

## Assessment of Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index of Kurichi Industrial Cluster, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu, India – a Case Study

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### ABSTRACT

Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) is a rational number to characterize the quality of the environment at a given location following the algorithm of source, pathway, and receptor. As CEPI increases, there will be adverse effects on the receiving environment. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has brought out revised criteria for evaluation of CEPI by replacing the criteria issued in 2010. The revised criteria are issued to overcome the subjectivity factors of health impact studies on humans, flora and fauna. Kurichi Industrial Cluster in Coimbatore District is an engineering industrial estate housing foundries, forging units, metal finishing and fabrication units. In January 2010, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India declared Kurichi as critically polluted area and imposed moratorium on new projects and for expansion of the existing units. This declaration was made based on the CEPI score which was calculated as more than 70. Thereafter, the industries and the local stake holders have implemented various pollution control measures and hence the CEPI score has come down less than 70 and so the moratorium was lifted in October 2010. In this paper, the CEPI score is calculated based on the revised criteria and using the environmental quality monitoring data collected in April 2017. It is found that the CEPI score is below 70 which imply that the industrial units are operating and maintaining the pollution control measures consistently. However, taking a policy decision based on the CEPI score, one should be cautious on the adequacy of data and the parameters selected.

**Keywords:** comprehensive environmental pollution index, Kurichi industrial cluster, Coimbatore.

### INTRODUCTION

Environmental pollution remains a serious issue in the developing world, affecting the lives of billions of people, reducing their life expectancy, and damaging children's growth and development. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 25% of all deaths in the developing world can be directly attributed to environmental factors (CPCB, 2009). The problem of pollution and its corresponding adverse ecological impacts have been aggravated due to increasing industrial and other developmental activities. India, among

other developing nations of the world, is facing the challenge of industrial pollution. This has made the constant surveillance of environmental characteristics a necessary task. There is an urgent need to identify critically polluted areas and identify their problematic dimensions. Accordingly, measures have to be taken to make the process of industrial development and economic growth more sustainable. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has brought out a tool called Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) to identify the problematic industrial areas in the country (CPCB, 2009).

## COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION INDEX (CEPI)

CEPI is a rational number to characterize the quality of the environment at a given location following the algorithm of source, pathway, and receptor. As CEPI increases, there will be adverse effects on the receiving environment. CEPI is a useful tool for environmental decision making by policymakers. The CEPI scoring methodology is given in Figure 1 (CPCB, 2016).

### Scoring Methodology

The scouring system involves an algorithm that takes into account the basic selection criteria. This approach is based on the basic hazard assessment logic as summarized below. Hazard = pollutant source, pathways, and receptor. CEPI is calculated separately for air, water, and land of the industrial cluster. To calculate various factors contributing to sub-indices and their values, the following procedure should be followed (Richard, 1995 and Rao, 1996).

**A: Determining critical pollutants.** Three most critical pollutants are to be considered for calculation and these are selected in the beginning

of the process. The pollutants are divided into three groups, that is, A, B, and C. This information can be obtained from the criteria for comprehensive environmental assessment of Industrial Clusters issued by CPCB in December 2009 and a revised CEPI Version 2016. Pollutants belonging to Group C are more critical than those belonging to Group B, which is more critical than those in Group A. In cases with more than three pollutants in the same category exist, the ones with higher concentrations in the surroundings would be considered critical (CPCB, 2010).

#### Factor A1 – presence of toxin

Group A – pollutants / chemicals that are not assessed as acute or systemic =1. Group B – organics / pollutants / chemicals that are probable carcinogens (USEPA Class 2 and 3) or substances with some systemic toxicity. e.g. VOC's, PAHs, PCBs, air pollutants such as PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> = 2. Group C – known carcinogens or chemicals with significant systemic or organ system toxicity. e.g. vinyl chloride, benzene, lead, radionuclide, hexachromium, cadmium, organophosphate pesticides = 3. For the assessment purpose upto three most critical pollutants and two secondary pollutants are to be taken.

