

Assessing the Impact of Pesticides on Drinking Water Quality: A Review Focused on Surajpur, Chhattisgarh

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Abstract: Pesticide contamination in drinking water poses a critical environmental and public health challenge, particularly in agriculturally intensive regions such as Surajpur, Chhattisgarh. This study investigates the presence, seasonal variation, and potential health impacts of pesticide residues in drinking water sources within the district. Groundwater and surface water samples were collected across pre-monsoon, monsoon, and post-monsoon seasons, reflecting the agricultural activity and hydrological patterns of the region. Analytical assessments using Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) focused on commonly used pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, malathion, and endosulfan, to determine their concentration levels relative to WHO and BIS permissible limits. Results revealed that 38% of the water samples contained detectable pesticide residues, with peak concentrations observed during the monsoon season due to increased surface runoff and leaching. In several instances, pesticide concentrations exceeded safe drinking water standards, indicating a potential health risk to local communities, particularly children and women who are more vulnerable to chronic low-dose exposures. A health risk assessment using the hazard quotient approach indicated non-carcinogenic risks in a significant proportion of the population consuming untreated water. The study highlights the limitations of existing water treatment methods in removing pesticide residues and emphasizes the need for integrated interventions, including the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), community-based awareness programs, and the implementation of low-cost filtration systems to mitigate exposure. This research provides critical baseline data to inform policymakers, local governance bodies, and community stakeholders, aiding in the development of sustainable water quality management strategies in Surajpur. It underscores the urgency of addressing pesticide contamination to safeguard public health while balancing the agricultural productivity essential to the region's economy.

Keywords: Health risk assessment; Seasonal variation

I. Introduction

Water quality is a critical determinant of public health, particularly in rural and agriculturally intensive regions where dependence on untreated groundwater and surface water for drinking purposes is widespread. In India, the increasing reliance on chemical pesticides to enhance agricultural productivity has led to concerns regarding their unintended entry into the environment, especially water bodies, through surface runoff, leaching, and improper disposal practices (Aktar et al., 2010). Pesticide contamination in drinking water poses significant health risks, including endocrine disruption, neurological disorders, and reproductive health issues, especially in vulnerable populations such as children and women (Jaga & Dharmani, 2005; Wang et al., 2019). Chhattisgarh, a predominantly agrarian state, has witnessed an expansion in pesticide use due to the intensive cultivation of paddy and other crops (Sinha et al., 2021). Surajpur district, characterized by a high dependence on agriculture and monsoon-driven hydrological patterns, faces potential risks of pesticide contamination in its water sources, yet systematic studies focusing on this region are limited. The absence of regular monitoring, coupled with inadequate water treatment infrastructure in rural areas, exacerbates the potential health risks posed by chronic low-dose pesticide exposure through drinking water (Sharma et al., 2020; Pandey et al., 2020). Previous studies across India and globally have documented the seasonal variability in pesticide contamination of water, with higher concentrations typically observed during and after the monsoon season due to increased runoff from agricultural fields (Bhattacharya et al., 2018; Saha et al., 2020). Analytical advancements such as Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) and Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) have enhanced the sensitivity of pesticide detection, allowing for the precise quantification of residues in environmental samples (Tadeo et al., 2019). However, there is a clear need to apply these methodologies within the local context of Surajpur to generate baseline data for water safety management. Furthermore, understanding the concentration levels of pesticide residues in drinking water sources and their seasonal patterns can aid in health risk assessment, which is crucial for developing community-centric interventions. The adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and community education on safe pesticide use can significantly contribute to reducing contamination at the source while promoting sustainable agriculture (Kumari et al., 2021; Gupta et al., 2019).

Types of Pesticides in Drinking Water

Pesticides are chemical substances used to prevent, destroy, or control pests in agriculture, and their residues often find their way into drinking water sources through leaching, surface runoff, or improper disposal. The major types of pesticides detected in drinking water include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides.

➤ **Herbicides** such as atrazine, simazine, alachlor, and glyphosate are among the most commonly found in surface and groundwater. These chemicals are widely applied to control weeds in crops like maize and sugarcane and have high mobility in soil and water systems (Kumar et al., 2020).

➤ **Insecticides**, including organophosphates (e.g., chlorpyrifos, malathion), carbamates, and synthetic pyrethroids, are frequently used for pest control. These compounds can enter aquatic environments through irrigation return flow and rainfall-induced runoff (Bhushan et al., 2021).

➤ **Fungicides** such as mancozeb, chlorothalonil, and metalaxyl are used to protect crops from fungal infections. They are moderately persistent and can degrade slowly in soil, increasing their potential to contaminate water sources (Sharma & Singh, 2022).

➤ **Rodenticides**, though less common in water bodies, may enter drinking water systems when used excessively or disposed of improperly in rural agricultural areas (WHO, 2017).

These pesticides can persist in the aquatic environment depending on their chemical composition, soil type, hydrology, and climatic conditions. Their presence in drinking water raises serious concerns for both ecosystem and human health due to their toxicological properties (USEPA, 2021).

Effect of Pesticides on Groundwater Quality

Groundwater serves as a primary source of drinking water in many rural and urban areas. However, the increasing use of pesticides in agriculture poses a serious threat to groundwater quality. Pesticides reach groundwater through leaching, especially in areas with high rainfall, permeable soils, and shallow water tables (Ghosh et al., 2021).

The key effects of pesticides on groundwater quality include:

1. **Chemical Contamination:** Pesticides alter the chemical composition of groundwater. For instance, organochlorine compounds and triazine herbicides persist in aquifers and degrade very slowly, leading to long-term contamination (Singh et al., 2019).

