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Assessment of microbial water quality of river Beas and its tributaries: Present scenario and future perspectives

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Abstract: River Beas rises from the Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh. It joins the River Sutlej at Harike in Punjab. River water pollution is a major concern because the river is the primary water source for human consumption. This review evaluates the microbial status of the Beas River and looks at waterborne disease incidence in India and around the world, as well as its limitations. Few studies have been conducted on river Beas. Fecal coliform and total coliform are reported elevated in the river in all seasons. To precisely assess the risks posed by waterborne disease, it is essential to understand microbial distribution and strategies within water distribution networks, as well as to employ methodologies capable of detecting not only the presence but also the viability and infectivity of the microbe. Improper dumping of industrial and municipal wastes and a lack of water filtering and disinfection facilities are major reasons behind water contamination. There is an immediate need for emergency measures to prevent future degradation of water quality and to enhance existing water quality to safeguard the population from widespread waterborne illnesses.

Key words: Beas, coliform, microbial contamination, E. coli.