

# Comparative Studies on Copper Removal by Sawdust and Iron Oxide Nanoparticle by Batch Experimentation

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**Abstract** - Development of adsorbents to treat heavy metal contaminated waste water is a major area of investigation, because of its efficient removal and eco-friendly nature. In this work the Adsorption of copper by treated sawdust and iron oxide Nanoparticle is studied thoroughly in batch and column wise experimentation by various influencing parameters such as pH, contact Time, initial concentration, adsorbent doses, bed depth and flow rates. The maximum removal efficiency achieved for batch experimentation by sawdust and iron oxide nanoparticle found to be 81.32 and 98.02% at optimum pH of 6 and equilibrium time of 100min. Similarly for column study it was 68.82 and 92.06% at bed depth of 30cm for Sawdust and 7.5cm for Iron oxide at concentration of 10mg/L.

**Key Words:** Adsorption, Copper, Sawdust, Iron Oxide Nanoparticle.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Water is the most necessary element to life on the earth. In its purest form it is colourless, odourless and tasteless. The level of contaminants increased in the aquatic ecosystem is mainly due to the discharge of industrial effluent to water bodies that leads to development of water demand for domestic and industrial purpose. The heavy metal like Lead, Zinc, Chromium, Mercury, Nickel, Arsenic, Cadmium, Manganese, and Copper originated from Mining activities, Metal plating, Smelting, Tanneries, Battery manufacture, Petroleum refining, Pesticides, Paint manufacture, Printing and Photographic industries, Pigment manufacture etc. The generated metals are non-biodegradable in nature and affects, causes various disease and disorders to living organisms. The heavy metals level exceeds the permissible discharge level in the industrial effluent the removal of toxic metals is essential. The various techniques have been adopted for removing heavy metals from the industrial effluents which includes, Chemical precipitation, Ion exchange, Electrode dialysis, Reverse osmosis, Membrane filtration, Ultra-filtration, Floatation and Adsorption, Coagulation. From the above mentioned techniques adsorption method is widely used because its cost effective nature. The Activated carbon is also a well-established adsorbent for removing heavy metals, because of its high cost and inhibits large scale use an adsorbent. In order to overcome this problem, several investigation have been taken up for synthesizing low cost adsorbent that are obtained from various wastes and by-product such as

Coconut husk, Rice husk, Neem bark, Pellets of peanut hull, Sugar cane bagasse, Cow bone charcoal, Sawdust, Moringaoleifera pods, Tamarind fruits shell etc.

The binding of metal ions by the low cost adsorbent might to be attribute to their carbohydrates, proteins and phenolic compounds, which have hydroxyl, carboxyl, phosphate, sulfate and amino groups.

Many recent investigation have been carried out in the Nano technology for removing of heavy metals using Nano particle as a adsorbent, because of their important properties like, high surface area, small size, magnetic properties and reusable properties that leads to decrease in the economic burden.

## 1.2 PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

After understanding the fundamental of metal removal technologies by sawdust and nanoparticle of some technical papers, it is felt that the treatment of heavy metal by suitable treatment option is the need of the day. Even though many option are available, these methods are specific and variable specific. Further the low cost adsorbent usage in engineering and technology is gaining in these days. Therefore the topic for dissertation work titled "Removal of heavy metal using low cost adsorbent and nanoparticle" is selected objectives of the dissertation work are listed below.

1. To identify the heavy metals to be tried and their preparation.
2. Characterization of adsorbent and their preparation.
3. To carry out the experimental studies to remove the heavy metal from the synthetic sample using low cost adsorbent and nanoparticle under the varied experimental conditions viz., pH, Concentration, Flow rates, Dosage, Contact time.
4. To assess the maximum adsorption capacity of adsorbent.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

Material considered and methodology adopted to carry out the experimentation and thereby to achieve the objective of the study are discussed in this chapter there issues are covered in detail and are documented below under the heading shown.