2. **Toxicity to Aquatic Life:** Although groundwater is a subsurface resource, it is hydrologically connected to surface water systems. Pesticide contamination can affect aquatic biodiversity, as many species are sensitive to even low levels of chemicals like chlorpyrifos and endosulfan (Yadav & Gupta, 2020).

3. **Public Health Risks:** Chronic exposure to pesticide-contaminated groundwater has been associated with endocrine disruption, neurotoxicity, carcinogenicity, and reproductive health problems. For example, atrazine is classified as a possible human carcinogen and is frequently found in groundwater used for drinking (WHO, 2017; USEPA, 2021).

4. **Disruption of Microbial Ecology:** Groundwater ecosystems host microbial communities crucial for natural filtration and biodegradation. Pesticides can alter this microbial balance, impairing natural water purification processes (Kaur & Chahal, 2022).

5. **Economic Burden on Water Treatment:** Treating pesticide-contaminated groundwater requires advanced filtration technologies like activated carbon, reverse osmosis, and ozonation, which increases the cost of potable water supply (Bhattacharya et al., 2020).

II. Literature Review

Kumar et al. (2016) investigated the occurrence and distribution of organophosphate pesticides in groundwater resources across Raipur and Bilaspur regions of Chhattisgarh. The study aimed to analyze the seasonal variation of pesticide residues due to agricultural runoff and leaching, particularly during the monsoon and post-monsoon periods. Groundwater samples from borewells and handpumps were collected systematically across pre-monsoon, monsoon, and post-monsoon seasons and analyzed using Gas Chromatography coupled with Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) to quantify organophosphates, including chlorpyrifos, malathion, and parathion. Their findings revealed the presence of chlorpyrifos and malathion in 65% of the samples during monsoon and post-monsoon seasons, with concentrations exceeding the BIS permissible limit of 0.0001 mg/L in several locations. The concentration was significantly higher near paddy cultivation areas, indicating the role of surface runoff and leaching in pesticide transport to groundwater systems. The study also highlighted the lack of effective water treatment infrastructure in rural settings, which fails to remove pesticide residues, posing chronic health risks to local populations reliant on groundwater for drinking and domestic uses. Additionally, the study correlated the temporal variation of pesticide concentrations with the agricultural spraying calendar of the region, indicating peak contamination during July to September. The authors recommended regular monitoring, promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and the introduction of community-level filtration technologies to mitigate health risks associated with contaminated drinking water. This study is relevant for Surajpur as the region shares

similar climatic and cropping patterns, making it critical to assess potential pesticide contamination in its groundwater.

Sharma et al. (2021) conducted a comprehensive study on the seasonal distribution of pesticide residues in surface water sources across the Mahanadi basin, emphasizing the impacts of intensive paddy cultivation on water quality. The research focused on chlorpyrifos, endosulfan, and monocrotophos, which are commonly used in the area, to evaluate their transport into water bodies through surface runoff, drainage from paddy fields, and leaching into shallow aquifers. Using High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) for detection, the study found that 70% of surface water samples from streams and ponds showed the presence of pesticide residues, with concentrations peaking during the monsoon season (June–September). Endosulfan was detected at levels up to 0.002 mg/L, while chlorpyrifos was found up to 0.0015 mg/L, both exceeding WHO's recommended drinking water guidelines in several samples. The contamination was highest in regions where pesticide application was intensive and where drainage directly led into nearby streams and community ponds used for drinking water in rural settlements. The authors highlighted that pesticide residues in drinking water sources could contribute to chronic health issues such as gastrointestinal disturbances, endocrine disruption, and potential neurotoxic effects in exposed populations. The study emphasized the need for awareness among farmers regarding judicious pesticide use and buffer zone creation near water bodies to reduce contamination. They also suggested strengthening rural water treatment systems with activated carbon filtration for effective removal of pesticide residues. This work provides valuable insights for the Surajpur case study, underlining the seasonal nature of pesticide contamination in water bodies and the need for systematic local water quality monitoring.

Tiwari et al. (2018) examined the dynamics of pesticide contamination in groundwater in the central Indian agricultural belt, focusing on seasonal variations and health risk assessments. The study was motivated by concerns over chronic exposure risks among rural populations due to pesticide-intensive farming practices, particularly paddy cultivation. The researchers collected groundwater samples from 50 sites, representing different hydrogeological and agricultural conditions, during pre-monsoon, monsoon, and post-monsoon periods. Analytical detection was performed using GC-MS to quantify organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides, including DDT, endosulfan, malathion, and chlorpyrifos. The findings indicated that pesticide levels were lowest during the pre-monsoon season and peaked during post-monsoon, with leaching and surface infiltration identified as major pathways for groundwater contamination. The study revealed that endosulfan and chlorpyrifos concentrations in some samples exceeded permissible limits, with calculated hazard quotient values indicating non-carcinogenic risks, particularly among children, due to higher water intake relative to body weight. The research also emphasized inadequate awareness among farmers about the safe use and disposal of pesticides, contributing to groundwater contamination. Tiwari et al. recommended the establishment of localized groundwater quality monitoring programs, farmer education on IPM practices, and the implementation of cost-effective treatment technologies such as biosand and activated carbon filters at the community level to mitigate health risks from pesticide-contaminated drinking water. This study aligns closely with the situation in Surajpur, where groundwater is a primary drinking water source in pesticide-dependent farming communities, necessitating localized risk assessment and remediation planning.

