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## Assessment of Fish Diversity and Water Quality at Guwardi Dam, Bhilwara.

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#### ABSTRACT

This study examines the relationship between fish diversity and water quality at Guwardi Dam, focusing on physicochemical parameters from July to September 2024. Water samples were collected twice monthly from four sites and analysed, with fish diversity data provided by dam officials. Key water quality metrics included pH (8.35-9.94), temperature ( $27.3^{\circ}C-30.7^{\circ}C$ ), salinity (0.28-0.64 ppt), dissolved oxygen (3.92-4.84 mg/L) and biological oxygen demand (1.8-4.84 mg/L). Other parameters measured were hardness (57.65-176.76 mg/L), carbonate alkalinity (3.4-8 mg/L), bicarbonate alkalinity (75.1-126.2mg/L), alkalinity (79.7-133.6 mg/L), total dissolved solids (379-877 ppm), and electrical conductivity ( $551-1,289.7 \mu$ S/cm). The dam supported 20 fish species from 9 families and 7 orders, with Cypriniformes (45%) and Siluriformes (30%) being the dominant orders. The alkaline water, while suitable for fish and fisheries, highlights the need for long-term monitoring due to threats from domestic and industrial waste. The study recorded the dam high fish species diversity but also points out the importance of conservation efforts to maintain aquatic health.

**Keywords**: Fish Diversity, Guwardi Dam, Industrial and Domestic Waste, Physico-Chemical Parameters, Water Quality.

#### INTRODUCTION

The biodiversity of an aquatic environment encompasses both freshwater ecosystems as well as marine ecosystems (Sanjula *et al.* 2020). The utilization of biodiversity is common as it is an indicator that determines the health of biological diversity. Due to human activities like overfishing, pollution, and developmental activities, manhandling of streams, rivers and dams left the biodiversity of freshwater in a crisis state (Attah et al., 2023). Fish biodiversity in Rajasthan which is in the Northwestern region of India has few rivers (Kumar, 2017) with a diversity of various orders including Cypriniformes, Siluriformes, Perciformes, Osteoglossiformes, Synbranchiformes, Beloniformes and Clupeiformes (Banyal & Kumar, 2019) in Banas River system while (Banyal et al., 2019) found the orders Cypriniformes, Perciformes and Osteoglossiformes in Chambal Basin of West Banas River.

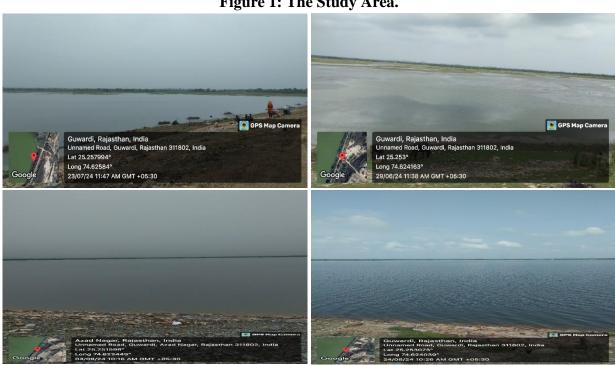
Water quality is the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of water. The chemistry of a water body is largely influenced by its temperature, pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), conductivity, depth and water velocity (Islam et al., 2022). Fish production depends on various factors, including temperature, turbidity, transparency, water colour, carbon dioxide, pH, alkalinity, hardness, ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate, primary productivity, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), plankton population, and primary productivity (Verma et al., 2022), but the most important to be



considered are pH, ammonia, nitrite, dissolved oxygen, temperature, total alkalinity, total hardness, and free carbon dioxide (Crosby et al., 2006). (Esteban, 2016) said that "Fish and the aquatic environment are strongly connected, and there is a lot of interest in how they interact. Knowledge on their water medium is necessary for understanding the anatomy of fish. The morphological, physiological, and ecological developments are controlled by water."

