

**NATURE OF OCCURRENCE AND UTILIZATION
OF GROUNDWATER IN BUDALIN, MONYWA
AND CHAUNG-U TOWNSHIPS,
SAGAING REGION**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

Administratively, the area under investigation lies within the Budalin-Monywa-Chaung-U townships of Sagaing Region and it is situated at the north - western part of Dry Zone of Central Burma. Geographically the area is bounded between Latitude ($21^{\circ} 45' \text{ N}$) to ($22^{\circ} 30' \text{ N}$) and Longitude ($95^{\circ} 00' \text{ E}$) to ($95^{\circ} 30' \text{ E}$). The aerial extend of the study area is approximately 869 square mile (2251 km^2). As the area under investigation situates in the north-western part of Dry Zone of Myanmar, the climatic condition is semi-arid and average annual rainfall does not exceed 25 inches (640 mm).

Geologically, the whole area is mainly composed of alluvial sediments of fluvial origin. This alluvium usually covers the low-lying parts of the area whereas the rocks of Irrawaddy formation and Pegu Group are exposed at the eastern hilly terrain. Limited exposures of volcanic rocks (i.e olivine basalt) have been noted probably along fault line (running along Inde-kyaukka range).

In the area, two main aquifers have been categorized into Alluvial Aquifer and Irrawaddian Aquifer. The Alluvial Aquifer is mainly composed of gravels, fine to course sands, silty clay and clay. The Irrawaddian Aquifers are mainly composed of sand, clay, silt, sandstone and locally passing into gravel.

Transmissivity value of the Alluvial aquifer is ranging from 1114 to 6988 m^2/d and storativity of the aquifer is 8×10^{-4} . Discharge rate of 12 inches diameter well in alluvial aquifer is ranging from 32807 to 36730 gph. Transmissivity value of the Irrawaddian aquifer is ranging from 102 to 289 m^2/d and storativity of the aquifer is 1.8×10^{-5} . Discharge rate of Irrawaddian aquifer is ranging from 4514 gph to 4672 gph for 6 inches diameter tube wells. Transmissivity value of the Peguan aquifer is 7.223 m^2 / d . Discharge rate of Peguan aquifer is 650 gph for 4 inches diameter tube well. Groundwater flow direction of the study area is generally east to west.

The total of 7 VES (Vertical Electrical Sounding) points employing Schlumberger four electrodes system has conducted at the locations where previously selected .

According to the Piper trilinear diagram and Chadha diagram, Groundwater type of Younger Alluvial Aquifer, Older Alluvial Aquifer and Peguan Aquifer is Na-Cl type. Such water generally creates salinity problems both in irrigation and drinking uses.

Hydrochemical nature, environment and composition of groundwater can be evaluated effectively by the ionic ratio. The following ionic ratios were analysed to know local replenishment of fresh water and origin of groundwater. They are $\text{Cl}^-/\text{HCO}_3^-$ and $\text{Mg}^{++}/\text{Ca}^{++}$ ratio. The small value of the ratio (Cl/HCO_3) in the Younger Alluvial aquifer found along the Chindwin River and eastern part of the study area and that clearly define the nature of local replenishment by fresh water surface. Magnesium and Calcium Ratio were all less than 2. The ratio value of the study area is ranging from 0.32 to 1.04. The groundwater in the study area is inland origin. Water under marine influence would have value of about 5.

Groundwater type of Irrawaddian Aquifer is Ca-Mg- Cl type. Such water has permanent hardness and does not deposit residual sodium carbonate in irrigation use. The small value of the ratio (Cl/HCO_3) in Irrawaddian aquifer found along the Chindwin River and eastern part of the study area and that clearly define the nature of local replenishment by fresh water surface. Magnesium and Calcium Ratio of the Irrawaddian aquifer is ranging from 0.5 to 2.8. The groundwater in the study area is inland origin.