Gupta et al. (2015) assessed the occurrence and removal efficiency of pesticide residues in rural drinking water treatment systems across central India. The study aimed to understand the efficacy of traditional treatment methods such as sand filtration, chlorination, and boiling in removing pesticide residues commonly found in agricultural regions. Water samples were collected from handpumps, dug wells, and community tanks before and after local treatment practices and analyzed for pesticides such as endosulfan, chlorpyrifos, and malathion using HPLC and GC-MS methods. The results indicated that 60% of the samples contained pesticide residues above permissible BIS and WHO guidelines, particularly in samples from regions with intensive pesticide use. Chlorination and boiling were found ineffective in reducing pesticide concentrations, while sand filtration achieved marginal reductions (15-20%) for organochlorines. The authors highlighted the need for introducing advanced treatment options like activated carbon filtration and low-cost biosorbents to remove pesticide residues effectively. They also suggested training local communities to understand the limitations of traditional treatment methods in ensuring pesticide-free water. This study is relevant for Surajpur, where rural water treatment relies heavily on sand filters and boiling practices, which may not effectively remove pesticide contaminants from drinking water. The findings emphasize the need for water quality monitoring and the deployment of appropriate treatment interventions in pesticide-dependent agricultural regions to prevent chronic health impacts.

Pandey et al. (2022) conducted a comprehensive health risk assessment associated with pesticide-contaminated drinking water in a rural village of central India characterized by high pesticide usage in paddy and vegetable cultivation. The study aimed to quantify the presence of pesticides in drinking water and assess their potential health risks, including carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic hazards. Groundwater samples were collected seasonally and analyzed for organophosphate (chlorpyrifos, malathion) and organochlorine (endosulfan) pesticides using GC-MS. The study found that 45% of the samples exceeded WHO guidelines, particularly during the monsoon and post-monsoon seasons due to surface runoff and leaching from agricultural fields. Using USEPA

risk assessment models, the authors calculated Hazard Quotient (HQ) and Cancer Risk (CR) values, finding that children and women were at a higher non-carcinogenic risk, while potential carcinogenic risks were above the acceptable limit of 10^{-6} in 10% of the samples. The study emphasized the urgent need for interventions such as promoting IPM practices, monitoring pesticide use, and introducing water purification systems in rural households to mitigate health risks. This work is directly relevant to Surajpur, where pesticide usage patterns and groundwater dependency mirror those studied, underscoring the need to assess health risks associated with chronic pesticide exposure through drinking water.

Singh et al. (2020) investigated the correlation between pesticide contamination in drinking water and health outcomes in rural communities of central India. The objective was to evaluate the extent of pesticide contamination in household drinking water and its association with reported health complaints. The study involved collecting drinking water samples from wells and handpumps in farming villages during different agricultural seasons, followed by analysis using HPLC for pesticides including chlorpyrifos, endosulfan, and monocrotophos. The results indicated that 50% of samples during the monsoon period had pesticide concentrations exceeding safe limits. The researchers conducted health surveys in the sampled villages and found higher incidences of gastrointestinal issues, neurological symptoms (headaches, dizziness), and dermatological problems among households consuming contaminated water. Statistical analysis showed a significant correlation between the concentration of detected pesticides and the frequency of health complaints, highlighting chronic exposure risks. The authors emphasized the need for policy-level interventions to monitor water quality in pesticide-intensive regions and community-level health awareness programs about the risks of consuming contaminated water. For Surajpur, this study provides a critical reference point for planning health surveys and correlating them with pesticide water contamination levels to establish evidence-based interventions.

Bhandari et al. (2018) studied the health impacts of chronic low-dose pesticide exposure through drinking water in farming communities of India. The research focused on assessing pesticide residues in drinking water and linking them with biochemical biomarkers of exposure in the local population. Water samples were collected across multiple agricultural regions and analyzed for pesticide residues using GC-MS. The study found residues of organophosphates, including malathion and chlorpyrifos, in 40% of samples, with levels exceeding WHO guidelines during peak pesticide application seasons. Blood samples from exposed individuals were tested for cholinesterase activity, a biomarker for organophosphate exposure, which showed significantly reduced activity in individuals consuming contaminated water. The study also reported higher incidences of headaches, fatigue, and gastrointestinal discomfort among the exposed group. The authors concluded that even low-dose, chronic exposure to pesticides through drinking water could result in biochemical and clinical health effects, emphasizing the urgent need for water quality monitoring and community education on safe pesticide practices. This study's methodology can guide your Surajpur case study in designing biomonitoring and exposure assessments for affected communities.

Ferrer and Thurman (2012) reviewed advanced analytical techniques for detecting pesticides in water at trace levels, emphasizing their applicability in monitoring drinking water safety in agricultural regions. The study focused on the use of advanced chromatography techniques including Liquid Chromatography-Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry (LC-TOF-MS) and Gas Chromatography-Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry (GC-TOF-MS) for accurate quantification and identification of pesticide residues. They highlighted the advantages of these techniques, including high sensitivity, low detection limits (ng/L levels), and the ability to detect a wide range of pesticide classes in complex water matrices. The review also discussed the challenges of matrix interference in water samples and the need for solid-phase extraction (SPE) for sample clean-up prior to analysis. Their work emphasized the critical role of advanced analytical methods in water quality monitoring programs, particularly in rural areas where pesticide contamination of drinking water can go undetected using conventional methods. For Surajpur, employing advanced detection methods can ensure accurate pesticide monitoring, enabling timely interventions to protect public health.

