

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Mathematical Model for Water Quality Assessment: Evidence-Based from Selected Boreholes in Federal University Dutse, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The present study assessed the quality of water sampled from different boreholes on the campus of Federal University Dutse, Nigeria, using a mathematical modelling approach. A model for estimating water quality was developed based on physicochemical parameters such as pH, electrical conductivity, temperature, turbidity, and total hardness measured from each borehole. The correlation analysis of physicochemical data indicates a strong correlation of about 99% between the real-life data collected from six (6) different boreholes and the model's predictions. From the results, the sensitivity analysis revealed that electrical conductivity plays the highest role in determining water quality, followed by total hardness, temperature has the third highest impact, followed by turbidity, the fourth, and pH has the least impact in determining water quality in the listed boreholes. Therefore, in any case of intervention, the water quality regulatory body should be sent regularly to the tertiary institutions in the state for routine check-ups.

KEYWORDS

Borehole, Dutse, Mathematical model, Sensitivity analysis, Water quality

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INTRODUCTION

Humans can survive for weeks without eating but cannot go for days without drinking water since water is needed to restore lost fluids through regular physiological processes (Addisie, 2022; Amoo *et al.*, 2021a). Water is a crucial natural resource essential for sustaining life on Earth. However, only around 3% of the total water supply is accessible from groundwater, springs, rivers, and lakes used for water (Elemile *et al.*, 2019; Zieminska & Skrzypski, 2012; Amoo *et al.*, 2018). Furthermore, as no human activity can be accomplished without water, water has an inextricable connection to life. Water is indispensable for life and performs various irreplicable functions (Amoo *et al.*, 2021b). The world's primary source of drinkable water is groundwater, and its chemical composition determines how safe it is for humans, animals, and plants. Because of its impact, groundwater pollution differs from surface water contamination (Amoo *et al.*, 2021b). Natural water source contamination and pollution have become serious challenges in emerging and highly populated nations like Nigeria (Jin *et al.*, 2018). The authors emphasized further that water contamination renders water unfit for ingestion by humans and raises the

expense of treatment to achieve acceptable quality. In order to help with the adoption of actions that can be used to avoid water-borne diseases and address the challenges of pollution, water quality evaluation is crucial (Spectrum Laboratories Group, SLG 2021; Adeleye *et al.*, 2022). This assessment helps identify potential water pollutants and ensures that the water quality monitoring meets local and global standards. Since water consumption is unavoidable, water quality evaluation can be considered an important component of environmental monitoring. Temperature and turbidity are examples of the physical characteristics of water, while chemical characteristics include variables like pH and dissolved oxygen.

Several findings on drinking water show that drinking water quality is a global concern, as contaminated and inadequate water sources, coupled with inadequate sanitation practices, contribute to various human diseases (Idris *et al.*, 2019; Siddiqua *et al.*, 2019; Waghmare & Kiwne, 2017; Marusic, 2013). Water bodies are often polluted due to the release of untreated waste, sewage, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, and toxic chemical substances

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from industries. This pollution adversely affects water's physical, chemical, and biological properties. Considering these pressing concerns, this study was conducted to design a mathematical model for water quality assessment based on the parameters of the existing borehole data from Federal University Dutse, Nigeria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Formulation of the Model

In this section, we shall address the following subtopics as they unfold.

Basic assumption

(i) Water quality, (W_q) versus Temperature (T): Temperature is one of its most basic properties, and many other parameters depend on temperature for accuracy. With temperature data, we can monitor thermal loading or discharge and determine changes in the thermocline, which affect the health of aquatic species and organisms. Many aquatic organisms are sensitive to high temperatures. Mathematically,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} W_q &\propto T \\ W_q &= W_1 T \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (1)$$

where W_1 is a constant.

(ii) Water quality, (W_q) versus total hardness, (H_t): Total hardness is the sum of the calcium and magnesium concentrations, expressed as calcium carbonate, and measured in milligrams per liter (mg/L). The water hardness based on the concentration of calcium carbonate can be determined using equation (2) as follows:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} W_q &\propto H_t \\ W_q &= W_2 H_t \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

where W_2 is a constant.

