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### Review Of Research



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# NOISE POLLUTION IN SILENCE & COMMERCIAL ZONES – A STUDY OF VISAKHAPATNAM CITY (INDIA)

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ABSTRACT:

oise is the unwanted sound. With the development all around the sources of unwanted sound are increasing day by day by knowingly or unknowingly. Hence the noise monitoring at two silence and two commercial zones in the Visakhapatnam city was carried out. The locations for Silence zone were 'Sri Shanthi Ashram' and 'Biodiversity Park' and for Commercial zones were 'Purna Market' and 'Dabagarden'. The results show that the equivalent noise levels are higher in the both commercial zones than the both silence zones with clear differences. The Noise levels are least at Biodiversity Park and highest at Purna Market. However, the noise levels at all the places are exceeding over the set limits described by the Central Pollution Control Board. The congested roads, unplanned growth, increase in personal vehicle, overuse of horns, ignorance of noise controlling rules & legislation are the causes of increasing the background noise in the human habitats.

KEYWORDS: Noise Pollution, silence zone, commercial zone.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The simplest definition of noise is "unwanted sound". It is caused by human activities that are detrimental to quality of life. The rapid increase in the urbanisation, industrialization and individual transport for the sake of being smart has silently raised the level of ambient noise in our environment. India and all other countries are facing noise pollution problem for a long period due to increasing number of vehicles, musical instruments, small scale industries, urbanization and human activities are the main source of noise pollution1. Noise pollution is distinguished from other pollution categories due to its source and diffusion characteristics, which can adversely affect public health and environmental quality in urban environment2. Noise often causes discomfort and sometimes pain, noise does not causes ears to bleed yet noise induced hearing loss usually takes years to develop3. Continuous exposure to the noise may cause undesirable & unavoidable health issues. Evidence of the non-auditory effects of environmental noise exposure on public health is growing. Observational and experimental studies have shown that noise exposure leads to annoyance, disturbs sleep and causes daytime sleepiness, affects patient outcomes and staff performance in hospitals, increases the occurrence of hypertension and cardiovascular disease, and impairs cognitive performance in schoolchildren4. It was found that 60-85% people opined that vehicular road traffic was major source of noise pollution and creates annoyance among people. Most of the population is suffering from frequent irritation and common noise related problems like headache or loss of sleep5.

In the present study, two locations were selected to carry out ambient noise survey in Visakhapatnam City. Visakhapatnam is a coastal, port city, often called "The Jewel of the East Coast", situated in the of Andhra

Pradesh, located on the eastern shore of India, nestled among the hills of the Eastern Ghats and facing the Bay of Bengal to the east. It is the largest city in Andhra Pradesh and it is primarily an industrial city, apart from being a port city. Visakhapatnam is district headquarter in Andhra Pradesh State. It is a coastal city with all types of connectivity from land, sea and air.

#### MATERIAL AND METHOD

The noise monitoring was carried out in two zones viz. Silence and commercial zones taking two locations each for respective zones in different parts of the city of Visakhapatnam. The locations for Silence zone were 'Sri Shanthi Ashram' and 'Biodiversity Park'. Sri shanthi ashram is the place with where a school for deaf & dumb children, an ashram & a primary school is situated. Bio-diversity park is the nature's park with a large number of plant species from different parts of India & home to lot of birds & butterflies in the middle of the city. The locations for Commercial zones were 'Purna Market' and 'Dabagarden'. Purna Market is old commercial area with retail & wholesale shops of household goods including vegetables & fish shop and hawkers & street vendors. It is a fully crowded area due to narrow roads. Dabagarden is a modern commercial area with retail & wholesale shops and company owned showrooms & offices.

Noise levels were recorded in 'A' weighed network using Sound Level Meter (HTC SL-1350). The meter was held 1.3 to 1.5 m above the ground surface and away from reflecting surface. The noise data was recorded over a period of twelve months from March 16 to February 17. Readings were tabulated taking one week for each zone i.e. in first week for Silence zone and in third week for Commercial zone every month. The Leq value was recorded for five minutes every half an hour. A total of 30 readings were recorded on the days of monitoring commencing 0730H to 2200H. The data recorded from all the locations was statistically analysed.

#### **NOISE POLLUTION INDICES**

The average equivalent values for the months were calculated for each location. Also the percentile values like L10, L50 and L90 for noise levels were calculated using statistical formulas.

Leg – Time Weighed Average or Equivalent Continuous Noise Level

 $L_{10}$  – Level of Sound exceeding 10% of the time of measurement or Peak Noise

 $L_{50}$  – Level of Sound exceeding 50% of the time of measurement or Mean Noise

L<sub>90</sub> – Level of Sound exceeding 90% of the time of measurement or Background Noise

The noise limit decided by Central Pollution Control Board is 50 dB (A) & 65 dB (A) for Silence Zone and Commercial Zone respectively during the day time.