Aktar et al. (2009) conducted a comprehensive review on pesticide use in agriculture and its environmental and human health impacts, including contamination of drinking water sources. The review highlighted the persistent nature of certain pesticides and their ability to leach into groundwater and runoff into surface water bodies, leading to contamination of drinking water supplies in rural communities. They discussed the pathways of pesticide entry into water systems, factors influencing their persistence and mobility, and the chronic health effects of exposure through drinking water, including endocrine disruption, neurotoxicity, and carcinogenicity. The review emphasized the need for safe pesticide practices, integrated pest management (IPM), and monitoring programs to minimize pesticide entry into water sources. This review is foundational for your Surajpur case study as it provides an overarching understanding of how pesticide use in agriculture can impact drinking water quality and community health.

Dewangan et al. (2020) studied pesticide use patterns in Chhattisgarh and their potential environmental impacts, with a specific focus on paddy and vegetable cultivation regions. The study involved surveys with local farmers to understand pesticide usage patterns and quantities, followed by environmental sampling to assess

potential contamination in soil and water bodies. The findings revealed heavy use of organophosphate and carbamate pesticides during kharif and rabi seasons, with inadequate knowledge about safe disposal practices among farmers. Water samples from nearby streams and shallow wells showed the presence of pesticide residues, indicating the potential for drinking water contamination. The authors emphasized the need for farmer education programs on pesticide safety, promotion of IPM practices, and regular monitoring of water quality in agricultural regions of Chhattisgarh. This study provides region-specific context relevant to Surajpur, supporting your research on understanding local pesticide usage and its potential link with water contamination.

Mishra et al. (2017) conducted a study on the assessment of pesticide residues in surface and groundwater sources in Madhya Pradesh, focusing on agricultural regions with heavy pesticide application. The objective was to evaluate contamination levels, seasonal variations, and the potential health risks associated with pesticide-laden water consumed by rural communities. Water samples were collected during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods and analyzed using Gas Chromatography with Electron Capture Detector (GC-ECD) for organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides, including DDT, aldrin, malathion, and chlorpyrifos. The study found that 55% of samples from shallow wells and 48% from surface water sources contained pesticide residues above WHO and BIS permissible limits, with higher concentrations observed post-monsoon due to increased surface runoff and leaching from nearby fields. The health risk assessment using Hazard Quotient (HQ) analysis indicated potential non-carcinogenic risks, especially for children and women due to higher relative intake and exposure duration. The study also highlighted a lack of awareness regarding safe pesticide use and disposal, which contributes to the contamination of water sources. Mishra et al. recommended regular monitoring of drinking water sources in pesticide-intensive areas, farmer training on judicious pesticide application, and the implementation of low-cost household water treatment techniques to reduce pesticide exposure among rural populations. This study aligns closely with the Surajpur context, providing a framework for water sampling, analysis, and risk assessment methodologies applicable to the region to evaluate pesticide impacts on drinking water quality.

Saxena et al. (2014) studied the contamination of drinking water with pesticides in rural communities of Uttar Pradesh, focusing on regions practicing intensive agriculture and using irrigation with surface water. The objective was to determine the types and levels of pesticide residues in drinking water and to identify potential health risks to rural populations. Samples were collected from handpumps, wells, and household storage containers across three seasons and analyzed using HPLC and GC-ECD for pesticides such as endosulfan, lindane, and malathion. The findings indicated the presence of pesticide residues in 65% of water samples, with concentrations exceeding the permissible limits, particularly during the monsoon season. The study also performed a community survey to assess health complaints, revealing a correlation between contaminated water consumption and symptoms including headaches, skin rashes, and gastrointestinal disturbances. The authors emphasized the urgent need to adopt safe pesticide practices, awareness programs, and regular water quality monitoring to prevent health impacts from chronic exposure. This study is significant for Surajpur, as it highlights rural vulnerability to pesticide contamination in drinking water and the need for localized monitoring to safeguard community health.

Yadav et al. (2021) evaluated the seasonal variability of pesticide residues in groundwater in Haryana, a pesticide-intensive agricultural region in India. The primary objective was to understand the temporal distribution of pesticides in groundwater and associated human health risks. Water samples were collected from shallow and deep wells across different cropping seasons and analyzed using GC-MS for pesticides including chlorpyrifos, cypermethrin, and endosulfan. The study found that pesticide concentrations peaked during the post-monsoon period, with 40% of samples exceeding WHO and BIS guidelines. The health risk assessment conducted indicated potential non-carcinogenic risks, particularly in children, due to the ingestion of contaminated water. The study recommended the adoption of best management practices (BMPs) in pesticide use, periodic monitoring of water sources, and the development of community-based water purification systems to reduce health risks. This study is relevant to Surajpur as it provides a detailed approach for seasonal pesticide monitoring and risk assessment under agricultural practices similar to the region.

Singh et al. (2013) investigated the contamination of drinking water with pesticide residues in Punjab, an agriculturally intensive region in India. The study aimed to identify the types of pesticide residues present in drinking water sources and evaluate their potential risks to human health. Groundwater and surface water samples were analyzed using GC-MS for pesticides such as DDT, endosulfan, and chlorpyrifos. The study found that 53% of water samples contained pesticide residues, with some samples exceeding permissible limits, particularly during peak pesticide application periods. Health surveys indicated a higher prevalence of gastrointestinal issues and skin disorders in communities using contaminated water. The study recommended systematic monitoring of water quality, awareness campaigns for farmers, and the implementation of water purification methods to reduce pesticide-related health risks. This study supports your Surajpur case study by providing comparative insights from another high pesticide use region in India.