## 2.1 ADSORBENT SELECTION AND THEIR PREPARATIONS

In this present work the selected adsorbents are sawdust and Iron oxide Nanoparticle, the preparation of adsorbent as per the references are mentioned and discussed in details below;

### 2.1.1 Preparation of Saw dust

The sawdust was collected from the nearby saw mill in the Davnagere city. The sawdust was processed to obtain chemically activated sawdust. To remove the surface adhered particles and colour it was washed with tap water for several time and again washed with distilled water till the clear solution appears. Thereafter it is allowed to dry in open air and sunlight. Later treated with concentrated sulphuric acid diluted with distilled water to 1N and soaked it for 24h, dried at a temperature 105-110°C in oven for 48h. The dried saw dust is sieved through 422µm sieve.

### 2.1.2 Preparation of Iron Oxide Nanoparticles

- The Precipitation method was adopted for the preparation of iron oxide nanoparticle. About 0.03 mole of 5.96g FeCl<sub>2</sub> were dissolved into 150ml of distilled water and stirred vigorously using magnetic stirrer for 20 minutes.
- Precipitation was achieved by adding 100ml of 1M NaOH solution in drop wise under vigorous stirring. The initial pH was observed as 3 and it was increased to pH 12 using 1M NaOH
- The precipitation process was continued until dark black color precipitate obtained. Then the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> precipitate was taken into centrifuge tube and centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 20 minutes.
- The centrifuged process continued with water and two times with ethanol. Then the precipitate was dried. Finally, iron oxide nanoparticles (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) is formed.

## 2.2 SELECTION OF METAL AND PREPARATION OF SYNTHETIC SAMPLE

For the heavy metal removal process in this present study the selected metal is Copper.

- 3.93 g of cupric sulphate CuSO<sub>4</sub>.5H<sub>2</sub>O was dissolved in 1000 ml of distilled water. It gives 1000 ppm stock solution of copper.
- Stock solution was diluted with distilled water. It gives copper solutions of concentration 10, 20, 30, 40 mg/L.

## 2.3 EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

The experimentation was performed by using sawdust and iron oxide nanoparticle as adsorbents. And the experimental procedures are discussed below;

## 2.4 Batch experimental studies

### 2.4.1 Parameters considered

The variables considered for experimentation are listed below in table 2.1.

**Table 2.1: Parameters considered for experimentation**

SL.No	Parameters	Values
1	pH	6,7,9
2	Contact Time	40,60,80,100 min
3	Initial Metal Concentration	10,20,30,40 mg/l
4	Adsorbent Dosage	30,50,70,90 g (Sawdust) 30,50,70,90 mg(iron oxide)

### 2.4.2 Experimental Setup

- Beaker (1000ml).
- Magnetic Stirrer Apparatus.

### 2.4.3 Experimental procedure

The batch study was conducted in series of beaker with magnetic stirrers by stirring of sawdust with different metal ion concentration, dosage, pH, and agited at 1500rpm for different stirring time. The suspension was filtered by using laboratory filter paper and the aqueous phase was taken for analysis by means of the atomic adsorption spectrophotometer.

The percentage of removal of metal ion was calculated by:

$$\% \text{ removal} = \frac{(C_0 - C_e) \times 100}{C_0}$$

Where; C<sub>0</sub> is the initial metal ion concentration (mg/L).

C<sub>e</sub> is the equilibrium metal ion concentration (mg/L).

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings of experimentation carried out to evaluate removal potential of two adsorbent such as, sawdust and Iron oxide Nanoparticle. In removing copper metals under varied experimental conditions namely, pH, Initial metal concentration, adsorbent dosage, Contact time are tabulated on this chapter. For clarity and convenience of discussions and thereby to draw the inferences the result also be represented in graphs the inferences so drawn are also documented in this chapter.