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS STUDY AREA**

The study area is Guwardi dam. It is located in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan. It is 16km from the city of Bhilwara with an approximate latitude of 25.3830°N and a longitude of 274.6410°E. It has a semi-arid climate with an undulating terrain. It was constructed primarily for irrigation, domestic and industrial use, and flood control in the region. The main source of water into the dam is rainfall and runoffs from surrounding areas. The dam is managed by the Office of Fisheries Development Officer, Bhilwara, Rajasthan.



#### Figure 1: The Study Area.

#### SAMPLE COLLECTION METHOD WATER SAMPLE COLLECTION

The Dam was divided into four (4) different sites for collection of sample collection. Water samples were collected early in the morning between 8:00am to 10:30am twice in a month from July to August, 2024. Temperature (air and water) were measured on the field immediately after collection with the aid of a thermometer while the remaining parameters were measured using Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater (SMEWW), American Public Health Association (APHA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Mewar University Life Science Department.



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**Figure 2: The Sampling Sites of the Research** 

The water sample collected was analysed as using the methods in the table below. **Table 1: Methods Used in Sample Analysis** 

Tuble 1. Wethous esed in Sumple Thatysis								
PARAMETERS (UNIT)	METHOD EMPLOYED							
Temperature (°C)	Thermometric measurement							
pH	Electrochemical measurement							
Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)	Electrochemical measurement							
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (mg/L)	Electrochemical measurement							
Carbonate Alkalinity (mg/L)	Titrimetric measurement							
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (mg/L)	Titrimetric measurement							
Total Alkalinity (mg/L)	Titrimetric measurement							
Hardness (mg/L)	Titrimetric measurement							
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Titrimetric measurement							
Biological Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Titrimetric measurement							
Salinity (ppt)	Electrochemical measurement							
Free $CO_2$ (mg/L)	Titrimetric measurement							
	Temperature (°C) pH Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm) Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (mg/L) Carbonate Alkalinity (mg/L) Bicarbonate Alkalinity (mg/L) Total Alkalinity (mg/L) Hardness (mg/L) Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) Biological Oxygen Demand (mg/L) Salinity (ppt)							

#### FISH DIVERSITY DATA COLLECTION

The study period was from July to September 2024. The schedule for fish harvest on the dam started in mid-August and ended in December, but this year, the water level was too high, so the harvest was postponed to December 2024. The diversity of the fish in the dam was collected using questionnaires from the dam officials regarding previous harvests and their abundance.

#### RESULTS

	Table 2: Water quality parameters from July to September 2024 at the Dam.										
S/N	S/N PARAMETERS MINIMUM MAXIMUM MEAN MEAN VALUE BY SITE							£			
		VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	SITE	SITE	SITE	SITE			
					А	В	С	D			
1	Air Temperature	26.7	34.9	30.4	31.07	30.67	30.53	29.43			
	(°C)										



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2	Water	27.3	30.7	29.3	29.3	29.5	29.6	28.8
	Temperature							
	(°C)							
3	рН	8.35	9.94	9.0	8.95	9.09	9.12	8.86
4	Electrical	551	1289.7	762.19	808.57	780.73	765.4	718.04
	Conductivity							
	(EC) (µS/cm)							
5	Total Dissolved	379	877.2	518.32	551.4	525.67	515.1	481.1
	Solids (TDS)							
	(ppm)							
6	Carbonate	3.4	8	6.16	6.13	5.8	5.57	7.13
	Alkalinity							
	(mg/L)							
`7	Bicarbonate	75.1	126.2	97.16	107.87	92.17	83.2	105.4
	Alkalinity							
0	(mg/L)	70.7	100 6	102.22	114	07.07	00 77	110.50
8	Total Alkalinity	79.7	133.6	103.32	114	97.97	88.77	112.53
9	(mg/L) Hardness	57.65	176.76	78.48	104.14	68.18	75.17	66.42
9	(mg/L)	57.05	170.70	/0.40	104.14	00.10	13.17	00.42
10	Dissolved	2.69	5.17	3.96	4.25	4.37	3.76	3.46
10	Oxygen (mg/L)	2.09	5.17	5.70	7.23	н. <i>31</i>	5.70	5.40
	Oxygen (ing/L)							
11	Biological	1.8	4.84	3.21	3.78	2.83	3.28	2.96
	Oxygen							
	Demand (mg/L)							
12	Salinity (ppt)	0.28	0.64	0.38	0.40	0.39	0.38	0.36
13	Free CO <sub>2</sub> (mg/L)	Absent		Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent

