

COVID-19 and the **WATER SECTOR**



Review Comments of the Report on **COVID-19** and the **WATER SECTOR**

S K Weragoda
(PhD, C Eng, MIESL, MIWA)
Ministry of Water Supply, Sri Lanka

Content

1. General observations
2. Possible amendments
3. Recommendations for future studies
4. Sri Lankan experiences during COVID-19
5. Special measures taken for addressing challenges

1. General observations

✓ Appreciations

- ✓ Report is well structured and arranged in a logical order,
- ✓ It contains latest and very useful information, and
- ✓ Conclusions and recommendations are very much inducing and can be used in decision making and policy setting process.

✓ Improvements

- ✓ Most of the content in the report is not easily understandable and suggests shortening the sentences and using pictorial tools wherever possible,
- ✓ It is suggested to use abbreviations once after defining them wherever possible, and
- ✓ The report will be concise if it can be revisited for making it free from repetition.

2. Possible amendments

- The construction industry of the water sector has been critically impacted due to the restricted mobility during the COVID-19. As such, it is suggested to brief the real impact on the ongoing construction which will delay the supply of safely managed water supply to the consumer.
- It is proposed to focus on the reforming and restructuring of the organizational setup to make the water industry more resilient. As well, directives in policy reformation shall be discussed and presented with examples, if possible, to encourage the water sector to follow the possible best practices.

3. Recommendations for future studies

- Impacts of ARBs and ARGs on water consumers during the post-COVID era due to aggravated use of antibiotics,
- Depressed economies due to COVID-19 and achieving targets set by the year 2030 under the SDG 6,
- Potential avenues for public-private partnerships to fill the vacuum in financing, and
- Understanding the direct impact due to COVID-19 in a multifaceted and multifactorial environment.

4. Sri Lankan experiences during COVID-19

- **NWSDB, the government agency for water supply, has become more resilient to the COVID-19 as could use experiences in recovering from disasters,**
- **Estimated billing & e-payment systems and cost reduction for chemicals ensured for financial stability ,**
- **Efficient use of human resources for development activities following the government manifesto on ‘Water for All’, and**
- **Access to knowledge and experiences through professional dialogues among WHO country office and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.**

5. Special measures taken for addressing challenges

➤ Study on COVID 19 survivals in various aqueous environment and potential risk

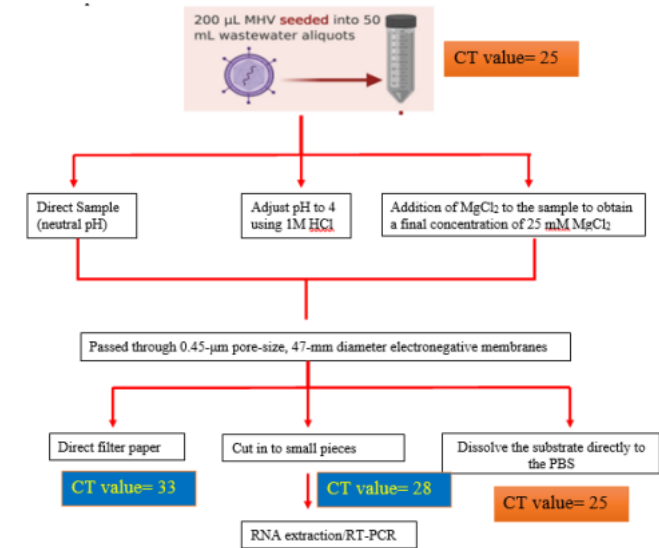
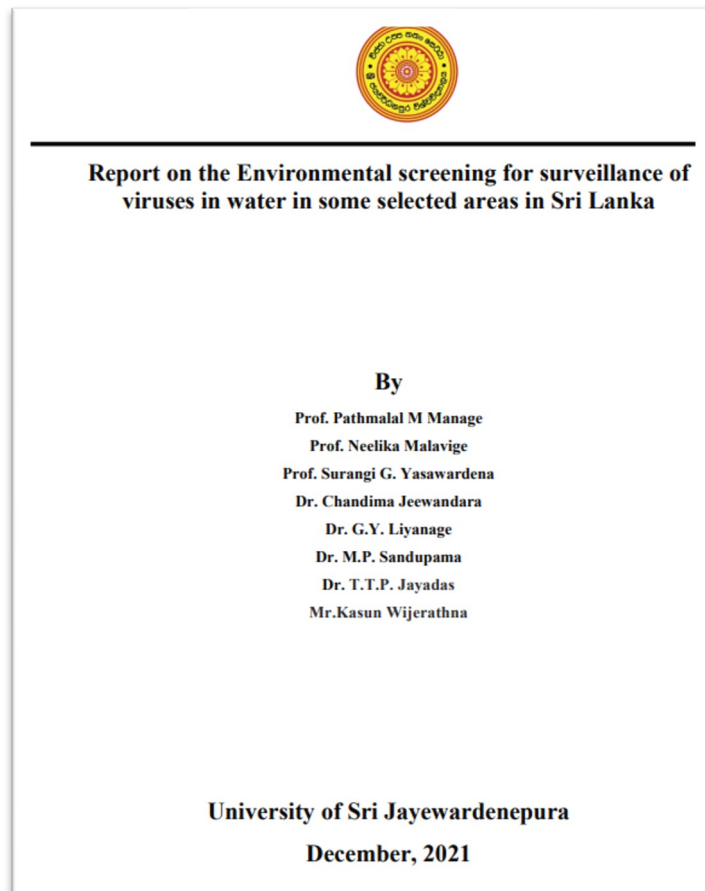
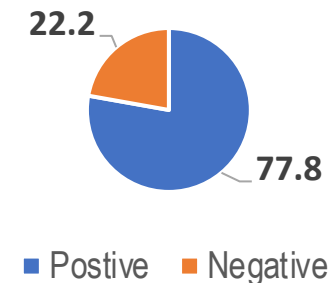


