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# **RESEARCH PAPER**

# POSSIBLE ABSTRACTION SITES ALONG OSUN RIVER LOWER COURSE IN OGUN AND LAGOS STATES, NIGERIA FOR SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF POTABLE WATER

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Water scarcity remains a major challenge in all the developing nations of the world; not because of paucity of surface water (rivers and streams) that could be abstracted for treatment, but, finding a suitable and sustainable abstraction site. The main objective of this research is to identify good locations, where water treatment plant could be sited along Osun River in Ogun and Lagos State for sustainable production of potable water. To achieve this, water quality of Osun River upstream Lekki lagoon was investigated at three sampling stations; Ogbere, Igbonla and Lekki. Water parameters such as physical (temperature, solids, turbidity) chemicals (pH, electrical conductivity (EC), dissolved oxygen (DO), chemical oxygen demand (COD), nitrate, phosphate, chloride and sulphate, alkalinity, potassium, lead, chromium, iron) and bacteriological (feacal coliform) were determined using standard procedures. The results revealed that Ogbere and Igbonla stations are better locations where water could be abstracted from Osun River than Lekki stations due to low measured parameters (indicators of water pollution), which were within World Health Organization (WHO) acceptable limits. The findings also showed that while raw water abstraction from Osun River at Ogbere and Igbonla stations would require a conventional treatment, raw water from the Lekki lagoon (station) would require special treatment especially desalination due to high chloride and EC contents with expected cost implication.

Keywords: potable water, sampling stations, abstraction, Osun River, water quality parameter

### INTRODUCTION

Surface water abstraction serves different purposes. Water is abstracted for public water supply, electricity generation, agriculture, fish farming, industrial and other purposes (DEFRA, 2011). In developed and developing nations all over the world, 50 % of all abstracted water is channeled towards electricity usage while 75 % accounts for industrial purposes (Turnpenny and Coughlan, 2003). In England and Wales, a range of 33.1 - 41.6 thousand megamillion per day amount of water has been abstracted between 1999 and 2008. Each Briton therefore, has access to 860 L water per day from abstracted water (DEFRA, 2011). In a nation like Nigeria, water scarcity is a major problem like in any other developing countries (Taiwo, 2011). For instance, Lagos Water Corporation provides potable water for about 35 percent of the population of Lagos State. The

remaining 65 percent obtains their water supply from various sources including privately owned dug wells and boreholes for their daily survival. The total installed production capacity of all water treatment facilities belonging to Lagos Water Corporation (LWC) is 680 million litters per day (MLD) out of which 150 MLD (22 percent) is based on groundwater. The groundwater based waterworks are categorized into Mini Water Works (10.0 to 13.5 MLD) and Micro Water Works (below 4.5 MLD). There are three major waterworks and they are based on surface water. These are Iju Water Works with a designed capacity of 216 MLD, Adiyan Water Works with capacity of 240 MLD and Isasi Water Works (designed capacity of 18 MLD).

Although, groundwater aquifers in Lagos are yielding well, they are at high risks of saline water intrusions from the Atlantic Ocean.

Therefore, groundwater potential as an alternative consideration for meeting new water schemes is not of economic value for abstraction. This is the reason why surface water is now being considered as an alternative source to boost the present urban water supply in Lagos and Ogun state. To increase the drinking water production by LWC, more large scheme (s) will be required to join the existing major, mini and micro schemes. The major river in Lagos state where raw fresh water could be abstracted and treated for drinking water production for masses is Osun River. The situation of water scarcity is also being experienced in Ogun state and other states of the Federation. For instance, Ogun State Water Corporation had witnessed a decline in water production in the past four years (Orebiyi et al., 2010). Potable water scarcity is a peculiar problem in Nigeria at large (Gbadebo et al., 2010; Taiwo et al., 2010). It is a time for the government at the center to wade into this matter, so that the goal of the World Health Organization (WHO) in relation to access to adequate drinking water supply could be achieved (WHO, 2006; Taiwo et al., 2010). The question now is at what location of Osun River should a water treatment plant be sited for water abstraction and treatment in a sustainable manner? The abstraction point, apart from other engineering consideration is determined by the water quality parameters. This is the major focus of this paper, by examining the water quality of the Osun River at three major stations along the catchments area of the River. These locations were purposefully identified because of the existing infrastructure like electricity and accessible road network. Nevertheless, where ever the water treatment plant is located along the River, potable water could be distributed to other parts of the country most especially Lagos with pipes.