# Table 3: Correlation of water quality parameters for July to September months analysed using Pearson Correlation Coefficient.

	AIR	WATE R	рН	EC	TDS	CA	BA	ТА	TH	DO	BOD	SAL.
AIR	1.000	0.768 <sup>NS</sup>	0.571 <sup>N</sup> s	0.986*	0.976*	- 0.783 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.166 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.203 <sup>N</sup> s	0.696 <sup>N</sup> s	0.848 <sup>N</sup> s	0.599 <sup>N</sup> s	0.994**
WATER	0.768 <sup>N</sup> s	1.000	0.958*	0.654 <sup>N</sup> s	0.608 <sup>N</sup> s	- 1.000 <sup>**</sup>	- 0.759 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.783 <sup>N</sup> s	0.164 <sup>N</sup> s	0.575 <sup>N</sup> s	0.169 <sup>N</sup> s	0.693 <sup>N</sup> s





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рН	0.571 <sup>N</sup> s	0.958*	1.000	0.437 <sup>N</sup> s	0.379 <sup>N</sup> s	-0.951*	- 60.891 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.907 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.127 <sup>N</sup> s	0.456 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.113 <sup>N</sup> s	0.483 <sup>N</sup> s
EC	0.986*	0.654 <sup>NS</sup>	0.437 <sup>N</sup> s	1.000	0.998**	- 0.672 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.003 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.042 <sup>N</sup> s	0.763 <sup>N</sup> s	0.876 <sup>N</sup> s	0.638 <sup>N</sup> s	0.999**
TDS	$0.976^{*}$	0.608 <sup>NS</sup>	0.379 <sup>N</sup> s	0.998**	<sup>°</sup> 1.000	- 0.628 <sup>N</sup> s	0.055 <sup>N</sup> s	0.017 <sup>N</sup> s	0.805 <sup>N</sup> s	0.855 <sup>N</sup> s	0.683 <sup>N</sup> s	0.993**
CA	- 0.783 <sup>N</sup> s	-1.000**	-0.951*	- *0.672 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.628 <sup>N</sup> s	1.000	0.743 <sup>N</sup> s	0.768 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.186 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.589 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.188 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.711 <sup>N</sup> s
BA	- 0.166 <sup>N</sup> s	-0.759 <sup>NS</sup>	- 0.891 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.003 <sup>N</sup> s	0.055 <sup>N</sup> s	0.743 <sup>N</sup> s	1.000	0.999**	.0.448 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.014 <sup>N</sup> s	0.337 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.057 <sup>N</sup> s
ТА	- 0.203 <sup>N</sup> s	-0.783 <sup>NS</sup>	- 0.907 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.042 <sup>N</sup> s	0.017 <sup>N</sup> s	0.768 <sup>N</sup> s	0.999**	* 1.000	0.418 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.047 <sup>N</sup> s	0.312 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.095 <sup>N</sup> s
ТН	0.696 <sup>N</sup> s	0.164 <sup>NS</sup>	- 0.127 <sup>N</sup> s	0.763 <sup>N</sup> s	0.805 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.186 <sup>N</sup> s	0.448 <sup>N</sup> s	0.418 <sup>N</sup> s	1.000	0.440 <sup>N</sup> s	0.960*	0.743 <sup>N</sup> s
DO	0.848 <sup>N</sup> s	0.575 <sup>NS</sup>	0.456 <sup>N</sup> s	0.876 <sup>N</sup> s	0.855 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.589 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.014 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.047 <sup>N</sup> s	0.440 <sup>N</sup> s	1.000	0.222 <sup>N</sup> s	0.870 <sup>N</sup> s
BOD	0.599 <sup>N</sup> s	0.169 <sup>NS</sup>	- 0.113 <sup>N</sup> s	0.638 <sup>N</sup> s	0.683 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.188 <sup>N</sup> s	0.337 <sup>N</sup> s	0.312 <sup>N</sup> s	0.960*	0.222 <sup>N</sup> s	1.000	0.626 <sup>N</sup> s
SALINIT Y	0.994*'	* 0.693 <sup>NS</sup>	0.483 <sup>N</sup> s	0.999**	* 0.993**	- 60.711 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.057 <sup>N</sup> s	- 0.095 <sup>N</sup> s	0.743 <sup>N</sup> s	0.870 <sup>N</sup> s	0.626 <sup>N</sup> s	1.000