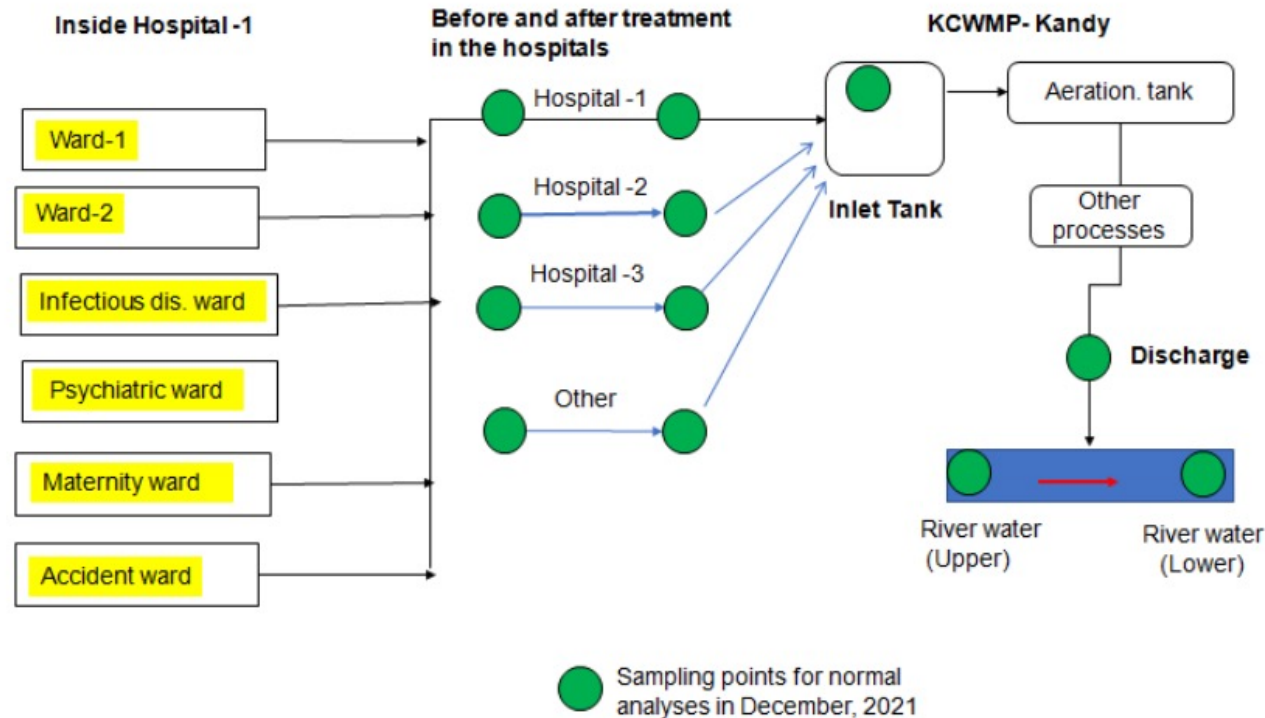
Figure 1:- Virus concentration method



5. Special measures taken for addressing challenges

➤ Impacts of ARBs and ARGs water consumers in pre and post COVID 19 eras (*Ongoing*)

Sampling points (green color circles)



Agreement signing between National Institute of Animal Health-NARO - Hygiene Management Group, Japan and Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology, Sri Lanka

Thank you

Dr S K Weragoda

PhD, C Eng, M IWA, M IESL

(WSP Master Trainer and Auditor)

Director (JRDC)/ Chief Engineer (WSP AU)

Ministry of Water Supply

Sri Lanka

skwera7@gmail.com