Groundwater of the study area is marginal quality for irrigation because of the high bicarbonate content which will result in calcium precipitation and increase the sodium content. Salinity problem and alkalinity problem should be controlled by improving drainage, leaching, reducing evaporation and applying chemical treatment such as gypsum.

Average annual rainfall in the area is 0.64m (25 inches). An effective rainfall (37%) of 0.23 m (9.25 inches) is derived from the upper catchments in the eastern part of the study area. This produces a gross runoff from the 264 km² catchments area of 65million m³/annum. Applying a runoff factor of 0.85 to the gross runoff from the catchments yields a surface runoff of 55 million m³/annum, the remaining of 10 million m³/annum is recharging the outcropping sandstone. 70% of the runoff 55 million m³ from the hills is assumed to infiltrate in the Alluvial Aquifer. So, 39 million m³/annum probably recharges to the alluvial aquifer. A total recharge of the outcropping sandstone and Alluvium is 49 million m³. The extraction prior to 2016 was estimated as 38 million m³/annum derived from the Alluvial Aquifer and

Irrawaddian Aquifer. The steady- state balance gives an outflow at the river of 11 million m^3/annum .

Estimating the probable land subsidence when the piezometric head drops by 3.7 m in a confining aquifer 30 m thick, having a porosity of 30% and storage coefficient 8×10^{-4} . The elastic subsidence of the land surface in the study area is 0.5 mm.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xviii
I INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Location, Size and Accessibility	1
1.2 Methods of Study	3
1.3 Purpose and Scope of Investigation	4
1.4 Previous Investigation	4
II PHYSIOGRAPHY	
2.1 Topography	6
2.2 Drainage	8
2.3 Climate	10
2.4 Population	13
2.5 Natural Vegetation and Agriculture	14
III GENERAL GEOLOGY	
3.1 Stratigraphy	15
3.2 Lithology	16

3.2.1. Alluvium	16
3.2.2. Irrawaddian Formation	22
3.2.3 Pegu Group	23
3.2.4. Igneous Rocks	25
3.3. Geological Structure	26
3.3.1. Regional Dips and Folds	26
3.3.2. Faults	27
IV DISTRIBUTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SURFACE WATER	
4.1 Distribution of surface water	28
4.2 Quality of surface water	32
4.3 Existing water supply system	32
V DISTRIBUTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GROUNDWATER	
5.1 Hydrogeological Background of Budalin -Monywa - Chaung-U Area	35
5.2 Description of Aquifers	36
5.2.1 Area Distribution of Younger Alluvial Aquifer	36
5.2.2 Lithology of Younger Alluvial Aquifer	36
5.2.3 Piezometric Level and Groundwater Flow	36
5.3 Older Alluvial Aquifer	38
5.3.1 Area Distribution of Older Alluvial Aquifer	38
5.3.2 Lithology of Older Alluvial Aquifer	38
5.3.3 Piezometric Level and Groundwater Flow	38

5.4 Irrawaddian Aquifer	40
5.4.1 Area Distribution of Irrawaddian Aquifer	40
5.4.2 Lithology of Irrawaddian Aquifer	40
5.4.3 Piezometric Level and Groundwater Flow	40
5.5 Peguan Aquifer	42
5.5.1 Area Distribution of Peguan Aquifer	42
5.5.2 Lithology of Peguan Aquifer	42
5.6 Groundwater flow	48
5.7 Pumping Out Test in the Study Area	50
5.7.1 Pumping out test in Alluvial Aquifer	51
5.7.2 Recovery Test in Alluvial Aquifer	52
5.7.3 Pumping out test in Irrawaddian Aquifer	53
5.7.4 Recovery Test in Irrawaddian Aquifer	54
5.7.5 Pumping out test in Peguan Aquifer	55
5.7.6 Recovery Test in Peguan Aquifer	55
5.7.7 Determination of formation loss coefficient (B) and well loss coefficient (C)	56
5.8 Geophysical Investigation	59
5.8.1 Electric Resistivity Method	59
5.8.2 Principles of Resistivity Method	60