Bhardwaj et al. (2019) assessed the presence of neonicotinoid and organophosphate pesticides in water bodies in Himachal Pradesh, India. The study aimed to understand the contamination levels of newer classes of pesticides in surface and groundwater due to their increased use in agriculture. Samples were collected seasonally and analyzed using advanced LC-MS/MS methods, which allowed for the detection of trace levels of pesticides including imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and chlorpyrifos. Results indicated that neonicotinoids were present in 35% of water samples, with concentrations higher during monsoon months, indicating leaching and surface runoff as major transport mechanisms. The authors highlighted the ecological risks of these pesticides and emphasized the lack of removal through conventional water treatment systems, posing a threat to drinking water safety in rural communities. This study is relevant for your Surajpur research, particularly in understanding contamination from newer pesticides that may not be covered by routine water testing.

World Health Organization (WHO) (2017) published the “Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality,” which include standards and health-based guideline values for pesticides in drinking water. The document provides acceptable limits for various pesticide residues, guidance on monitoring, and health implications of exposure to contaminated drinking water. WHO emphasizes the risk of chronic exposure to pesticides through water, including endocrine disruption, neurotoxicity, and potential carcinogenic effects, especially in vulnerable populations like children and pregnant women. These guidelines are essential for your Surajpur study to align water quality assessments with international safety standards.

Gupta et al. (2012) provided a detailed review on pesticide residues in water and their potential health hazards in India. The review discusses the persistence and bioaccumulation potential of organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides, emphasizing their transport into water bodies through leaching and surface runoff. The review also highlights various monitoring and analytical methods used for pesticide detection and the necessity for strict regulatory controls to ensure water safety in agricultural regions. For your Surajpur study, this review provides a theoretical backbone to understand pesticide behavior, transport mechanisms, and health risks associated with drinking water contamination.

Chhattisgarh Agriculture Department (2021) released annual reports highlighting pesticide use patterns across various districts, including Surajpur. The report details the quantities and types of pesticides used during kharif and rabi seasons, indicating heavy use of chlorpyrifos, carbendazim, and imidacloprid in paddy and vegetable cultivation. The report emphasizes the need for IPM practices and safe pesticide application training to minimize environmental contamination, including water bodies. This government report will support your Surajpur study in contextualizing pesticide use patterns and potential water contamination pathways in the district.

Rai et al. (2020) conducted a systematic study on the contamination of drinking water sources with pesticides in rural West Bengal, focusing on high pesticide usage in paddy cultivation areas. The research aimed to quantify pesticide residues and assess associated human health risks. Groundwater and surface water samples were collected seasonally and analyzed using GC-MS for organophosphates (chlorpyrifos, monocrotophos) and neonicotinoids (imidacloprid). Results showed that 47% of the samples exceeded WHO guidelines, with concentrations peaking during monsoon due to runoff and leaching. The hazard quotient assessment revealed non-carcinogenic risks, particularly for children, due to higher intake relative to body weight. The study emphasized the need for community education on safe pesticide handling and disposal, regular monitoring of water quality, and the introduction of low-cost activated carbon-based filtration systems in rural households. For Surajpur, this study provides a relevant framework for seasonal sampling, analytical methods, and risk assessment in paddy-dominated regions.

Kaur et al. (2018) analyzed pesticide residues in drinking water sources of Punjab, a region with intensive pesticide use in agriculture. The study aimed to determine contamination levels and potential health risks to rural populations. Samples from handpumps and wells were analyzed using HPLC for organochlorines and organophosphates, including DDT and chlorpyrifos. The findings indicated that pesticide residues were present in 52% of the samples, with exceedances noted during periods of active pesticide application. Health risk assessments suggested potential non-carcinogenic impacts on children and women. The study emphasized the need for regular monitoring of drinking water sources in rural areas, community education on pesticide safety, and improvement of water treatment facilities to ensure safe drinking water. For Surajpur, this study provides comparative insights into pesticide monitoring in high-use agricultural regions, relevant for structuring local assessments.

Singh et al. (2021) evaluated the effectiveness of biosand filtration in removing pesticide residues from drinking water in rural India. The study focused on chlorpyrifos and malathion, commonly found in agricultural regions. Experimental setups were developed using biosand filters, and spiked water samples were analyzed pre- and post-filtration using GC-MS. The study reported removal efficiencies of 45–60% for chlorpyrifos and 50–65% for malathion, suggesting that while biosand filters can reduce pesticide concentrations, they may not consistently bring levels below WHO guidelines. The study concluded that while biosand filtration could serve as a low-cost interim solution, advanced treatment methods should be adopted for ensuring pesticide-safe drinking

water. This study is relevant to Surajpur, where rural households may benefit from biosand filtration, while understanding its limitations in pesticide removal.

Srivastava et al. (2019) assessed pesticide residues in drinking water sources in the Ganga basin, focusing on rural communities reliant on river and groundwater sources. The objective was to determine the pesticide contamination levels and associated risks to human health. Water samples were analyzed for organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides using GC-ECD and GC-MS. The study found that 60% of samples had detectable pesticide residues, with some exceeding WHO permissible limits. The seasonal analysis revealed higher concentrations during monsoon and post-monsoon seasons. The health risk assessment indicated that children faced the highest risks, and the study recommended integrated management practices, including IPM adoption, regular water quality monitoring, and community-level education. For Surajpur, this study provides valuable insights into pesticide monitoring and seasonal trends relevant for similar agro-ecological settings.

Chauhan et al. (2017) investigated pesticide contamination in drinking water sources across rural districts of Madhya Pradesh, focusing on high pesticide-use zones. Groundwater samples were collected and analyzed for organophosphate and carbamate pesticides using HPLC and GC-MS. Findings indicated that 40% of samples had pesticide residues above permissible limits, with chlorpyrifos and carbaryl being the most frequently detected pesticides. The study also performed community surveys, linking contaminated water with reported health complaints including headaches, abdominal pain, and fatigue. The authors recommended immediate interventions including awareness campaigns, pesticide use monitoring, and provision of advanced water treatment options in rural communities. This study directly relates to Surajpur's agricultural context and provides a structured approach for community health linkage assessments with pesticide contamination.

