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MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY: A STUDY OF POTENTIAL OF RIVER BANK FILTRATION WITHIN JABALPUR CITY

Jayvardhan Sahu [1], Shailza Verma[2],
[1] Research Scholar, Department of Civil Engineering. JEC, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India
[2] Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering. JEC, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India

Abstract

River bank filtration (RBF) is a vital and sustainable water purification technique that has gained increasing attention due to its potential to provide high-quality drinking water while minimizing environmental impacts. This research paper presents a comprehensive study of RBF, focusing on the underlying processes, environmental impacts, and long-term sustainability. We investigate the effectiveness of RBF in eliminating several contaminants, such as pathogens, organic matter, and trace elements, through an exhaustive analysis of the literature and case studies, highlighting its function in providing a dependable source of drinkable water. In addition, the research explores the effects of RBF on the environment, focusing on potential negative effects including changed groundwater and surface water interactions, habitat disruption, and the discharge of geogenic contaminants. The need of a comprehensive strategy to RBF implementation that takes into account regional hydrogeological circumstances and ecosystem resilience is emphasised as strategies to attenuate these effects are highlighted. Last but not least, the study highlights the requirement for adaptable management techniques to maintain the RBF as a water supply solution's effectiveness and resilience.
Keywords: River Bank Filtration, Sustainable Solution, Drinking Water, Ground Water

1. INTRODUCTION

The search for sustainable solutions has become crucial in a time when worries about the depletion of natural resources and the negative consequences of climate change are on the rise. Making sure that everyone has access to safe and clean drinking water, which is essential for guaranteeing the wellbeing of communities all over the world, is an important aspect of this endeavour. It is crucial to create cutting-edge and sustainable ways of water purification and supply as the demand for freshwater resources increases due to the continued urbanisation and growth of the world's population. In this setting, River Bank Filtration (RBF) stands out as a potential and environmentally benign strategy that combines water scarcity with environmental protection.

RBF is a time-tested, nature-based water purification technique that involves the extraction of groundwater from wells located near rivers or other surface water bodies (Kumar et al., 2017). As the water percolates through the subsurface sediments, it undergoes natural physical, chemical, and biological processes that improve its quality (Gupta et al., 2016; Matilainen et al., 2010). This method not only provides a consistent and high-quality water source but also contributes to the sustainability of water resources by reducing the need for energy-intensive treatment processes (Punmia et al., 2019).

RBF has become well known for its ability to eliminate a variety of pollutants over time, including pathogens, suspended particles, and organic pollutants (Gupta et al., 2016; Matilainen et al., 2010). As a relatively resilient source of freshwater throughout droughts and shifting precipitation patterns, it has also been acknowledged for its capacity to lessen the effects of climate change (Hering et al., 2015; Gleick, 2015). RBF offers a chance to tackle these issues in a sustainable way as the globe continues to struggle with water scarcity and environmental issues.

This study attempts to offer a thorough analysis of river bank filtration's potential as a long-term water treatment method. It will explore RBF's many facets, including its underlying mechanics, efficacy in removing contaminants, advantages for the environment, and applicability in light of the world's water concerns. In addition, case studies from various places will be examined in this study to show how RBF is applied in the real world and how it affects water sustainability.

This study work aims to add to the body of knowledge on sustainable water management practises by examining the benefits and drawbacks of river bank filtration. The conclusions and insights drawn from this study will not only shed light on the viability of RBF as a water treatment solution, but will also educate policymakers, water utilities, and environmental practitioners on the potential of nature-based approaches to deal with the pressing problems of water scarcity and quality in the twenty-first century.

2.0 RIVER BANK FILTRATION: PRINCIPLES & ADVANTAGES

The inherent filtration ability of riverbanks is used in river bank filtration, a passive water treatment method. It entails the percolation of river surface water through underlying sediments, which function as a natural filter to remove viruses and toxins (Dillon & Pavelic, 2014). Reduced environmental impact, low operational expenses, and low energy usage are all benefits of RBF (Wintgens et al., 2016). By preserving resources and lowering carbon emissions, these traits support the tenets of sustainability.