(iii) Water quality, (W_q) versus the potential of hydrogen (pH): pH measurement is an important parameter in nearly all water quality applications. It is a quantitative measure of the acidity or basicity of aqueous or other liquid solutions. High or low pH values can indicate pollution in environmental sampling and monitoring. The relationship between water quality and pH is given by,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} W_q &\propto P_H \\ W_q &= W_3 P_H \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (3)$$

where W_3 is a constant, and P_H represents pH.

(iv) Water quality, (W_q) versus Electrical Conductivity, (E_C): Electrical conductivity is also an indicator of water

quality. Conductivity data is essential in determining the concentration of a solution. Mathematically,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} W_q &\propto E_C \\ W_q &= W_4 E_C \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (4)$$

where W_4 is a constant.

(v) Water quality (W_q) versus Measurement Turbidity, (M_t): Turbidity is the measurement of water clarity. Suspended sediments, such as particles of clay soil and slit, frequently enter the water from disturbed sites and affect water quality. The mathematical model formula for determining water quality based on turbidity is presented by:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} W_q &\propto M_t \\ W_q &= W_5 M_t \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (5)$$

where W_5 is a constant.

First Establishment of Model Parameters Relationship

From our respective postulations above, adding the Equations (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) gives

$$\left. \begin{aligned} 5W_q &= W_1 T + W_2 H_t + W_3 P_H + W_4 E_C + W_5 M_t \\ W_q &= W_1^1 T + W_2^1 H_t + W_3^1 P_H + W_4^1 E_C + W_5^1 M_t \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (6)$$

where

$$W_1^1 = \frac{W_1}{5}, W_2^1 = \frac{W_2}{5}, W_3^1 = \frac{W_3}{5}, W_4^1 = \frac{W_4}{5}, W_5^1 = \frac{W_5}{5}$$

, T is the temperature, H_t is the total hardness, P_H is the potential of hydrogen, E_C is the electrical conductivity, and M_t is the turbidity measurement.

Nature of the Equation's Basic Assumption

As applied by [Ogwumu et al. \(2018\)](#), the nature of the equation view was given to the relationship between the model's variables. Hence, using the parameters, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, electrical conductivity, measurement turbidity, and considering Equations (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5), it can also be observed that the relationship between these parameters ($T, H_t, P_H, E_C,$ and M_t) and W_q is a linear equation relationship given by Equations (7) to (11) as follows:

$$W_q = q_1 T + C_1 \quad (7)$$

$$W_q = q_2 H_t + C_2 \quad (8)$$

$$W_q = q_3 P_H + C_3 \quad (9)$$

$$W_q = q_4 E_C + C_4 \tag{10} \quad W_q = q_1^1 T + q_2^1 H_t + q_3^1 P_H + q_4^1 E_C + q_5^1 M_t + C \tag{12}$$

$$W_q = q_5 M_t + C_5 \tag{11}$$

where C is constant i.e. $C = (C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + C_4 + C_5)/5$,

where C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4 and C_5 are constants.

$$q_1^1 = \frac{q_1}{5}, q_2^1 = \frac{q_2}{5}, q_3^1 = \frac{q_3}{5}, q_4^1 = \frac{q_4}{5}, \text{ and } q_5^1 = \frac{q_5}{5}.$$

Second Estimation of the Model Parameter Relationship

By adding our respective Equations (7), (8), (9), (10), and (11), we get Equation (12)

General Establishment of the Model Parameter Relationship

From our respective postulations above, if we add Equations (6) and (12) similarly, we have;

$$2W_q = (W_1^1 + q_1^1)T + (W_2^1 + q_2^1)H_t + (W_3^1 + q_3^1)P_H + (W_4^1 + q_4^1)E_C + (W_5^1 + q_5^1)M_t + C$$

which gives,

$$W_q = \sigma T_i + \beta H_{ii} + \omega P_{Hi} + \chi E_{Ci} + \delta M_{ii} + \mu \tag{13}$$

where $\sigma = \frac{W_1^1 + q_1^1}{2}, \beta = \frac{W_2^1 + q_2^1}{2}, \omega = \frac{W_3^1 + q_3^1}{2}, \chi = \frac{W_4^1 + q_4^1}{2}, \delta = \frac{W_5^1 + q_5^1}{2}, \mu = \frac{C}{2}$, $\sigma, \beta, \omega, \chi, \delta$ and μ are model constants of proportionality.