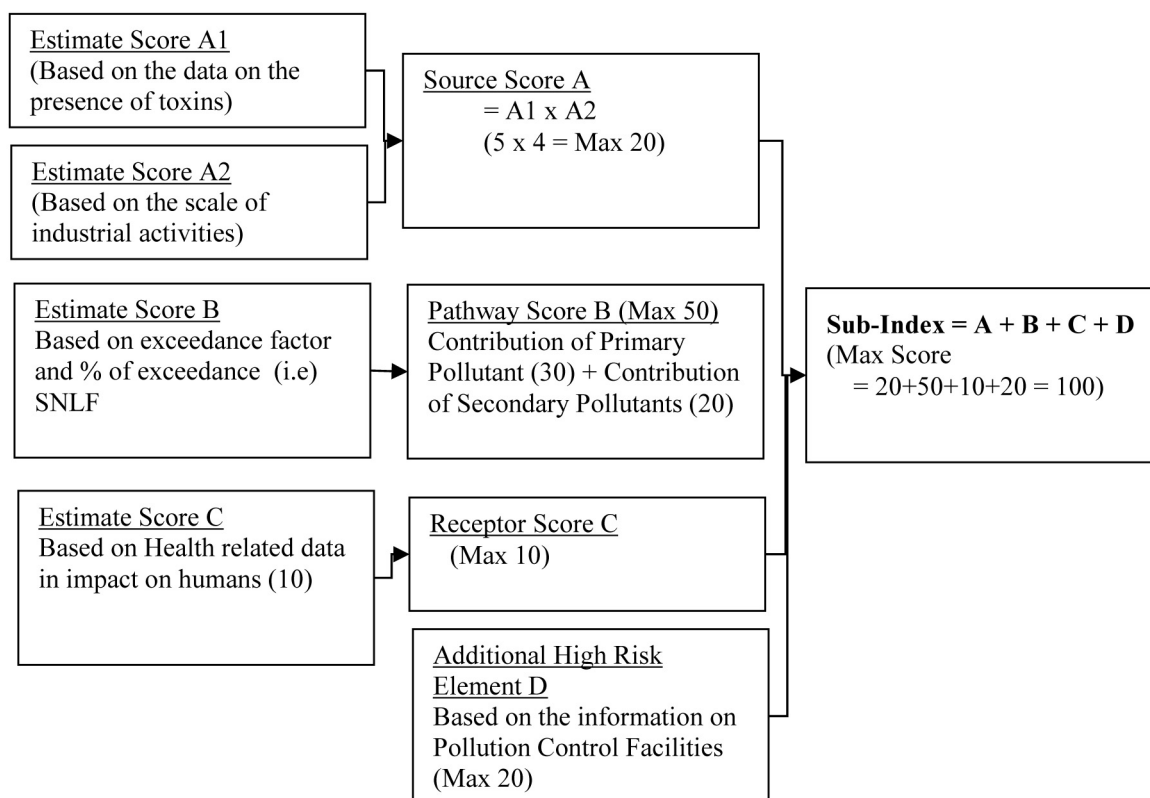


Figure 1. CEPI score calculation methodology

**Selection of criteria pollutants (critical or primary pollutants):** Option 1: 3 pollutants relevant with the area depending on the nature of industrial activity (preferable option /method). Option 2: up to 3 most critical pollutants depending on the concentration and exceedance. The maximum contribution by the primary pollutant is 3.

**Selection of secondary pollutants:** Based on the nature of the toxins, the contribution value of pollutant is given in Table 1.

Maximum contribution of secondary pollutants = 2.00

Maximum score of A1 = 3+2 = 5

*Factor A2 – scale of industrial activities*

**Note:** R17 – 17 categories of highly polluting industries, R 54 – red category industries as notified by CPCB.

Score A = A1 × A2 (max score = 5 × 4 = 20)

**B: Level of exposure.** A surrogate number which will represent level of exposure (SNLF) is calculated using % violation of ambient pollutant concentration, which is calculated as SNLF = (no. of samples exceeded/ total no. of samples) × (exceedance factor). The value of Factor B for primary and secondary pollutant based on SNLF is given in Table 3.