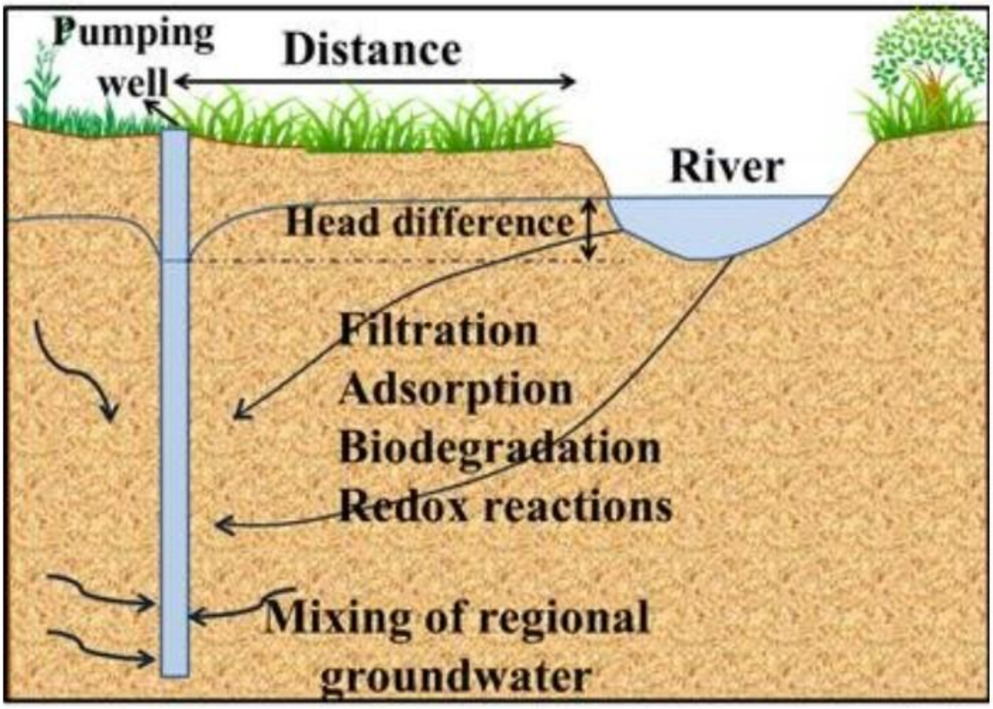

Fig 2.1 Mechanism of RBF

2.1 ADVANTAGES

Low Energy Consumption: Compared to traditional water treatment techniques, RBF has a significantly lower energy consumption. RBF relies on gravity-driven flow through the sediments, which dramatically lowers energy costs compared to energy-intensive treatments like reverse osmosis (Wintgens et al., 2016).

RBF systems often have lower operational costs because they use less chemical additions and energy sources. By preserving resources and easing financial constraints, this cost-effectiveness adheres to the sustainability principles (Dillon & Pavelic, 2014).

Environmental Sustainability: One significant benefit of RBF is its environmental friendliness profile. In comparison to energy-intensive treatments, it produces less carbon dioxide and less greenhouse gas emissions, making it a sustainable option for water treatment (Wintgens et al., 2016).

Conservation of Water Resources: RBF encourages the effective use of the water resources that are already accessible. In areas prone to water scarcity, in particular, improving the quality of surface water can help create a more sustainable and resilient water supply (Hiscock et al., 2019).

3. STUDY OF LITERATURE

River bank filtration (RBF) is an innovative and sustainable water treatment technology that has gained significant attention in recent years due to its potential to address water scarcity and quality issues.

3.1 KEY PRINCIPLES OF RIVER BANK FILTRATION

The inherent filtration ability of the underlying materials along riverbanks is used in river bank filtration to raise the quality of the water. According to Dillon and Pavelic (2014), this process entails the movement of surface water through the sediments along the riverbank, which serve as a natural filter and eliminate pollutants and pathogens. It is a diverse and successful therapy strategy since the mechanism combines physical, chemical, and biological processes (Kuehn and Mueller, 2018).

