



KINETICS OF BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND ASSIMILATION ALONG KARU RIVER

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ABSTRACT

The use of mathematical models to assess river pollution and self-purification status is an important tool for effective surface water quality management. The five day BOD test is widely applied to assess organic water pollution, and in defining the BOD ultimate value is adopted. This study is conducted to evaluate the kinetics of BOD assimilation and its assimilative capacity along the Karu River. Thomas slope method is used to evaluate the kinetic rate constant (k_1) and the field measurements of hydro-geometric properties for finding the reaeration rate constant (k_2) required for assessing the self-purification status of the river. The result established the rate constant, k_1 , for Karu River as 0.174 per day; with the lowest (0.124 day^{-1}) in the dry season and highest (0.223 day^{-1}) in the wet season which is within the range of internationally accepted values in practice. The study concludes that the Karu River has a high self-purification potential, and the river is classified as a polluted river. The effluent discharge into the river is below the National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA), 2011 recommended limits.

KEYWORDS: *Karu River, Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Rate Kinetics, Self-Purification.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Many activities are responsible for the degradation of river water quality. Such activities as agricultural, leachates from solid waste disposal sites, runoff from storm flow, erosion and flood, discharges from the treatment plant sites, and even activities from slaughter houses commonly referred to as abattoirs, often constitute major river pollution sources. Discharge of untreated effluent into surface water body can be detrimental to the river oxygen level, as it helps to deplete the oxygen content and hamper the self-purification potential of such a river. Water purification is a complex process that takes into consideration

several kinetic in a river system, to allow the river to undergo its self-recovery naturally. Agunwamba (2007), Chapra (1997), identify such factors as sedimentation, respiration, absorption and adsorption, chemical and biological activities to be responsible for the self-purification of rivers.

A review of literature reveals many theoretical models for modeling constituent interactions in streams. They have been dominated by the classical Streeter and Phelps (1925) model; which has been modified by others (Dobbins 1964; Bhargava, 1986). Various researchers have investigated the values of k_1 , but there has

been no generic and linear nature of these coefficients (Haider et al 2013; Cox 2003). The estimation of rate parameters k_1 and k_2 involve in their model play important role in the model evaluation.

This paper set to evaluate the Kinetics of BOD assimilation parameters along the Karu River with particular attention to establishing deoxygenation rate constant k_1 in Streeter-Phelps model as it affects Karu River which at present is receiving abattoir effluent from Karu abattoir, and to assess the self-purification condition of the river.

2.0 MATERIALS AND METHOD

2.1 Study Location

Karu is one of the satellite towns in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) of the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. This study area is

located about 7 km north - east of the Federal Capital Territory, off the Abuja–Keffi express way and lies between longitudes $7^{\circ} 33' 17.19''E$ and $7^{\circ} 34' 49.61''E$ and latitudes $8^{\circ} 59' 38.6''N$ and $9^{\circ} 01' 39.6''N$. Karu has an area of about 275 square kilometres (Makwe, and Chup, 2013). Map showing the location of the study area is given in Figure 1.

2.2 Materials:

The materials and equipment used in conducting the study are listed below.

- i. Respirator meter with Incubators
- ii. Turbidity meter
- iii. BOD Bottles, Measuring cylinders
- iv. Electrical conductivity meter
- v. Global Positioning System - Hand Held Model Garmin GPS60
- vi. Graduated wading rod
- vii. F



Figure.1: Map of Nigeria Showing FCT and the Study Area in Karu,

- viii. Stop Watch
- ix. Thermometer (Hand Held, $0-100^{\circ}C$)
- x. Swan water plastic bottles 1.5 litres
- xi. COD Spectrophotometer Merck cell test equipment Model ISO 15005
- xii. Dissolved Oxygen Meter Model OX 4000H Phenomenal

- xiii. Thermo reactor Spectroquart- Model TR320
- xiv. Photo-spectrometer-Spectroquart- Model Nova 60
- xv. Microscope (Nikon)
- xvi. 100 Meter long Tape

2.3 Location of Sampling Points

For the river, sampling points were located such as to take care of the upstream, point of discharge and downstream from the discharge location. A non-isp-kinetic–sampler method, namely an open-mouth sampler was used. The method allowed the use of 1.5 litre sampling bottle hand-held Eva plastic bottle sampler was

used for sampling. During the field work, nine (9) sample points (designated, US, PS, DS-1, DS-2, DS-3, DS-4, DS-5, and DS-6,) were identified along the river and their coordinates were captured with GPS as in Table 1. The spacing of the sampling points was done at an irregular interval due to accessibility problems.