# Hydraulic Properties of Aquifers in Study Area

Within the Lagos state catchment of the Osun River, four (4) aquifers were identified (Longe et al., 1987). The upper aquifer extends roughly to 12 m below the ground, while the second aquifer is encountered between 20 m and 70 m below sea level. The third aquifer is found at depths 130 m to 160 m below sea level, dipping towards the coast where it ranges from 170 m to 210 m below sea level, with a thickness ranging from 15 m to 30 m. The fourth aquifer can be found at approximately 450 m below sea level. It is separated from the third aquifer by a rather thick layer of shale of the Ewekoro formation. The water-bearing strata consist of sands, gravels or admixtures of the two. There are textural variations from fine through medium to coarse sands and they are poorly to well graded. When near the surface, the sand deposits are generally loose but become moderately dense with depth and occasionally with clay inter-beds. All the areas are made up of multilayer aquifer systems but can be reduced to three major ones. A subsurface sequence delineation and saline mapping of Lagos State has been studied by Olorunfemi (2004). The borehole resistivity logs delineate saline water at shallow with fresh/saline water interface at depths ranging from 8 - 15m (Olorunfemi,

2004). Confined saline water was delineated at deep levels. Delineated saline water zone extends from about 2.5 km from the coast area to 12.5 km within Lagos metropolitan where excessive groundwater abstraction has led to the up-coning of the basal saline water.

# METHODOLOGY

### The Study Area

Osun River Basin is located in an area whose boundaries are approximately latitudes 8° 20' N and longitudes 5° 10' E and occupies approximately 9,900 square kilometer of land area. The greater part of Osun River Basin is located in Ovo and Ogun states with less than 7 percent of the total area located in Kwara and Lagos states (OORBDA, 1982). Osun River takes its source from Oshogbo, Osun state and flows through Ogbere (Ijebu-Ode/Benin Road), Ogun state, Igbonla and empties its content into Lekki Lagoon in Epe (Lagos state). The main socioeconomic activities of people living around the Osun River are farming and fishing with little population into sand dredging (Adeleke et al., 2011). Adeleke et al. (2010) observed that about 20, 000 people live around the Ogun state axis of Osun River water course in rain forest ecological zone. These people use the water from the river for domestic purpose, fishing, recreation and washing. Sand-dredging activities also take place along the River water course in these areas.

#### Sampling and Analysis

Water samples were collected randomly from twenty sampling locations in three communities (five sampling points in Ogbere, eight in Igbonla, and seven in Lekki) along Osun River with 2.5 litres plastic kegs, which have been thoroughly washed and rinsed many times with deionised distilled water. At collection points, sampling kegs were rinsed with the raw water samples. Sampling was carried out between April and August, 2009.

# **Analytical Methods**

Physical, chemical and bacteriological analyses of water samples were carried out using stan-

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dard procedures. Colour, turbidity, total suspended solid (TSS) were determined colorimetrically with spectrometer (APHA, 1998); temperature, pH, conductivity and total dissolved solids (TDS) were determined using mercury in glass thermometer, pH meter and electrical conductivity (EC) and TDS meter (Combo Hi 98130, Hanna, USA), respectively. Total solids (TS) were obtained by summation of TDS and TSS values. Dissolved oxygen (DO) was determined by Winkler titration method described by Ademoroti (1996), alkalinity and chloride by titrimetric method (APHA, 1998), chemical oxygen demand (COD) by colorimetric reflux method (Ademoroti, 1996). Metals were analyzed by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry (AAS, Perkin Elmer 330) after the water samples had been pre-concentrated by heating 100 mL acidified water samples on a hot plate for 30 minutes (Jaji et al., 2007). However; potassium analysis was done by flame photometric method. Analysis of feacal coliform was carried out using Total Viable Cell Count (TVCC) method described by Ademoroti (1996). Results were subjected to statistical analysis of variance (ANOVA), Duncan Multiple Range Test using SPSS for windows software version 19.0.