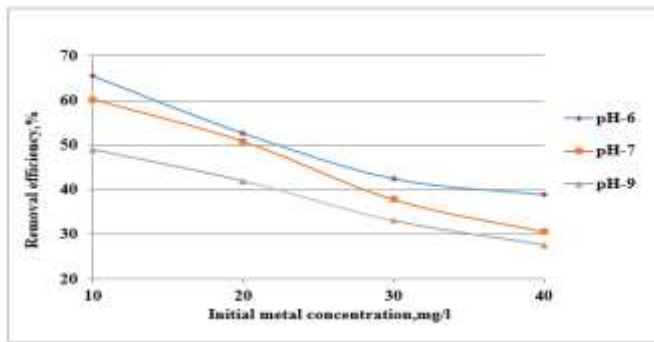


Figure: 3.1 Effect of Initial concentration on removal efficiency with sawdust adsorbent. (Dosage-30 g, contact time-100 min)

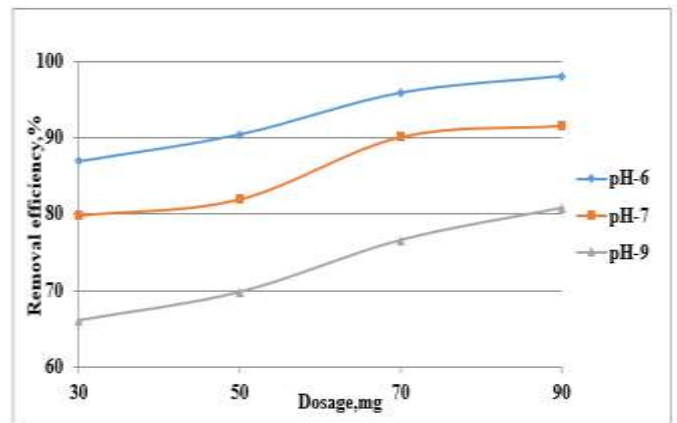


Figure: 3.4 Effect Dosage on removal efficiency with Iron oxide Nanoparticle adsorbent. (Contact time-100 min, Co-10 mg/L)

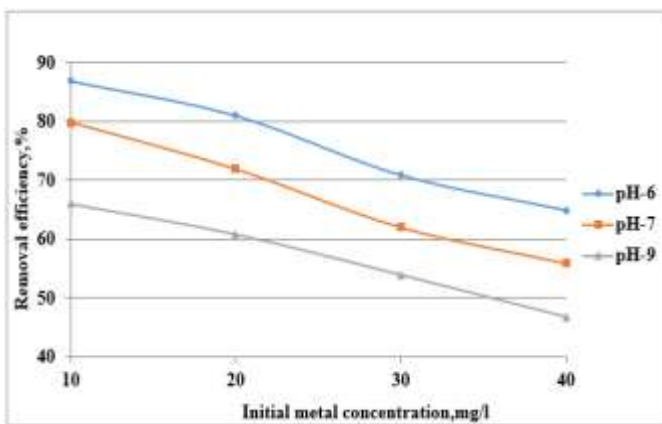


Figure: 3.2 Effect of initial concentration on removal efficiency with Iron oxide Nanoparticle adsorbent. (Dosage-30 mg, contact time-100 min)

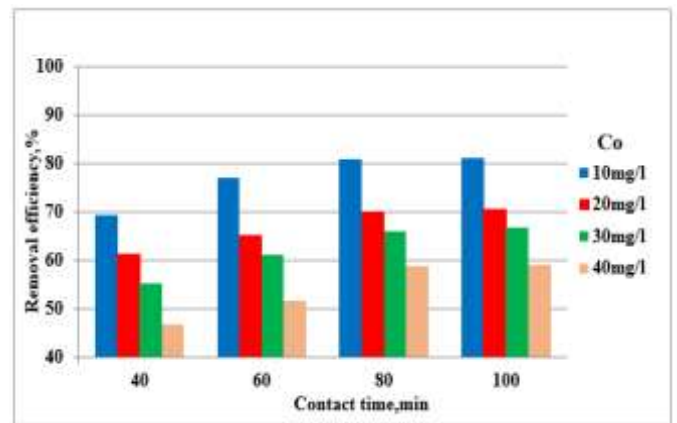


Figure: 3.5 Effect of contact time on removal efficiency with sawdust adsorbent. (pH-6, Dosage-90 g)

