



ANNUAL AUGMENTATION OF RESPIRABLE PARTICULATES (PM₁₀& PM_{2.5}) AND GASEOUS POLLUTANTS (SO₂, NO₂& O₃) IN CHENNAI CITY

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ABSTRACT

This study measured the atmospheric respirable particulate matters (PM₁₀& PM_{2.5}) and gaseous pollutants SO₂, NO₂ and O₃ during the period between July 2015 and June 2017 at five zones of Chennai city namely North zone (Madhavaram), South zone (Tambaram), East zone (Triplicane), west zone (Vadapalani) and centre zone (T. Nagar). Annual mean assessment reveals, the mean of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} were exceeds the maximum permissible limits prescribed in NAAQS (CPCB, 2009). However the annual mean of SO₂, NO₂, and O₃ at all locations remains under the prescribed limit of NAAQS (CPCB, 2009). The seasonal assessment indicates, summer season experienced with high level of respirable particulates (PM₁₀& PM_{2.5}). Specifically, except monsoon season, all seasonal mean of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} had exceeds the maximum permissible limits, but the level of gaseous pollutants (SO₂, NO₂ and O₃) remains under the permissible limit during entire seasons. Cumulative seasonal comparison shows, that the seasons during July'2016 to June'2017 is loaded with higher pollutants than the seasons of July'2015-June'2016. In further the measured data was assessed in terms of annual augmentation of air pollutants, resulted with all location possessing positive percentage of augmentation with PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. Likewise a gaseous pollutant of SO₂ and O₃ expressively shows positive percentage of augmentation. Whereas, NO₂ shows negative augmentation at Vadapalani and all other locations exhibits positive augmentation. This significant positive annual augmentation indicates, the air quality continuously contaminating and level of pollution was increasing day by day.

Key words: Annual augmentation, NO₂, O₃, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and SO₂.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Air pollution is a complex problem in most of the cities in India, powered by multiple sources ranging from vehicle exhaust, suspended dust on the roads, industrial effluent gases, construction rubbles, garbage burning and seasonal sources like agricultural residue burning, dust storms and sea salt. Due to the rapid urbanization, increased industries, population and automobiles, it cause increased air pollution and thus causing environmental problems [1]. The fast economic growth in the course of rapid urbanization is causing serious air pollution problems in many cities throughout India [2]. Air pollution is gradually recorded as a hazard to public health in most developing countries. Measurement of recent air quality levels, scientific approach on outdoor and indoor air pollution and health effects are important to identify the burden, develop and implement interventions and to create awareness in urban areas [3]. Exposure of polluted air to cause severe health effects, especially in urban areas where pollutions levels are often high [4]. Metropolitan air pollution possessing severe environmental issues in many cities around the world that has long-term impact on people health and atmosphere [5]. Urban traffic related air pollutants are associated with acute health consequences as well as chronic respiratory and cardiovascular disease [6] and the children suffering serious allergies, asthma and respiratory infections in both developed and developing countries and the higher prevalence of asthma in urban school children exposed to traffic pollution compared to rural children [7]. Chennai air quality is adversely affected by traffic pollution due to unpredictable escalation of private and public vehicles and the uninterrupted growth of industries [8]. Indian government reported as more than 100 numbers of industrial clusters in India have been identified as polluted hotspots including the North Chennai as one among them. Hence the continuous air pollution study is most wanted work to the society [9].

1.1 Particulate Matters: The road dust, ongoing constructions and industrial activities were contribute to increase the concentration of particulate matter in the developing areas [10]. Particulate matter causes asthma, reduction in visibility and cancer [11]. Particulates can easily penetrate deeply into lungs, they increase the frequency and severity of asthma, aggravate bronchitis and other lungs diseases [12]. Most recent studies focus on finer particulates because of their ability to penetrate deep into the bronchioles and alveoli of the lung, causing direct health hazards like aggravate the existing respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, reduce the body's defence ability against foreign materials, damage to lung tissue, carcinogenesis and premature mortality [13]. Exposure of respirable particulate matters has been increased the number of hospital admissions for a range of cardio-respiratory diagnoses and events [14].