**NS : -** Not Statistically Significant

**\*\* : -** Highly Statistically Significant

	Table 4: Diversity of Fish at Guwardi Dam, Bhilwara.										
S/ N	Scientific Name	Local Name	Family	Order	Feedin g Habit	Economic Importanc					
						e					
1	Labeo rohita	Rohu			Н	F					
	(Hamilton, 1822)		Cyprinidae	Cypriniformes							
2	Cirrhinus mrigala	Mrigala			0	F					
	(Hamilton, 1822)										

<sup>\*: -</sup> Moderately Statistically Significant



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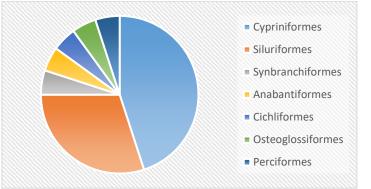
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3	<i>Catla catla</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Katal			Н	F
4	Hypophthalmichthy s molitrix	Silver			Н	F
	(Valenciennes,	Carp				
5	1844) Rasbora daniconius	Chal			0	Or
_	(Hamilton, 1822)					
6	Ctenopharyngodon idella	Grass			Н	F
	(Valenciennes, 1844)	Carp				
7	<i>Puntius ticto</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Puthi			0	F/Or
8	Systomus sarana	Sarana			0	F
_	(Puntius sarana)	Barb/			-	
	(Hamilton, 1822)	Kharpata				
9	Puntius gonionotus	Silver			0	Or
	(Barbonymus gonionotus)	Barb				
	(Bleeker, 1849)					
10	Ompok bimaculatus	Pabda	Siluridae		С	F/Or
	(Bloch, 1794)	<b>.</b>			G	-
11	Wallago attu (Bloch &	Lachi			С	F
	Schneider, 1801)					
12	Clarias garapienus	African	Clariidae		С	F
	(Burchell, 1822)	Magur		Siluriformes	~	7/0
13	Clarias batrachus (Linnaeus, 1758)	Mangur			С	F/Or
14	Heteropneustes	Shingi	Heteropneustida		С	F/Or
	fossilis	U	e			
	(Bloch, 1794)					
15	Mystus seenghala	Shingala	Bagridae		С	F
	(Sperata seenghala) (Sykes, 1839)					
16	Mastacembelus	Baam	Mastacembelida	Synbranchiforme	С	F/Or
	armatus		e	S		
1 🗖	(Lacépède, 1800)	C1. 1		Amelia (°C	C	E/O
17	<i>Channa marulius</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Shawal	Channidae	Anabantiformes	С	F/Or
18	Oreochromis	Tilapia	Cichlidae	Cichliformes	0	Or
	mossambicus	1				



H = Herbivores, C = Carnivores, O = Omnivores, F = Food Fish, Or = Ornamental Fish

Figure 2: Abundance Relationship between Orders and Species.