Analysis of the Model to Evaluate Its Equation Constants

Following a similar procedure reported by [Ogwumu et al. \(2018\)](#), we evaluated the constants in the model above by partially differentiating Equation (13) with respect to $\sigma, \beta, \omega, \delta$ and μ , respectively. Then, we solved the resulting Equations using the least squares method. This yielded Equation (14),

$$q_{min} = \min \sum (W_q - \sigma T_i - \beta H_{ii} - \omega P_{Hi} - \chi E_{Ci} - \delta M_{ii} - \mu)^2 \tag{14}$$

where: $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial \sigma} = -2 \sum (W_q - \sigma T_i - \beta H_{ii} - \omega P_{Hi} - \chi E_{Ci} - \delta M_{ii} - \mu) T_i = 0, \tag{15}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial \beta} = -2 \sum (W_q - \sigma T_i - \beta H_{ii} - \omega P_{Hi} - \chi E_{Ci} - \delta M_{ii} - \mu) H_{ii} = 0, \tag{16}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial \omega} = -2 \sum (W_q - \sigma T_i - \beta H_{ii} - \omega P_{Hi} - \chi E_{Ci} - \delta M_{ii} - \mu) P_{Hi} = 0, \tag{17}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial \chi} = -2 \sum (W_q - \sigma T_i - \beta H_{ii} - \omega P_{Hi} - \chi E_{Ci} - \delta M_{ii} - \mu) E_{Ci} = 0, \tag{18}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial \delta} = -2 \sum (W_q - \sigma T_i - \beta H_{ii} - \omega P_{Hi} - \chi E_{Ci} - \delta M_{ii} - \mu) M_{ii} = 0, \tag{19}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial \mu} = -2 \sum (W_q - \sigma T_i - \beta H_{ii} - \omega P_{Hi} - \chi E_{Ci} - \delta M_{ii} - \mu) = 0. \tag{20}$$

Hence, from Equation (15), we obtained,

$$\sigma \sum T_i^2 + \beta \sum H_{ii} T_i + \omega \sum P_{Hi} T_i + \chi \sum E_{Ci} T_i + \delta \sum M_{ii} T_i + \mu \sum T_i = \sum W_q T_i. \tag{21}$$

Accordingly, from Equation (16), it is obtained that,

$$\therefore \sigma \sum T_i H_i + \beta \sum H_{ii}^2 + \omega \sum P_{Hi} H_{ii} + \chi \sum E_{Ci} H_{ii} + \delta \sum M_{ii} H_{ii} + \mu \sum H_{ii} = \sum W_q H_{ii}. \tag{22}$$

Furthermore, from Equation (17), yields

$$\therefore \sigma \sum T_i P_H + \beta \sum H_{ii} P_H + \omega \sum P_{Hi}^2 + \chi \sum E_{Ci} P_H + \delta \sum M_{ii} P_H + \mu \sum P_H = \sum W_q P_{Hi}. \tag{23}$$

Additionally, from Equation (18), we have,

$$\therefore \sigma \sum T_i E_{Ci} + \beta \sum H_{ii} E_{Ci} + \omega \sum P_{Hi} E_{Ci} + \chi \sum E_{Ci}^2 + \delta \sum M_{ii} E_{Ci} + \mu \sum E_{Ci} = \sum W_q E_{Ci}. \tag{24}$$

Subsequently, from Equation (19), we get,

$$\therefore \sigma \sum T_i M_{ii} + \beta \sum H_{ii} M_{ii} + \omega \sum P_{Hi} M_{ii} + \chi \sum E_{Ci} M_{ii} + \delta \sum M_{ii}^2 + \mu \sum M_{ii} = \sum W_q M_{ii}. \tag{25}$$

Also, Solving Equation (20) gives:

$$\therefore \sigma \sum T_i + \beta \sum H_{ii} + \omega \sum P_{Hi} + \chi \sum E_{Ci} + \delta \sum M_{ii} + 6\mu = \sum W_{qi}. \tag{26}$$

where $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ and $n = 6$. However, solving Equations (21), (22), (23), (24), (25), and (26) simultaneously for the values of $\sigma, \beta, \omega, \chi, \delta$ and μ .