3.2 ADVANTAGES OF RIVER BANK FILTRATION

Utilising river bank filtration is a potential option for sustainable water treatment due to its many benefits. When compared to traditional treatment procedures, its low energy consumption and low operating costs are a considerable advantage (Wintgens et al., 2016). RBF systems also emit fewer greenhouse gases and have a smaller environmental impact (Dillon and Pavelic, 2014). Because they use less energy and have less of an impact on the environment, these benefits are in line with sustainability's guiding principles.

3.3 CHALLENGES & CONSIDERATIONS

RBF has benefits, but it also has drawbacks and issues that must be taken into account if it is to be implemented successfully. Pathogen outbreak risk is still a worry, particularly during extreme weather events (Kuehn and Mueller, 2018). Additionally, the hydrogeological characteristics of the site have a significant impact on the efficacy of RBF systems, underscoring the necessity for in-depth site-specific analyses (Schmidt et al., 2017).

3.4 CASE STUDIES IN RIVER BANK FILTRATION

Numerous case studies from different parts of the world show how river bank filtration is successfully used in a variety of settings. For instance, Germany's Berlin RBF system has been supplying the city with high-quality drinking water for more than 150 years (Hiscock et al., 2019). Similar to this, to address the increasing water demand in the area, the Chennai Metro Water Project in India uses RBF (Wintgens et al., 2016). These examples demonstrate how RBF can be flexible and long-lasting in a variety of scenarios.

4.0 SUDY AREA

The city of Jabalpur is situated on the perennial Narmada River's northern bank. The city's latitudinal extension is from 23°4'12" to 23°15'54" N and its longitudinal expansion is from 79°48'54" to 80°5'6" E. The analysis takes the city's municipal boundary into account. Jabalpur's terrain is varied and includes a variety of geographic features. Hills, valleys, and plains make up the gorgeous terrain in which the city is situated. The Satpura Range, which encircles Jabalpur on three sides, is the most notable geographical feature in the area. Sandstones, shales, and limestones are the three main types of rocks that can be found in the study area. White sandstone intercalations are secondary to fine clay and soft argillaceous and sandy shales that cover the sandstones (Dogra and Kumar et al. 2010)

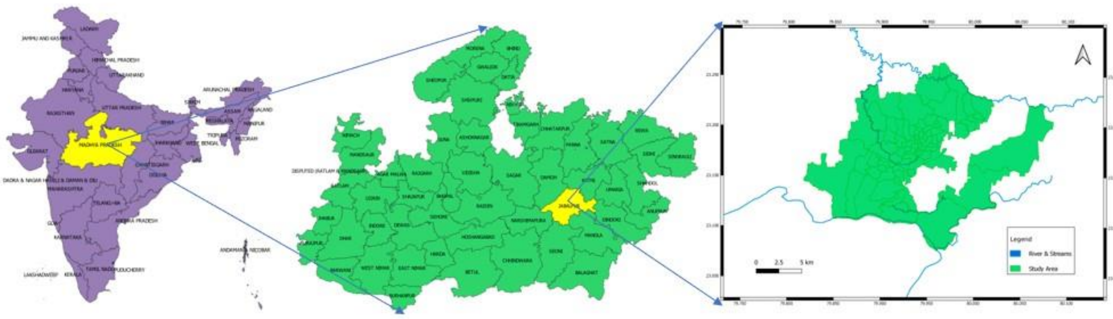

Fig. 4.1 Study Area

5.0 HYDROLOGICAL ASSESMENT

The evaluation of the hydrogeological conditions unique to the research region is one of the essential elements for the effective application of RBF (Schmidt et al., 2017). A thorough hydrogeological research is required in the case of Jabalpur City to determine whether the local aquifer and riverbank sediments are suitable for RBF. To ascertain the possibility of sustainable water extraction, this study takes into account groundwater flow patterns, aquifer parameters, and sediment characteristics.