1.2 Sulphur dioxide (SO₂): Presently SO₂ air pollution focused as the main issue in developing countries [15]. The concentration of sulphur dioxide in surroundings is largely affected by anthropogenic interference through burning of the fossil fuel. Brick kilns, located along periphery of cities, play significant role in elevating the SO₂ concentration in the ambient air, as they are fed with sulphur rich, inferior quality of coal [16]. Ten minutes exposure of SO₂ declines pulmonary function and it cause eye irritation and respiratory inflammation [17]. Combination of particulate matter and sulphur oxides is more harmful than either of them separately [18].

1.3 Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂): Oxides of nitrogen is emitted from a various natural and anthropogenic sources [19]. Highest level of NO₂ was observed at commercial zones during post monsoon season when comparing with all other seasons [20]. Health risk associated with Oxides of nitrogen can cause respiratory disease, asthma, lung irritation and pneumonia [18] and NO_x is easily mixed with blood and then reduces the oxygen level in the blood. It makes the lung tissues inelastic, lung cancer and emphysema [21].

1.4 Ozone (O₃): Ozone is produced in the upper atmosphere by solar reaction. Small concentration of this gas diffuses downward and become the major concern in air pollution. It causes irritation of eyes nose and throat, headache in man [22]. O₃ is a protective shield layer in the stratosphere [23] and harmful to human health at the ground level. An increase in O₃ might responsible to a warming of the Earth's atmosphere [24]. High ozone levels exposure can modify the lung function, airway inflammation and increased airway responsiveness to Broncho constrictors [25].

Due to such a potential negative impact on society, insisted to investigate the concentration of most common air pollutants of PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO₂ and ground level O₃ in Chennai city. Assessment extended to find out the monthly and annual mean, seasonal variation and the annual augmentation of these pollutants from July 2015 to June 2017. Results from this study may help to society to adopt necessary preventive measure to ensure better environmental condition in the Chennai city, Tamil Nadu.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Narration of study Area

Chennai is one of the highly populated metropolitan city in India, it has important contribution in the cultural, intellectual and historical growth of India. Nowadays Chennai accomplished with industries like automobile, food, retail and IT sector, etc., and it's geographical specification lies between 12°09', 80° 12'NE and 13°09', 80°19'NE [26]. First location Madhavaram is one of the suburbs of northern part of Chennai city and geographically situated at 13.15°N 80.24°E. Second location Tambaram is upcoming big residential locality in Southern part of the metropolitan city of [Chennai](#) Southern part of the metropolitan city and located at 12.93°N latitude and 80.11°E longitude. The Third location Triplicane is situated very close to the sea shore of Bay of Bengal with 13.0553°N 80.2807°E. Fourth location Vadapalani is suburban locality of west Chennai at 13.049713°N 80.212555°E. Fifth location of T. Nagar is at 13.03416°N 80.23006°E. Initially T Nagar was a residential locality, but due to industrialization, this locality has turned out to be one the prominent commercial hub.

2.2. Sampling methods

2.2.1 Determination of Respirable Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}): Cyclonic low technique respirable dust sampler sucked the air stream from the atmosphere with 1.0 m³ per minute as mean flow rate. Due to centrifugal force, non-respirable particulates fall down in a cup attached at the bottom of a conical hopper. Simultaneously, the size less than 10 μm particulates pass through the central exit at the top of the conical hopper, it was collected on pre weighed EPM 2000 filter paper (GF/A 20.3 cm X 25.4 cm). Microprocessor impact technique sampler was used for sampling of PM_{2.5} in the ambient air. In this microprocessor impact technique, greater than 2.5μm particulates were dropped on silicon oil immersed polytetrafluoroethylene filter paper placed in the air pathway. Simultaneously less than 2.5μm size particulates were collected on the pre-weighed 47mm PTFE filter. Final concentration of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are measured from the difference between the weight of filter paper after

sampling and before sampling is divided by total volume of sampled air. The final result of $PM_{2.5}$ expressed as $\mu g/m^3$.