Research Instrument Used

In an attempt to investigate the extent of water quality, six sampling points (boreholes) designated as $BH_1, BH_2, BH_3, BH_4, BH_5,$ and BH_6 were selected within the university campus. Table 1 presents the borehole sampling location.

Table 1: Borehole sample location with its acronym

| Location of borehole | Acronym | Latitude | Longitude |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| Rukayya Hall | BH ₁ | 0540069 | 1294281 |
| Aminat Hall | BH ₂ | 0540047 | 1294185 |
| Shekarau Angyu Hall | BH ₃ | 0540756 | 1293503 |
| Faculty of science | BH ₄ | 0540506 | 1294023 |
| Faculty of Agriculture | BH ₅ | 0540812 | 1294306 |
| Senate building | BH ₆ | 0540627 | 1294855 |

Key: BH: borehole

Conversely, the laboratory analysis results were subjected to statistical analysis using Microsoft Excel. The results of the physicochemical attributes of the water samples derived from all the boreholes are presented in Table 2. Furthermore, Tables 3, 4 and 5 present multiplication and summation of the physicochemical data based on Table 2.

Table 2: The result of the physicochemical attributes of the borehole water samples

| Sample | Wq | T | pH | M _t | Ec | H _t |
|--------|-------|-------|------|----------------|-----|----------------|
| BH1 | 66.00 | 32.00 | 7.02 | 3.43 | 596 | 85.5 |
| BH2 | 70.20 | 31.00 | 7.78 | 0.02 | 592 | 85.5 |
| BH3 | 53.20 | 31.00 | 7.80 | 41.2 | 690 | 85.5 |
| BH4 | 73.20 | 32.00 | 7.25 | 0.01 | 467 | 68.4 |
| BH5 | 69.20 | 33.00 | 7.35 | 0.01 | 624 | 102.6 |
| BH6 | 49.20 | 32.00 | 6.53 | 51.3 | 422 | 51.3 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| $\sum W_q$ = 381.00 | $\sum T$ = 191.00 | $\sum pH$ = 43.73 | $\sum Mt$ = 95.97 | $\sum E_c$ = 3391 | $\sum H_t$ = 478.8 |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

Table 3: Multiplication and summation of physicochemical data in [Table 2](#).

| W_q^2 | T^2 | pH^2 | Mt^2 | E_c^2 | Ht^2 | W_qT | W_qPh | W_qMt |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4356 | 1024 | 49.2804 | 11.7649 | 355216 | 7310.25 | 2112 | 463.32 | 226.38 |
| 4928.04 | 961 | 60.5284 | 0.0004 | 350464 | 7310.25 | 2176.2 | 546.156 | 1.404 |
| 2830.24 | 961 | 60.84 | 1697.44 | 476100 | 7310.25 | 1649.2 | 414.96 | 2191.84 |
| 5358.24 | 1024 | 52.5625 | 0.0001 | 218089 | 4678.56 | 2342.4 | 530.7 | 0.732 |
| 4788.64 | 1089 | 54.0225 | 0.0001 | 389376 | 10526.76 | 2283.6 | 508.62 | 0.692 |
| 2420.64 | 1024 | 42.6409 | 2631.69 | 178084 | 2631.69 | 1574.4 | 321.276 | 2523.96 |
| $\sum W_q^2$ = 24681.8 | $\sum T^2$ = 6083.00 | $\sum pH^2$ = 319.875 | $\sum Mt^2$ = 4340.896 | $\sum E_c^2$ = 1967329 | $\sum Ht^2$ = 39767.76 | $\sum W_qT$ = 12137.8 | $\sum W_qPh$ = 2785.032 | $\sum W_qMt$ = 4945.008 |

Table 4: The next multiplication and summation of physicochemical data in [Table 2](#).

