ARSENIC POLLUTION IN GROUNDWATER OF BANGLADESH

MD. HAMIDUR RAHMAN, Department of Geology & Mining, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh.

Field experience and available data shows that both soil and under groundwater of a vast area of Bangladesh has been threatened with arsenic contamination affecting health of millions of people . The scientists of RGAG and AAN of Japan and Rajshahi University suspect that groundwater of about 41 districts out of 64 districts may be contaminated with arsenic. To give safe water to the people more investigations in the whole country is essential.

The source of arsenic in groundwater of Bangladesh is as yet unknown. But it is now widely believed that the high arsenic levels in the groundwater in Bangladesh have a natural geological source. Groundwater in Bangladesh relates to sandy alluvial deposits are considered to be arsenic free. It is very much essential to consider the groundwater occurrences, its distribution and geological and hydrogeological settings of the country for the mitigation of arsenic problem

High arsenic concentrations are associated with reducing groundwater rich in ferrous iron, abstraction from Quaternary confined and semi-confined alluvial or deltaic aquifers. To know the basic understanding of the source and mobility of arsenic it is essential to investigate the sampling depth and aquifer provenance. The result of investigation have been discussed.

To save these huge population of the area all sorts of International help are essential to solve this arsenic problem. If Precautionary measures against arsenic contamination are not taken immediately consequences like death of many people will be inevitable and massive. A awareness raising about the issue among the people should be the first step for precaution.