuries index of state level women's empowerment index for each state

Methodology and data

Women's empowerment Index

State level Women's Empowerment Index (SWEI) for each state has been computed using six state level indicators mentioned by National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) report, 2015-16. These are the percentage of women having decision making power in the family, labor force participation rate of the women, percentage of women having physical asset like land, house, etc., percentage of women having own bank account, percentage of women having own mobile, and percentage of women using hygienic method during menstrual period SWEI has been constructed calculating the geometric mean of the selected

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Now map with hinge of 1.5 has been plotted for Separations of SWEI has been analysed conducting Chase, it considers neighbour those that have see including both common boundaries and common a local pattern of association sters across the spatial units. In order to explore the when the spatial distribution of women's empowerment spatial autocorrelation test by using Moran's index respect of SWEI we compute the local Moran's green rate based on the state level scale map of India such contiguity weight matrix has been computed. sixylation Analysis

The Local Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA) state for the variables for computing state level women's and urbanization rate have been collected from the , Health Survey (NFHS) report-4, 2015-16. We have used A basic shapefile is a non-topological format for storing in a points, lines, or polygons. Using the software the Indian state boundaries from a repository developed green and the geometric location. Geographic locations in a The excel data file containing state level variables Superior of the start of the NFHS and reports.

we describe the basic information regarding the indicators of ery empowement and the urbanisation. Table 1 displays that of ever married women take part in the the state of women in average 40 per cent of women in and the state own physical assets like land, house etc. However, there is year sates use their own mobile phone. However, only one fourth of in an average 54 percentage women of Indian states holds are tecount with lowest disparity among disparities of the indicators warren's empowerment. More than half of the ever married women sensement across the states in respect of physical asset holding by be worden in Indian states participate in workforce with wide disparity megine states. Therefore, women's workforce participation has low real and high variance. In respect of this indicators Indian women are Frances and Discussion 2) as empowered.

space the ever married women two third of the women in the states are present practices during menstrual periods with a high variation Therefore, values of the indicators of state level women's

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indicators as state level women's empowerment index. The description of the description o statistics of the state level women's empowerment indicate. empowerment of the women of the states in average is low (0.48) were the states from 0.35(Bihar) to 0.60.48 should, therefore, re-examine the effectiveness of the existing policy women's empowerment. In literature, the spatial distribution and autocorrelation of women's empowerment in Indian states has not be empowerment this study has considered the geometric means are more remaindered. women's empowerment. It also indicates the partial failure of the exim or find out other factors behind the low mean and moderate variance explored yet. This study has been designed for exploring the span disparity. In order to address the influence of this disparity has considered the geometric in the second transmitters. we have to traverse a long journey for achieving the state of comments of the partial failure. policies and programs for empowering women in Indian states varies widely across the states from 0.35(Bihar) to 0.60 (Manipu) empowerment except decision making power in household

distribution, autocorrelation of the empowerment of women of a state Table 1: Description of the Indicators and Women's Empowerment Index (N=29)

Variable in percentage	Mean	Mean Median Std Dev Cv	n Std De	12
women having household decision		161		5
making power	87.31		89.1 6.01 6.89	68.9
women who own asset either in terms				00.0
of land or house	39.83	35.2	35.2 147 360	36.0
women holding bank account	54.6	56.6	56.6 12.5 22.89	22 80
women having access to mobile	53.07	47.9	47.9 15.58 2935	29 35
workforce participation rate for women	24.97	22.8	8 85	8 85 35 44
women who have hygienic practices during menstrual periods	60.99	67.5	67.5 17.55 26.55	26.55
State level Women's Empowerment Index 0.48	x 0.48	0.47	0.47 0.06 12.5	12.5
Population residing in Urban area	34.54	32.2 13.31 38.52	13 31	38 52

Source: Authors' computation based on secondary data

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Chattisgarh and Assam belong The box map shows that seven states namely Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, to lower quartile of the distribution of women's empowerment. The box map shows that there is a geographical connection among the states such that state with low level of empowerment is surrounded by a state with low level of empowerment. Thus the spatial exploratory study using box map indicates the possibility of spatial cluster of the states in respect of women's empowerment.

Highly I Box map for the State Level Women's Empowerment index in 2015-16



The explorations spatial analysis using box map displays the presence The set of women's empowerment. In order to of spatial cluster in respect of women's empowerment. In order to women's empowerment. The results of satisfic for the spatial data of women's empowerment. The results of of spanie the statistical significance of the spatial clusters for state level Committee the have computed global Moran's I (GMI) tations of satisfied autocorrelation analysis, the GMIis found 0.382 with pseudo he strate indicate that spatial clustering for State Level Women's mpowerment Index (SWEI) in India is statistically significant. Southers own interpretation using GeoDa software

mounter to further explore the cluster type of SWEI, we have and a local autocorrelation analysis for SWEI and found a LISA Juster stgnisticance map depicted in figure 4. Figure 4 shows that that ments and low-low, among which high-high type is mainly distributed in the significant spatial clusters of SWEI are mainly of two types: highagneric India, particularly Karnataka. The low-low types are mainly uppulence of the Indian states in respect of the state Level Women's cated in north eastern regions, such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, war and Jharkhand. This analysis suggest that the significant spatial apowerment Index. In order to gauge the spatial dependence of the also we have to move on the spatial regression analysis.

Source: Author's own interpretation from spatial data of Indian states using G

Concluding Remarks

GMI statistics indicating the presence of spatial autocorrelation for the SWEI. In other words it confirms the presence of spatial cluster of the empowerment level of states accelerate the women's empowerment of the neighbor state in India. So far, the study has a limitation such that it box map shows that women's empowerment level of the states are no women's empowerment. This observation has been confirmed by the women's empowerment level. The LMI analysis using LISA cluster map shows locations of the significant spatial clusters of women's empowerment. Our systematic analysis reveals that higher the women's is based on small sample for the year 2015-16. This limitation restricts income, castes etc. one can overcome this limitation considering the us to include more covariates of women's empowerment live education, The study has taken an attempt to explore the new dimension of sa a comprehensive index of women's empowerment of the Indian state have been computed using a standard methodology and explore to spatially complete random, there is a prominent spatial pattern of panel data analysis of more than one round data of NFHS in India for analysis of women's empowerment. Using the state level secondary the position of the states in respect of women's empowerment. The spain distribution of the state level women's empowerment index presented

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Protective Potential of Vitamin C and E against Organophosphate Toxicity: Current Status and Perspective

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Abstract

Pesticides are an integral part of our daily life, used in agricultural fields, store rooms, residences and educational institutions to kill or repel pests. Several chemical subtypes of these compounds are available, of which organophosphate (OP) is major one. These are broad spectrum pesticides used to kill insect pests. OPs are useful but indeed they are most frequent reasons of pesticide poisoning across the globe. OP inhibits acetylcholinesterase activities that results in continuous hyper-excitable state of nicotinic and muscarinic receptors at neuromuscular junctions. Intentional or unintentional exposure to OPs causes abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, muscular weakness, dementia, Central Nervous System (CNS) dysfunction and even death. Besides acetylcholinesterase inhibition, OPs are also known to trigger ROS generation within the cellular machinery which results in Oxidative Stress (OS). Free Radicals (FRs) are neutralized by antioxidant-defense system of the body. Vitamin C and vitamin E are the major exogenous antioxidants that scavenge a large amount of free radicals by donating their own electrons to FRs. This phenomenon reduces ROS and hence, OS is prevented. Therefore, vitamin C and E can be considered for daily dietary intake which might be providing prophylactic advantage against OP induced OS and pathophysiology in human beings.

Keywords: Ascorbic Acid, Organophosphates, Oxidative Stress, ROS, Tocopherol

1. Introduction

Our environment is full of various ubiquitous stressors such as UV radiation, pathogens, allergens, and different chemical pollutants. Pesticides are among the major chemical pollutants that have become an integral part of the ecosystem and affect mammals along with other non-target organisms. These are formulated to kill or repel pests to reduce economic loss^{1,2}. These chemicals are in one way beneficial in increasing crop production through crop protection and reduction in need for man-power in farms and store houses. But, increasing rate of pesticide resistance due to frequent usage creates an open

competition among the manufacturers to synthesize more effective and potent pesticides which might have greater side effects on human and other living creatures. Pesticide exposure has emerged as a global public health issue because of their wide-spread application, unintentional exposure, and release into environment^{3,4}. Such chemicals are known to cause environmental pollution that exerts human health-issues resulting from acute and chronic exposure. Approximately among the 3 million cases of pesticide poisoning reported every year across the world, more than 250,000 deaths occur as per reports of World Health Organization⁵. The high rate of pesticide poisoning might be due to irrational use, little or

no knowledge about the side effects and, most importantly lack of adequate safety information on the pesticide packages⁶. Despite of such a high number of death cases, there is still a huge demand of these chemicals around the world.

Majority of pesticides belongs to four categories such as organochlorine, Organophosphates (OPs), pyrethroids, and carbamates. Organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) are synthetic organic compounds widely used all over the world. These agents are categorized under Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and composed of carbon, hydrogen, and chlorine atoms. OCPs bind to neuronal sodium channels to increase their permeability for sodium ions. This increased permeability facilitates uncoordinated discharge of neurons which harms central nervous system of target pests. Common OCPs used in India and other developing countries like China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh include Aldrin, Dieldrin, Chlordane, DDT, Diazion, Endosulfan, Lindane, and Methoxychlor. OCPs are used to control soil insects such as termites, rice water weevil, wireworms, corn rootworm, and grasshoppers. OP Pesticides are synthetic pesticides actively released into environment. These compounds are esters of phosphoric acid or thiophosphoric acid and works by inhibiting Acetylcholine Esterase (AChE) in synaptic sites of central and peripheral nervous system. This leads to accumulation of acetylcholine at synaptic junctions of neurons resulting in hyperexcitability of nerve fibers followed by paralysis and death of target pests. Acephate, Chlorpyrifos, Parathion, Malathion, Dichlorvos, Diazinon, and Tetrachlorvinphos are popular OP pesticides in developing countries of South Asia. OP pesticides are applied to control pests like fire ants, saw flies, caterpillars, termites, aphids, and leaf miners. Pyrethroids are organic compounds similar to the natural insecticide Pyrethrin produced from the flowers of pyrethrums (Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium and C. coccineum). Pyrethroids prevent closure of the voltage gated sodium channels in the axonal membranes. This leads to permanent depolarization of axonal membrane and paralysis of the target animal. Common Pyrethroids include Cypermethrin, Permethrin, Deltamethrin, and Bifenthrin. These pesticides are used to control cockroaches, fleas, and termites in houses and other buildings. Carbamates are the N-methyl Carbamates derived from Carbamic acid (NH₂COOH). They cause carbamylation of AChE at neuronal synapses and neuromuscular junctions. Carbamates reversibly bind with AChE at synaptic region leading to paralysis and death of the target pests Aldicarb, Methomyl, Carbofuran, Trimethacarb, Carbaryl, Oxamyl, Ethienocarb, Propoxur, and Fenobucarb are common agents under this category. Carbamates are effective against aphids, thrips, lygus, mites, nematodes, fleahoppers, leafminers, and spiders.