**Table.1: Coordinates and Elevation of Sampling Points (GPS)
Date of Sampling: 19-04-2016**

S/N	Site No.	GPS Coordinates Point		Elevation (m)	Remarks
		Longitude	Latitude		
1	US	90124271	75768690	406	Upstream station of the River before discharge point
2	PS	90118224	75783191	405	Effluent Discharge point location
3	DS-1	90128377	75799056	404	Downstream of the river after abattoir effluent discharge point
4	DS-2	90080700	75810036	400	Station at Karu- Maraba abattoir road bridge point downstream
5	DS-3	89979478	75755872	390	Under PHCN high tension line
6	DS-4	89955370	757776361	387	Station downstream at before the confluence of karu river
7a	TS	89950811	75778064		Test Station along the tributary stream to the Karu river.
7	DS-5	89945962	75785001	384	Station after the confluence of the tributary stream
8	DS-6	89868157	75821435	380	Last sampling station downstream of the river

2.4 Sampling Design and Method

Both water quality samples and hydro-geometric properties of the Karu River were collected for a period covering both wet and dry seasons for the experiment. The wet season sampling was carried out to take care of the early rain, mid or peaked rains, and tail rain periods, as such the months of April 2016, August 2016 and September 2016, were selected for this

sampling. In the same way, the dry seasons sampling were carried to reflect the start of the dry season, mid dry, and the proper dry periods. So, dry season sampling was done in the months of November 2016, December 2016 and January 2017.

2.5 Laboratory Analysis

Water quality was analysed at the Federal Capital Territory Sewage Treatment Plant

Laboratory, Wupa, Standard laboratory reagents and apparatuses were used to analyse the river water and abattoir effluent samples into physical and chemical parameters, using the method described in Standard Methods of Examination of Water and Effluent (APHA, 1995) edition; which grouped the laboratory analysis into three namely: the Titration, the use of Portable meters and the Spectrophotometer methods. The analysed parameters are Temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), turbidity, conductivity and Total dissolved solids. The ultimate BOD was estimated with the formula (Chin, 2006), expressed as in Equation (1):

$$\text{BOD}_u = (\text{BOD5}) / (1 - e^{-k_1 t}), \quad (1)$$

Where: BOD5 is the BOD after 5 days incubation, at time t.

2.6 Determination of hydro-geometric of the river

The Hydro-geometric properties of the river obtained include flow velocity, channel width, and water depth. The average slope of the channel bed was computed from the established elevation differences. The flow depths were measured using a graduated staff gauge and wading through the river section. A 100m tape was used to measure the top of the river bank and the top width of the water surface.

Discharge measurement

The discharge from the river was determined from the area–velocity approach, whose method can be found in most standard hydraulic textbooks, (e.g Leton, 2005). The time of travel, t , and the measured distance, d , were used to establish the flow velocity based on the relationship of velocity equals distance (d) divided by time (t).

Rate Constants for the river

The rate constants k_1 and k_2 are for deoxygenation and reaeration constants

respectively. The value of k_1 was established based on the Thomas' graphical approach, (1950) and compared with values in Table 3, (Chin 2006). K_2 values were computed based on Equation 2 (O'Connor and Dobbins, 1958) as in Chin (2006).

$$k_2 = \frac{3.9 u^{1/2}}{H^{3/2}} \quad (2)$$

Where, U, is the velocity in m/sec and H, is the depth in meters.