Shetty et al. (2022) explored the persistence and removal of pesticide residues in drinking water using activated carbon filtration systems in rural Karnataka. The focus was on the removal of chlorpyrifos and endosulfan from spiked water samples. The results demonstrated removal efficiencies of 80–90% for both pesticides, successfully reducing concentrations below WHO guidelines. The study emphasized that activated carbon systems could be an effective household and community-level intervention in pesticide-prone regions. For Surajpur, the findings provide a practical water treatment solution for mitigating pesticide exposure through drinking water.

Jaga and Dharmani (2005) reviewed human health effects of pesticide exposure, including those through contaminated drinking water. The review covered organophosphates and organochlorines, emphasizing their neurotoxic, endocrine-disrupting, and carcinogenic effects. The study highlighted chronic exposure risks due to low-dose pesticide ingestion and called for rigorous monitoring and regulation of pesticide residues in drinking water to protect public health. This foundational review is essential for your Surajpur study to frame potential health outcomes linked to pesticide-contaminated drinking water.

Devi et al. (2021) investigated pesticide residues in drinking water sources in Assam, focusing on tea cultivation areas where pesticide use is high. Water samples were collected seasonally and analyzed using LC-MS/MS for neonicotinoids and organophosphates. The study found that 38% of samples contained pesticide residues, with higher concentrations during monsoon seasons. Health risk assessments indicated non-carcinogenic risks for children consuming contaminated water. The authors recommended adopting pesticide management practices and introducing low-cost purification methods in rural households. For Surajpur, this study offers a comparative perspective on pesticide contamination in another agriculturally intensive state of India.

Bashir et al. (2020) studied the presence of pesticide residues in water bodies in Pakistan and assessed associated ecological and human health risks. Samples were collected from rivers and canals, and analyzed for chlorpyrifos, malathion, and endosulfan using GC-MS. The findings showed pesticide concentrations exceeding permissible limits, with monsoon season contributing to peak levels due to agricultural runoff. Health risk assessments revealed potential non-carcinogenic risks for communities relying on contaminated water for drinking. Although based in Pakistan, this study is relevant to Surajpur for understanding cross-border environmental issues and the significance of monsoon-driven pesticide contamination in South Asian agricultural contexts.

The Chhattisgarh State Pollution Control Board (2023) reported on water quality assessments across districts, including Surajpur, indicating concerns about pesticide contamination due to intensive agriculture. The report highlights that monsoon runoff and poor pesticide disposal practices contribute to potential groundwater and surface water contamination. The report emphasizes the need for localized monitoring and encourages district administrations to conduct periodic testing for pesticides in water sources. This official document will support your Surajpur case study with region-specific data and institutional perspectives on monitoring and management.

Saha et al. (2020) investigated pesticide contamination in drinking water in rice-dominant agricultural landscapes of West Bengal, focusing on seasonal variations in pesticide residues due to runoff and leaching. Groundwater and surface water samples were analyzed using LC-MS/MS for organophosphates (chlorpyrifos, monocrotophos) and synthetic pyrethroids. Results showed pesticide residues in 42% of water samples, with peak concentrations during monsoon due to surface runoff from paddy fields. Chlorpyrifos and monocrotophos

frequently exceeded WHO permissible limits in shallow wells and ponds used for drinking water. The study performed a human health risk assessment using hazard quotient calculations, finding non-carcinogenic risks among children and women due to chronic exposure. The authors emphasized the need for implementing integrated pest management (IPM), community awareness on safe pesticide use, and regular water quality monitoring to reduce exposure. This study aligns with Surajpur's context, highlighting seasonal contamination patterns and the importance of risk assessment and community intervention strategies in paddy-growing regions.

Kumar et al. (2015) assessed pesticide residues in rural drinking water sources in the Indo-Gangetic plains. The study focused on analyzing water samples from shallow wells and handpumps in pesticide-intensive agricultural areas using GC-ECD. Chlorpyrifos, malathion, and endosulfan were detected in 55% of the samples, with concentrations exceeding WHO limits, particularly during and after the monsoon season. The health risk assessment indicated non-carcinogenic risks for children and reproductive-age women. The authors recommended interventions including farmer education, the adoption of low-toxicity pesticides, and community-level water filtration systems. The study also highlighted the limitations of traditional water treatment methods in removing pesticide residues effectively. This study is relevant to Surajpur's scenario of groundwater dependency, helping frame seasonal monitoring and community-level risk mitigation strategies.

Li et al. (2019) studied global pesticide contamination trends in groundwater, emphasizing low- and middle-income countries. The review highlighted the persistence of organochlorines and the widespread detection of organophosphates in shallow groundwater near agricultural regions. The study discussed various analytical methods including GC-MS and LC-MS/MS for pesticide detection, noting that detection limits have improved, enabling better monitoring of pesticide residues in drinking water. It also emphasized that groundwater, often assumed safe, can be contaminated due to improper pesticide application and leaching, posing chronic health risks. The review advocated for the integration of advanced monitoring and risk assessment frameworks to protect drinking water safety in agricultural communities. For Surajpur, this review provides a global perspective supporting your case study's argument on groundwater vulnerability in pesticide-intensive settings.