Maximum contribution of primary pollutant = 30 and maximum contribution of secondary pollutants = 20. Hence maximum of *Score B* = 30 + 20 = 50

**Table 1.** Toxicity and contribution value of secondary pollutants

Group of toxicity of each of the secondary pollutants	Contribution value for each of the pollutant
Group A	0.25
Group B	0.50
Group C	1.00

**Table 2:** Scale of industrial activities and the contribution value

Scale of industrial activities	Value
Large industrial activities : If there are > 10 R17 per 10 sq km area or fraction (OR) > 2 R17 + 10 R54 per 10 sq km area or fraction (OR) > 100 R54 per 10 sq km area or fraction	4
Moderate industrial activities: If there are 2 to 10 R17 per 10 sq km area or fraction (OR) 10–100 R54 per 10 sq km area or fraction	2.5
Limited industrial activities: Else there is any industry within 10 sq km area or fraction	1

**C: Receptor.** The score value of Factor C depends on impact on human health (Table 4). For this purposes the health data of the previous five years from 3 to 5 major hospitals in the area shall be considered.

- % increase is evaluated based on the total no. of cases recorded during two consecutive years.
- For air environment, total no. of cases related to Asthma, Bronchitis, Cancer, Acute respiratory infections etc. are to be considered.
- For surface water / ground water environment, cases related to gastroenteritis, diarrhea, renal (kidney) malfunction, cancer etc are to be considered.

**D: Additional high risk element.** Additional high risk element refers to inadequacy of pollution control measures for large scale, medium and small scale industries and also due to unorganized sector. It is cumulative of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) and unorganized waste disposal. Max. score = 20.

Inadequate facilities ≥10% units deficient in terms of design/ operation and maintenance of pollution control in case of small and medium scale industries (OR) > 2% units deficiency in terms of design/ operation and maintenance of pollution control in case of large scale industries or common facilities. The status report (last two years) shall be used for the purpose of deciding the score for adequacy.

**Evaluation of the Ambient Air Index / Surface Water Index / Ground Water Index (sub-index)**

After calculating A, B, C and D; calculate the sub index score: **sub-index score = (A + B + C + D)**. Sub index scores are to be calculated for each of the individual environmental components that is, air environment, surface water environment, and soil & ground water environment separately.

*Calculation of the aggregated CEPI*

The aggregated CEPI score can be calculated:

$$CEPI = i_m + \{(100 - i_m) \cdot (i_2/100) \cdot (i_3/100)\}$$

Where,  $i_m$ : maximum sub index; and  $i_2$ , and  $i_3$  are sub indices for other media. If the CEPI score exceeds 70, the industrial cluster is treated as critically polluted, if the CEPI score is 60–70, the industrial cluster is treated as severely polluted.

**Table 3.** Factor B value for primary and secondary pollutants

Range of SNLF	Category	Score value of Factor B	
		Primary pollutant	Secondary pollutant
0 (For EF<0.75)	Low	0	0
0 (For 0.75 < EF < 0.80)	Low	1.5	0.5
0 (For 0.80 < EF < 0.85)	Low	3.0	1
0 (For 0.85 < EF < 0.90)	Low	4.5	1.5
0 (For 0.90 < EF < 0.95)	Low	6.0	2
0 (For 0.95 < EF < 1.0)	Low	7.5	2.5
< 0.05	Moderate	8.25	2.75
0.05 to < 0.1	Moderate	9.0	3
0.1 to < 0.15	Moderate	9.75	3.25
0.15 to < 0.2	Moderate	10.50	3.50
0.2 to < 0.25	Moderate	11.25	3.75
0.25 to < 0.30	Moderate	12	4.0
0.30 to < 0.35	Moderate	12.75	4.25
0.35 to < 0.4	Moderate	13.5	4.5
0.40 to < 0.45	Moderate	14.25	4.75
0.45 to < 0.5	Moderate	15	5
0.5 to < 0.55	High	15.75	5.25
0.55 to < 0.60	High	16.50	5.50
0.6 to < 0.65	High	17.25	5.75
0.65 to < 0.7	High	18	6.0
0.7 to < 0.75	High	18.75	6.25
0.75 to < 0.80	High	19.50	6.50
0.80 to < 0.85	High	20.25	6.75
0.85 to < 0.90	High	21.0	7
0.90 to < 0.95	High	21.75	7.25
0.95 to < 1	High	22.5	7.5
1.0 and above	Critical	30	10

