

PREFACE

Water is the most essential part of every civilization. For the fulfilment of this essentiality, river plays a crucial role. This was the main cause of the ancient civilizations to have developed along the banks of rivers. River is the complete part of fresh water ecosystem. Rivers provide fertile soil and water to the area on river banks and any effect on the water quality of rivers is directly reflected on the health and lifestyle of the people depending on it. In developing country like India anthropogenic pressure is the main causing substance to generate river water pollution. In India uncountable small and big rivers are present. All these rivers flow through the inhabitant of villages, cities, agricultural field, industries, medical hub and so on, where numerous factors are responsible for the degrading quality of river water. These water quality degrading factors lead to the river water pollution, and is responsible for ecological disturbance and biodiversity loss also. All these factors rose due to anthropogenic pressures and is one of the major concerns of human and other animal health risk. Bacteria directly take an active part in the formation of all aquatic pollution. Along with their inactivate property, such natural microbial population in turn function as vectors causing rapid and wide spread dissemination of the water borne diseases leading to high rates of morbidity and mortality. All the factors affecting the water quality should be handled with equal attention.

The northern part of West Bengal consisting of the Himalayan range has an ecotourism value. Siliguri the second largest city of West Bengal located in the foothills of Terai region has gradually developed as a profitable businesses centre. As a central hub, many national companies and organizations have set up their offices here. Siliguri is the gateway to the North East of India, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. Many rivers (small and big) are flowing in and around the Siliguri city. These rivers consist of rich fish faunal diversity. Villages, agricultural fields including tea gardens near the Siliguri city are situated around these rivers also. The rivers of this region are prone to polluting because of receiving run-offs such as agricultural contaminants, domestic, human sewage and pollutant of medical and industrial hub. There is, therefore, a risk for human and aquatic animal health as well as biodiversity loss thus from the ecological point of view special attention or monitoring is essential of these rivers.