2.2.2 Sampling and analysis of gaseous pollutants (SO_2 , NO_2 & O_3)

For SO_2 , Modified West & Gaeke Method was used to collect sample from ambient air, due to air bubbling technique, SO_2 absorbed in the 0.04M tetrachloromercurate solution as in the form of dichlorosulphitomercurate complex with 1L/min flow rate. While addition of 0.6% sulphamic acid, 0.2% formaldehyde and para rosaniline solution, this complex converted to penetratingly coloured pararosanilinemethylsulphonic acid. Specific absorbance of pararosanilinemethylsulphonic acid is measured at 560nm. The Modified Jacobs & Hochheiser method was used for NO_2 sampling, it is absorbed in a sodium hydroxide and sodium arsenite solution. From the collected sample, pipetted portion of aliquot, then added hydrogen peroxide, sulphanilamide, NEDA and after colour development period, measured the absorbance of solution at 540 nm. Ozone has been determined by the chemical method described in CPCB guideline. By this method sample collected in 1% KI in 0.1 m Phosphate Buffer absorbing solution, this phosphate buffer solution contains potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH_2PO_4), disodium hydrogen phosphate (Na_2HPO_4), and potassium iodide. After sampling, measured the absorbance at 352 nm (UV: Lambda-25).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present study, measured the concentration of PM_{10} , $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2 , NO_2 and O_3 in terms of microgram per cubic meter, at selected zones, such as north zone (Madhavaram), south zone (Tambaram), east zone (Triplicane), west zone (Kodambakkam) and mid zone (T.Nagar) during the period of July 2015 to June 2017. Monthly variation of monitored pollutant in the study location are graphically represented in Figure 1 to Figure 5.

3.1 Respirable Particulate Matters (PM_{10} & $PM_{2.5}$): At outcomes, PM_{10} extended from $53.3 \mu g/m^3$ to $248.6 \mu g/m^3$, $55.3 \mu g/m^3$ to $198.3 \mu g/m^3$, $45.2 \mu g/m^3$ to $186.3 \mu g/m^3$, $70.4 \mu g/m^3$ to $245.3 \mu g/m^3$ and $50.3 \mu g/m^3$ to $278.3 \mu g/m^3$ at L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5 respectively. Likewise, $PM_{2.5}$ prolonged from 27.9 to $175.3 \mu g/m^3$, 29.6 to $168.7 \mu g/m^3$, 21.6 to $159.3 \mu g/m^3$, 27.9 to $178.3 \mu g/m^3$ and 28.2 to $191.3 \mu g/m^3$ at L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5 respectively. The peak level of PM_{10} is $278.3 \mu g/m^3$ and $PM_{2.5}$ is 191.3 was found at T. Nagar on June 2017 and slightest level of PM_{10} is $45.2 \mu g/m^3$ and $PM_{2.5}$ is 21.6 was observed at Triplicane on December 2016.