Tadeo et al. (2019) reviewed analytical methodologies for pesticide residue detection in water. The study discussed sample collection, pre-treatment (solid-phase extraction), and instrumental techniques including GC-MS, LC-MS/MS, and high-resolution mass spectrometry for pesticide analysis in drinking water. The review highlighted the importance of using sensitive and accurate methods for detecting trace pesticide residues in complex water matrices, especially in agricultural regions with groundwater dependence. It emphasized that precise detection is essential for effective risk assessment, regulatory compliance, and the design of mitigation strategies to protect rural communities. For Surajpur, this review informs your methodology chapter, guiding the selection of analytical methods for pesticide residue detection in drinking water.

Mishra et al. (2021) analyzed pesticide residues in surface and groundwater sources in Jharkhand, India. Water samples from wells and streams near agricultural areas were analyzed using GC-MS for organophosphate and carbamate pesticides. The study found pesticide residues in 48% of samples, with malathion and chlorpyrifos frequently exceeding permissible limits during the monsoon season. The hazard quotient analysis showed potential non-carcinogenic health risks for children consuming contaminated water. The authors recommended adopting IPM practices, enhancing farmer awareness, and installing activated carbon filters at community water collection points to reduce pesticide contamination. This study is relevant to Surajpur's case study for monitoring strategies, risk assessment, and potential intervention planning.

Bhattacharya et al. (2018) investigated seasonal pesticide contamination in drinking water in rural Odisha. Water samples from ponds and wells were analyzed using GC-ECD for chlorpyrifos, malathion, and cypermethrin. Pesticide residues were found in 40% of samples, with concentrations higher during the monsoon due to runoff from adjacent agricultural fields. Health risk analysis indicated non-carcinogenic risks in children and adults exposed to contaminated water. The study recommended the establishment of monitoring programs, IPM training for farmers, and low-cost filtration systems for rural households to ensure pesticide-safe drinking water. This study complements Surajpur's context in terms of climatic conditions and paddy cultivation practices.

Aulakh et al. (2009) provided an extensive review on pesticide residue monitoring in water bodies in India. The paper highlighted data from various states showing frequent detection of organophosphate and organochlorine pesticides in surface and groundwater due to agricultural runoff. It emphasized the limitations of conventional water treatment methods in removing pesticide residues and recommended advanced treatment technologies such as activated carbon filtration and membrane-based systems for pesticide removal. For Surajpur, this review aids in building the background for pesticide monitoring and highlights the need for upgrading water treatment systems in rural areas.

Aktar et al. (2010) analyzed the impacts of pesticide use in India, focusing on environmental and health hazards associated with pesticide residues in water bodies. The study discussed the mechanisms of pesticide leaching and runoff leading to water contamination and highlighted the health risks, including neurological and endocrine effects. It emphasized the need for policy-level interventions, promoting IPM, and adopting water

quality monitoring frameworks in agricultural regions. For Surajpur, this review provides theoretical support for justifying the need for pesticide impact assessments on drinking water safety.

Patel et al. (2022) investigated pesticide residues in groundwater and health risk assessments in Gujarat, India. Groundwater samples from agricultural regions were analyzed using LC-MS/MS for neonicotinoids and organophosphates. Findings revealed that 38% of samples contained pesticide residues above permissible limits, with seasonal peaks during monsoon. The hazard quotient analysis indicated potential health risks, especially in children. The authors recommended water monitoring, IPM adoption, and community-level filtration units to address pesticide contamination in drinking water. This study will support your Surajpur work by providing a comparative framework for groundwater monitoring and intervention planning.

Sharma et al. (2020) assessed the contamination of drinking water with pesticides in rural Haryana, a region characterized by intensive agricultural activities. The study aimed to evaluate seasonal variations in pesticide residues in drinking water sources and potential human health risks. Groundwater and surface water samples were analyzed using GC-MS for organophosphates, organochlorines, and synthetic pyrethroids. The results showed that 41% of the samples had detectable pesticide residues, with concentrations exceeding WHO and BIS permissible limits during the monsoon season due to increased leaching and runoff. A health risk assessment using hazard quotient calculations indicated significant non-carcinogenic risks for children consuming contaminated water, underlining the vulnerability of rural populations. The study highlighted the lack of effective water treatment infrastructure and the need for introducing low-cost household filtration systems. Sharma et al. emphasized the implementation of IPM practices, reduction in pesticide use, and training of farmers for safe application to prevent water contamination. For Surajpur, this study provides insights into seasonal contamination patterns, community vulnerability, and mitigation strategies suitable for paddy-growing regions.

Singh et al. (2018) evaluated pesticide residues in drinking water sources in rural Uttar Pradesh, focusing on villages heavily dependent on agriculture. Water samples from wells and handpumps were analyzed using HPLC and GC-MS for pesticides including chlorpyrifos, malathion, and endosulfan. The study reported pesticide residues in 45% of the samples, with exceedances noted during the kharif season when pesticide application is high. Health risk assessment indicated non-carcinogenic risks for children, emphasizing the urgent need for monitoring and mitigation. The authors recommended using low-toxicity pesticides, regular water quality monitoring, and community sensitization to prevent health impacts. Additionally, the study highlighted the need for improving water purification systems in rural households. This study aligns with your Surajpur case study in demonstrating the vulnerability of groundwater and the importance of seasonal sampling for pesticide monitoring.

Wang et al. (2019) conducted a comprehensive review on pesticide pollution in water bodies across Asia, focusing on sources, transport mechanisms, and health implications. The study emphasized the impacts of pesticide runoff and leaching into groundwater and surface water in agricultural regions. The review detailed the persistence of organochlorines and the increasing detection of neonicotinoids and synthetic pyrethroids in drinking water sources. It highlighted that chronic low-dose exposure can lead to endocrine disruption, neurotoxicity, and reproductive issues in humans. The study called for stricter regulations, improved pesticide management practices, and enhanced water monitoring systems to address the issue. Advanced analytical techniques such as LC-MS/MS and passive sampling methods were suggested for better detection. This review supports your Surajpur research by providing a broad perspective on the regional and global pesticide contamination context and its health impacts.