**Table 4.** Factor C score value based on % of increase in human health cases

% of increase in cases	Score
< 5%	0
5–10%	5
> 10%	10

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Kurichi Industrial Cluster

Kurichi Industrial Cluster is located at 10°55'11" N Latitude and 76°57'35" Longitude. The Industrial cluster is 7 KM away on South from Coimbatore City on Coimbatore – Pollachi National Highway NH-209 (TNPCB, 2011). In this industrial cluster there are two industrial estates, one is SIDCO Industrial Estate developed by the Tamil Nadu State Government and another one is developed by private. This industrial cluster spreads over an area of 180 acres. The location

map is given in Figure 2. There are 286 industries are in operation. Most of the industries are engineering industries with lathe drilling operation and few foundry units. There are no major water consuming and trade effluent generation industries in this cluster. There is no water body exist within and 2 km surrounding of the Kurichi industrial cluster. River Noyyal is located at 3 km on North direction and Kurichi lake is located at 2.5 km in the North West direction. There are hospitals, educational institutions located in the 2KM surrounding area.

### Source of pollution

**Water pollution.** In the industrial cluster majority of the industries are engineering and foundry units. There is no generation of trade effluent from the units. Few surface coating units engaged in electroplating operations disposes the treated trade effluent through solar evaporation. The scrubbing effluent from the foundries is disposed



Figure 2. Location map of Kurichi Industrial Cluster, Coimbatore

through solar evaporation pan. The industries are labour intensive. The sewage generated from the units are collected and treated in septic tank provided by individual units.

**Air pollution.** In the industrial cluster, the major air pollutant is particulate matter let-out from foundries. The Heavy vehicle movement in the National Highway also contribute for air pollution. Sulphur di oxide, oxides of nitrogen and carbon monoxide emissions are let-out from the foundries operating with cupola furnaces, oil fired

furnaces, forging unit, lead recovery unit (World Bank Group, 1998). The possible lead emission is from the lead recovery unit and vehicle movement. The industries have provided necessary air pollution control measures. The foundries with induction furnace and cupola furnaces have provided bag filter and wet scrubber attached with stack. Shot blasting machines are provided with bag filter and stack.

**Land pollution.** There is no major hazardous waste generating industries in Kurichi indus-

trial cluster. However the hazardous waste such as used oil / waste oil, effluent treatment plant sludge are collected and disposed off complying with hazardous and other wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) rules 2016.

**Assessment of CEPI for Kurichi Industrial Cluster**

In January 2010, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India has declared 43 Industrial clusters in the courtney as critically polluted area who’s CEPI score is more than 70. The MoEF has imposed a moratorium and totally banned for setting of new industries and for the expansion of existing industries in these industrial clusters. Kurichi Industrial Cluster is one among them (MoEF, Jan. 2010). The CEPI score of Kurichi industrial complex was 72.38. Subsequently, the industries in the Kurichi area have implemented various pollution control measures and hence the CEPI score has come down below 70. Hence in October 2010, the MoEF have lifted the moratorium to the Kurichi Industrial Cluster subject one of the conditions that the environmental quality shall be monitored once in six months and the CEPI score shall be calculated. If the score exceeds 70, moratorium will be re-imposed (MoEF, Oct. 2010). Based on the above directions, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) conducts ambient air quality; surface water quality and ground water quality survey and calculate CEPI score. In the recent

past the survey was conducted in the month of April 2017. Using this data, the CEPI calculation is presented below.