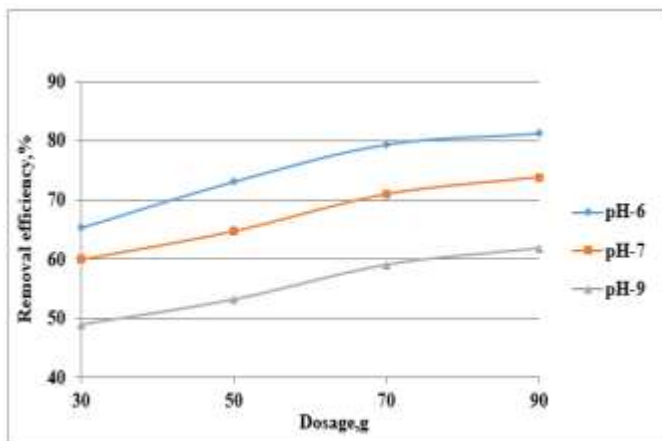


Figure: 3.3 Effect Dosage on removal efficiency with sawdust adsorbent. (Contact time-100 min, Co-10mg/L)

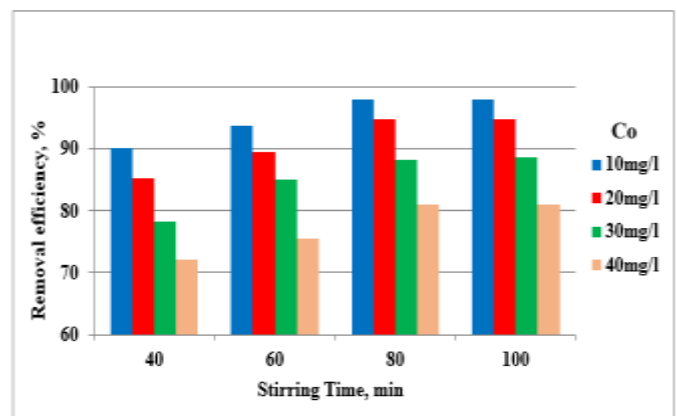


Figure: 3.6 Effect of contact time on removal efficiency with Iron oxide Nanoparticle adsorbent. (pH-6, dosage-90 mg).

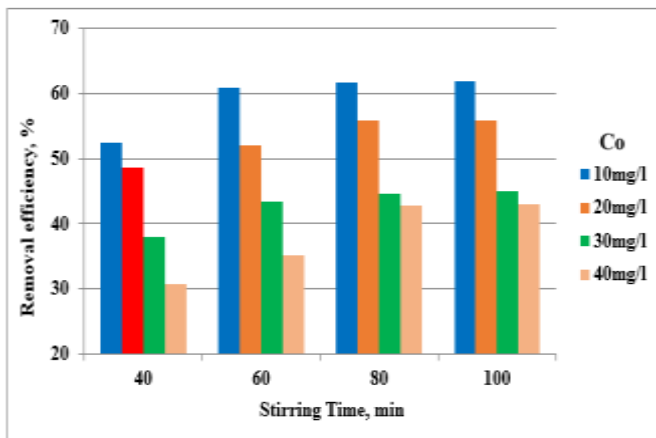


Figure: 3.7 Effect of contact time on removal efficiency with sawdust adsorbent.(pH-9, Dosage-90 g)

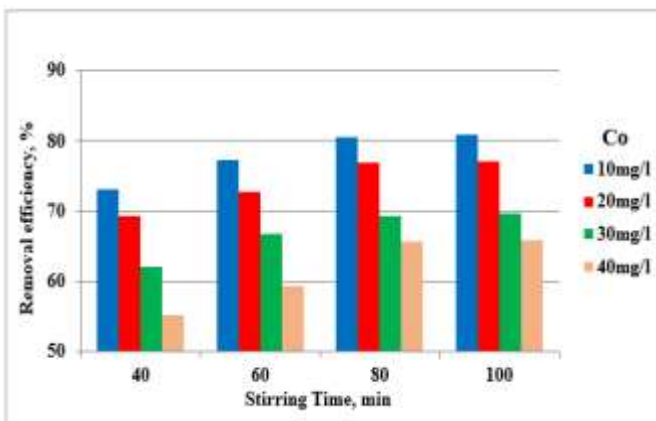


Figure: 3.8 Effect of contact time on removal efficiency with Iron oxide Nanoparticle adsorbent. (pH-9, Dosage -90 mg)

### 3.1.1 Effect of pH

From the figure 3.1 and 3.2 it was observed that, the retention of copper by saw dust and iron oxide nanoparticle increases till pH 6 and decreases slightly in the range of 7 to 9. The obtained removal efficiency by using sawdust and iron oxide Nanoparticle are 65.42 and 86.92% for stirring time of 100 min and pH-6 for 30 g and 30 mg adsorbent dosage respectively.