#### **RESULT**

The final data obtained from noise monitoring from two Silence and two Commercial Zones is tabulated. Table 1, 2, 3 & 4 shows the noise pollution data of Sri Shanthi Ashram, Biodiversity Park, Purna Market and Dabagarden respectively. All the values are in dB (A) scale calculated for a period of 12 months.

dB(A)	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$L_{eq}$	59.08	59.30	54.73	59.72	59.08	58.82	58.90	59.18	59.10	59.64	59.23	59.88
$L_{10}$	62.54	63.55	56.06	63.94	62.20	60.66	60.56	60.33	60.40	60.84	60.58	60.62
L <sub>50</sub>	55.41	56.04	54.72	55.61	55.92	55.80	55.62	55.61	55.80	56.04	55.65	55.71
L <sub>90</sub>	50.41	51.59	50.26	52.13	50.21	50.25	50.49	50.34	50.06	50.11	51.16	50.28

Table 1: Noise Pollution data of Silence Zone 1 (S1) Sri Shanthi Ashram

Month Month Month Month Month Month Month Month dB(A) Month Month Month Month 1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 49.34 51.07 51.83 51.29 51.86 54.02 54.11 54.05 54.12 53.53 53.83 53.70 Leg 50.94 52.59 53.58 53.23 53.65 55.35 55.69 55.82 55.65 55.44 55.63 55.26  $L_{10}$ 48.98 54.35 51.23 51.68 51.31 52.25 54.36 54.35 54.37 53.67 53.98 53.92  $L_{50}$ 48.11 48.26 47.84 49.84 49.91 49.40 46.05 46.98 50.24 49.99 49.23 49.57  $L_{90}$ 

Table 2: Noise Pollution data of Silence Zone 2 (S2) Biodiversity Park

Table 3: Noise Pollution data of Commercial Zone 1 (C1) Purna Market

dB(A)	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$L_{\rm eq}$	70.59	70.45	70.89	70.73	70.90	71.08	71.11	71.19	70.92	70.94	71.08	71.09
$L_{10}$	72.98	72.80	72.65	72.55	72.92	73.05	73.21	73.14	73.21	73.27	73.48	73.54
L <sub>50</sub>	70.10	69.90	70.98	70.80	70.45	70.96	70.66	71.20	70.57	70.67	70.64	70.57
L <sub>90</sub>	65.72	66.70	65.72	65.09	67.77	68.04	67.71	67.96	66.09	65.72	66.08	66.25

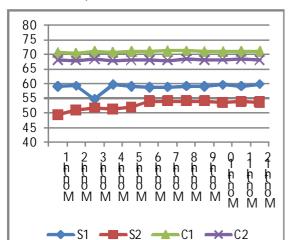
Table 4: Noise Pollution data of Commercial Zone 2 (C2) Dabagarden

dB(A)	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$L_{\rm eq}$	67.99	67.86	68.31	67.95	67.99	67.99	67.92	68.42	68.14	68.27	68.38	68.16
$L_{10}$	69.80	69.63	70.84	70.31	70.11	70.12	70.34	71.24	70.49	70.41	70.78	70.24
$L_{50}$	67.61	67.73	67.86	67.20	67.61	67.50	67.52	67.75	68.04	68.34	68.39	68.44
L <sub>90</sub>	64.93	64.65	64.57	64.77	64.74	64.51	64.57	64.41	64.12	64.25	64.54	64.20

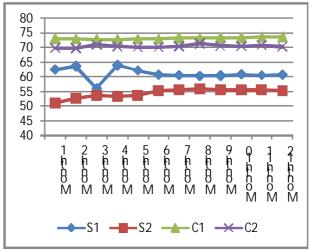
#### **DISCUSSION**

The data from above tables was then compared and the graph 1, 2, 3 and 4 were drawn for the values of Leq, L10, L50 and L90 respectively for all locations. All the graphs show that the equivalent noise levels are higher in the both commercial zones than the both silence zones with clear differences. The Noise levels are least at Biodiversity Park and highest at Purna Market. However, the noise levels at all the places are exceeding over the set limits described by the Central Pollution Control Board most of the time of the year, which is 50 dB(A) for silence zone and 65 dB(A) for commercial zone during day time. The observed equivalent noise levels ranges from 54.73 – 59.90 dB (A), 49.34 – 54.12 dB (A), 70.45 – 71.19 dB (A) and 67.86 – 68.42 dB (A) at Sri Shanthi Ashram, Biodiversity Park, Purna Market and Dabagarden respectively. The noise indices are lower in the Shanthi Ashram area due to the summer vacations in school month 3. The noise indices are rising in the biodiversity park area over the year due to increase in vehicular traffic near boundary wall. The noise indices in both the commercial areas is comparatively high due to overcrowding of customers & their personnel vehicles, which most of the time leads to traffic jams & honking. The condition is worse in the Purna market than in Dabagarden.

#### Leg at various locations in dB (A)

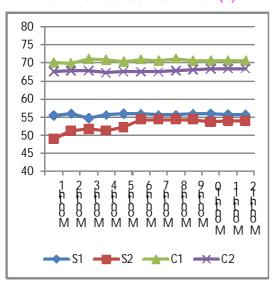


#### L10 at various locations in dB (A)

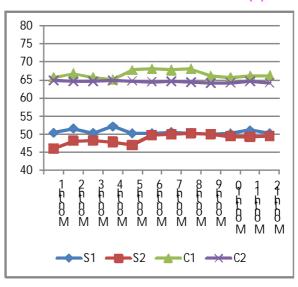


Graph 1 Graph 2

#### L50 at various locations in dB (A)



#### L90 at various locations in dB (A)



Graph 3 Graph 4

The congested roads, unplanned growth, increase in personal vehicle, overuse of horns, ignorance of noise controlling rules & legislation are the causes of increasing the background noise in the human habitats.

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