# RESULTS

The results of analyzed parameters of the water samples at Ogbere. Igbonla and Lekki stations are presented in Table 1. Range of physicochemical parameters observed at the three sampling points are: temperature (26 - 32 °C), pH (7.0 - 8.0), EC (0 - 62 MS/cm), turbidity (0 - 36 NTU), alkalinity (50 -140 mg/L), DO (2.0 - 4.0 mg/L), COD (1.0-7.0 mg/L), TDS (291-50398 mg/L), TSS (0 - 30 mg/L), nitrate (2.0 -11 mg/L), phosphate (1.0 - 2.0 mg/L), Fe (0.22 - 0.77 mg/L), Cr (ND-0.001), Zn (0 - 0.24 mg/ L), K (0 - 1.0 mg/L), Pb (0 - 1.0 mg/L) and faecal coliform (24 - 242 cfu/100 mL). Hg was not detected in all the water samples. Figures 1 and 2 show the values of total solids, chloride and sulphate. High concentrations of these parameters were found to be high in Lekki sampling station. Water pH at the three sampling

sites was slightly alkaline with little or insignificant variations. Most of the observed parameters were significantly (p<0.05) different from one sampling location especially at Lekki sampling station except pH, DO, nitrate, phosphate, Zn and potassium. Results trend also depicted a significantly higher (p < 0.05) values of TDS, TS, EC, alkalinity, chloride, COD, sulphate, chromium and faecal coliform at Lekki site relative to the other two sites. Water quality values are compared with international and local standards shown in Table 2.



Fig. 1: Comparison of the average values of total solids at the sampling stations in mg/L  $\,$ 



Fig. 2: Average chloride and sulphate concentrations of water sample at the sampling stations in mg/L

		Ogbe	sre			Igboi	nla			Lek	<i>k</i> i	
Parameters	Mean	SD	Min	Max.	Mean	SD	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD	Min.	Max.
Temperature (°C)	26.8 <sup>a</sup>	0.84	26	28	29.38 <sup>b</sup>	1.41	28	32	28.29 <sup>b</sup>	0.49	28	29
Hd	7.98 <sup>a</sup>	0.15	8.0	8.0	7.94 <sup>a</sup>	0.15	8.0	8.0	7.90 <sup>a</sup>	0.60	7.0	8.0
EC (MS/cm)	$1.14^{a}$	0.56	1.0	2.0	$0.67^{a}$	1.02	0.0	3.0	57.24 <sup>b</sup>	4.56	50	62
Turbidity (NTU)	33.0 <sup>b</sup>	2.74	29	36	27.0 <sup>b</sup>	5.12	19	32	12.57 <sup>a</sup>	11.03	0.0	26
Alkalinity (mg/L)	64.0 <sup>a</sup>	11.4	50	80	77.50 <sup>a</sup>	24.93	50	120	$128.57^{b}$	8.99	120	140
Chloride (mg/L)	20.60 <sup>a</sup>	3.85	16	25	36.25 <sup>a</sup>	36.68	14	122	453 <sup>b</sup>	12.26	436	470
DO (mg/L)	$3.16^{a}$	0.36	3.0	4.0	$3.38^{a}$	0.46	3.0	4.0	3.12 <sup>a</sup>	0.59	2.0	4.0
COD (mg/L)	$3.60^{a}$	1.67	1.0	5.0	4.63 <sup>a</sup>	1.92	1.0	7.0	87.14 <sup>b</sup>	12.92	67	106
TDS (mg/L)	$399.4^{a}$	64.05	320	477	408.75 <sup>a</sup>	91.62	291	542	44738.14 <sup>b</sup>	9143.1	24525	50398
TSS (mg/L)	21.80 <sup>a</sup>	4.96	17	30	20.75 <sup>b</sup>	3.24	16	26	$3.14^{b}$	2.61	0.0	8.0
TS (mg/L)	$421.20^{a}$	67.17	341	507	429.5 <sup>a</sup>	92.26	307	563	44741.29 <sup>b</sup>	9143.1	24527	50401
Nitrate (mg/L)	6.78 <sup>a</sup>	2.12	5.0	10	6.32 <sup>a</sup>	2.35	4.0	11	$6.90^{a}$	2.60	2.0	10
Phosphate (mg/L)	$1.30^{a}$	0.46	1.0	2.0	1.19 <sup>a</sup>	0.51	1.0	2.0	1.59 <sup>a</sup>	0.18	1.0	2.0
Sulphate (mg/L)	15.6 <sup>a</sup>	30.48	0.0	70	$13.0^{a}$	35.17	0.0	100	484.28 <sup>b</sup>	113.99	350	670
Iron (mg/L)	$0.47^{a}$	0.2	0.22	0.75	0.45 <sup>b</sup>	0.18	0.41	0.77	$0.28^{b}$	0.09	0.25	0.39
Chromium (mg/L)	ND				ND				0.001	0.002	0.0	0.001
Zinc (mg/L)	$0.04^{a}$	0.07	0.0	0.14	$0.04^{a}$	0.8	0.004	0.24	0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.02	0.0	0.01
Lead (mg/L)	$0.36^{a}$	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.01	0.001	0.02	$0.01^{b}$	0.01	0.0	0.01
Mercury (mg/L)	ND				ŊŊ				ND			
Potassium (mg/L)	0.05 <sup>a</sup>	0.1	0.0	0.22	$0.04^{a}$	0.12	0.0	0.34	$0.38^{a}$	0.49	0.0	1.0
Faecal Coliform (count/100 mL)	51.2 <sup>ª</sup>	4.38	46	58	36.88 <sup>ª</sup>	8.71	24	50	196.71 <sup>b</sup>	22.5	175	242
DO-Dissolved Oxygen, C SD-Standard Deviation, S	OD-Chemical	Oxygen Do the same al	emand, TS phabets an	S-Total Sol re not statis	ids, TSS-Totá stically signifi	ul Suspende icant (p<0.1	ed Solids, 7 05) accordi	DS-Total D	issolved Solids, N n Multiple Range	ND-Not Dete : Test	cted	