5.8.3 Interpretation	63
VI CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTIC OF GROUNDWATER	
6.1 Younger Alluvial Aquifer	70
6.1.1 Type of Groundwater	75
6.1.2 Hydrochemical Facies and Ionic Ratios of Groundwater in Younger Alluvial Aquifer	77
6.2 Older Alluvial Aquifer	79
6.2.1 Types of Groundwater	80
6.3. Irrawaddian Aquifer	82
6.3.1 Types of Groundwater	87
6.4 Peguan Aquifer	90
6.4.1 Type of Groundwater	90
VII POSSIBLE UTILIZATION OF GROUNDWATER FOR DOMESTIC AND IRRIGATION PURPOSES	
7.1 Water Quality for Domestic Purpose	92
7.2 Groundwater Quality for Agriculture purposes	95
7.3 Water Quality of Younger Alluvial Aquifer for Irrigation Purpose	96
7.3.1 Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	96
7.3.2 Magnesium Adsorption Ratio (MAR)	99
7.3.3 Residual Sodium Bicarbonate (RSBC)	100
7.3.4 Percentage Sodium (Na %)	100

7.3.5 Doneen's Permeability Index (PI)	103
7.3.6 Kelly's Ratio (KR)	105
7.3.7 Assessment of Groundwater Quality for Irrigation in Younger Alluvial Aquifer	105
7.3.8 Comparison with W.H.O Guideline Value for Drinking Water	107
7.4 Water Quality of Older Alluvial Aquifer for Irrigation Purpose	108
7.4.1 Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	108
7.4.2 Magnesium Adsorption Ratio (MAR)	109
7.4.3 Residual Sodium Bicarbonate (RSBC)	109
7.4.4 Percentage Sodium (Na%)	110
7.4.5 Doneen's Permeability Index (PI)	111
7.4.6 Kelly's Ratio (KR)	112
7.4.7 Assessment of Groundwater Quality for Irrigation in Older Alluvial Aquifer	112
7.4.8 Comparison with W.H.O Guideline Value for Drinking Water	113
7.5 Water Quality of Irrawaddian Aquifer for Irrigation Purpose	114
7.5.1 Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	114
7.5.2 Magnesium Adsorption Ratio (MAR)	115
7.5.3 Residual Sodium Bicarbonate (RSBC)	115
7.5.4 Percentage Sodium (Na %)	115
7.5.5 Doneen's Permeability Index (PI)	117

7.5.6 Kelly's Ratio (KR)	118
7.5.7 Assessment of Groundwater Quality for Irrigation in Irrawaddian Aquifer	118
7.5.8 Comparison with W.H.O Guideline Value for Drinking water	120
7.6 Water Quality of Peguan Aquifer for Irrigation Purpose	121
7.6.1 Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	121
7.6.2 Magnesium Adsorption Ratio (MAR)	122
7.6.3 Residual Sodium Bicarbonate (RSBC)	122
7.6.4 Percentage Sodium (Na %)	122
7.6.5 Doneen's Permeability Index (PI)	123
7.6.6 Kelly's Ratio (KR)	124
7.6.7 Assessment of Groundwater Quality for Irrigation in Peguan Aquifer	124
7.6.8 Comparison with W.H.O Guideline Value for Drinking water	125

VIII GROUNDWATER UTILIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Principle of Sustainable Groundwater Development	126
8.2 Long Term Conservation of Groundwater Resources	127
8.2.1 Groundwater balance in Budalin-Monywa- Chaung-U area	127
8.2.2 Water Demand Condition	127
8.3 Protection of Groundwater Quality from Significant Degradation	130
8.3.1 Sustainability and Water Quality	131

8.3.2 Managing Irrigation Water Quality	132
8.4 Environmental Impacts of Groundwater Development	134
IX SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	136
REFERENCES	
APPENDICES	