| W_qE_c | W_qH_t | TP_H | TM_t | TE_c | TH_t | pHM_t | pHE_c | pHH_t | M_tE_c |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 39336 | 5643 | 224.64 | 109.76 | 19072 | 2736 | 24.0786 | 4183.92 | 600.21 | 2044.28 |
| 41558.4 | 6002.1 | 241.18 | 0.62 | 18352 | 2650.5 | 0.1556 | 4605.76 | 665.19 | 11.84 |
| 36708 | 4548.6 | 241.8 | 1277.2 | 21390 | 2650.5 | 321.36 | 5382 | 666.9 | 28428 |
| 34184.4 | 5006.88 | 232 | 0.32 | 14944 | 2188.8 | 0.0725 | 3385.75 | 495.9 | 4.67 |
| 43180.8 | 7099.92 | 242.55 | 0.33 | 20592 | 3385.8 | 0.0735 | 4586.4 | 754.11 | 6.24 |
| 20762.4 | 2523.96 | 208.96 | 1641.6 | 13504 | 1641.6 | 334.989 | 2755.66 | 334.989 | 21648.6 |
| $\sum W_qE_c$ = 215730.00 | $\sum W_qH_t$ = 30824.46 | $\sum TP_H$ = 1391.13 | $\sum TM_t$ = 3029.83 | $\sum TE_c$ = 107854.00 | $\sum TH_t$ = 15253.20 | $\sum pHM_t$ = 680.73 | $\sum pHE_c$ = 24899.49 | $\sum pHH_t$ = 3517.30 | $\sum M_tE_c$ = 52143.63 |

Table 5: The final multiplication and summation of physicochemical data in [Table 2](#)

| M_tH_t | E_cH_t |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 293.265 | 50958 |
| 1.71 | 50616 |
| 3522.6 | 58995 |
| 0.684 | 31942.8 |
| 1.026 | 64022.4 |
| 2631.69 | 21648.6 |
| $\sum M_tH_t = 6450.98$ | $\sum W_qE_c = 278182.80$ |

Additionally, the results obtained from comparing the physicochemical properties of the sampled borehole water with the regulated standards are as follows:

$$6083.00\sigma + 15253.20\beta + 1391.13\omega + 107854.00\chi + 3029.83\delta + 191.00\mu = 12138, \tag{27}$$

$$15253.20\sigma + 39767.76\beta + 3517.30\omega + 278182.80\chi + 6450.98\delta + 478.8\mu = 30824.46, \tag{28}$$

$$1391.13\sigma + 3517.30\beta + 319.88\omega + 24899.49\chi + 680.73\delta + 43.73\mu = 2785.03, \tag{29}$$

$$107854.00\sigma + 278182.80\beta + 24899.49\omega + 1967329.00\chi + 52143.63\delta + 3391\mu = 215730, \tag{30}$$

$$3029.83\sigma + 6450.98\beta + 680.73\omega + 52143.63\chi + 4340.9\delta + 95.97\mu = 4945.01, \tag{31}$$

$$191.00\sigma + 478.8\beta + 43.73\omega + 3391\chi + 95.97\delta + 6\mu = 381.00. \tag{32}$$

Hence, solving Equations (27), (28),(29),(30), (31) and (32) simultaneously gives

$$\sigma = 3.477023989$$

$$\beta = -0.278987782$$

$$\omega = 8.117334953$$

$$\chi = 0.008297263$$

$$\delta = -0.43795277$$

$$\mu = -81.76816346$$

Consequently, substituting these values in Equation (13) yields.

$$Wq = 3.477024T - 0.278988H_t + 8.117335P_H + 0.00829726E_c - 0.437953M_t - 81.768163; Wq \geq 0 \tag{33}$$

Therefore, Equation (33) is the developed model for estimating the water quality (borehole water).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Numerical results using our emerging model equation constant will be presented in this section. Accordingly, Equation (33) represents our model equation, which has been derived based on the collected data. The collected data were computed to validate and ensure its accuracy, and the results are summarized in Tables 6 and 7. The result of the evaluated correlation coefficient is 0.996544. This indicates the effectiveness of our model equation.