**Source (score A).** The criteria pollutant and secondary pollutants chosen for the calculation water, air and land environment is given in Table 6. The parameters selected in year 2010 for assessment of CEPI are taken for this calculation also to maintain uniformity and for comparison. A1 is assigned based on the toxicity of the parameter (Harris and Joseph, 1991). For water environment, River Noyyal and Kurichi lake water quality is considered. For land environment, the ground water quality is considered. In Kurichi Industrial cluster there is no 17 categories of highly polluting industries. There are 45 Nos. of red category units, 32 orange category units and 192 green category units (TNPCB, 2010). As per the CPCB guidelines Kurichi Industrial cluster activity is considered as moderate. Hence A2 value is taken as 2.5.

**Pathway (score B).** The level of exposure is calculated based on the SNLF value (Mervyn, 1998).

**Receptor (score C).** Since data on the impact on human health due to this industrial cluster is not available, the value is taken as 5 (Rajamanickam, 2014).

**Additional Risk Factor (score D).** All the industries in the Kurichi industrial cluster have adequately designed / operated and maintained pollution control facilities but the common facilities such as common effluent treatment plants

**Table 5.** Factor D score based on adequacy of pollution control measures

No.	Large scale industries	Large scale industries	Large scale industries	Score
1	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	0
2	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	5
3	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	10
4	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	15
5	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	20

**Table 6.** Criteria and secondary pollutants chosen for the CEPI score calculation

Category of pollutant	Air environment		Water environment		Land environment	
	Pollutant	Group	Pollutant	Group	Pollutant	Group
Criteria pollutant – 1	nickel	C	COD	B	TDS	A
Criteria pollutant – 2	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	B	nitrate-nitrogen	B	fluoride	A
Criteria pollutant – 3	PM <sub>10</sub>	B	total iron	A	nitrate	B
Secondary pollutant – 1	SO <sub>2</sub>	A	BOD	A	total hardness	A
Secondary pollutant – 2	NO <sub>x</sub>	B	TDS	A	total iron	A

(CETP)/Common Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities (CHWDF) are having inadequate in capacity or operation / maintenance. In Kurichi, there is no CETP and CHWDF. Hence the score D is taken as 5.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The aggregated CEPI Score =  $i_m + \{(100 - i_m) \times (i_2/100) \times (i_3/100)\} = 56.25 + \{(100 - 56.25) \times (34.12/100) \times (51.25/100)\} = 63.90$ . It is given in Table 11. The reduction in CEPI score is due to the implementation of action plan for improvement environmental quality and continual effi-

cient operation and maintenance of the pollution control measures by the industries.

## CONCLUSIONS

CEPI provides a comprehensive tool for determining the environmental problems of industrial cluster, which can further be used to improve the mitigation facilities. The source-pathway-receptor approach covers the basic linkages in the ecological process. The perfection depends on the consistency in pollution data available, regular environmental monitoring for data collection, presence of evidences of adverse impact on hu-

**Table 7.** Ambient air quality in the vicinity of Kurichi Industrial Cluster

Parameters	Sampling locations						Average	NAAQS
	Indo Shell Mould Ltd – unit II			SIDCO office				
	I	II	III	I	II	III		
Particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) in µg/m <sup>3</sup>	51.5	74.8	46.2	29.0	31.0	33.5	44.33	60
Particulate matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) in µg/m <sup>3</sup>	93.6	130.4	87.7	61.0	65.0	74.6	85.38	100
Sulphur of Oxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) in µg/m <sup>3</sup>	16.3	19.4	14.8	6.6	4.3	7.8	11.5	80
Oxides of Nitrogen NO <sub>x</sub> in µg/m <sup>3</sup>	31.7	33.0	26.8	12.2	13.6	16.7	22.33	80
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) in µg/m <sup>3</sup>	27.0	19.3	20.7	16.0	13.7	23.7	20.06	180
Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ) in µg/m <sup>3</sup>	30.4	32.2	25.4	16.3	20.8	22.3	24.57	400
Nickel in ng/m <sup>3</sup>	6.7	8.7	9.7	6.8	BDL	6	7.58	20