The Thomas graphical approach for finding the value of k_1 , are stated in the equation below

Finding the De-oxygenation Coefficient k_1 and ultimate BOD, L_0

The rate constant k_1 was found using Thomas slope method by considering the expression

$$\left(\frac{t}{y}\right)^{1/3} = (KL_0)^{-1/3} + \left(\frac{K^{2/3}}{6L_0^{1/3}}\right) t \quad (3)$$

Substituting K equal $2.3k_1$, we obtain,

$$\left(\frac{t}{y}\right)^{1/3} = (2.3k_1L_0)^{-1/3} + \left(\frac{k^{2/3}}{3.43L_0^{1/3}}\right) t \quad (4)$$

Linearize by comparing with the straight line equation $z = a + mt$, where

$$z = \left(\frac{t}{y}\right)^{1/3}; a = (2.3k_1L_0)^{-1/3}; b = \left(\frac{k^{2/3}}{3.43L_0^{1/3}}\right) \quad (5)$$

$$k_1 = 2.61 \frac{b}{a}; L_0 = \left(\frac{1}{3.43k_1 a^3}\right)$$

Temperature correction factor is,

$$k_1 = k_{1(20)} 1.047^{(T-20)} \quad (6)$$

By plotting $\left(\frac{t}{y}\right)^{1/3}$ against time, t (days), the slope (b) and the intercept (a), of the line of the best fit of the data were used to calculate and k_1 and L_0 .

2.7 Dissolved Oxygen Prediction using Streeter-Phelps Equation

Self-purification potential was assessed based on the ratio of reaeration constant, k_2 , to that of the deoxygenation constant k_1 (Agunwamba, 2007; Garg, 1986). The prediction of the

Dissolved Oxygen deficit used the Streeter and Phelps, 1925 oxygen sag model given as.

$$D_t = \frac{k_1 L_0}{k_2 - k_1} (e^{-k_1 t} - e^{-k_2 t}) + D_0 e^{-k_2 t} \quad (7)$$

Where D_t is the dissolved oxygen deficit, k_1 and k_2 are rate coefficients, t is time, L_0 is ultimate BOD, C_s is oxygen at saturation, and D_0 is the initial oxygen deficit at mix, and the value of L_0 is expressed under mixed condition as:

$$L_0 = \frac{Q_e L_e + Q_r L_r}{Q_e + Q_r} \quad (8)$$

Where Q_e and L_e are the discharges and concentration of effluent respectively; and Q_r and L_r are the river flow discharge and river pollution concentration respectively.

The computation of D_t the dissolved oxygen deficit at any other time was by the use of Excel software. In finding the DO deficit of Karu River, the critical time (t_c) of the deficit was first calculated using the distance- time of travel relationship in Equation (8) as;

$$t_c = x(\text{km})/v(\text{km/day}) \quad (9)$$

2.8 Statistical Evaluation

Statistical performance between predicted and measured was assessed using: Residual Mean

Square Error (RMSE); Relative Root Mean Square Error (RRMSE); Mean Absolute Error (MAE); Coefficient of Correlation (R^2)

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of the field data collection, hydraulic, laboratory analysis, including statistical evaluation for developed models are presented in this section.

3.1 Field Data Collection

Geometric characteristics of the river channel

The River Channel Layout and Sampling Points Coordinates and cross sectional surveys data conducted are indicated in Figure 2. The geometric layout of the Karu River indicates distance and station cross section coordinates. The river has a total length of 13.85km, with a **reach of 8.0km distance covered in this studied.**

Hydro-geometric properties of the river channel – Flow Measurements

The hydraulic data were collected for six months with three months in wet and three in dry seasons. It includes the computed flow velocities, channel properties, and discharges.