3.2 Gaseous Pollutants (SO_2 , NO_2 & O_3): This study evidenced, that the concentration of SO_2 ranged 3.1 to $46.4 \mu g/m^3$, 4.8 to $42.8 \mu g/m^3$, 5.6 to $59.6 \mu g/m^3$, 5.4 to $64.2 \mu g/m^3$ and 3.2 to $77.9 \mu g/m^3$ at locations L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5 respectively and it is evidenced, that the level of SO_2 at all location are well below the maximum permitted limit given National Ambient Air Quality Standards, however the high level ($77.9 \mu g/m^3$) of SO_2 were found in the month of May 2017 at T.Nagar (L5), this is very close to the maximum permissible limit and least values of $3.1 \mu g/m^3$ is found on January 2016 at Madhavaram (L1). The most common air pollutant of NO_2 , resulted $99.6 \mu g/m^3$ as highest value at L5 in May 2017 and $5.6 \mu g/m^3$ as lowest value at L5 in November 2015. The entire assessment of NO_2 varied from 7.6 to $66.7 \mu g/m^3$, 6.0 to $69.3 \mu g/m^3$, 7.3 to $56.6 \mu g/m^3$, 10.9 to $73.0 \mu g/m^3$ and 5.6 to $99.6 \mu g/m^3$, at locations L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5 respectively. The oxidant gas of O_3 observed no significant deviation when comparing with National Ambient Air Quality Standard and ranged from 0.8 to $86.3 \mu g/m^3$, 11.5 to $88.5 \mu g/m^3$, 10.5 to $80.4 \mu g/m^3$, 13.3 to $81.4 \mu g/m^3$ and 11.92 to 101.2 at locations L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5 respectively.

3.3 Seasonal Augmentation: Table 1 to 5 illustrate the monitored seasonal mean values at selected five locations. The study duration covered the couple of pre monsoon, monsoon, post monsoon and summer from July 2015 to June 2017. Seasonal data revealed, that the highest

seasonal mean of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} is 185.2 µg/m³ and 140.7 µg/m³ found during summer 2017 at L5. Except monsoon season, all seasonal mean of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} had exceed the maximum permissible limit. This research not found significant level of gaseous pollutants. Cumulative seasonal augmentation illustrated that, the high level of pollutants during summer season and lowest level were experienced during monsoon season.

3.4 Annual Augmentation

Annual Mean of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} at all selected locations were obtained beyond the permissible limit. In contrast the annual mean of SO₂, NO₂ and O₃ were found within the permissible limits. However the annual comparison shows significant increment from July'2016-June'2017 to July'2015-June'2016.

The outcomes of annual augmentation assessment (from Jul'15-Jun'16 to Jul'16-Jun'17) were graphically represented in Figure-6. Annual augmentation of PM₁₀ were observed as 12.2% , 5.22%, 5.11%, 1.23%, 4.62% at L1,L2,L3,L4 and L5 respectively. Similarly the augmentation of PM_{2.5} were observed as 12.63%, 4.0%, 12.25%, 25.48% and 28.32% at L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5 respectively. This data revealed that, the positive percentage of augmentation noticed in particulate pollutants (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) from Jul'2015-Jun'2016 to Jul'2016-Jun 2017. Similarly SO₂ and O₂ significantly observed positive percentage of augmentation 5.59%, 7.56%, 19.21%, 29.99%, 37.83% and 7.18%, 12.52%, 9.34%, 3.22%, 4.04% at L1, L2, L3, L4, and L5 respectively. Whereas NO₂ shows 5.84% of negative augmentation at L4 and other sampling location such as L1, L2, L3 and L5 experienced the positive augmentation of 2.31%, 6.89%, 9.90% and 30.08% respectively.