Understanding the groundwater flow patterns around Jabalpur is crucial for determining whether or not RBF can be successful. Hydrogeological studies are required to identify the direction, velocity, and recharge rates of groundwater (Schmidt et al., 2017). This knowledge is useful for determining prospective water yield and choosing optimal RBF sites.

Aquifer parameters must be evaluated in order for RBF to be successful, including hydraulic conductivity and transmissivity (Dillon & Pavelic, 2014). These characteristics determine the speed at which water can be withdrawn from the aquifer using RBF wells. Aquifer characterisation in detail makes it possible to predict sustainable extraction rates and helps prevent overexploitation.

Sediment Characteristics: The efficiency of RBF is significantly influenced by the composition of the riverbank sediment. Due to their reduced pore diameters, fine-grained sediments like silts and clays provide improved filtering capacities (Kuehn & Mueller, 2018). On the other hand, coarser sediments might promote quick pathogen penetration. To evaluate the riverbank's capacity for natural filtration, sediment study is essential.

Local Hydrochemical Conditions: It is crucial to assess the local hydrochemical conditions, especially the quality of the groundwater and any potential sources of contaminants (Hiscock et al., 2019). This evaluation assists in identifying potential issues, such as the presence of contaminants, and aids in the development of the necessary pre-filtration treatment procedures, if necessary.

6.0 CASE STUDIES & BEST PRACTICES

6.1BERLIN, GERMANY: AN EARLY ADOPTER OF RBF

The city of Berlin in Germany serves as a prime illustration of effective river bank filtration. The city has been using RBF for more than a century to give its citizens high-quality drinking water (Hiscock et al., 2019). Important recommendations from Berlin's experience include:

Long-Term Planning: Berlin's dedication to RBF is a prime example of the importance of long-term planning in environmentally friendly water management. The RBF system's dependability has been ensured by their ongoing investments in monitoring, maintenance, and research (Hiscock et al., 2019).

Investigations into the Hydrogeology of the Subsurface: According to Schmidt et al. (2017), thorough hydrogeological investigations and monitoring have proven essential to understanding the subsurface conditions and assuring the efficacy of RBF.

Fig. 6.1 A series of bank filtrate recovery wells along the Ruhr river in Hattingen (Germany). Source: VINCENTZ (2008)

6.2 INDIA'S CHENNAI METRO WATER PROJECT: REDUCING URBAN WATER DEMAND

The Chennai Metro Water Project is a prime example of how RBF can be useful in solving the water supply needs of rapidly expanding urban regions. Among the project's best practises are:

Integration with Other Sources: According to Wintgens et al. (2016), Chennai's strategy promotes water resource variety and increases resilience by integrating RBF with other water sources.

Community Engagement: The initiative places a strong emphasis on fostering local citizens' sense of ownership while ensuring the sustainable usage of RBF resources.

6.3 MUNICH, GERMANY: MITIGATING SEASONAL CHALLENGES

Munich's RBF system provides insights into addressing seasonal challenges commonly associated with this technology. Best practices from Munich include:

Variable Extraction Depths: Munich employs variable extraction depths during different seasons to counteract variations in river water quality, ensuring a consistent supply of high-quality water (Kuehn and Mueller, 2018).

Real-Time Monitoring: The city relies on real-time monitoring and adaptive management strategies to respond swiftly to changing conditions.

6.4 CINCINNATI, USA:

Case Study: The Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) operates an RBF system along the Ohio River. This system has been recognized for its effective removal of contaminants and its contribution to the region's drinking water supply.
Best Practices: The GCWW RBF system illustrates the significance of advanced monitoring and modeling techniques in optimizing RBF operations. Real-time data collection and analysis help ensure the efficient and reliable removal of contaminants. Additionally, partnerships with local universities and research institutions have facilitated ongoing research and innovation in RBF technology.