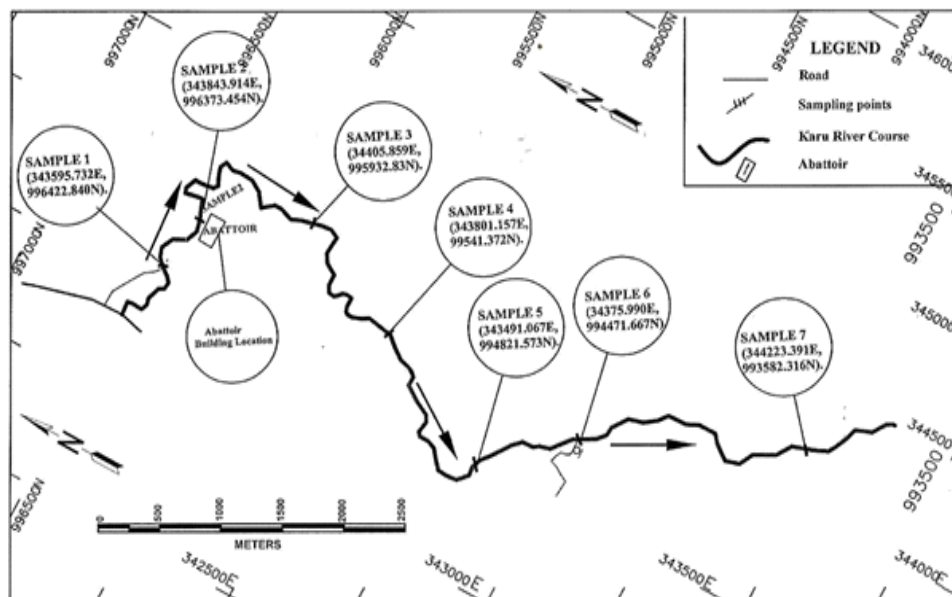


Figure 2: Geometric Layout of Study Reach of Karu River with Sampling points and Station Coordinates

The mean daily flows for the Karu River assessed are presented in Table 2. The peak average discharge was recorded in the month of August with a value of 7.75m³/s. and the lowest flow of 0.408m³/s recorded in January 2017 representing the dry season period. The average

daily measurements of discharges for other months for the river reach are shown in Table 2. The high flows correspond to peak rains and others are for the early rains and tail-dry periods. The flows helped in the dilution of abattoir effluent entering into the river with its ultimate BOD values (Lo) indicated below.

Table 2: Average Daily River Discharge Measurement and Ultimate BOD values

Month	Ultimate BOD-L ₀ (mg/l)	Mean Daily Flows (m ³ /s)
Apr	185.87	1.388
Aug	158.62	7.750
Sep	216.15	5.125
Nov	310.58	1.228
Dec	394.42	0.775
Jan	343.00	0.408

3.2 The Self-Purification of the River due to the Assimilation of BOD

Establishment of Deoxygenation k₁ and Reaeration Constants k₂

The typical curve produced with Thomas slope method is presented in Figure 3 from where the constants were obtained.

Table 3 shows the results of the rate constants k₁ obtained from the Thomas slope method in MetCalf and Eddy, 1991, and k₂, calculated using the O'connor formula. The table also indicates the values of Thomas parameters a, b used in finding k₁.

The values of the calculated ultimate BOD for each month are shown also with values varying from 161 mg/l in the wet season to 439.77mg/l in the dry season.

Table 4 summarises the computed critical time for DO deficit occurrence for both wet and dry seasons. Dissolved Oxygen was predicted by applying the calculated k₁, k₂ in Oxygen sag model. The computed Dt and measured DO (mg/l) are plotted against computed time of travel (Figures 4 and 5). Typical data used in the Thomas slope method for April is shown in Table 3, and the curve in Figure 3 used in finding the constants and the slope.