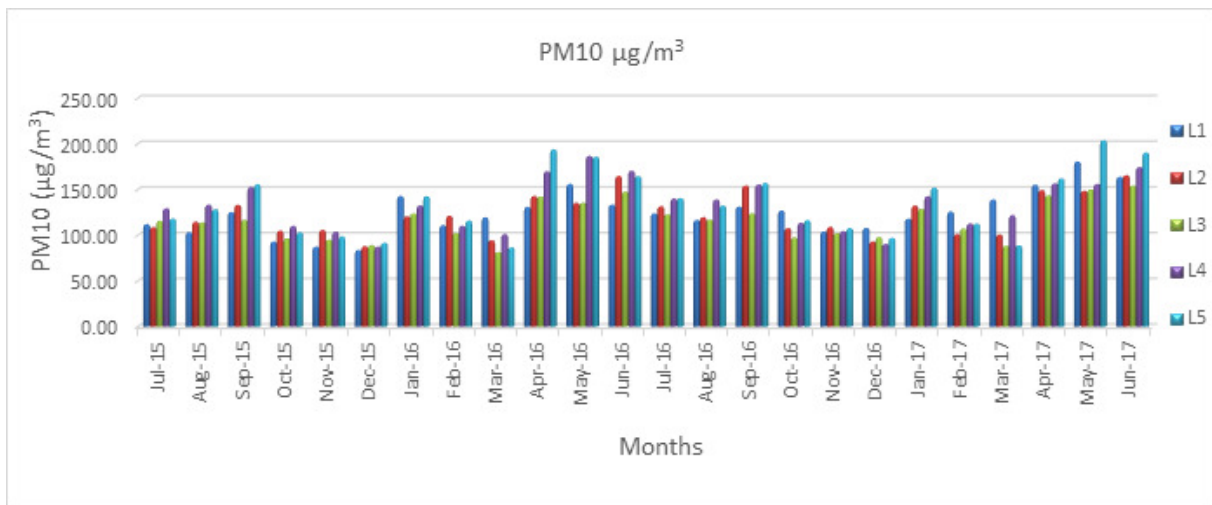


Figure 1 Monthly Variation of PM₁₀ µg/m³ at selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

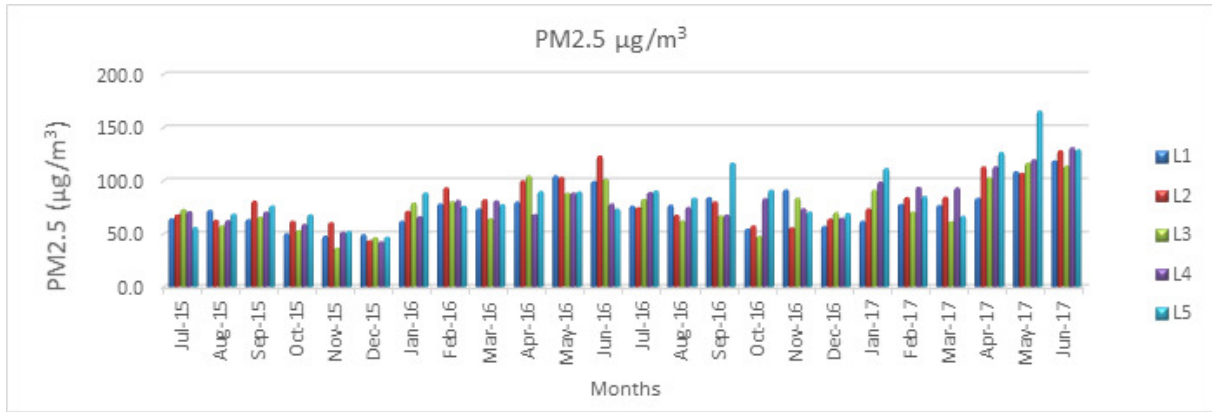


Figure 2 Monthly Variation of PM_{2.5} $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