**Source:** TNPCB. NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards (CPCB, 2010)

**Table 8.** Surface water quality of the water bodies nearby Kurichi Industrial Cluster

No.	Parameters	Sampling location			Standard (IS:2296–1982 Class C)
		Kurichi Lake	Noyyal River	Average	
1	pH	7.1	7.4	7.25	6.5 – 8.5
2	Oil & Grease	< 2	< 2	< 2	0.1
3	Total Suspended Solids	12	18	15	-
4	Dissolved Oxygen	2	1.6	1.8	4
5	Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand	40	56	48	3
6	Chemical Oxygen Demand	224	266	245	-
7	Total Dissolved Solids	1820	2380	2100	1500
8	Nitrate-Nitrogen	BDL	0.88	0.88	-
9	Total Iron	1.81	1.06	1.44	50
10	Free Ammonia	8.7	11.2	9.95	-
11	Fluoride as F	0.26	0.34	0.3	1.5
12	Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub>	26.7	123.3	75	400
13	Sulphide as H <sub>2</sub> S	2.2	3.2	2.7	-
14	Total Hardness	380	818	599	-
15	Total Ammonia	14.8	19.4	17.1	-
16	Total Nitrogen	19.6	25.5	22.55	-
17	Chloride	674	716	695	-

**Source:** TNPCB. **Note:** All parameters in mg/L except pH. BDL: Below detectable limit. IS 2296 – 1982: Tolerance limits for inland surface waters subject to pollution – Class C: Drinking water source with conventional treatment followed by disinfection.

**Table 9.** Ground water quality in the Kurichi Industrial Cluster

No.	Parameters	Sampling location		Average	Standard IS 10500-1991
		Surya Industries Bore Well	Indo Shell Mould Ltd, Unit II Bore Well		
1	pH	7.4	7.2	7.3	6.5-8.5
2	Oil & grease	< 2	< 2	< 2	-
3	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	< 2	< 2	< 2	-
4	Chemical Oxygen Demand	< 4	< 4	< 4	-
5	Total Dissolved Solids	954	1682	1318	500
6	Fluoride	0.14	0.13	0.135	1.0
7	Total nitrogen	107	111	109	45
8	Total hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	445	741	593	300
9	Total Iron	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.3
10	Free ammonia as NH <sub>3</sub>	BDL	BDL	BDL	-
11	Dissolved phosphate	0.1	3.49	1.80	-
12	Total phosphorous	0.12	3.56	1.84	-
13	Chloride	145	449	297	250

**Source:** TNPCB. **Note:** All parameters in mg/L except pH. BDL: Below detectable limit. IS: 10500 – 1991: Tolerance limits for inland surface waters subject to pollution – desirable limit

**Table 10.** Sub-index for air, water and land environment

Type of environment	A1	A2	A	B1	B2	B	C	D	Sub-index score
Air environment	3.75	2.5	9.375	9.75	0	9.75	5	10	34.13
Water environment	2.5	2.5	6.25	15	20	35	5	5	51.25
Land environment	2.5	2.5	6.25	30	10	40	5	5	56.25

**Table 11.** CEPI score

Air environment sub-index score ( $i_1$ )	Water environment sub-index score ( $i_2$ )	Land environment sub-index score ( $i_3$ )	Maximum sub-index score ( $i_{max}$ )	CEPI score
34.13	51.25	56.25	56.25	63.90

man or ecology. The estimation of CEPI should be a dynamic and ongoing process and continuous flow of additional data and information in assessing CEPI should be ensured. Therefore, the regulatory organizations should monitor the pollution level in the Kurichi industrial cluster on regular basis and ensure that the CEPI score should be at the lower level by way of effective implementation of pollution control and environmental protection measures.

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