

**ANALYSIS OF AIR POLLUTION IN SELECTED CITIES OF MAHARASHTRA****Dr. Moushumi Datta**

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Introduction :

Environmental pollution is considered now as a global phenomenon that attracts the attention of human beings for its severer long term consequences. Various sources of pollutants like NO₂, SO₂ that have altered composition of the air must be measured to determine air quality. Monitoring of the pollution is first and the most important step of air pollution control. We are exposed to outdoor and indoor air pollution. Repeated exposure may damage lung tissue of human being. It also has harmful effects on plants, and animals. Extreme air pollution can deteriorate buildings and monuments too. On this background in the present research paper the data published by MPCB is analysed and results are drawn.

Review of Literature :

About 90% air we inhale is gaseous nitrogen and oxygen along with trace amounts of other gases, minute droplets of other liquids and tiny particles of various solids. Many of these particles are classified as air pollutants. Most of them come from various vehicles, some from factories, and power plants. Other sources of air pollution are cigarette smoking, use of chemical cleaners and volatiles, burning of fossil fuel, and vehicles are responsible for half of the urban air pollution. Sulphur dioxide is a primary air pollutant and its source is human activities and sometimes even natural events are responsible for it. As a result of chemical reaction of primary air pollutants, secondary air pollutants like sulphuric acid are produced in the atmosphere. Amount of precipitation along with relative size of the particle also influence length of time for which suspended air particulate matter remain in the atmosphere of various areas. We have many defence mechanisms in our body for various diseases like for diseases caused by exposure to different air pollutants we have a filtration system in the form of hairs in the nose to filter out large particles. Even though mortality is due to exposure to fine particles arises because of combustion activity. It has become an important environmental risk factor for lung cancer and cardiopulmonary disturbances (Lomate, 2015) Both ambient and indoor air pollution levels have reached an alarming stage in Maharashtra. Major sources of ambient air pollution are industries, power plants and motor vehicles emitting high levels of Sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, suspended particulate matter and numerous other pollutants (PCI, 2007)

Area of Study :

Maharashtra is a state on the Western Coast of India which is home to the financial capital of the Country-Mumbai. It is the most urbanized and industrialized state of India. It has been in the news for long for the pollution it has especially air pollution. Though the entire state is industrialized, some districts are comparatively highly industrialized than the others. Hence five important districts have been selected for the present study viz. Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Amravati and