OPs are commonly used pesticides as well as phosphoric acid derivatives of amides, esters, or thiol groups. These chemicals are extensively used in horticulture, agriculture, veterinarymedicine, forestry, and also for the control of some vector-borne diseases. OPs like malathion is frequently used to control ticks and mites7. In agricultural-sector, OPs are extensively implicated in eradication of pests including locusts, aphids, leaf-miners, fire-ants, thrips, and caterpillars. These pesticides augment both quantity and quality of agricultural-products8. namely tris-(2-chloro,1-methyl-ethyl)-phosphate, OPs tris-(2-chloroethyl)-phosphate, tri-n-butylphosphate, tri-iso-butylphosphate, triphenylphosphate and (butoxyethyl)-phosphate are admired flame-retardants and plasticisers at public places9. Due to massive use of OP chemicals, their residues have been detected in drinkingwater, grains, vegetables, fruits, soft-drinks, and other food items and hence, it provokes a global health concern¹⁰. OPs are cholinesterase inhibitors and known to amplify free radical generation and therefore sub-cellular Oxidative Stress (OS). OS is involved in onset of a number of diseases like atherosclerosis, inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular maladies, neurological disorders, and others. Therefore, the community should work to minimize the usage of harmful pesticides including OPs, at the same time their side effects to restrict adverse impacts on human health.

Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) and vitamin E (alpha-tocopherol) are the major exogenous antioxidants that scavenge a large amount of free radicals by donating their own electrons to FRs11. This phenomenon reduces Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) and hence, OS is prevented. Therefore, vitamin C and E can be considered for daily dietary intake which might be providing prophylactic advantage against OP induced OS and pathophysiology in human beings.

The present literature aims to present the OP induced health hazards in human and other animals along with a discussion on protective potential of vitamin C and vitamin E in it.

2. OP Pesticides

OP pesticides were introduced by German scientists in 1938 and have been used as nerve poisons and chemical weapon during World War II12. At present, they are available commercially worldwide for domestic and industrial use^{13,14}. Nearly half of all insecticides used in the world belong to OP category and hence they pose a greater risk of threat on health of humans¹⁵. Human may be exposed to OP pesticides through inhalation, ingestion or skin contact¹⁶. OP toxicity is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in most of developing

Figure 2. Vitamin E as a chain breaker during lipid peroxidation. Free radical like 'OH attacks polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) of biological membranes and generates lipid alkoxy radical (LO') or lipid peroxyl radicals (LOO') which initiate a chain reaction that damages adjacent membrane-bound PUFA. Vitamin E neutralizes LO• and LOO• thereby terminating the chain reaction.

Ascorbate radical

$$HO$$
 CH_3
 CH_3

Figure 3. Regeneration of vitamin E (α-Tocopherol). Ascorbate through de-protonation converts vitamin E radical into its more stable configuration i.e., α-tocopherol. Upon loss of one electron, 'Asc changes into dehydroascorbate which is stable.

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समीरणः रायः

काव्यस्य साहित्यस्य वा मूलभूते प्रयोजने द्वे, अलीकिकानन्दानुभूतिः शिक्षाच।मनुष्याणां सर्वतः उन्नतेः प्रयत्नस्य पूर्णप्रतिफलनं संस्कृतसाहित्ये परिलक्ष्यते। प्राचीनभारतीयसभ्यतायाः संस्कृतेश्च समुन्नायको वेदवेदाङ्गादिः शास्त्रम्। मनुष्यजीवनस्य उत्कर्षः अपकर्षश्च एतेषां शास्त्राणामुपिर आधारितः। अस्मिन् मनुष्यजीवने केन सह कीदृशः व्यवहारः काङ्क्षितः, किं कर्तव्यम्, केमकर्तव्यम्, कः सन्मार्गः, कण्टकाकीर्णः मार्गः कः, कस्मात् आदर्शजीवनस्य प्राप्तिर्भवति – एतेषां प्रश्नानां निश्चितं निराकरणमस्ति नीतिशास्त्रे। कविना भर्तृहरिणापि शतकत्रये स्फुटतया अनुरूपः प्रयासः क्रियते। शतकत्रयान्तर्गतः शृङ्गारशतकं व्यक्तिजीवनेन सह, वैराग्यशतकं परमार्थजीवनेन सह तथा नीतिशतकं सामाजिकजीवनेन सह सम्बन्धयुक्तम्। शतकत्रयं मूलतः सत्य-शिव-सुन्दरतत्त्वं समन्वितम्। संस्कृतवाङ्मये शुक्र-विदुर-चाणक्य-भर्तृहरिप्रणीतेषु नीतिग्रन्थेषु भर्तृहरेः नीतिशतकस्य विशिष्टमेकं स्थानं वर्तते। अपूर्वेऽस्मिन् नीतिग्रन्थे कविना संसारस्य व्यवहारिकजीवनस्य सकलगूढं महत्त्वपूर्णं च विषयं चित्रितम्। नीतिशतके मनुस्मृतिः इव शिक्षा, महाभारतिमव उपदेशः, पुराणिमव रसास्वादनम्, दर्शनशास्त्रमिव तर्कयुक्तिः उपलभ्यते। मानवकल्याणे नीतिशतकोक्तनैतिकशिक्षायाः माहात्स्यमस्य शोधप्रबन्धस्य आलोच्यविषयः।

नी(प्रापणे/नये) धातोः उत्तर क्तिन् प्रत्यययोगे नीतिः शब्दो निष्पद्यते। कोशकारगणः विभिन्नेषु अर्थेषु शब्दस्यास्य प्रयोगं कृतवान्। यथा – निर्देशनम्, दिग्दर्शनम्, प्रबन्धः, आचारः, आचरणम्, आचारशास्त्रम्, व्यवहारः, कार्यक्रमः, औचित्यम्, नीतिकौशलम्, नीतिशास्त्रम्, शालीनता, बृद्धिमत्ता, योजना, उपायः, कृटनीतिः, राजनयः, अवाप्तिः, अधिग्रहणिमत्यादयः। अतएव सकलप्रयोजनस्य सिद्धिदातृ एव नीतिशास्त्रम्। उच्यते च – "सर्वस्य लोचनं शास्त्रं नीतिविद्यां ददाति च।" नीतिशास्त्रस्य व्यवहारात् ऋते संसारस्य कोऽपि मनुष्यः सुखपूर्वकं जीवनयापियतुं समर्थो न भवति। नीत्याश्रयेण नराः सांसारिकसमस्यायाः समाधानं कर्तुं शक्नुवन्ति। नीतिवेत्ता व्यक्तिः किटनतरकार्यमपि अनायासेनैव सम्पादयित, परन्तु नीतिहीनव्यक्तिः न कदापि साफल्यम् आप्नोति। अस्मिन् प्रसङ्गे महाकविकालिदासस्य रघुवंशमहाकाव्यस्य उक्तिः स्मरणीया – "काले खलु समारब्याः फलं बध्नन्ति नीतयः।" (१२,६९) नीतिशतकं मुक्तकश्रेण्याः शतककाव्यम्। नामकरणानुसारेण अस्य शतसंख्यकश्लोकं काङ्क्षितं परन्तु अपरापरं शतककाव्यमिव अस्य ग्रन्थस्यापि श्लोकसंख्याविषये मतभेदं परिदृश्यते। नीतिशतकस्य प्रणेता सप्तमशतकस्य महाकविः

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Synergistic action of organophosphates and COVID-19 on inflammation, oxidative stress, and renin-angiotensin system can amplify the risk of cardiovascular maladies

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ABSTRACT

Organophosphates (OPs) are ubiquitous environmental contaminants, widely used as pesticides in agricultural fields. In addition, they serve as flame-retardants, plasticizers, antifoaming or antiwear agents in lacquers, hydraulic fluids, and floor polishing agents. Therefore, world-wide and massive application of these compounds have increased the risk of unintentional exposure to non-targets including the human beings. OPs are neurotoxic agents as they inhibit the activity of acetylcholinesterase at synaptic cleft. Moreover, they can fuel cardiovascular issues in the form of myocardities, cardiac oedema, arrhythmia, systolic malfunction, infarction, and altered electrophysiology. Such pathological outcomes might increase the severity of cardiovascular diseases which are the leading cause of mortality in the developing world. Coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) is the ongoing global health emergency caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection. Similar to OPs, SARS-CoV-2 disrupts cytokine homeostasis, redox-balance, and angiotensin-II/AT₁R axis to promote cardiovascular injuries. Therefore, during the current pandemic milieu, unintentional exposure to OPs through several environmental sources could escalate cardiac maladies in patients with COVID-19.

1. Introduction

Scientists and health workers across the world are racing together to halt the recent COVID-19 pandemic triggered by SARS-CoV-2 infection. The disease was first detected in Wuhan province of China in December 2019 and rapidly extended to 213 countries. There have been 611,421,786 confirmed cases with 6,512,438 casualties as of 23rd September 2022 (https://covid19.who.int/). Potent vaccines have been developed by different laboratories and the vaccination program is still continuing in several countries. However, it is to be noted that, vaccines usually does not provide 100% protection from re-infection. Therefore even after vaccination, people have to be serious about COVID-19 and need to follow the proper guidelines released by World Health

Organization and local governing bodies to minimize the risk of reinfection. Unfortunately, many European, African, and Asian countries are suffering from subsequent waves of COVID-19 due to emergence of new variants of the virus. The B.1.1.7 (Alpha), B.1.351 (Beta), P.1 (Gamma), B.1.427 (Epsilon), B.1.429 (Epsilon), and B.1.617.2 (Delta) variants detected in many countries are classified as variants of concern. These variants are unusually divergent, each possessing a unique constellation of mutations of potential biological importance and hence can evade the immune barrier developed from a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection.

In majority of cases, virions entering through naso-oral opening first colonize broncho-pulmonary epithelium and fuel necroinflammation-mediated pulmonary ailments (Rajak et al., 2021a). From lungs,

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^{*} Corresponding author.

