

Chapter 5

Conclusion and Recommendations

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusion:

The following results are concluded from the analysis of the data collected during the study in non-festival and festival (Diwali and Ganesh utsav) seasons.

Non-Festival season:

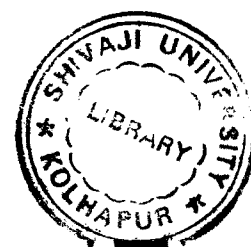
- During the non-festival season, only two areas viz. Mahadwar road and Udyam Nagar measured noise levels, which are within the ambient noise standards, during the nights.
- All other areas other than the above, measure noise levels, which are above the ambient noise standards during the night.
- During the day, all the areas except Udyam Nagar showed noise levels above the noise standards.
- The maximum reading recorded during the day was 98 dB; the minimum during the day was 42 dB. In case of the nights, the maximum reading recorded was 83 dB and the minimum was 37 dB.
- The noise levels observed during the study are much higher than expected in a relatively small and growing city.
- Interestingly the residential, commercial and silent areas were found noisier than industrial area against the general belief.

- Noise levels are found to be low during night hours as there are no major activities in the residential and commercial areas.

Festival season:

(a) Diwali:

- All the areas studied measured noise levels above the ambient noise standards, both during the day and the night.
- Maximum-recorded reading during the day was 118 dB and the minimum was 42 dB. In case of the nights, the maximum reading was 115 dB and the minimum 38 dB.
- There was lack of concern among people in general about the adverse impact of noise pollution on others. Most of the people suffered were silent spectators and helpless.
- The enjoyment of using firecrackers seems to be positively correlated with the magnitude of the noise (bang!) generated and perhaps the amount of expenditure made.
- Current slackness in the market seems to have no apparent impact on the traditional festivity mood of the market as witnessed from firecrackers used.



(b) Ganesh Utsav:

- Udyam Nagar measured noise levels within the standard limits during the day as well as the night.
- All the areas, other than the above, measured noise levels well above the ambient noise standards both during the day and the night.
- The maximum reading recorded during the day was 94 dB; the minimum during the day was 42 dB. In case of the nights, the maximum reading recorded was 92 dB and the minimum was 42 dB.
- The trend of increase of noise levels is significant during the night hours, unlike the day hours.
- Due to the steady increase in the number of Ganesh Mandals over the years, there is increase in number of locations, their distribution and magnitude of noise pollution in the city. The situation is worsening with the increased use of high power Dolby music systems and public address systems.
- People affected by this noise pollution are reluctant to complain against it as it could be viewed against the religious sentiments.
- The charts indicate an overall decrease in noise pollution during the early hours of the day that is after 1:00 a.m. up to 7:00 a.m. The reason may be that people celebrate the festivals from morning till about mid night in full swing.

- The charts also indicate that the maximum noise levels are recorded between 5:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. The reason may be attributed to the involvement of working class people in the festival celebrations.

Noise Impact:

- The survey revealed that noise pollution affected human health, behaviour and relationship.
- Few people stated that they have started feeling the menace of noise pollution having an adverse effect on the routine life.
- This realisation, though insignificant today, is on increase in last few years.

5.2. Recommendations:

- The conclusions show that there is significant increase in noise pollution throughout Kolhapur city. However, no proper legal action seems to have been initiated so far.
- Proper monitoring of noise polluting needs to be done at identified sites throughout the year for better understanding of the problem and its mitigation measures.
- Since people are directly or indirectly involved with the causes of pollution, proper and timely awareness about the problem can help reduce the menace.

- There should be meetings prior to Diwali and Ganesh festival, arranged between the representatives of Ganesh Mandals, youth clubs, trade associations, citizens groups, NGOs with municipal administration and concerned government agencies
- In future proper planning of the city, viz. the location of educational institutions, hospitals, industries and the traffic system, needs to be done in order to demarcate the zones with maximum permissible sound levels
- A specific integrated and time bound plan for reduction of noise levels, ambient and seasonal, in the city to be prepared and implemented by the concerned authorities like Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, MPCB, Police with the help of University and other research institutions.
- Strict legal action should be taken against those who violate the legislation on noise pollution. Few such cases will discourage other potential violators from ignoring the law and damaging health of the fellow citizens.