Table 6: Correlation coefficient computation values for the model

| Sample | Wq(X) | Wq(Y) | T | pH | M _t | E _c | H _t | X̄ | (X - X̄) |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| BH1 | 66 | 66.06981 | 32 | 7.02 | 3.43 | 596 | 85.5 | 63.5 | 2.5 |
| BH2 | 70.2 | 70.22219 | 31 | 7.78 | 0.02 | 592 | 85.5 | 63.5 | 6.7 |
| BH3 | 53.2 | 53.16277 | 31 | 7.8 | 41.2 | 690 | 85.5 | 63.5 | -10.3 |
| BH4 | 73.2 | 73.13495 | 32 | 7.25 | 0.01 | 467 | 68.4 | 63.5 | 9.7 |
| BH5 | 69.2 | 69.18498 | 33 | 7.35 | 0.01 | 624 | 102.6 | 63.5 | 5.7 |
| BH6 | 49.2 | 49.22517 | 32 | 6.53 | 51.3 | 422 | 51.3 | 63.5 | -14.3 |
| | ∑ Wq(X) = 381 | ∑ Wq(Y) = 380.9999 | ∑ T = 191 | ∑ pH = 43.73 | ∑ M _t = 95.97 | ∑ E _c = 3391 | ∑ H _t = 478.8 | ∑ X = 381 | ∑ X - X̄ = 1.42109 |

Table 7: The next correlation coefficient computation values for the model

| Ȳ | Y - Ȳ | (X - X̄) ² | (Y - Ȳ) ² | (X - X̄)(Y - Ȳ) |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 62.75 | 3.31981 | 6.25 | 11.0211 | 8.29952725 |
| 62.75 | 7.47219 | 44.89 | 55.8337 | 50.06368707 |
| 62.75 | -9.5872 | 106.09 | 91.9151 | 98.74851226 |
| 62.75 | 10.3849 | 94.09 | 107.847 | 100.7339714 |
| 62.75 | 6.43498 | 32.49 | 41.409 | 36.67940367 |
| 62.75 | -13.525 | 204.49 | 182.921 | 193.4050261 |
| ∑ Ȳ = 376.5 | ∑ Y - Ȳ = 4.49987 | ∑ (X - X̄) ² = 488.3 | ∑ (Y - Ȳ) ² = 490.947 | ∑ (X - X̄)(Y - Ȳ) = 487.930 |

$$r_{x,y} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^6 (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^6 (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \sum_{i=1}^6 (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2}} = \frac{487.930}{\sqrt{(488.3)(490.947)}} = 0.996544.$$

Variable Sensitivity Analysis

Variable sensitivity analysis was carried out for temperature (T), electrical conductivity (E_c), measurement turbidity (M_t), total hardness (H_t), and potential of hydrogen (pH). We do this using the variable sensitivity index equations relation as follows:

$$T_{index} = \frac{\partial W_q}{\partial T} \cdot \frac{T}{W_q} \Big|_{T=31.8333, Ph=7.2883, Mt=16.0, Ec=565.1667, Ht=79.8}$$

$$E_{c-index} = \frac{\partial W_q}{\partial E_c} \cdot \frac{E_c}{W_q} \Big|_{T=31.8333, Ph=7.2883, Mt=16.0, Ec=565.1667, Ht=79.8}$$

$$P_{h-index} = \frac{\partial W_q}{\partial P_h} \cdot \frac{P_h}{W_q} \Big|_{T=31.8333, Ph=7.2883, Mt=16.0, Ec=565.1667, Ht=79.8}$$

$$M_{t-index} = \frac{\partial W_q}{\partial M_t} \cdot \frac{M_t}{W_q} \Big|_{T=31.8333, Ph=7.2883, Mt=16.0, Ec=565.1667, Ht=79.8}$$

$$H_{t-index} = \frac{\partial W_q}{\partial H_t} \cdot \frac{H_t}{W_q} \Big|_{T=31.8333, Ph=7.2883, Mt=16.0, Ec=565.1667, Ht=79.8}$$

The Equations above give the sensitivity; their results are summarized in [Table 8](#).