Table3: Computed $(\frac{t}{y})^{1/3}$ using BOD values (April)

Time,t (d)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	189.6	167	154.2	149.6	125	119.4
$(t/y)^{1/3}$	0.177	0.232	0.273	0.303	0.346	0.373

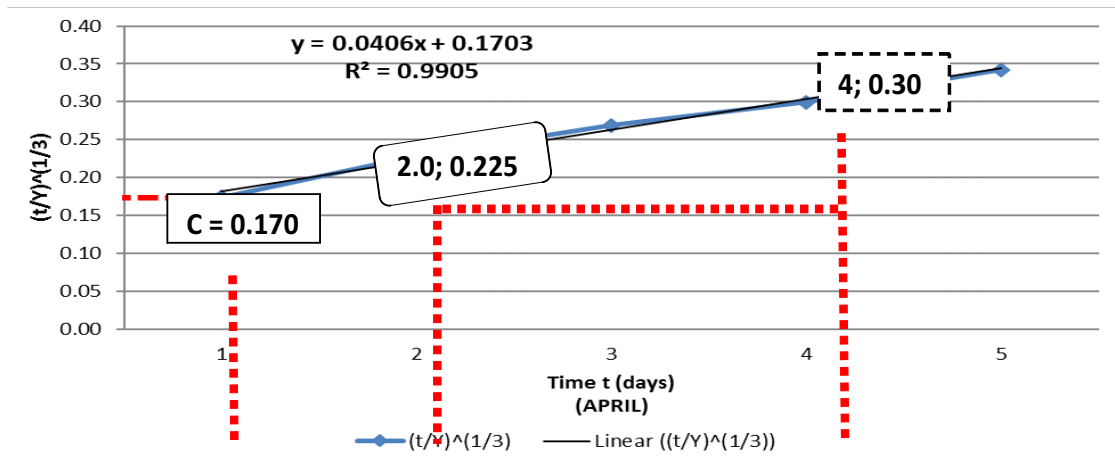


Figure 3: A plot $\left(\frac{t}{y}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ against (t)

Table 4: Showing the assessment of Deoxygenation and Reaeration Constants

Table:- Computation of k_1 , k_2 and BOD_{ult} (L_0)						
Time	Wet Season			Dry Season		
Variables	Apr	Aug	Sep	Nov	Dec	Jan
a	0.199	0.244	0.225	0.221	0.195	0.21
b	0.02	0.017	0.02	0.011	0.01	0.009
K_1 (d^{-1})	0.259	0.185	0.226	0.129	0.133	0.111
L_0 (mg/l)	213	161	169	311	439.77	421.3
K_2	1.08	3.51	2.9	0.57	0.70	0.111
f	4.17	18.91	12.83	4.43	5.26	1.0
Ave Wet	k_1	0.223		Av Dry k_1	0.124	
K_1 for Karu River		0.174/d			k_2	varies

Note: a, b = Thomas constants; L_0 = ultimate BOD; k_1 , k_2 = rate constants

Table 5: Computation of Critical Time t_c at various stations

Points	Distance x (m)	Velocity u (m/s)		Critical time t_c (day)	
		Mean wet	Mean Dry	Wet	Dry
PS	150	0.925	0.528	0.002	0.003
DS-1	300	0.96	0.496	0.030	0.006
DS-2	950	1.253	0.654	0.088	0.017
DS-3	3200	0.977	0.553	0.379	0.067
DS-4	1500	1.018	0.532	0.171	0.033
DS-5	1100	1.104	0.742	0.115	0.017
DS-6	1445	0.965	0.662	0.173	0.025

The allowable pollution load into a river is determined by the parameters k_1 , f , D_o , and D_o . Typical values of k_1 and f are given in Table 6 and Table 7 respectively.

Table 6: Typical Deoxygenation Constants

Type of Water	K_1 (at 20°C day ⁻¹)		
Untreated Waste water	0.35	-	0.70
Treated Waste water	0.10	-	0.35
Polluted River	0.10	-	0.25
Unpolluted River	less than	-	0.05

Source: Chin (2006)

Table 7: Ratio K_2/K_1 For Different Hydraulic Conditions of Streams

Description of the water body	Range of K_2/K_1
Small reservoir or lake	0.5 - 1.0
Slow sluggish stream, large lake	1.0 - 2.0
Large slow river	1.5 - 2.0
Large river of medium flow velocity	2.0 - 3.0
Fast flowing stream	3.0 - 5.0
Rapids and water falls	5.0 - and above