 ${\bf Table~3} \\ {\bf Organophosphate~exposure~and~symptoms~of~cardiovas cular~ailments~in~human.}$

organiophiosphiate exposure and symptoms or cardiovascular annicitis in minian.	onns or cardiovascura	difficiles in manian.			
Organophosphate compound	Type and location of study	Type of exposure	Number of individuals studied	Signs of cardiotoxicity	References
Phorate	Case report; India	Accidental exposure	01	Abnormal ECG with sinus tachycardia, non-specific ST-T wave changes and a corrected OTc interval of 430-500 msec; elevated levels of Creatine kinase-MB and troponin I.	Muthu et al., 2014
Chlorpyrifos, dichlorvos, Methylparathion, Dimethoate, Profenfos. Chlorpyrifos, Triazos	Hospital-based cross-sectional study: Nepal	Acute exposure	115	Patients diagnosed with sinus tachycardia (49.6%), Hypertension (20%), ECG abnormalities (18.26%), ventricular extrasystole (12.2%) and ventricular fibrillation (0.3%).	Laudari et al., 2014
Mevinphos, Parathion, Phosphamidon, Parathion, Malathion, Tamaron, Diazinon	Clinical study, Israel	Acute exposure	15	Altered ECG (Q-T prolongation) and malignant tachyarrhythmias.	Ludomirsky et al., 1982
Parathion	Case report, India	Acute exposure	01	Patient detected with sinus bradycardia, left ventricular failure and elevated level of troponin I.	Joshi et al., 2013
Dichlorvos, parathion, methamidophos, phoxim etc.	Clinical study, China	Acute exposure	86	52% of patients with acute myocardial injury as evidenced by elevated levels of troponin I, creatine kinase-Mb and N-terminal pro B-type natritretic peptide.	Chen et al., 2019
Chloropyrifos, dichlorvos, diazinon, parathion, methidathion, phenothoate etc	Clinical study, Republic of Korea	Acute exposure	66	11.1% patients experienced abnormal ECG (fluctuation in ST); 34.3% of patients with detectable troponin I levels.	Cha et al., 2014
Not specified	Case report, India	Accidental exposure	01	ECG revealed atrial fibrillation.	Maheshwari and Chaudhary, 2017
Not specified	Cross-sectional study, India	Acute exposure	107	Patients detected with prolonged Q-Tc (62.6%), sinus tachycardia (33.6%), elevated ST segment (25.2%), inverted T wave (19.6%) and first degree heart block (8.4%) as well as atrial fibrillation (4.6%).	Paul and Bhattacharyya, 2012
Not specified	Clinical study, Egypt	Acute exposure	46	Elevated levels of serum creatinine kinase and cardiac trophonin I; abnormal ECG with sinus tachycardia ((34.78%) and sinus bradycardia ((19.56%); prolonged QTc ((32.61%) and PR (8.70%) intervals: elevated ST seement (15.22%).	Kharoub and Elsharkawy, 2008
Not specified	Clinical study, Iran	Occupational (71 patients), suicidal (26 patients) and accidental (3 patients) exposure	100	63% of patients presented abnormal ECG with Sinus tachycardia (31%), non-specific ST-T changes (24%) and atrioventricular arrhythmia.	Taromsari et al., 2013
Not specified	Case report, USA	Acute exposure	01	Patient experienced sinus bradycardia, A-V dissociation, idioventricular rhythms, multiform ventricular extrasystoles, and prolongation of the PR, QRS, and QT intervals. Polymorphic ventricular tachycardia was also detected.	Brill et al., 1984
Parathion	Case report, Turkey	Acute exposure	01	Elevated levels of cardiac injury markers (Troponin I, creatine kinase-Mb); alerted ECG demonstrating ST-segment elevation and AVF derivations accompanied by ST horizontal depression in DI-AVL leads.	Karasu-Minareci et al., 2012
Methyl-parathion; Propoxur; Sichlorvos; Monocrotophos; Malathion; Dichlorovos	Clinical study, Nepal	Acute exposure	37	Patients established electrocardiographical abnormalities (37.8%); sinus tachycardia (40.5%); sinus bradycardia (18.9%); hypertension (13.5%) and hypotension (10.8%)	Karki et al., 2004
Parathion	Case report, India	Acute exposure	01	Myocardial infarction	Kidiyoor et al., 2009

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Zooplankton community of Bakreswar reservoir: Assessment and visualization of distribution pattern using self-organizing maps

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ABSTRACT

Self-organizing maps, otherwise known as Kohonen-maps, are one form of unsupervised artificial neural networks that can produce two-dimensional plots from multidimensional data. This tool is especially useful in community pattern analyses and has been previously used in spatial pattern analysis with different perspectives. The present study aims to find zooplankton's community pattern in the Bakreswar reservoir ecosystem. Bakreswar reservoir is a freshwater ecosystem in the Birbhum district of West Bengal, India. The reservoir is primarily used to supply freshwater to the Bakreswar thermal power plant. However, the local villages around the reservoir depend on it for drinking water and fishing sustenance. The data used in this study was collected over two years from three different stations. Thus, in addition to describing the spatial pattern of community distribution of zooplankton groups, the temporal variation was also studied. It is observed in the study that the four major groups of zooplankton - Copepoda, Cladocera, Ostracoda, and Rotifera - react differently to the different environmental attributes. Primarily directed by the physical environmental factors, the effect of the chemical factors on the patterning is also evident from the study. Copepods are the dominant group in the system, closely followed by cladocerans and rotifers. But this observation changes at different stations and throughout the study period. The temperature profiles of the reservoir primarily direct the occurrence of ostracods and rotifers, whereas cladocerans and copepods are inclined more towards a chemical factor directive. Rotifers are dominant in the monsoon, whereas the post-monsoon and winter seasons show an increased presence of copepods and cladocerans. The overall observation that the reservoir's water quality is good, and the trophic structure is healthy is in accordance with previous studies as well.

1. Introduction

One of the significant goals of ecology as a discipline is the study of system-level organizations instead of the organism as an individual (Odum and Barrett, 1971). Comparable transcending or functional processes (e.g., energetics, evolution, diversity, and so on) can be observed through different levels of the organization, starting from the cellular level and continuing to the ecosphere (Barrett et al., 1997). However, there are marked differences in the holistic properties of such organizations compared to the individual component properties. A holistic hierarchical organization often gives rise to newer emergent

(non-reducible) properties that cannot be explained simply by studying components only at that particular organization level (Odum and Barrett, 1971). Hence, it often becomes necessary to extend ecological studies at a community level to analyze the different controls of feedback mechanisms regulating their dynamicity. These controls are often loosely implemented at these levels – a characteristic property termed homeorhesis (Barrett et al., 1997; Odum and Barrett, 1971).

Community patterns vary with perturbations in the environmental composition; thus, it is an important aspect that might significantly impact the system's health in general (Hawkes, 1979). Community function largely depends on community structure and organization

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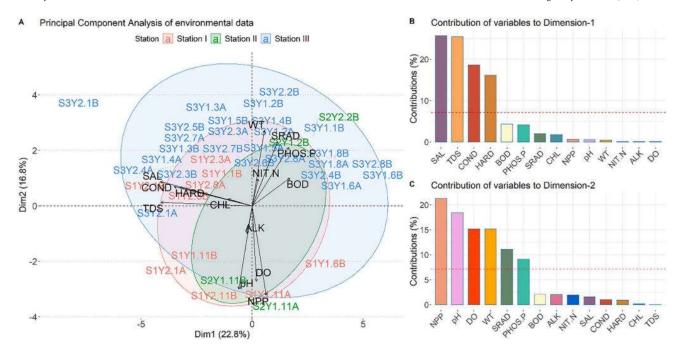


Fig. 6. Figure representing (A) PCA biplot for Env-data, (B) and (C) contribution of variables to dimensions 1 and 2 respectively for Env-data PCA.

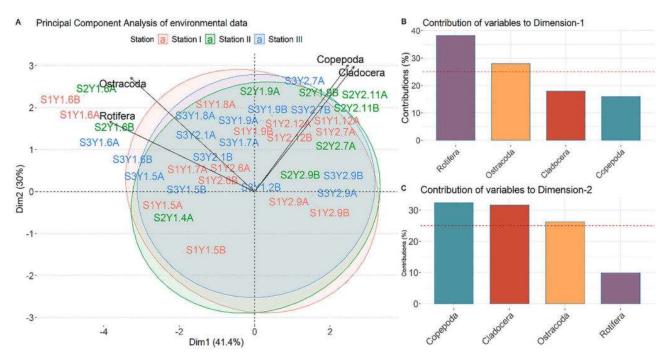


Fig. 7. Figure representing (A) PCA biplot for Zoop-data, (B) and (C) contribution of variables to dimensions 1 and 2 respectively for Zoop-data PCA.

descriptors are highly correlated among themselves. Four prime zooplankton groups – Copepoda, Cladocera, Rotifera, and Ostracodawere collected over two years alongside environmental variable data. Before applying clustering and SOM workflow, this data was subjected to different tests, including correlation analysis, PCA, and collinearity tests. Results of correlation analysis (Figs. 3, 4, and 5) and PCA (Figs. 6 and 7) show a clear spatial ordination among the three stations.

Correlation analysis revealed that the different environmental factors have different effects on the distribution of zooplankton and,

consequently, on their community structure. Figs. 3, 4, 15, and 17 and Table 3 establish that the factors (chemical) responsible for characterizing the data points are primary production, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, salinity, nitrates, phosphates, and total dissolved solids. Solar irradiation and water temperature are the most important physical attributes, followed by air temperature and humidity. However, the latter two factors have been excluded from the final analyses following VIF extraction and adjustment. The atmospheric or air temperature had a high positive intercorrelation with water temperature. Hence, this

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Assessment of Groundwater and Surface-Water Resources of Gushkara in Purba Bardhaman (West Bengal, India) using the Water Quality Index

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Abstract: Survival of life on earth indispensably depends on water. Population explosion and its consequences resulted in the usable water sources being unusable in many regions. Regular monitoring of water quality becomes necessary to protect public health. The present study aimed to evaluate the water quality status of various water resources of Gushkara (West Bengal, India). The result showed that the status of the water quality index (WQI) of the studied surface-water sources is 'poor' or 'very poor' (ranges 50.582 - 87.969) whereas the groundwater and municipal water supply are rather safer (ranges 15.804 - 36.210). There is also an indication of faecal coliform contamination in surface-water sites. Overall water quality is better in winter than other two seasons. Some parameters in surface-water crossed the recommended level while some reached near that level. So immediate attention is necessary to rectify the situation.

Keywords: Water Quality Index, Ground and surface-water, Seasonal variation, Gushkara, Coliform

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Introduction

The amazing diversity of plants and animals on the globe is directly influenced by the sources of water. Today humans literally reached all the corners of the globe and explored all the possible places for establishing new habitats and activities. In the process, they explored and exploited almost all the resources of water. Most sources of

freshwater are polluted to various degrees today and become unsuitable for their desired uses.

Globally, billions of people suffer and lose their lives every year from water-borne diseases (WHO, 2022). Standard drinking and usable groundwater and surface-water resources becoming scanty due to their indiscriminate unscientific use and

immediate attention (Mukherjee and Paramanik, 2022). The present study was conducted to understand the degree of water pollution, usability, and its seasonal variation at Gushkara. Analysis showed that the water parameters of the studied surface-water (ponds) are near or crossing the permissible limits in many cases. Contaminations from daily use, domestic, municipal, and/or agricultural sources are evident. Parameters of the groundwater (tube well and well) and the municipal supply are rather within safe limits. People use pond water for bathing, washing, and other domestic purposes, sometimes for drinking. WQI recommends immediate attention to the surface-water sources of the area.