#### DISCUSSION

(Hamilton, 1822)

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The water quality parameters studied in this research were Temperature, pH, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Electrical Conductivity (EC), Salinity, Alkalinity, Hardness, Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD). They varied monthly as weather factors like trade winds, periods of sunlight and sunlight absorption by shallow water bodies may be the reason for the monthly fluctuations and significant variations in the parameters observed across seasons (Mustapha, 2008).

Temperature of the water ranges between  $27.3^{\circ}$ C to  $30.7^{\circ}$ C which is between the standard acceptable and desirable range for carp culture (Santhosh & Singh, 2007; Bhatnagar & Devi, 2013) and as the water temperature increases, the air temperature  $28.7^{\circ}$ C –  $34.9^{\circ}$ C also increases which was presumed to be due to the shallowness of the dam. Similar results were seen in the work of (V. Sharma et al., 2012)(Dangi et al., 2017),(Nakul et al., 2018), (Kavindra et al., 2019), (Choudhary et al., 2021). The temperature of the dam from summer to monsoon is going downward, declining with decrease in air temperature. This shows a positive correlation between air temperature and water temperature.

The degree of hydrogen activity (pH) was from 8.35 - 9.94 which is all alkaline and slightly above the suitable range for fish culture i.e. 6.7 - 9.5 (Santhosh & Singh, 2007) and according to (Bhatnagar & Devi, 2013) the average blood pH of fish is 7.4 so for optimal growth the environment pH should be between 7.0 - 8.5. A pH of less than 4 or greater than 10.5 is lethal to fish while a pH of 9.0 to 10.5 is sub lethal to fish which can hinder its growth and productivity. similar to the study of (Araoye, 2009) (Tiseer et al., 2008) (Sahni & Yadav, 2012) (Majumder & Kumar Dutta, 2014). This can be attributed to low volume of water in the dam leads to reduced buffering capacity and high concentration of dissolved substances.

Electrical Conductivity (EC) ranges from 551-1,289.7 $\mu$ s/cm with the maximum value recorded at beginning of monsoon in July and minimum value at September. It is an indirect indication of pollution as it has close relationship with dissolved salts (Hassan et al., 2017). The acceptable range of electrical conductivity in freshwater according to Boyd 1979 is 50–1500  $\mu$ s/cm which makes them within the acceptable range for freshwater. The high values at July can be attributed to the fact that the water levels



were low and the dam is surrounded by industries, so industrial effluents, domestic waste as Site D is close to the village discharged into the dam will surely increase the conductivity of the dam. Similar values were recorded by (Hassan et al., 2017), (Sudarshan et al., 2019).

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) were in the range of 379 - 877 mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub> with the maximum in July and minimum in September. The acceptable range according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is 500mg/L, it should not be above that but the World Health Organisation (WHO) said the acceptable range for drinking water should be between 300- 600mg/L. The values of the pre-monsoon period were high and not suitable for fish as it will cause stress in fish. (Chennakrishnan et al., 2008), (R. Sharma et al., 2011), (V. Sharma et al., 2012), (Choudhary et al., 2021), (Qureshi & Dube, 2021).

Total Hardness (TH) values ranged from 60.1 to 176.8mg/L with highest hardness in pre-monsoon in July. (Santhosh & Singh, 2007) reported that the ideal range of hardness for freshwater fish is between 30-180mg/L while Bhatnagar said hardness less than 20mg/L will cause stress to fishes, hardness of 75-150mg/L is optimal for fish growth and hardness greater than 300mg/L is lethal to fish because it leads to the non-availability of nutrients as it increases the pH of the water.