Table 1: Results of water quality parameters at the three sampling stations

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 Table 2: Water quality permissible standards

Parameters	WHO (2008)	FEPA
		(1991)
Temperature ( °C)		< 40
pН	6.5-8.5	6.0-9.0
Turbidity (NTU)	<5.0	
Chloride (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	200-300*	600
TDS (mg $L^{-1}$ )	<600*	2000
TSS (mg $L^{-1}$ )		30
Nitrate (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	50	20
Sulphate (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	< 250*	500
Sodium (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	200	
Iron (mg $L^{-1}$ )	0.30*	20
Pb (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.01	< 1.0
Hg (mg $L^{-1}$ )	0.06	0.05
Color TCU	15.0	
Zinc (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	3-5*	< 1.0
$Cr (mg L^{-1})$	0.05	< 1.0
Coliform	0 (count/100 m $L^{-1}$ )	400 MPN
DO (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )		5.0

\*Non health-based guidelines

#### DISCUSSION

Water parameters such as temperature, pH, alkalinity, nitrate, Cr and Zn have their values fall within the safe limits of WHO (2008) and FEPA (1991) for drinking water. The values of phosphate were relatively high at all the sampling locations. Phosphate value above 0.01 mg/L has been reported to increase microbial growth in water (Miettinen *et al.*, 1997). In unpolluted water, total phosphorus is in the range 0.01 - 0.05 mg/L (Miettinen *et al.*, 1997). Phosphate values above 0.2 mg/L in rivers, and 0.085 mg/L in lakes can cause undesirable environmental problems in freshwater (www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

Olajire and Imeokparia (2001) have reported similar high concentration of phosphate (1.48 mg/L) at the upper course of Osun River. High concentration of phosphate in Ogun River has also been observed by Jaji *et al.* (2007). The presence of high phosphate concentration at these stations indicates pollutions from domestic, municipal and agricultural wastes (Correll, 1998; Jaji *et al.*, 2007). Ecological effect of phosphate is eutrophication, and this could pose great threat to water treatment plant. High concentration of phosphate could also have cost implication of the water abstraction and treatment. Another significant effect of high phosphate in water is oxygen reduction (D'Amelio, 2007), this may have resulted in the generally low DO observed at all the sites. Low DO in rivers and streams could lead to deaths of aquatic organisms (Einum *et al.*, 2002).

Turbidity is an important operational parameter in process control of water treatment. High turbidity could protect microorganisms from disinfection and could stimulate bacterial growth in drinking water (WHO, 2008). However, turbidity could be easily removed by coagulation, sedimentation and filtration. High observed turbidity value may not pose an insurmountable problem since the water will still undergo serial treatments. High TSS mean values at these stations greater than 30.0 mg/L.

FEPA (1991) limit can also be tackled through the processes that removes turbidity. Iron is not a toxic parameter; rather the guideline is based on aesthetic characteristics. WHO (2008) had suggested a concentration value of 0.30 mg/L because above this concentration, it stains laundry and plumbing fixtures. It could also increase water turbidity and colors. Iron could be removed by coagulation and ion-exchange mechanism. Since the water from these stations is raw and will undergo treatment, the presence of coliform is not a threat, but, just an indication of feacal contaminant (Taiwo, 2010).