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Research Paper

Multidimensional Deprivation: Cross-District Insights in **West Bengal**

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the intensity and inequality of multidimensional deprivation (MD)across the districts of West Bengal, a north-eastern state in India. The measure of MD covers the dimensions of Knowledge, Health and Living condition with the respective indicators. We have clustered the districts in accordance with the selected indicators. An attempt has also been taken to gauge the inequality for deprivation indicators and for multidimensional deprivation index (MDI) applying the class of Atkinson measures. This study has used the data published by Directorate of Population Census of India 2011. It is reported that value of MDI ranges from 0.013 to 0.675 across the districts in West Bengal. Purulia is the most deprived district followed by Jalpaiguri, Maldah. On the other hand, Kolkata is the least deprived among the districts preceded by North 24 Parganas, Purba Mendinipur. The cluster analysis reveals that Kolkata is the distinct from the other districts of West Bengal. It is found that Darjeeling district and Jalpaiguri district form two separate clusters. The districts of Dakshin Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Uttar Dinajpur, Maldah, Birbhum, Bankura and Purulia are similar in terms of the indicators of multidimensional deprivation. The districts of West Bengal are, of course, not highly diverse in terms of multidimensional deprivation. However, inequality for MDI is higher than that for HDI of the districts.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **o** Average value of multidimensional deprivation index for the districts in West Bengal is 0.42 with range 0.013 to 0.675. Purulia is the most deprived district in West Bengal followed by Jalpaiguri, Maldah, Uttar Dinajpur
- Geographical closeness of the districts in West Bengal does not ensure the closeness of the districts in respect of the socio-economic deprivation indicators.
- **1** The districts of West Bengal are not highly diverse in terms of multidimensional deprivation.

Keywords: Cluster Analysis, multidimensional deprivation index, normalized inverse euclidian distance, population census

The well-being of a person is best seen as an index of the person's functionings (Sen, 1987). Deprivation may be viewed as the failure to achieve the socially desirable functionings of the person. Personal achievement of functionings depends on many factors. Thus, deprivation of an individual or a community or a region is associated with the multiple aspects like health, education and access to descent living condition. India has some flagship programs like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY),

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Public Distribution System, Universal Health programmes to smooth the achievement of functionings of the common people. Despite

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where ε denotes the inequality aversion parameter, n stands for number of districts (19), x_i stands for the i^{th} indicator or index of deprivation. μ denotes the mean of x_i . The value of ε ranges from 1 indicating no preference for equality to minus infinite indicating extreme preference for equality. In this study the values of ε = 0.5, 0 and -1 have been considered for measuring inequality of the indicators and indices under consideration.

The data for the indicators of multidimensional deprivation for the districts in West Bengal have been collected from Population Census Report 2011, Government of India. Data for HDI of the district have been collected from West Bengal Human Development report, 2004, the Government of West Bengal. We have considered all the districts in West Bengal during the census year 2011 and census data for studying the intensity and inequality in multidimensional deprivation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 displays the descriptive statistics of the indicators and indices of MDI. Average illiteracy rate of the districts in West Bengal is 25.14 per cent in 2011which varies from 12.98 per cent to 49.93 per cent across the districts. In West Bengal 52.9 per cent households have no access to banking facilities. Median value of this indicator tells us that in half of the districts, 57 per cent or more households are deprived of banking facilities. Thus financial illiteracy is a serious deprivation among the districts of West Bengal. Although, intensity of financial illiteracy is higher than that of academic

illiteracy, relative dispersion of financial illiteracy is lower than that of illiterate populations across the districts. We observe that in average 41.46 per cent households of the districts in West Bengal collect drinking water from unsafe source. Percentage of households having access to unsafe source of drinking water is highest in Darjeeling followed by Jalpaiguri and Purulia and it is lowest in South 24 Parganas district. There is a wide variation across the districts in terms of access to safe source of drinking water. Average percentage of households without improved sanitation facility in the districts of West Bengal is 46.22 per cent. We have observed that 88 per cent of households in Purulia district, which is highest among the districts in West Bengal, do not have access to improved sanitation. Access to improved sanitation is the highest in the district of Kolkata. In average 11.16 per cent households of the districts in West Bengal live in dilapidated house. It varies from 2.6 per cent to 16.6 per cent across the districts. In majority of the districts more than half of the households have no electricity or solar energy for lighting.

It is saddening that 82 per cent households of the districts in West Bengal have no access to improved fuel for cooking which ranges from 33 to 94 per cent. However, only 23 per cent households in average of the districts have no census assets. Thus poverty in terms of asset holding is not so serious in the districts of West Bengal. Therefore, from the analysis of individual indicator is it not sufficient to determine the relative position of the districts. We need a comprehensive index which covers multiple

Table 2: Description of the indicators of Deprivations in the districts of West Bengal

Indicators(%) /Index	Mean	Median	S D	CV	Skew	Max	Min
Illiterate population	25.14	25.03	8.05	32.04	0.34	40.93	12.98
Households having no access to banking facility	52.90	57.00	13.56	25.63	-0.44	73.50	16.20
Households use unsafe source of drinking water	14.46	8.20	15.67	108.34	2.03	60.10	2.60
Households have no improved sanitation facility	46.22	44.30	24.60	53.23	0.02	88.20	5.10
Households live in dilapidated residence	11.16	11.40	3.45	30.95	-0.74	16.60	2.60
Households have no access to electricity or solar power for lighting	46.59	50.60	19.18	41.16	-0.74	71.70	2.20
Households use dirty fuel for cooking	82.52	90.30	15.79	19.13	-0.83	94.30	33.80
Households do not have census asset	23.41	23.40	8.39	35.82	-1.93	36.30	3.60
HDI	0.58	0.60	0.09	14.94	0.33	0.78	0.45
MDI	0.42	0.46	0.17	39.80	-0.68	0.68	0.013

Source: Authors' computation.

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Discussion

THE IMPACT OF RECREATIONAL GAMES IN OUR SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Recreational Games are these activities where the primary purpose of the activity in participation, with related goals of improved physical fitness, for and social involvement often prominent. It is less stressful, both physically nd mentally on the participants. These are lower expectations regarding both performance and commitment to the sports in the recreational games in one of the most important area and it also create positive inter-relationship to every person. Recreational games are often done for enjoyment, amusement or pleasure and are considered to be 'fun'. In our busy schedule, recreational games gives us oxygen and in this way our new generation can explore many things for the development of society.

Introduction

The significance of the saying has increased many and various side in today's fast life and competitive world where students are forced by both their guardians and the conglomerate of society and situations as a whole to devote increasing hours in academic study whether theoretical or practical and knowledge enhancing activities, so that they can stay ahead in the rat race. Add to that the present way of life where people mostly stay in small nuclear families and with parents working the viability of our own home as a pace where we can have recreational time has diminished.

Recreation and Recreational Games

Recreation is the refreshment of strength and spirit after wine. It is also leisure time activity. The "need to do something for recreation", is an essential element of human biology and psychology when we continue doing a work or performing an activity regularly and continuously for some hours, it gives us physical and mental fatigue and strain. Recreational activity relieves us of the feeling of fatigue, restores our energy and

promote a sense of joy. Without recreation, life would be dull and miserable. Leisure activities mood, reduce stress and enhance a sense of wellness. In an increasingly complex world, more and more people are placing a high value on achieving the feelings of relaxation and peacefulness that contact with nature, recreation and exposure to natural open spaces bring. Recreational game involves participants in which the main function in providing fun and entertainment to participant. Recreational is a source of joy and provide relaxation for one's body and mind. Recreational games playing a very important role for all over age groups. The quality of life is determined with objective factors and also with subjective perception of factors which influence human life. Recreational actively play a very important role in subjective well-being because they provide opportunities to meet life values and needs. Through participation in leisure activities people build social relationships, feel positive emotions, acquire additional skills and knowledge and therefore improve their quality of live. Both physical & psychological benefits of leisure times with reduced level of stress, anxiety and depression,

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improved mood and higher levels of positive emotions. Engaging in recreational activities can also lower blood pressure and heartbeat. It can improve the mental health of individuals and have the significance of regulating the body and mind, alleviating the stress of life and providing a pleasant experience. It encourages people to experience freedom, which often leads to feeling of control, competence and improved self-esteem. Engaging in pleasurable activities stimulate the production of neurochemicals that in turn improve physical health.

Physical Activity and Recreational Games

Exercise is a body activity than enhances or maintains physical fitness and overall health and wellness. It is performed for various reasons, to aid growth improve strength, develop muscles and the cardiovascular system, weigh loss or maintenance, improve health or simply for enjoyment. Recreational game takes most important place in our present and future life. We all know that leading an active life style in good for us. If you participate regular moderate physical activity – running, jumping, throwing, walking you can expect to enjoy numerous health & social benefits, including:

- Encourage social inter-relationship
- Improve concentration and learning
- Increase personal confidence and self-awareness
- Reduce feelings of depression and anxiety
- Enhance self-esteem
- Improve quality of life
- Improve a more positive educational environment
- Reduction of antisocial behavior

Those who are engaging different types of physical activity and recreational games, they have less time to enjoy the negative or unnecessary situation. All time they think the positive effects of society and try to increase the awareness of different types of values in human mind. Recreational games are developing a good mental attitude, which is very much essential in our positive thinking. Emotion, both happy and sad, can effect cognitive functionary along with your energy level and other aspects of your physical performance. On the other hand recreational game improves the life skill such as:

- Focus and self-control
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Empathy & perspective taking
- Patience and confidence
- Communication & listening
- Creativity and connecting ideas

It also helps in boosting memory as there is more practical experience and the information can be soaked up wholly by the brain in a fresher and fascinating.

Group games and individual games are also helps moral development of students. One way to encourage moral development to teach students to play fairly. In educational situation moral development plays an important role for the future endeavor of every human being.

It also enhances peer relationship and inter-personal skills. Student can also excel in areas other than academic where they have an interest. Recreational activity can give a chance to discover talents other than academic excellence which can tater help on the career and life as a whole.

Conclusion

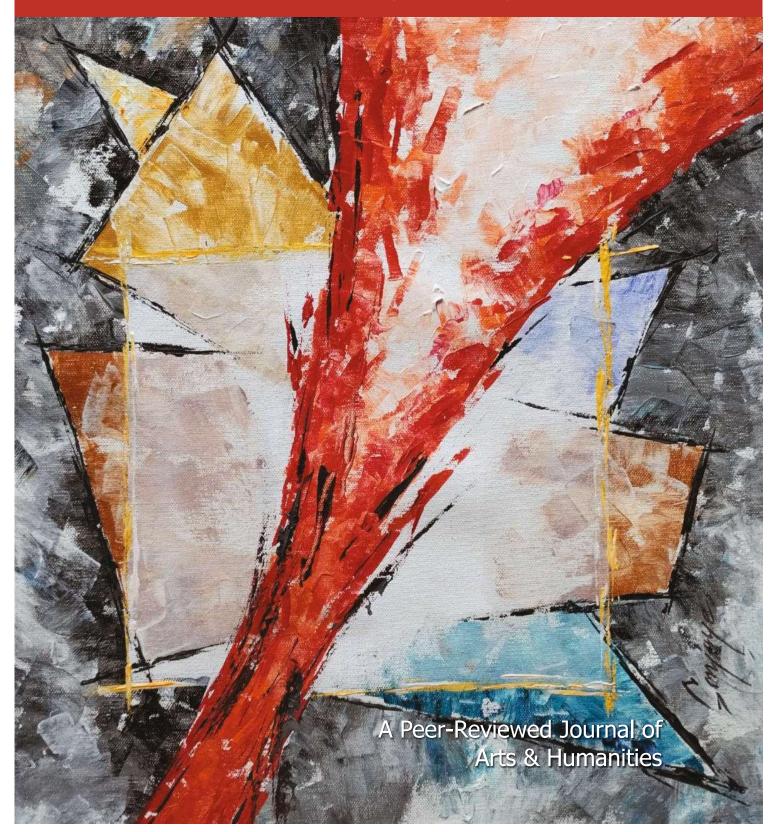
Without any doubt it can be said that recreational activities help in overall development of a student's physical, mental, social and emotional. Recreational activity is not only helps to gather knowledge but also to use it ethically to lead a healthy and better life in future. It teaches one to think with reason and line with more practical approach to life. It also enhances ones all round development, thus helping to achieve success in on endeavours.