Total Alkalinity (TA) was found to be in the range of 79.7-138.6 mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub> with the highest recorded in July. The acceptable range of alkalinity in fresh water body is between 20-150mg/L according to Boyd and Lichtkoppler as it contains suitable CO<sub>2</sub> for the production of plankton needed by fish. The acceptable alkalinity range for fish culture is between 50-300 mg/L or ppm according to (Santhosh & Singh, 2007). Similar values were recorded by (N. Gupta et al., 2011), (B. K. Gupta et al., 2012), (Rana & Jain, 2017), (Kavindra et al., 2019). The total alkalinity is made up of Carbonate Alkalinity and Bicarbonate Alkalinity. Whenever carbonate alkalinity is present, Free CO<sub>2</sub> is absent (Kavindra et al., 2019).

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ranged from 2.69 - 5.17 mg/L with lowest value in July and highest value in September. According to Bhatnagar, DO value of less than 1 mg/L is deadly to fish leading to death, while a DO less than 5 mg/L but greater than 1 mg/L will lead to fish growing slowly with a sluggish movement but can survive. A DO of greater than 5 mg/L is desirable for fish but should not exceed 14 mg/L.

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) ranged from 1.92-4.84mg/L with maximum value recorded in September and minimum value in July. Bhatnagar 2004, as cited by (Bhatnagar & Devi, 2013) reported that a BOD range of 3.0-6.0mg/L is optimal for fish, 6.0-12.0mg/L is sublethal while above 12.0mg/L is lethal to fishes. (Rana & Jain, 2017) reported similar BOD values.

The species collected from this study are 20 species belonging to 10 families and 7 orders. The dominant order being Cypriniformes with 1 family and seven (7) species followed by Siluriformes with 4 families and 6 species while the rest of are Synbranchiformes, Anabantiformes, Cichliformes, Osteoglossiformes, Perciformes, each with 1 family and 1 species. Out of these, species diversity based on family has the family Cyprinidae to be most dominant with 9 species, Siluridae with 2 species, Clariidae with 2 species, Heteropneustidae with 1 species, Bagridae with 1 species, Mastacembelidae with 1 species, Channidae with 1 species, Cichlidae with 1 species, Notopteridae with 1 species and Ambassidae with 1 species.

The most dominant species in the dam is the *Labeo rohita* (Rohu) as its larvae in millions is deposited every breeding season into the dam. This is followed by the Indian Major Carps (IMC) which are *Catla catla* (Katal) and *Cirrhinus mrigala* (Mrigala). Among the identified fishes are native species of India and exotic species which were introduced into India. According to (Sarkar et al., 2012) *Clarias garapienus, Oreochromis mossambicus, Hypophthalmichthys molitrix, Ctenopharyngodon idella* were reported as exotic species. They compete with native species as some are predacious or by competing for same resources.



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Similar diversity reports were reported in Rajasthani waters by (R. Sharma et al., 2011), (Sisodiya et al., 2018), (Banyal & Kumar, 2019), (Jain et al., 2019) with the order Cypriniformes being the most dominant and the family Cyprinidae also the most dominant followed by the order Siluriformes. The major carps i.e the cypriniformes are most dominant in India, hence called the Indian Major Carps (IMC). This is evident from study of (Khobragade, 2016), (Ubarhande et al., 2016), (Kumbhar et al., 2018) (Patode et al., 2021) in Maharshtra India, (Muniya et al., 2019) in Gujrat, (Mogalekar et al., 2017) in West Bengal, (Pathak & Lavudya, 2021) in Madhya Pradesh, (Mishra et al., 2021) in UP, (Swarnkar et al., 2020) in Chhattisgarh and many more studies in India. The second most dominant is mostly Siluriformes or Perciformes.

#### FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE QUALITY OF GUWARDI DAM WATER

The factors affecting the water quality at Guwardi dam are anthropogenic activities which are generally of two (2) types, Domestic and Industrial effluents discharge. Domestic pollution from gutter that left Bhilwara City into the dam that has latrine discharge and also from the college behind the water body. Then secondly industrial pollution from thermal discharge of untreated water from various factories into the dam. These are the main source of water contamination in the dam according to the dam officials. Also they noted that no pollution as a result of agricultural runoffs.

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