A very high TDS observed at Lekki station higher than WHO standards is an indication of pollution from inorganic salts and organic substances dissolved in water (ANZECC, 2000). Significant (p<0.05) value of TDS at this station may be connected to intrusion from Atlantic Ocean tidal waves which is not far from the

site (Martins and Awokola, 1996; Ahonkhai and Chukwuogo, 1996). Jaji *et al.* (2007) recorded high values of TDS in Ogun River at site close to Lagos Lagoon. Further confirmation of ocean intrusion for high value of TDS at Lekki station was found in the significantly high values of EC and chloride. Awomeso *et al.* (2010) in a related work conducted on a stream in Lagos found TDS and EC values in the range 673–45216 mg/L and 1.5-43mS/cm respectively.

Elevated values of solids are indications of the presence of array of chemical and non-chemical contaminants. According to WHO, TDS above 1000 mg/L would increase the unpalatability of water and may be objectionable to consumers due to excessive scaling in pipes, heaters, boilers and household appliances. High value of chloride and conductivity in water may also indicate indiscriminate disposal of raw wastes and sewage into a water body (Taiwo *et al.*, 2010).

High concentration of chloride, EC and TDS at Lekki station could be a major problem to water abstraction and subsequent treatment. It is a clear indication of saline water. Salinity in water could be expensive to remove. The effective way of removal is by reverse osmosis. Reverse osmotic plant is very costly and could be hardly afforded by any developing nation. At the upper course of the River at Osun state, which is about 300 km from the first sampling point in this study, Olajire and Imeokparia (2001) reported high values of EC, nitrate and chloride. However, the TDS and chloride values obtained from Lekki sampling station remained the highest compared to previously reported values by Olajire and Imeokparia (2001) and relative to the other sampling stations.

Significant higher sulphate and faecal coliform values at Lekki sampling station may be attributed to direct wastes disposal from septic effluent and animal wastes, as well as run off of faecal contaminants from non-point sources (Fatoki *et al.*, 2001; Jaji *et al.*, 2007; Taiwo,

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2010). Chromium was also detected at this site (Lekki) while it was not detected at the other two sites (Ogbere and Igbonla). What this portrayed is that this site is heavily polluted. High measured parameters at Lekki could not be unconnected with industrial discharges from Lagos metropolis into the Lagos Lagoon. High significance (p<0.05) concentration of COD at Lekki station could be linked to industrial waste discharges with the presence of biologically resistant organic matters (Sawyer and McCarty, 1978). Previous work of Awomeso et al. (2010) has shown high COD values in a stream polluted by textile industry in Lagos. Other environmental risks associated with surface water abstraction include changes in water flow, impingement of small fish leading to sharp reduction in juvenile population, and entrainment of planktonic organisms (Bamber and Seaby, 2003, Maes et al., 2004). Also, abstraction of water for electricity could lead to thermal pollution. Since cooling water is returned into the water body at a high temperature.

As this study is concerned, our priority is water quality. This has been observed and the results extensively discussed. In line with the study results, abstraction of raw water from Osun River at Ogbere and Igbonla for conventional treatment waterworks to satisfy Lagos and Ogun state water requirement is safe and economical. The quantity of water in River Osun at Lekki is very high, but cannot be utilized for drinking purposes due to outrageous cost of treating the saline water. Water can be abstracted from the river at Ogbere and Igbonla axes at reasonable treatment costs.

# CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDA-TION

The study has revealed variations in water quality parameters at the three sampling locations. Water quality parameters were generally low at Ogbere and Igbonla axes of Osun River compared to Lekki station. Abstraction of water from these two locations for treatment will be less costly and sustainable while at Lekki station, the cost will be very high due to high

chloride and EC concentrations. This study thereby, recommends to various governmental arms especially the Federal Government of possible and cost-effective establishment of water treatment plant at Ogbere and Igbonla axes of Osun River. This will reduce the persistent water-shortage problems being experienced by the residents of both Lagos and Ogun states. Adequate supplies of potable water are prerequisite to good standard of living. This paper therefore, calls for immediate action by the government for sustainable supply of potable water for her citizens; so that WHO goals of access to clean water could be achieved.

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