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Gandhi, Ambedkar and Martin Luther King Junior: Three Pilgrims of Social Justice

Anand Mahanand

It is interesting to note that though the twentieth century witnessed the rise of two prominent dictators, Hitler and Mussolini, who ruthlessly suppressed their targeted people; it also gave rise to many committed leaders who fought selflessly for the emancipation of different oppressed communities. M.K. Gandhi, Dr B.R. Ambedkar and Martin Luther King Jr are good examples of these saviours. Gandhiji fought for the freedom of the Indian people and also for the emancipation of the dalits in India. Ambedkar struggled for the upliftment of the untouchables of India and Martin Luther King jr fought for the rights of the Negros in the U.S.A. Gandhiji's guiding force was the Bhagavad Gita, Ambedkar drew inspiration from Buddhism whereas Martin Luther King Jr was inspired by Christianity. Martin Luther King however was deeply inspired by Gandhiji. Ambedkar on the other hand was a critic of Gandhiji's approach to the dalits. The reason for Ambedkar's difference with Gandhiji's ideals was due to their convictions. Both Gandhiji and Ambedkar had love and concerns for the dalits but each of them had different approaches for their freedom. Gandhi believed in the goodness of hearts of human beings. He thought the oppression of the dalits would end when people listened to their conscience whereas Ambedkar was not sure of that but was convinced that laws made in favour of the oppressed would safeguard them. Gandhiji, Ambedkar and Martin Luther King all followed the path of non-violence in their respective struggles. For the title, I have taken the phrase from King's essay "Pilgrimage to Non-violence" and called these three crusaders pilgrims of non-violence. One finds a lot of similarities as well as differences among these three. In this paper, I would like to study the select writings and speeches of these leaders and explore some of the common grounds of leadership in them. I would also like to study the difference in their approach. This will hopefully help in understanding the life, ideas and activities of these three great leaders.

Keywords: Gandhiji, Ambedkar, Martin Luther King Junior, emancipation, oppression, freedom

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: A Champion of Human Rights

Saroj Kumar Sarkar

Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Chief Architect of Indian Constitution was a scholar par excellence, a philosopher, a visionary, and a true champion of human rights. He led a number of social movements to secure human rights for the oppressed sections of Indian society. He stands as a symbol of struggle for social justice even today.

Hinduism is divided into four Varna and so many castes and sub-castes. Casteism, for hundreds of years has been a crucial problem in Indian society. It not only creates social discrimination, but brings social and economic injustice among the citizens as well. Though the very notion of *ChaturVarna* has been referred in the Rigveda but afterwards more than three thousand castes and sub-castes have come into existence after the Later Vedic Period. The Brahmin community who were educationally and economically superior to the other communities took the advantage to exploit and oppress the lower communities in course of time. The notion of Varna and caste gave birth to untouchability which is a great damnation to humanity. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar being a Dalit was victimized throughout his life by the upper caste Hindus in several times. So he fought against caste-system and Untouchability. He wanted abolition of social discrimination, torture and disgrace of Dalit. He also wanted to bring social justice in our society. His main aim was to establish equality, liberty and fraternity among the citizens of our country. He was a real humanist and social reformer, a champion of human rights.

Keywords: Human rights, Social justice, Casteism, Untouchables, Humanist Introduction:

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was born in a Mahar family on 14th April, 1891. His father served in the British Indian Army at the Mhow cantonment in Central Province. Unlike most of the children of his caste, young Bhim used to go to school

scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and backward caste. He made several provisions in the form of articles in Indian constitution for development and upliftment of depressed caste.

Poona Pact and Dalits' Rights.

In 1932, British Govt. announced the formation of a separate electorate for "Depressed Classes" in the Communal Award. Gandhi fiercely opposed a separate electorate for untouchables, saying he feared that such an arrangement would divide the Hindu community. Gandhi protested by fasting while imprisoned in the Yerwada Central Jail of Poona. Following the fast, Congress politicians and activists such as Madan Mohan Malaviya and Palwankar Baloo organized joint meetings with Ambedkar and his supporters at Yerwada. On 25 September 1932, the agreement known as Poona Pact was signed between Ambedkar (on behalf of the depressed classes among Hindus) and Madan Mohan Malaviya (on behalf of the other Hindus). The agreement gave reserved seats for the depressed classes in the Provisional legislatures, within the general electorate. Due to the pact, the depressed class received 148 seats in the legislature, instead of the 71 as allocated in the Communal Award earlier proposed by British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald. The text uses the term "Depressed Classes" to denote Untouchables among Hindus who were later called Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under India Act 1935, and the later Indian Constitution of 1950. In the Poona Pact, a unified electorate was formed in principle, but primary and secondary elections allowed Untouchables to choose their own candidates.⁶

Theory of Social justice and B.R. Ambedkar

Social justice means equal social opportunities available to everyone to develop their personalities associated with equality and social rights. According to Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics, Social Justice is an emphasis on the foundational character of justice of social life. According to Ambedkar the root cause of social injustice to the Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes is the caste system in Hindu society. He did not propound any specific definition or theory of 'Social Justice'. His thoughts are expressed through writings and speeches published posthumously. We can extract basic principles of writings and speeches of Ambedkar, through which justice can be dispensed in the society. These are:

- 1. Establishing a society where individual becomes the means of all social purposes
- 2. Establishing a society, based on equality, liberty, and fraternity
- 3. Establishing political, economic, and social democracy
- 4. Establishing democracy through constitutional measures and
- 5. Establishing democracy by breaking monopoly of upper strata on political power.⁷

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RESEARCH



An exact algebraic solution of two harmonic modes coupled through the angular momentum

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Abstract

Starting from the Hamiltonian of two oscillators coupled through the angular momentum, we obtain the equations of motion involving the field operators for two harmonic modes. These operator differential equations of motions are found coupled to each other. The noncommuting nature of the operators are on the way for getting the exact analytical solution directly. To get rid of these problems and on the basis of physical and mathematical considerations, the solutions are assumed in terms of some constant (independent of time) coefficients. The coupled differential equations involving these coefficients are finally decoupled at the cost of fourth order differential equations. Finally, we obtain the exact analytical solutions of these coefficients and hence the field operators involving the oscillators. As an application of these solutions, we investigate the well known squeezing effects of the input coherent light interacting with the oscillators coupled through the angular momentum. It is to be remembered that we retain the nonconserving energy terms for investigating the dynamical behaviour of the oscillators coupled through the angular momentum.

1 Introduction

To explain the basic physics behind the natural phenomena, we rely on some basic models. For example, the model of a harmonic oscillator arises when a particle moves under the action of a restoring force. Perhaps the model of a harmonic oscillator is the most useful one among the physical models for the explanation of basic physics. It is because of that the model of harmonic oscillator finds huge applications

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in various branches of physics. These include mechanics, spectroscopy, field theory and in the acoustics. On the other hand, we know that the real physical problems demand more beyond the model of a simple harmonic oscillator. For example, the inclusion of damping and the anharmonicities make the model of the harmonic oscillator more realistic and relevant to the physical problems. In addition to these, the demand of the physical situations are met through the model of coupled oscillators. The problem of coupled harmonic oscillators are investigated in a great way [1–19]. We find few investigation, where the coupling between the anharmonic oscillators is also studied [13–15]. The wide range of applications of the model of the coupled harmonic oscillators have attracted Physicists, chemists, mathematician and engineers. The coupled classical oscillators are useful in the studies of coupled vibrations, beats, and resonances. The infrared optical activities of dimer-like molecules are estimated by using the coupled oscillator model which is not otherwise unavailable through the usual infrared spectroscopy [1]. The coupled oscillator model is found useful for investigating quantum statistical properties of radiation field [2], coherent state propagator [3], non invariance group of many particle system [4], nonadiabatic Berry's phase, quantum entanglement and quantum teleportation [5], quantum phase [6], and in the Josephson tunneling [7]. Now, depending upon the strength of the coupling we categorize





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$$\lambda_{1} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{\left(\Omega_{1}^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} + 2\kappa_{1}^{2} - 2\kappa_{2}^{2}\right) + \sqrt{\left(\Omega_{1}^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} + 2\kappa_{1}^{2} - 2\kappa_{2}^{2}\right)^{2} - 4\left\{\left(\Omega_{1}\Omega_{2} + \kappa_{1}^{2} - \kappa_{2}^{2}\right)^{2} - 4\kappa_{1}^{2}\Omega_{1}\Omega_{2}\right\}} \right]$$

$$\lambda_{2} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{\left(\Omega_{1}^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} + 2\kappa_{1}^{2} - 2\kappa_{2}^{2}\right) - \sqrt{\left(\Omega_{1}^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} + 2\kappa_{1}^{2} - 2\kappa_{2}^{2}\right)^{2} - 4\left\{\left(\Omega_{1}\Omega_{2} + \kappa_{1}^{2} - \kappa_{2}^{2}\right)^{2} - 4\kappa_{1}^{2}\Omega_{1}\Omega_{2}\right\}} \right]$$

$$(18)$$

By putting the value of λ_i , the Eq. (18) assume the following forms

$$\lambda_{1} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{\left(\Omega_{1}^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} + 2\xi^{2}\right) + \sqrt{\left(\Omega_{1}^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} + 2\xi^{2}\right)^{2} - 4\left\{\left(\Omega_{1}\Omega_{2} + \xi^{2}\right)^{2} - \xi^{2}\left(\Omega_{1} + \Omega_{2}\right)^{2}\right\}}} \right]$$

$$\lambda_{2} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{\left(\Omega_{1}^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} + 2\xi^{2}\right) - \sqrt{\left(\Omega_{1}^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} + 2\xi^{2}\right)^{2} - 4\left\{\left(\Omega_{1}\Omega_{2} + \xi^{2}\right)^{2} - \xi^{2}\left(\Omega_{1} + \Omega_{2}\right)^{2}\right\}}} \right]$$

$$(19)$$

Now, the solutions of the parameter u_i are quite straightforward and are given by

$$u_i = A_i \cos \lambda_1 t + B_i \sin \lambda_1 t + C_i \cos \lambda_2 t + D_i \sin \lambda_2 t \tag{20}$$

where i = 1, 2, 3 and 4. Now, the explicit analytical expressions for the parameter A_i , B_i , C_i , and D_i follow immediately

$$A_{1} = \frac{\xi^{2} + \Omega_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2}}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, B_{1} = -\frac{\ddot{u}_{1}(0) - i\Omega_{1}\lambda_{2}^{2}}{\lambda_{1}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$C_{1} = -\frac{\xi^{2} + \Omega_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{1}^{2}}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, D_{1} = \frac{\ddot{u}_{1}(0) - i\Omega_{1}\lambda_{1}^{2}}{\lambda_{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$A_{2} = -\frac{i\kappa_{1}(\Omega_{1} + \Omega_{2})}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, B_{2} = \frac{\ddot{u}_{2}(0) - \kappa_{1}\lambda_{1}^{2}}{\lambda_{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$C_{2} = \frac{i\kappa_{1}(\Omega_{1} + \Omega_{2})}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, D_{2} = -\frac{\ddot{u}_{2}(0) - \kappa_{1}\lambda_{2}^{2}}{\lambda_{1}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$A_{3} = 0, B_{3} = -\frac{2i\kappa_{1}\kappa_{2}\Omega_{2}}{\lambda_{1}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$C_{3} = 0, D_{3} = \frac{2i\kappa_{1}\kappa_{2}\Omega_{2}}{\lambda_{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$A_{4} = \frac{i\kappa_{2}(\Omega_{1} - \Omega_{2})}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, B_{4} = -\frac{\ddot{u}_{4}(0) + \lambda_{2}^{2}\kappa_{2}}{\lambda_{1}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$C_{4} = -\frac{i\kappa_{2}(\Omega_{1} - \Omega_{2})}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, D_{4} = \frac{\ddot{u}_{4}(0) + \lambda_{1}^{2}\kappa_{2}}{\lambda_{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