Table 8: Sensitivity analysis values

| S/N | Parameter | Sensitivity Index | Ranking |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1 | Temperature (T) | 1.743145 | 3rd |
| 2 | Electrical conductivity (E_c) | 30.947694 | 1st |
| 3 | Potential of hydrogen (pH) | 0.399097 | 5th |
| 4 | Measurement turbidity (M_t) | 0.876136 | 4th |
| 5 | Total hardness (H_t) | 4.369730 | 2nd |

[Table 8](#) shows that the most sensitive parameters, in order of their ranking, are electrical conductivity, total hardness, temperature, measurement turbidity, and pH, respectively. On the other hand, [Figure 1](#) depicts the sensitivity indices of the parameters. As can be observed in [Figure 1](#), electrical conductivity exhibits the highest sensitivity indices, while measurement turbidity exhibits the lowest sensitivity.

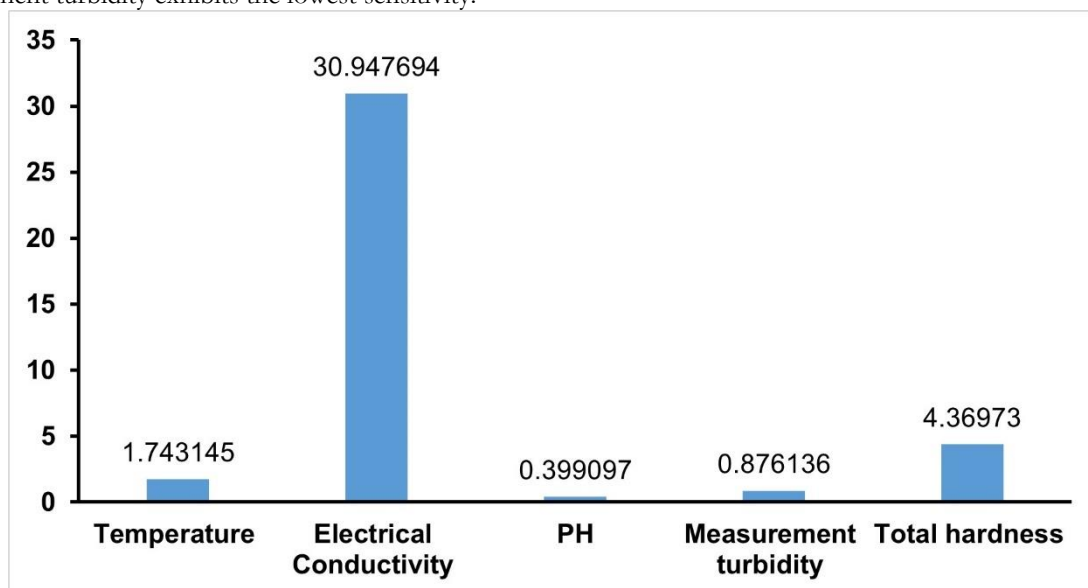


Figure 1: The sensitivity indices of the parameters

CONCLUSION

The study successfully formulated a mathematical model for water quality assessment using physicochemical parameters and applied it to selected boreholes at Federal University Dutse, Nigeria. The analysis of these parameters revealed that variations among different sampling locations and physicochemical factors such as pH, turbidity, total hardness, and electrical conductivity significantly impact water quality. The strong correlation coefficient ($r = 0.997$) between real-life data (X) and model predictions (Y) confirms the reliability of our water quality model for predictive purposes. Furthermore, the sensitivity analysis table demonstrated that electrical conductivity is the most influential factor in determining water quality, followed by total hardness. Temperature ranks third in impact, while measurement turbidity occupies the fourth position. Overall, pH has the least impact on determining the water quality of the mentioned boreholes. These findings emphasize the importance of considering these parameters for effective water quality assessment and management. It is recommended that the water stored in the storage tanks be cleaned regularly to avert possible physical and microbial contamination. The installation of membrane filters in the water outlets of the tanks should be ensured to effectively filter water meant for human consumption. Finally, relevant stakeholders need to carry out borehole-water purification projects and activities in the Federal University Dutse community geared towards rescuing the users of these boreholes from unsafe health challenges.

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