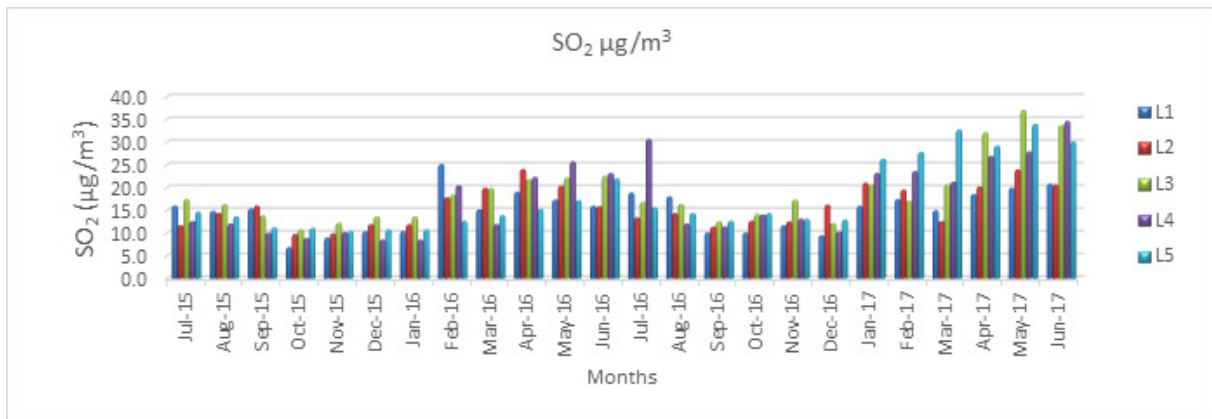


Figure 3 Monthly Variation of SO₂ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

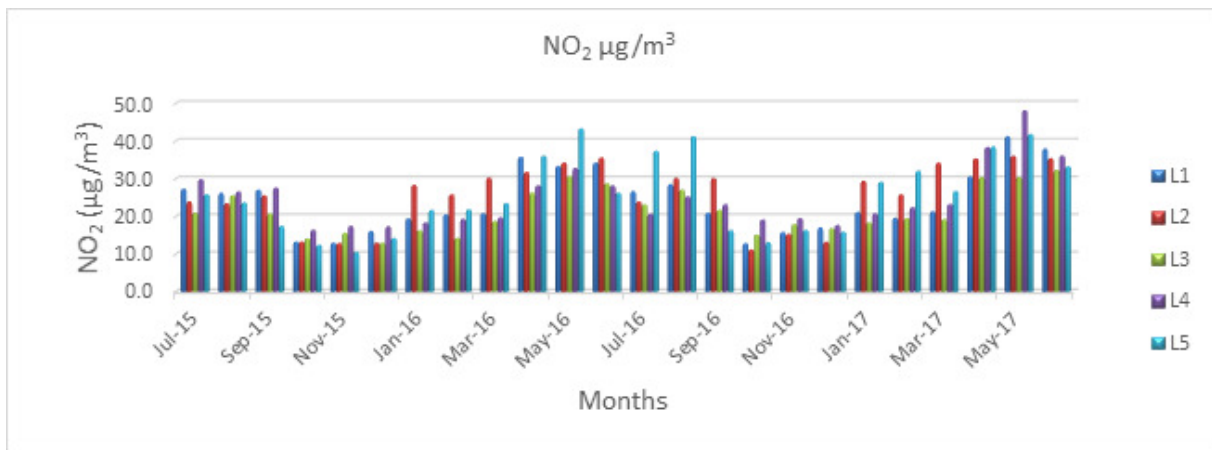


Figure 4 Monthly Variation of NO₂ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

Annual Augmentation of Respirable Particulates (Pm₁₀& Pm_{2.5}) And Gaseous Pollutants (SO₂, NO₂& O₃) In Chennai City