In an identical manner, the solutions for v_i are obtained and are given by

$$v_i = A_i^{\prime} \cos \lambda_1 t + B_i^{\prime} \sin \lambda_1 t + C_i^{\prime} \cos \lambda_2 t + D_i^{\prime} \sin \lambda_2 t \quad (22)$$

where

$$A'_{1} = \frac{i\kappa_{1}(\Omega_{1} + \Omega_{2})}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, B'_{1} = -\frac{\ddot{v}_{1}(0) + \kappa_{1}\lambda_{2}^{2}}{\lambda_{1}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$C'_{1} = -\frac{i\kappa_{1}(\Omega_{1} + \Omega_{2})}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, D'_{1} = \frac{\ddot{v}_{1}(0) + \kappa_{1}\lambda_{1}^{2}}{\lambda_{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$A'_{2} = \frac{\xi^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2}}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, B'_{2} = -\frac{\ddot{v}_{3}(0) - i\Omega_{2}\lambda_{2}^{2}}{\lambda_{1}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$C'_{2} = -\frac{\xi^{2} + \Omega_{2}^{2} - \lambda_{1}^{2}}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, D'_{2} = \frac{\ddot{v}_{3}(0) - i\Omega_{2}\lambda_{1}^{2}}{\lambda_{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$A'_{3} = -\frac{i\kappa_{2}(\Omega_{1} - \Omega_{2})}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, B'_{3} = -\frac{\ddot{v}_{3}(0) + \kappa_{2}\lambda_{2}^{2}}{\lambda_{1}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$C'_{3} = \frac{i\kappa_{2}(\Omega_{1} - \Omega_{2})}{(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}, D'_{3} = \frac{\ddot{v}_{3}(0) + \kappa_{2}\lambda_{1}^{2}}{\lambda_{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$A'_{4} = 0, B'_{4} = \frac{2i\Omega_{1}\kappa_{1}\kappa_{2}}{\lambda_{1}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$

$$C'_{4} = 0, D'_{4} = -\frac{2i\Omega_{1}\kappa_{1}\kappa_{2}}{\lambda_{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - \lambda_{2}^{2})}$$



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Full Length Article

In silico targeting of lipoxygenase, CYP2C9, and NAD(P)H oxidase by major green tea polyphenols to subvert oxidative stress



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ABSTRACT

Oxidative stress (OS) is a phenomenon caused by an imbalance between free-radical production and antioxidant activity within the body. Status of endogenous antioxidants is not always sufficient to mitigate the oxidative damage. In this case, exogenous antioxidants could help to minimize free-radical production and subsequent OS. Green tea is rich in several phenolic compounds that have strong antioxidant properties. However, their mechanism of action is still unclear. Hence, the present study aims to investigate binding affinities of six green tea polyphenols such as catechin, epicatechin, epicatechin gallate, epigallocatechin, epigallocatechin gallate, and gallocatechin for common ROS producers such as Lipoxygenase (LOX), CYP2C9, and NAD(P)H oxidase (NOX). Results indicated that polyphenols interacted with binding pockets of these enzymes through hydrogen bonds and other stable interactions such as van der waals, Pi-Pi, Pi-alkyl, and alkyl. All polyphenols showed varied binding affinities. Among them, epigallocatechin gallate and epigallocatechin showed the highest binding affinities for the ROS producers. Findings of the present study suggest that, apart from free radical scavenging activity, green tea polyphenols may directly interact with binding pockets of LOX, CYP2C9, and NOX to dampen ROS production and OS. However, studies involving animal models are required for additional validation of results.

1. Introduction

Oxidative stress (OS) is an imbalance between oxidant and antioxidant molecules in a biological system. Such an imbalance can be detrimental to various essential macromolecules like proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids with respect to their structure and biological functions. The role of OS is inevitable in the pathophysiology of human beings. Oxidants injure cells in several ways, contributing to various diseases, including atherosclerosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Alzheimer's disease, and cancer [1].

Oxidant-antioxidant imbalance is triggered by the disproportionate production of reactive species derived from oxygen and nitrogen. Production of these species is aggravated by stress, UV radiations, exposure to xenobiotics, infections, and pathological conditions [2–14]. Antioxidants may neutralize free radicals and prevent OS [15,16]. Nonetheless, scavenging superoxide radicals $(O_2^{\bullet-})$, hydroxyl radicals $(^{\bullet}OH)$, perox-

ynitrite (ONOO⁻), nitric oxide (*NO), and the hypohalous acids (HOX) by exogenous small molecules may not be enough if the source is not being targeted. Various enzymes have been considered as the sources of reactive species. Among them, Lipoxygenase (LOX), Cytochrome P450 (CYP2C9) and NAD(P)H Oxidase (NOX) are the sounding ones.

Lipoxygenase is a family of non-heme iron-containing enzyme that catalyses formation of hydroperoxides via oxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) [17]. These enzymes are 700 amino acid long and classified into 5(S)-, 8(S)-, 12(S)-, and 15(S)-. Metabolites of PUFA profoundly impact the progression of inflammation and cancer. Therefore inhibition of PUFA metabolizing enzymes such as LOX could have therapeutic implications against such diseases.

Cytochrome P450 is a diverse group of enzymes that catalyzes oxidation—reduction reactions. They are involved in the biotransformation of various drugs and xenobiotics via phase I reactions. Therefore CYP450 plays a vital role in maintaining human physiology [18]. It is to

Abbreviations: ALA, alanine; ARG, arginine; ASN, asparagine; ASP, aspartic acid; CYS, cysteine; GLU, glutamic acid; GLY, glycine; HIS, histidine; LEU, leucine; LYS, lysine; MET, methionine; PHE, phenylalanine; PRO, proline; SER, serine; THR, threonine; TRP, tryptophan; TYR, tyrosine; VAL, valine.

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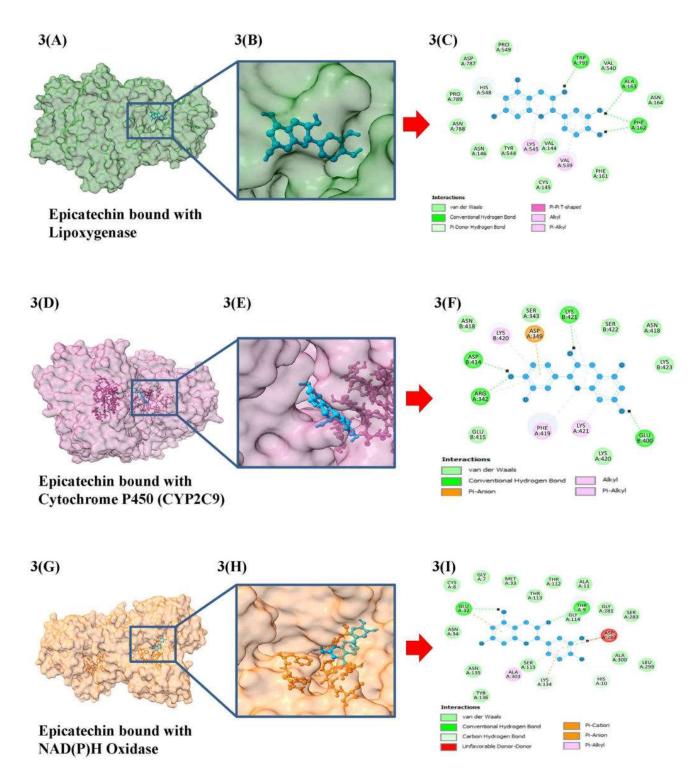


Fig. 3. Interaction between epicatechin and ROS producing enzymes. Epicatechin interacted with the binding pockets of LOX, CYP2C9, and NOX using hydrogen and various hydrophobic interactions. The first panel of the figure indicates the position where green tea polyphenol binds with the enzyme. The middle panel shows the enlarged view of the binding pocket where polyphenol interacted with the concerned enzyme. The last panel demonstrates the amino acids of ROS generating enzymes that established hydrogen and various hydrophobic interactions.

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Bizarre Insect (Order: Strepsiptera; Kirby, 1813) with a unique biology

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Abstract

Strepsiptera comprise a group of inquisitive, obligate endoparasitoids. The parasitoids of Strepsiptera are enthralling insects, whose neotenic females completely endoparasitoid, laying eggs in or on other insects while free-living adult males with a very short lifespan. They are widespread in most terrestrial ecosystems and exhibit vast ecological and biological diversity with many specific types of adaptations. The insects termed as macrynobiont refers for lengthening the life of the host. Since some of the hosts are pests of crops like, rice, corn, oil palm, areca nuts, coconuts mangoes etc. they have the effectiveness for use as biocontrol agents.

Keywords: strepsiptera, endoparasitoid, macrynobiont

Introduction

The Strepsiptera (Greek strepsi, "twisted"; pteron, "wing") commonly known as "stylops" encompass a group of entomophagous, obligate endoparasitoids with very unique morphology, biology, genetics and host-parasitoid relationship. They are cosmopolitan in distribution; largest numbers of species have been reported from the Australasian realm followed by the Oriental region. Owing to the endoparasitic life, the parasitoids are not easily noticed and remain an enigma to the entomologists. The males comprises unique hind wings with simple pattern of wing venation, fore wing reduced to look like a club like appendages termed as pseudohaltere, legs, rasp berry like eyes and flabellate antennae, superficially similar to flies, even though their mouths are not used for food, instead they are modified into sensory structures. They are non feeder, short-lived, usually surviving two to four hours. The male copulatory organ or aedaegus is minute and unique according to the different families of the order. Neotenic female except family Mengenillidae remains inside the host and completely endoparasitoid. Adult females are neotenic endoparasite projected inside a host body (rather than typical adult insects), 2-5 mm in length and without antennae, mouthparts, eyes, wings, legs and external genitalia. The cephalothorax encompasses of fused head. prothorax and mesothorax that obtruded through the host's synovial membrane, leaving the female's abdominal part inside the host's body [6]. Virgin females are said to discharge a pheromone from the Nassonow organ which the male employments to find them with the help of the Hofender's organ.