Source: Fair and Okun (1985)

The deoxygenation rate constant k_1 assessed for the river is 0.174 per day. Compared with the range of values in Table 6, the river can be classified as a polluted river. The computed ratio

of k_2/k_1 ie f , (self-purification factor), when compared with values in Table 7, are relatively higher, with values ranging from 5.1 – 18.0 for the wet season and 24.3 – 134.7 for the dry seasons (Table 4). The high values are attributed to shallow river depth and high local flow velocities measured. The values were compared with Akpen and Ekanem (2016) on Wupa River within the same hydrological zone. Karu River thus has a good assimilative capacity.

3.2.3 DO Evaluation of Predicted and Measured using S-P Equations

From the typical curves for April shown in (Fig 4), and December (Fig 5), a comparison was made between the oxygen predicted using sag curve and the measured oxygen values. The curves show good correlation between measured and predicted except for the month of January.

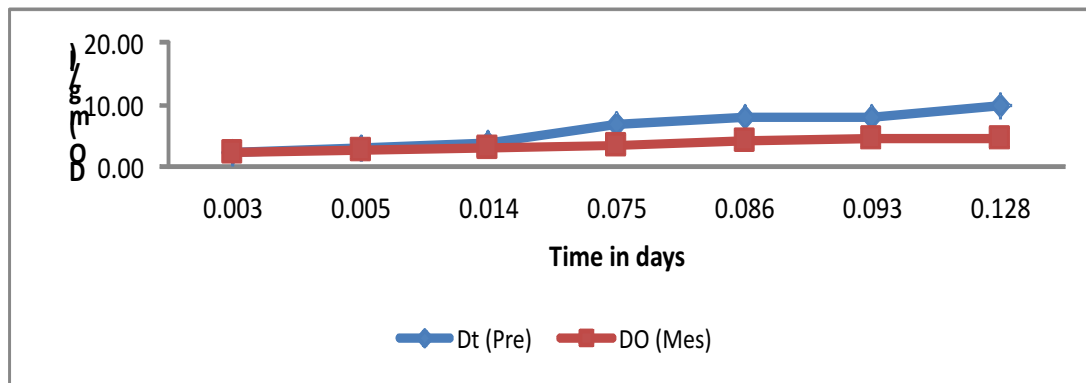


Fig 4 : Comparison of Predicted Dt and measured DO SAG for April

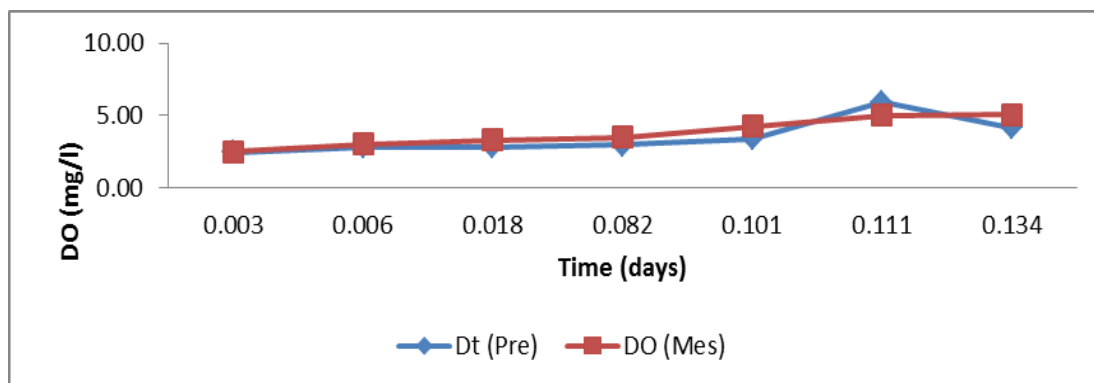


Figure 5: Comparison of Predicted Dt and measured DO Sag for December

3.2.4 Evaluation of DO Sag Model Performance

Shown in Table 8 is the value of the computed model performance parameters for MAE, RMSE, and R^2 compared with the measured and predicted DO concentration statistically, based on Oxygen sag model.