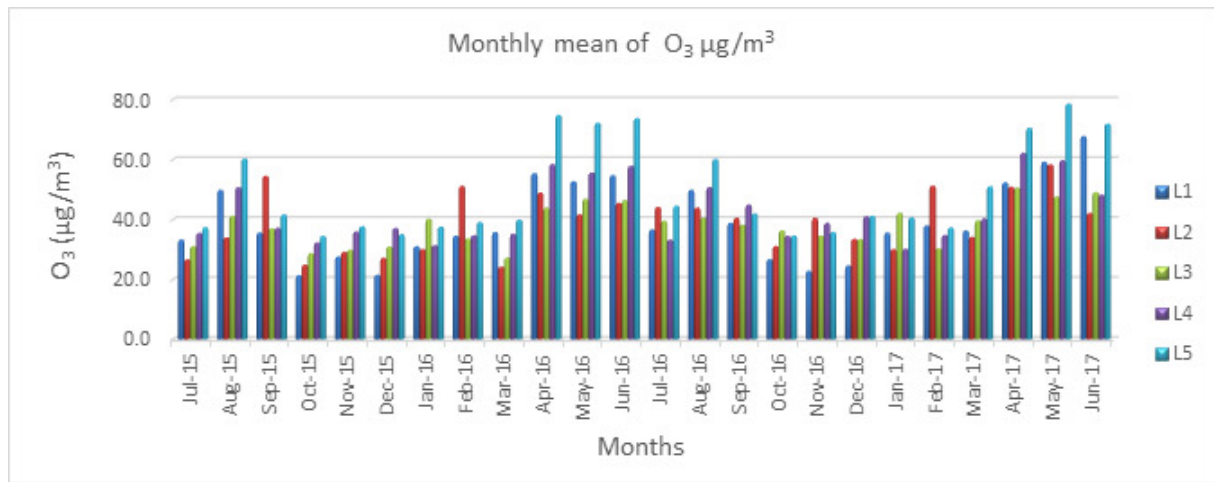


Figure 5 Monthly Variation of O₃ µg/m³ at selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

Table 1 Seasonal mean of PM₁₀ at each selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

Locations	Pre monsoon		monsoon		post monsoon		summer	
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017
L1	113.3	123.6	87.9	112.7	124.1	127.3	140.0	166.3
L2	118.6	135.1	99.3	103.0	111.8	111.1	147.5	154.3
L3	115.2	121.0	93.3	98.9	102.4	107.9	141.5	149.0
L4	138.3	144.7	100.3	102.6	114.4	125.5	175.5	162.2
L5	133.8	143.2	97.6	107.0	114.9	117.6	181.1	185.2

Table 2 Seasonal mean of PM_{2.5} at each selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

Location	Pre Monsoon		monsoon		post monsoon		summer	
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017
L1	66.9	79.3	49.3	67.9	71.5	72.4	94.9	103.9
L2	70.8	74.4	55.6	59.4	82.5	81.0	109.1	116.4
L3	65.6	70.7	45.7	67.3	74.7	74.6	98.2	111.3
L4	68.3	77.4	51.4	74.1	76.5	95.6	78.6	121.6
L5	67.3	97.1	56.1	77.3	81.0	88.0	84.5	140.7

Table 3 Seasonal mean of SO₂ at each selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

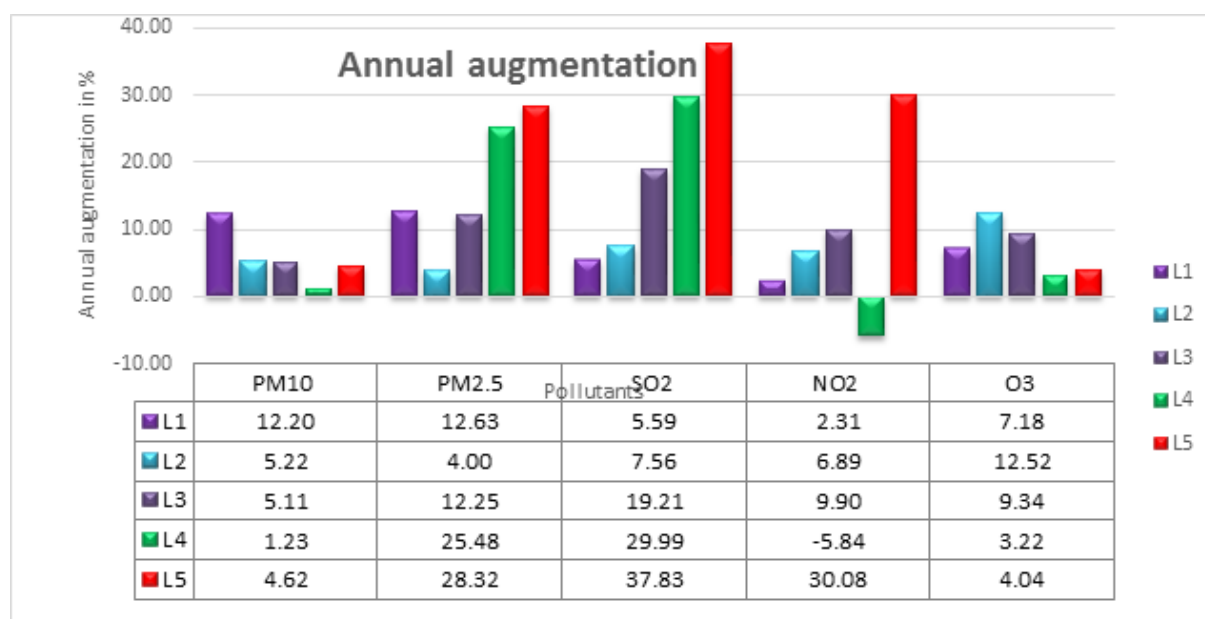
Locations	Pre monsoon		monsoon		post monsoon		summer	
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017
L1	15.4	15.7	8.7	10.4	16.9	16.2	17.5	19.8
L2	14.1	13.1	10.5	13.8	16.6	17.8	20.1	21.6
L3	15.9	15.3	12.2	14.6	17.3	19.5	22.2	34.3
L4	11.6	18.1	9.2	12.5	13.6	22.7	23.7	29.8
L5	13.2	14.2	10.8	13.5	12.4	29.0	18.2	31.1