The families of Strepsiptera that are widespread in distribution are: Corioxenidae, Elenchidae, Halictophagidae and Stylopidae. The genera of parasitoids are restricted to the prevalence of the distribution of the hosts though the hosts in most cases are more widely distributed biogeographically than the parasitoids. Approximately 646 species [15, 16, 17, 18]. They are Corioxenos Blair, 1936; Dundoxenos Luna de Carvalho, 1956; Trizocera Pierce, 1909; Viridopromontorius Luna de Carvalho, 1985; Coriophagus Kinzelbach, 1971a; Halictophagus Curtis, 1832; Tridactylophagus Subramanian, 1932; Elenchus

Curtis, 1831; Myrmecolax Westwood, 1861; Lychnocolax Bohart, 1951; Stichotrema Hofeneder, 1910a; Paraxenos Saunders, 1872 and Pseudoxenos Saunders, 1872.

Methods used for observation

The insects were completely inspected under a zoom stereoscopic trinocular magnifying instrument (demonstrate Olympus SZX16, Japan and CARL ZEISS Stemmi 2000–C, Germany) for discovery of outward injuries or patches showing 'stylopisation' on the both sides of host abdomen. Such host insects were sacrificed with two fine needles in insect saline water (0.67%) for procuring male adults and different larval stages, pupae, and gravid females with eggs or with triungulins. They come out from abdomen with a slight pressure in the saline water.

Biology

They have displayed one of the foremost unconventional and complex life cycles with extraordinary sexual dimorphism. The free living males have unique hind wing with least venation and the fore wing reduced to form pseudohaltere. The males also have legs, eyes, and flabellate antennae externally comparable to flies, in spite of the fact that their mouthparts are not utilized for nourishing, or maybe they are altered as tactile structures. They are shortlived, as a rule surviving two to four hours [4]. Females except family Mengenillidae remain inside the host. In most Strepsiptera the male pupates and extrudes while female extrudes and gets to be mature but some incidence where the male extrudes and pupates in fifth instar host nymph. These nymphs don't actually appear to signal the start of a molting cycle [6]. Premature host parasitized by male puparia eventually die due to fungal growth on empty puparia left after the adult males coming out [14]. Only the cephalothorax is visible from the outside (Fig-1); the rest of the cylindrical body remains inside the host and lacks all the features of an adult insect [3]. Males mate by disrupting the female's brood canal. Sperm exceeds through the opening of brood canal by a process known as hypodermic insemination [12]. Each female thus turns out many first instar larvae termed as triungulins that come out from the brood opening, which projects outside the host's body (Fig 2). These first instar

Discussion

Impacts of stylopisation were examined prior on Hymenoptera. The foremost noteworthy changes due to stylopisation are that male hymenoptera tends to take after ordinary females and the pollen basket is diminished in females and males show a marked development. The interchange of characters in stylopised host has been referred to as "intersexes" [13]. Like hymenoptera parasitized Delphacidae (Hemiptera) (Table-1) were also thought to be "intersexes" [10, 11]. Stylopisation is known to cause numerous recognizable morphological, behavioral, dispersal and physiological changes within the hosts, even

 Driving to the arrangement of intersexes by alteration of the genitalia.

- The results of stylopisation incorporate changes in antennae, wings, facial colouration, pilosity, pollen collecting apparatus and length of the digestive tract.
- Stylopisation can too disable ovarian egg improvement, and cause lessening of egg number, essential, auxiliary and tertiary sexual characters and fertility of the host.
- Stylopised host insects frequently ended up less active and may gotten to be unfit of setting up nests within the case of a few Hymenoptera [20].

Although Strepsiptera is an endoparasite, it has a wide host range relative to its species abundance and requires a mobile host to complete its life cycle. Strepsiptera parasitizes a wide range of hosts belonging to the seventh order of insects. The most common host species are Hymenoptera and Hemiptera.

Host	Family &subfamily	Position of stylopisation
Atkinsoniella opponens	Cicadellidae	Stylopisation mark on 6 th to 9 th sternite segments. There was no stylopisation
(Walker, 1851)		encountered in the tergite segment till now.
Exitianus nanus (Distant,	Cicadellidae	Only one stylopised host was observed. Stylopisation took place at the lateral
1908)		portion of the 7 th sternite.
Exitianus indicus (Distant,	Cicadellidae	Stylopisation mark was found at 7 th to 8 th sternite segments.
1908)		
Cofana spectra (Distant, 1908)	Cicadellidae	Stylopisation marks were observed on two different locations. One type encountered at the 5 th to 6 th tergite segments, considered as a male stylops and another one was encountered at the 6 th to 9 th sternite segments, considered as female stylops. Both types of stylopisation marks noticed on 15 numbers of specimens.
Nilaparvata lugens (Stål, 1854)	Delphacidae	Only two stylopised BPH were observed. Both stylopisation were encountered at the 4 th abdominal tergite.
Sogatella furcifera (Horváth, 1899)	Delphacidae	Stylopisation marks were observed on two different locations. One type encountered at the 6th to 8th tergite segments, considered as a male stylops and another one was encountered at the 6 th to 9th sternite segments, considered as female stylops.

At the early stage of host development Strepsiptera are not very active but have a exclusive immune avoidance mechanism. They form a pupal bag in the host cuticle. Strepsiptera are accounted to exercise control over the population level of host insect pests. The rate of parasitism fluctuates from 10% to 65% depending on several factors including temperature, humidity, rainfall and locations. Strepsiptera have the potential to be successful bio-control specialists but it is very difficult to practical implementation due to their low searching ability. Still such a venture is already in progress in Papua New Guinea where the female Strepsiptera, Stichotrema dallatorreanum Hofeneder is being used as a biocontrol agent for the long-horned grasshopper Segestidea novaeguineae [19]. Various questions almost hereditary qualities, sex deciding instruments, host location, various host spectrum, and change of host physiology in this baffling arrange of bizarre insect order still stay unanswered. One key feature is that, when parasitized by Strepsiptera, the host's life cycle is lengthened as long as they require to mature. This difference between strepsipterans suggests a trichotomous hypothesis concerning insect parasitoids, and the term macrynobiont (macryno, "lengthen"; bionts, "life"), refer for lengthening the life of the host due to Strepsiptera [8].

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भारतमहरूक्ष

ছব্রস্ট সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ জীব হল মানুষ। বহু বহু জন্মের পর দুর্লভ এই মনুষ্টলম লাভ করে বানর জীবনের
ুল্লাইল করা প্রত্যেকটি মানুষের প্রয়োজন। এবং সেই উদ্দেশ্য যেন যথার্থ মঙ্গল প্রাণ্ড করে বানর জীবনের ্র প্রতি জন্মর সূচ্চ প্রতাকটি মানুষের প্রয়োজন। এবং সেই উদ্দেশ্য যেন মথার্থ মঙ্গল প্রান্ত করে মানর জীবনের বিশ্বে তালের প্রকৃত উদ্দেশ্য ভূলে মায়ার কবলে কবলিত হয়ে ত্রিতাপ আক্র স্থাবিব জগতে রুলির ভোগে অন্ত পার মহাজন নির্দেশিত পথ। বেদ পুরাণানি বিভিন্ন ধর্মশার মানুষকে সঠিক দিশা বাবে। মানবকল্যাণকারী এমনই এক গ্রন্থ হল শ্রীমদ্ভাগবত পুরাণ। মহর্ষি বেদ ব্যাস্থ্যকি স্থিত স্থান্ত স্থান্ত প্রাণ। মহর্ষি বেদ ব্যাস্থ্যকি সঠিক দিশা ্বার্থিক বিভিন্ন ধর্মশার মান্বকল্যাণকারী এমনই এক গ্রন্থ হল শ্রীমজ্ঞাগবত পুরাণ। মহর্ষি বেদ ব্যাস রচিত সংস্কৃত ভাবার বাদশ রাত্র মান্ত্র। মান্ত্র মান্ত ্রিছে ১৮০০ বিশ্ব বিশ্ব বিশ্ব বিশ্ব পরমেশ্বর ভগবান শ্রীকৃষ্ণের কথায় পরিপূর্ণ এই গ্রন্থখনি জীবের যাবতীয় শোক ও নোহ বিশ্ব বিশ্ রাষ্ট্র এইখানি জীবের একমাত্র কর্ত্তব্য এবং তাঁর প্রতি ঐকান্তিক শরণাগতিই মানবজীবনকে সার্থক ক্রেরের সাথে অন্যান্য জীবের পার্থক্য হল মানুষ উন্নতচেতনা সম্পন্ন জীব সে সক্ষ করে। তাল জাবের পার্থকা হল মানুষ উন্নতচেতনা সম্পন্ন জীব সে সমস্ত কিছু যুক্তি ও বৃদ্ধি দিয়ে করে করে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করে। তাই তারা যদি ধর্মাচরণে প্রবৃত্ত না হয়ে পত্তব নাম সমস্ক করে হিছু যুক্তি ও বৃদ্ধি দিয়ে রান্দ্র মান্দ্র সামান্ত গ্রহণ করে। তাই তারা যদি ধর্মাচরণে প্রবৃত্ত না হয়ে পশুর ন্যায় আহার, নিদ্রা, ভর, মেখুনেই ্রার প্রাকে তাহলে পশুর সাথে তার প্রভেদ কোথায়? তাই মহাভারতে বলা হয়েছে — "ধর্মেন হীনা পশুভিঃ সমানা।"

্রার্তিও বলা হয়েছে সমস্ত মানুষের পরম ধর্ম হল অধোক্ষজ ভগবান শ্রীকৃষ্ণের প্রতি অইহতুকী ভক্তি ও প্রীতি লাভ ্_{র তাহলেই} আত্মা যথার্থ প্রসন্নতা লাভ করবে।

র ^{ভারতান} কলিযুগের মানুষ হল স্বল্লায়ু, মন্দমতি, অলস, কলহপরায়ণ, নিরন্তর রোগব্যাধির দ্বারা জজরিত। কলিকাল র্মান সমূদ্র হলেও এর একটি মহৎ গুণ আছে তা হল হরিনাম সংকীর্তনের দ্বারাই ভগবানকে প্রসন্ন করা যায়। নাম করা যায়।
ক্রিম্বর্গ এই কলিকালে আবির্ভূত হয়ে নিজে আচার ও প্রচার করে সমগ্র জগদাসীকে শিক্ষা দিয়ে গেছেন। আজ র্মা বিশ্বে এই ভাগবতধর্ম ব্যাপকভাবে প্রচারিত হচ্ছে। পাশ্চাত্যের ধনী দেশগুলিও মানসিক শান্তির খোঁজে ভারতবর্ষে ্রু এই ভাগবত ধর্ম গ্রহণে ব্রতী হয়েছে। তাই আমরা যদি এই পুণ্যভূমি ভারতবর্ষে জন্মগ্রহণ করেও এই ধর্ম গ্রহণে 👸 ন হই তাহলে তা আমাদেরই দুভার্গ্যের পরিচায়ক।