Table 8: Statistical model performance assessment parameters

PARA	APR	AUG	SEPT	NOV	DEC	JAN
MAE	2.3146	0.1383	-0.0266	0.0042	-0.3090	-0.2364
RMSE	0.8748	0.0545	0.0710	0.0511	0.2142	0.6254
R^2	0.9615	0.9615	0.9739	0.9869	0.8564	-0.2525

To find the relative merits associated with the use of the model, the performance evaluation was done based on differential errors and other statistical criteria. The MAE has a calculated mean value for the 6-months ranging from -0.309 to 2.314 and overall absolute mean of 0.536 which is low and considered to be better. The RMSE is the measure of scatter of the residual with mean value of 0.311 which is close

to zero, indicating the model performance is good. The coefficient of determination R^2 has a value of 0.935 indicate a moderate correlation when compared to standard value of 1.0. It means the relationship between the data sets is good, except for January condition which gives negative values. This could be as a result of too low flow in some reach along the river.

3.2.5 DISCUSSIONS

Data Collection and Flow Measurements

Field data collection was carried out for both the rainy and dry seasons. The dry season data indicated high concentration of BOD load than in the wet season, conversely the wet season had more dissolved oxygen than the BOD load due to the dilution effect from the rainfall.

The average flows of the river were higher during the rainy period while low flows characterized the dry season measurements. The mean flows varied from 1.388 to 7.75m³/s in august for the wet period, and 1.227m³/s to as low as 0.408m³/s for the dry period.

The hydraulic parameters such as flow velocities, channel characteristics were noted to have varied with the season due to fluctuations in discharge.

From the field measurements, the width of the Karu river channel varies from 5 to 22 meters during peak flow and 2 to 12 m during normal flow. According to WHO (1996), classification based on discharge, drainage area and width, Karu River can be classified as a small river with an average width of 8-15 meters, a depth of 0.3-2.0 meters and a velocity of 0.3-2.2 m/s.

Deoxygenation k₁ and Reaeration Constants k₂ for the Karu River

From the results in Table 4, the average computed rate constants k₁ for the wet and dry seasons are 0.223 d⁻¹ and 0.124 d⁻¹ respectively. The values of the Thomas parameters a, b used in finding k₁ are also indicated. The high k₁ value in the wet season could be due to increased organic concentration from overland flows into the river, noting that k₁ is affected by temperature. The k₁ values for the Karu River were similar to values available in literature (Chin, 2006, Agunwamba, 2007; Thomas and

Mueller, 1987; Chapra, 1997). Based on the work of Fair and Okun (1991), the values fall within the class of polluted rivers with a range between 0.10–0.25 (Table 7).

The k₂ values were found to range between 1.1 and 3.51 for the six months. The f values ranges from 1.0 to 18.91 for the six months, which exceeds the minimum reaeration value of 2 required for the river. The mean value of f for the river is 11.54, showing the quick recovery of depleted Oxygen in the river. The established value of k₁ for Karu River is 0.174 per day (Table 4).

The Self-purification of the Karu River was based on Streeter-Phelps model and indicated a good fit for the two seasons. Low DO noted for the dry season and high for wet. The BOD_{5, 20} exceeded the NESREA (2011) limit of 5.0mg/l attributed to input from residents along the river banks.

The values of the calculated ultimate BOD (L_o) for each month are shown in Table 4 with values varying from 161 mg/l in the wet season to 439.77mg/l in the dry season. The high dry season values are attributed to non-dilution effect in the river when compared with the wet season values.

4 CONCLUSION

The study has established the kinetic parameter of k₁ for Karu River to be 0.174 per day; with the lowest in the dry season and highest in the wet season which is within the range of internationally accepted values in practice. The DO sag model of Streeter-Phelps fit into the data collected from the river. The data set, correlated at 0.95 considered good. The study shows that the Karu River has a high self-purification potential despite effluent contribution from the abattoir and the overland inflow.

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