Table 4 Seasonal mean of NO₂at each selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

Locations	Pre monsoon		monsoon		post monsoon		summer	
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017
L1	26.9	25.4	14.1	15.2	20.2	20.7	34.5	36.6
L2	24.3	28.1	13.0	13.2	28.1	29.8	33.9	35.6
L3	22.4	24.0	14.2	16.6	16.4	19.0	28.6	31.0
L4	28.0	23.1	17.1	18.8	27.2	22.2	38.7	40.9
L5	22.3	31.6	12.4	15.1	22.3	29.3	35.2	55.9

Table 5 Seasonal mean of O₃at each selected location from Jul 2015 to Jun 2017

Locations	Pre monsoon		monsoon		post monsoon		summer	
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017	2015-2016	2016-2017
L1	39.6	41.7	23.5	24.7	33.8	36.6	54.3	59.8
L2	38.4	42.8	27.1	35.0	35.1	38.4	45.4	50.5
L3	36.4	39.4	29.8	34.8	33.7	37.4	45.7	49.1
L4	41.1	43.0	35.1	38.1	33.7	35.0	57.3	56.7
L5	46.5	48.9	35.7	37.2	38.8	43.0	73.6	73.7

**Figure 6** Annual augmentation assessment from Jul'15-Jun'16 to Jul'16-Jun'17)

4. CONCLUSION

The respirable particulate matters and gaseous pollutants were continually increasing in the atmosphere due to various factors. The overall assessment give unblemished view about atmospheric air pollution and Respirable particulate matters (PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5}) are mainly respirable for the contamination of air quality. Observed data revealed, that the respirable particulate matters (PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5}) were unambiguously increased from 2015 to 2017. Likewise gas pollutants of SO₂, NO₂ and O₃ also considerably increased.

Cumulative comparison of seasonal augmentation evidenced that the concentration of air pollutants were comparatively higher during the seasons of July 2016-June 2017 than the

seasons of July 2015-June 2016. In addition the study experienced the highest level of pollutants during summer season when comparing other seasons. The measured predominant positive percentage of annual augmentation clearly indicates the continual increment of air pollutants in the study areas. Due to the uninterrupted urbanization, tremendous growth of vehicles and industrialization, air pollutants were constantly increased in the atmosphere and it is unambiguously proved by this study and outcomes of this work.

This study founds and indicates that, “The Significant positive annual augmentation was seen in Chennai city, were the air quality continuously contaminating and level of pollution increasing day by day”.

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