সূচক শব্দঃ ঈশ্বর, ধর্ম, মঙ্গল, মানবকল্যাণ, আত্মা, সাম্প্রদায়িক, ভক্তি, পরমাত্মা, প্রচারকার্য। মূল প্রবন্ধ-

রুক্তর্ব হল পুণ্যভূমি। সাধু মহাপুরুষগণের পবিত্র চরণরজে অভিষিক্ত এই ভূমি। আমাদের সৌভাগ্য যে আমরা রুচবর্মে জন্ম গ্রহণ করেছি। এই পবিত্রভূমিতে জন্মগ্রহণ করে আমরা যদি কল্যাণকর কর্মে যুক্ত হতে না পারি তাহলে 🙉 আমাদেরই দুর্ভাগ্য। আধ্যাত্মিক সাম্যবাদ হল সমগ্র মানব সমাজের ঐক্য সাধন করা। এই আদর্শকে সফল করার লা মহান চিন্তাশীল মানুষেরা উপলব্ধি করেছেন। আর এই কার্য্য সফল করার ক্ষেত্রে শ্রীমদ্ভাগবতের অবদান অনস্বীকার্য। ক্ষা মানব সমাজে শান্তি, সমৃদ্ধি ও মৈত্রীর প্রতিষ্ঠা করবে ভাগবতের এই অমূল্য বানী।

🐺 হল উন্নতচেতনা সম্পন্ন জীব। অন্যান্য প্রাণীদের সাথে মানুষের পার্থক্য হল মানুষ সব কিছু যুক্তি, বুদ্ধি দিয়ে বিচার নিকেনা করে সিদ্ধান্তে উপনীত হয় কিন্তু অন্য প্রাণীরা তা পারে না। মানুষের মনেই প্রশ্ন জাগে আমি কে? এই জগতের

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সৃষ্টি কর্ত্তা কে? তাঁকে কি দেখা যায়? জগতে এত দুঃখ কেন? এই দুঃখের নিবৃতি কিভাবে হবে? ইত্যাদি নানা প্রশ্নের উত্তরের সন্ধানে সে জন্ম উত্তরের সন্ধানে সে অজানার উদ্দেশ্যে পাড়ি দেয়।

যুগে যুগে মহাপুরুষগণ তাদের সাধনালব্ধ জ্ঞানের দ্বারা মানুষকে সঠিক পথের নির্দেশ দিয়েছেন এবং শান্তির বাণী তনিয়েছেন। শ্রীমাদারক ভনিয়েছেন। শ্রীমদ্রাগবত হল এমনই এক শান্তগ্রন্থ যা তথু পারমার্থিক বিজ্ঞানই নয় পরস্তু মানুষের কর্তব্য ও ধর্ম সম্পর্কেও অবভিত্ত করে সম্পর্কেও অবহিত করে।

ভাগবতের প্রথমেই শ্রীল ব্যাসদের সেই পরমসত্যস্থরূপ পরমেশ্বরের ধ্যান করেছেন –

"ওঁ নমো ভগবতে বাস্দেবায় জন্মাদ্যস্য যতোऽশ্বয়াদিতরতন্চার্থেশ্বভিজ্ঞঃ স্বরাট্ তেনে ব্রহ্ম হদা য আদিকবয়ে মুহান্তি যৎস্রয়ঃ। তেজোবারিম্দাং যথা বিনিময়ো যত্র ত্রিসর্গোऽম্ধা

বালা থেন সদা ানরস্তকৃহকং সতাং পরং ধামাহ ।।
অর্থাৎ ভগবান্ শ্রীকৃষ্ণই যে আদি পুরুষ, পরমেশ্বর ভগবান্ তাঁর থেকেই সমস্ত কিছুর প্রকাশ। গীতাতেও ভগবান্
ব্যালাক্ষ ক্রি ধামা স্বেন সদা নিরন্তকুহকং সত্যং পরং ধীমহি" ^১।। বলেছেন তাঁর থেকে মহৎ আর কিছু নেই। তিনিই জড় ও চেতন জগতের সমস্ত কিছুর উৎস স্থরূপ। এই তত্ত্ব যারা অবগত হয়ে ভদ্ধ ভক্তিসহ আমার ভজনা করেন। তিনিই হলেন যথার্থ জ্ঞানী।

"অহং সর্বস্য প্রভবো মত্তঃ সর্বং প্রবর্ততে। ইতি মত্বা ভজতে মাং বুধাভাবসমম্বিতাঃ" ^২।। ব্ৰহ্মসংহিতায় বলা হয়েছৈ — "ঈশ্বরঃ পরমঃ কৃষ্ণ: সচ্চিদানন্দ বিগ্রহঃ। অনাদিরাদির্গোবিন্দঃ সর্বকারণকারণম্" °।।

অর্থাৎ সেই পরম পুরুষ শ্রীকৃষ্ণই হলেন আনন্দঘন আদি পুরুষ এবং তিনিই সর্ব কারণের কারণ স্বরূপ। ভগবান্ শ্রীকৃষ্ণের প্রতি অহৈতুকী ভক্তি উদিত হয় এই ভাগবত শ্রবণের ফলে এবং জীবের যাবতীয় শোক, মোহ, ভয় দূরীভূত

"যস্যাং বৈ শ্রয়মানায়াং কৃষ্ণে পরমপুরুষে। ভক্তিরুৎপদ্যতে পুংসঃ শোক-মোহ-ভয়াপহা" ⁸।।

সূতরাং আমরা যদি সেই আদিপুরুষ গোবিন্দের ভজনা করি তাহলে আমাদের চিন্তার কিছু থাকবে না। এখন প্রশ্ন হল আমরা ভগবানের আরাধনা কেন করব? কারণ ভগবান হল আমাদের সচেয়ে বড় নিঃস্বার্থ বান্ধব। তিনি অন্তর্যামীরূপে প্রত্যেকটি জীব হৃদয়েই বাস করেন। তবে সকলেই যে তার আরাধনা করবে এমন নয় কারণ প্রত্যেকটি মানুষের চিওবৃত্তি ভিন্ন ভিন্ন। কিন্তু এিতাপ জ্বালা থেকে মুক্তিলাভের এবং প্রকৃত সুখলাভ ভগবানের আরাধনা ব্যতীত অন্য কোন

একদা সৃত্মুনি শৌণকাদি ঋষিগণের অনুরোধে জীবের প্রকৃত মঙ্গল কিসে হবে তর উত্তরে বললেন — এই কলিকালে সকল মানুষই প্রায় আসুরী স্বভাব সম্পন্ন, কলহপরায়ন, নিরন্তর রোগব্যাধিতে জর্জরিত। তাই তাদের মুক্তিলাভ একমাত্র ভগবানৃ শ্রীকৃষ্ণের প্রতি একান্ত ভক্তি লাভেই সম্পন্ন হবে।

"স বৈ পুংসাং পরো ধর্মো যতো ভক্তিরধোক্ষজে। অহৈতৃক্যপ্রতিহতা যয়াৎত্মা সম্প্রসীদতি" [°]।।

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कार का वे ध्येत शन्तिके क्वतः क्वतः-प्रथम क्वतः क्वतः । विश्वताः मक्तः क्वतः क्वतः । विश्वताः मक्तः क्वतः । ध्येत्वान्य मक्ते क्वतः ।

है केंद्र हरून हम्माव कर शिंद्र जिल्ला का स्थाप के साथ महिनार व हरूनार और हो केंद्र हरून हम नवस्त्र केंद्र केंद्र केंद्र कर कर्माकर क्या कावार कावर हैक्क रस्य कार्र होता क्या रस्टिन क्या कर्ममा सन्दर्भ र क्षेत्रमा

",यागडाम स्म ट्रांक न्तर द्यामविकस्मा बानर कर्म ५ जीकर ,नगामाऽरगाऽचे क्वांकर" है।

्र क्षेत्र प्रतिवेद्य प्रतिवेद्य कार्य कार्याचन कार्य का

'কৃত্তবৰ্ণ ট্যকৃত্ত সচেপক্তপক্ষ ইড্ডি সভীতন্তাৱৈৰজন্ত ই স্মেক্ট' গ

ক্রাল অন্তর্ভ প্রবর্তিত এই দিবানামের মহিমা রপার এই রুপ মাক বাজের সংক্রতম পদ্ধ কন কোন যুগ কুলি জ নহা জাই দেবজারা পর্যন্ত এই ভারতভূমিতে ব্রন্মাহন করতে ইক্সা প্রকাশ করেন। ভাগবতে বলা হতাছে

> ফার নঃ স্থাস্থাবাশেকিব বিশ্রস স্কাস ক্তাস শোভনাম। তেলাজনাতে স্তিমজ্জার নঃ সাদ্ বর্ষে হরিমাক্তারাং শং তানাতিং শা

লভাও দ্বালৰ লাভ করে আমরা কতাই ন ভাগাবান। তাই মহাপ্রে প্রতিত হবিনাম সংকীর্তনের মাধ্যমেই আমরা আলে নাজিন ফাল লাভের জন্ম হতু শর হব। শ্রীতিতন্ম হতুপুরু ভারতবাসীর কর্তব্য সহছে বংগাছেন —

ভারতভ্মিতে হৈল মন্যাজন বার। জন্ম সার্থক কবি কব পর উপকার" ²⁸11

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এই দিবাবাণী যদি আমরা নিজ জীবনে পালন করতে পারি তাহলে ধন্য হয়ে যাব। পাতাত্যের ধনীদেশগুলি থেকেও মানুষ আজ ভারতবর্ষে এসে এই ভাগবত ধর্ম গ্রহণে ব্রতী হয়েছে। মহাপ্রভুর অনুগামী গৌড়ীয় বৈক্ষব সম্প্রদায়ের সাধু ও সজ্জনগণ ব্যাপক ভাবে দেশে ও বিদেশে দিবা হরিনাম প্রচার ও প্রসারে রত হয়েছেন শত বাধা অতিক্রম করে। তাই আমরা যারা নিজ মঙ্গলকামী তারা এই ভাগবদ্ ধর্মগ্রহণ ব্রতী হব। নিজেদের দেশের ও দশের কল্যাণে আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে প্রচেষ্টা করব, ঈশ্রের কৃপায় সকলই সম্ভব।

তথ্যসূত্র

- ১) ভাঃ ১/১/১
- ২) ভঃগীঃ ১০/৮
- ৩) ব্রহ্মঃসঃ ৫/১
- ৪) জাঃ ১/৭/৭
- ৫) ভাঃ ১/২/৬
- ৬) গীতা ৪/৭
- ৭) গীতা ৪/৮
- ৮) ভাঃ ১১/২০/৬
- ৯) ভাঃ ১১/৫/৩২
- ১০) ভাঃ ৫/১৯/২৮
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