

Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0969-8043(17)30214-2
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2018.01.030>
Reference: ARI8238

To appear in: *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*

Received date: 16 February 2017
Revised date: 10 January 2018
Accepted date: 20 January 2018

Cite this article as: N. Harikrishnan, A. Chandrasekaran, R. Ravisankar and R. Alagarsamy, Statistical Assessment to Magnetic Susceptibility and Heavy Metal Data for Characterizing the Coastal Sediment of East Coast of Tamilnadu, India, *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2018.01.030>

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Statistical Assessment to Magnetic Susceptibility and Heavy Metal Data for Characterizing the Coastal Sediment of East Coast of Tamilnadu, India

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Abstract

A rapid urbanization and industrialization enhances the significant heavy metal pollution in the sediments of coastal area and introduced a serious threat to the human health. In the present study, concentration of heavy metals such as Al, Ti, Fe, V, Cr, Mn, Co, Zn, La, Pb, Mg, Ca, Ni, Cd and Ba are determined in sediments along Periyakalpet to Parangaipeetai coastal area, Tamilnadu using energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (EDXRF). These metals have more affinity to establish metallic bond with ferrous material leading to enhancement of sediment magnetic susceptibility. Hence, a magnetic susceptibility (χ_{LF} , χ_{HF} , χ_{FD}) measurement was carried for sediments by using MS2B dual frequency susceptibility meter. Multivariate statistical analysis (Pearson correlation, factor and cluster analysis) was carried out between heavy metals and magnetic susceptibility to assess the anthropogenic impact in the sediments. The study revealed that a magnetic susceptibility measurement is an inexpensive, fast, non-destructive and suitable method to identify the heavy metal pollution sources.

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