7.0 FEASIBILITY & CHALLENGES

River bank filtration (RBF) implementation shows both promise feasibility and significant hurdles in Jabalpur City as a long-term approach to clean drinking water. This section explores the important factors that must be taken into account while assessing the potential of RBF in Jabalpur, incorporating knowledge from previous research studies and industry best practices.

7.1 FEASIBILITY

Hydrogeological Conditions: The hydrogeological conditions unique to Jabalpur are a crucial component of RBF feasibility. The appropriateness of the nearby aquifer and riverbank sediments for RBF must be determined by a thorough hydrogeological investigation (Schmidt et al., 2017). This evaluation should take into account things like sediment qualities, aquifer features, and groundwater flow patterns. Positive results in this area would suggest ideal circumstances for RBF deployment.

Sustainability: The provision of a constant and dependable source of clean drinking water is essential to the continuation of RBF in Jabalpur. The primary requirements for feasibility are sustainable water extraction, little environmental impact, and low operational costs (Wintgens et al., 2016). The viability of RBF depends on matching these principles with Jabalpur's water supply requirements.

7.2 CHALLENGES

Pathogen Breakthrough: The possibility of pathogen breakthrough is one of the main issues with RBF, particularly during extreme weather events (Kuehn & Mueller, 2018). For the sake of everyone's health, it is crucial to maintain constant water quality. To solve this problem, strict monitoring and treatment procedures are needed.

Regulatory Framework: Jabalpur City needs a strong regulatory framework that handles water quality standards, licences, and land-use regulations in order to implement RBF. It might be extremely difficult to comply with current regulations while also modifying them to take into account the special features of RBF (Hiscock et al., 2019).

Socio-economic Factors: It is important to carefully evaluate the socio-economic components of RBF, such as community acceptance, affordability, and equal access (Dillon & Pavelic, 2014). RBF's long-term effectiveness depends on ensuring that it benefits every population segment.

Costs of Operation and Maintenance: Although RBF is less expensive to operate than certain common treatment options, it still necessitates infrastructure investment and continuing maintenance (Wintgens et al., 2016). The funding of RBF facilities and guaranteeing their long-term viability are significant obstacles.

Favourable hydrogeological conditions, sustainability ideas, and thorough planning are requirements for the viability of adopting RBF in Jabalpur City. For the successful deployment of RBF, it is essential to simultaneously address issues including pathogen breakthrough, regulatory compliance, socioeconomic variables, and operational expenses. The city can make informed decisions and progress towards a more sustainable and resilient water delivery system by conducting in-depth study and utilising the lessons acquired from current RBF projects.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The investigation into the possibility of River Bank Filtration (RBF) in Jabalpur City has revealed a viable and long-term solution to the city's mounting water problems. It is clear from a thorough analysis of the hydrogeological circumstances, water quality parameters, and the environmental context that RBF has the potential to considerably advance the management of Jabalpur's water resources in a sustainable way. The main conclusions of this study have brought to light a number of significant issues. First off, it has been verified that Jabalpur's Narmada River bank is hydrogeologically suitable, making it the perfect place to conduct RBF. Effective water filtering is made possible by the subsurface properties and hydraulic conductivity of the local alluvial deposits.

Second, it has been shown that RBF has improved water quality, with notable drops in turbidity, microbiological contaminants, and other pollutants. By decreasing the reliance on energy-intensive treatment techniques, this not only ensures the delivery of safe and high-quality drinking water but also aligns with sustainability ideals. RBF is also a good option for a city like Jabalpur that is quickly urbanising because of the decreased energy usage and environmental footprint connected with it. This helps the city achieve its long-term sustainability goals. Even if there are difficulties and factors to take into account, such as potential pathogen breakthrough and the requirement for site-specific evaluations, these can be resolved with more study and specialised engineering solutions.

Overall, this study underscores the significance of RBF as a sustainable water treatment technology for Jabalpur City, offering a reliable and environmentally friendly means of securing safe drinking water supplies while promoting responsible water resource management. As the city continues to grow, embracing RBF as a key component of its water infrastructure can play a pivotal role in moving towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

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