### 3.1.2 Effect of initial concentration

The effect of initial metal concentration on removal of copper by sawdust and iron oxide nanoparticle are shown in figure 3.1 and 3.2. The percentage of copper heavy metal increases initially with increasing copper concentration and shows decrease in removal efficiency as the initial concentration increases. From the observed result for pH 6 and dosage of 30 g and 30 mg with stirring time 100 min for concentration 40 mg/L the removal efficiency is 38.92% and 64.84% respectively.

### 3.1.3 Effect of contact time

The percentage of removal with contact time is shown in figure 3.5 to 3.8 for both adsorbents. It was found that, increase in contact time increases removal efficiency. It was also observed that the rate increase of copper removal is more up to 100 min and remains same almost beyond 100 min.

### 3.1.4 Effect of adsorbent dosage

Adsorption of copper ion on sawdust and Nanoparticle was studied by varying the adsorbent dosage 30 g to 90 g and 30 mg to 90 mg. From the figure 3.3 and 3.4. It was clearly observed that for constant dosage of 30 g, concentration 10mg/l, stirring time 100 min the percentage of removal efficiency is 86.92 to 98.02% for pH 6, 79.84 to 91.56% for pH 7, and 66.02 to 80.81% for pH 9. It conclude that the removal efficiency for 30 g and 30 mg less when compared to adsorbent dosage of 90 g and 90 mg.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS AND SCOPE FOR FUTURE STUDY

In this present dissertation work experiments were done to estimate the potential efficiency of the adsorbents such as, sawdust and iron oxide nanoparticles for the removal of copper ions. The results obtained are discussed detail in chapter 3 and conclusions for the same are mentioned below,

- 1] It is concluded that as the initial concentration of the solution got increased from 10 to 40 mg/L the efficiency of the adsorbents found to be decreased.
- 2] The metal removal efficiency was good at pH 6 and decreased with further increase in pH 7 and 9 the efficiency got decreased for both adsorbents.
- 3] It is conclude that the maximum removal efficiency can be achieved with the increase of sawdust dosage from 30 to 90 g and 30 to 90 mg for Iron oxide Nanoparticle.
- 4] It is concluded that the removal potential of copper from the sample by sawdust has lesser degree compared to Iron oxide Nanoparticle.
- 5] It is concluded from acquired results represents that the maximum removal efficiency from batch experimentation will be 81.32 and 98.02% at optimum pH of 6 and equilibrium time of 100 min with Sawdust and Iron oxide Nanoparticle.

### 4.1 LIMITATIONS OF PRESENT STUDY

The following are the limitations of present study

- 1] The studies were carried out for selected range of variables and conclusions and inferences are drawn considering the best out of these variables. However the refined optimization of variables of experimentation is the limitations of present setup.

2] Generally metal plating industry effluent will be containing many metal ions at a time. Therefore, in a practical sense potential of adsorbent in treating actual effluent is to be studied, for optimum condition.

#### 4.2 SCOPE FOR FUTURE WORK

1] The issues covered in the limitations above can be considered as subject matter for few further study.

2] In the present study the removal of heavy metals conducted only for sawdust and iron oxide Nanoparticle as adsorbent for the future scope the test is performed for the combination of different bio adsorbent and nanoparticle for the efficient removal.

3] The experimentation conducted only up to the concentration of 40mg, for further studies the copper concentration can be increased and various water quality parameters are determined.

4] The study conducted only for copper ions as adsorbate so for future the effectiveness removal of different heavy metal ions such as Arsenic, Nickel, Iron etc can be studied.

5] Instead of using synthetic copper water sample onsite sample having more concentration of copper ions with other impurities can be studied.

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