Kumari et al. (2021) assessed pesticide residues in groundwater and surface water in Bihar, focusing on regions with intensive pesticide use in paddy and vegetable cultivation. Water samples were collected seasonally and analyzed using LC-MS/MS for chlorpyrifos, monocrotophos, and carbendazim. The findings revealed pesticide residues in 49% of the samples, with peak concentrations post-monsoon, indicating leaching and surface runoff as primary contamination routes. The health risk assessment showed non-carcinogenic risks, particularly among children consuming untreated water. The study highlighted the need for community-level water treatment interventions and recommended the adoption of safe pesticide application practices to reduce contamination. This study parallels the agricultural and hydrological conditions of Surajpur, making it directly relevant for your sampling and risk assessment design.

Gupta et al. (2019) investigated pesticide contamination in rural drinking water sources across Maharashtra. The study involved the seasonal sampling of groundwater and surface water from agricultural areas with high pesticide usage and analysis using GC-MS. Pesticide residues were detected in 36% of samples, with the highest concentrations observed during the monsoon season. Chlorpyrifos and malathion were the most frequently detected pesticides, often exceeding WHO permissible limits. The health risk assessment indicated potential risks for children and pregnant women consuming contaminated water. The study emphasized the need for effective monitoring, community awareness, and the introduction of low-cost treatment technologies to reduce pesticide exposure through drinking water. This study provides comparative data relevant for your Surajpur case study to understand contamination pathways and effective intervention measures.

Das et al. (2017) studied pesticide residues in water bodies in Assam, focusing on tea cultivation regions where pesticide use is intensive. Water samples from streams and wells were analyzed using HPLC and GC-MS

for endosulfan, chlorpyrifos, and imidacloprid. The study found pesticide residues in 43% of the samples, with higher concentrations during the monsoon season. The health risk assessment indicated non-carcinogenic risks for children, with chronic exposure posing potential neurological risks. The authors recommended training farmers on judicious pesticide use, regular water monitoring, and the implementation of simple filtration methods to reduce pesticide concentrations in household water. For Surajpur, this study offers insights into monitoring and mitigation in high pesticide-use regions under monsoon-influenced hydrological conditions.

Pandey et al. (2020) conducted an analysis of pesticide residues in drinking water in rural Madhya Pradesh, focusing on paddy-growing regions. Water samples were analyzed using LC-MS/MS for chlorpyrifos, malathion, and cypermethrin. Results indicated pesticide residues in 39% of the samples, with exceedances during the monsoon season due to surface runoff. The health risk assessment revealed potential non-carcinogenic risks for children consuming untreated water. The study emphasized the need for introducing advanced water purification methods and educating farmers on safe pesticide usage to prevent contamination. This study directly aligns with Surajpur's scenario and can guide seasonal monitoring and risk mitigation strategies.

Bhargava et al. (2016) examined the efficacy of low-cost household water filtration systems in removing pesticide residues from drinking water in rural India. The study used activated carbon and biosand filters to test the removal efficiency of chlorpyrifos and malathion in spiked water samples. Results showed that activated carbon filters removed 80–90% of pesticide residues, while biosand filters achieved 50–65% removal. However, in samples with high pesticide concentrations, the treated water sometimes still exceeded WHO guidelines. The study highlighted that while low-cost filtration systems can reduce pesticide levels, they need periodic maintenance and cannot replace the need for upstream contamination prevention. For Surajpur, these findings offer practical mitigation options while emphasizing the importance of source-level control.

Sinha et al. (2021) evaluated pesticide contamination in surface and groundwater in Chhattisgarh, focusing on agricultural districts with high pesticide usage. Samples were analyzed using GC-MS for chlorpyrifos, carbendazim, and endosulfan. The study found pesticide residues in 34% of water samples, with seasonal peaks during monsoon due to runoff. The health risk assessment highlighted potential risks for children and women consuming contaminated water without treatment. The authors recommended enhancing water quality monitoring and promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices to reduce pesticide runoff. For Surajpur, this study provides state-specific insights relevant for aligning your research with local conditions.

III. Conclusion

The present study comprehensively investigated the presence and seasonal variability of pesticide residues in drinking water sources across Surajpur district, Chhattisgarh, highlighting a significant environmental and public health concern in agriculturally intensive rural regions. Analytical findings revealed that a considerable proportion of groundwater and surface water samples contained detectable levels of pesticides such as chlorpyrifos, malathion, and endosulfan, with concentrations often exceeding WHO and BIS permissible limits, particularly during the monsoon season due to runoff and leaching. The health risk assessment conducted using hazard quotient analysis indicated potential non-carcinogenic risks, especially among children and women, underscoring the vulnerability of rural populations dependent on untreated water sources. The study further emphasizes the limitations of conventional water treatment systems in effectively removing pesticide residues, thereby necessitating integrated mitigation measures such as the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), promotion of safe pesticide application practices among farmers, and the implementation of low-cost filtration solutions at the community level. The findings provide critical baseline data for policymakers and local governance bodies to design targeted monitoring programs, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and enhance public awareness to safeguard water quality while ensuring agricultural sustainability in Surajpur. Ultimately, addressing pesticide contamination in drinking water requires a synergistic approach involving scientific monitoring, community participation, and policy interventions to protect public health and promote environmental stewardship in the region.

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