A Brief Review of Heavy Metal Remediation Using Nanosorbents

***Mali Ram Meena**

ABSTRACT

Currently, there is decent access to clean drinking water. Cost is a key concern for emerging nations, because a booming economy has produced environmental risks in the form of the dumping of heavy metals in the environment. And since these heavy metals are poisonous and persistent, there are major issues everywhere. These metals may enter the body of flora and animals, including humans, and accumulate there. This can lead to serious health issues such cancer, nervous system damage, cell damage and in extreme circumstances, death. As a result, water, a fundamental need for all living things, becomes contaminated by these dangerous chemicals and poses a threat to existence. Numerous procedures, including, membrane operations, solvent extraction, chemical precipitation, adsorption, ion exchange, and electro-deposition etc. have been published in the literature to address the need for clean water for everyone. The adsorption method is the most popular approach among them all since it is the most efficient and cost-effective. The development of efficient adsorbents has been the subject of several research investigations over the last few decades, but lately, another class of adsorbents known as nanosorbents has been described in writing with the assistance of nanotechnology and material science. The utilization of a few sorts of nanosorbents for the expulsion of heavy metals from wastewater is examined and dissected in this survey of the literature.

Keywords: Nanoparticles, Nanoadsorbents, Metal Remediation, Magnetic, and Ironoxide.

INTRODUCTION

Harmful heavy metals like lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, thallium, cobalt, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, zinc, and so on don't promptly degrade yet gather in living creatures and are consequently known as non-biodegradable toxins. Their uncertain presence in the climate and cancer-causing behavior raise critical issues for the advancement of remediation strategies. Various physical, compound, and organic strategies, for example, film filtration, particle trade, electrochemical expulsion, dissolvable extraction, bioremediation, photocatalytic corruption, and adsorption, have been archived in the literature. But due to its practical working capabilities and cost-effectiveness, adsorption was said to be the most extensively employed approach. The process of adsorption is a surface phenomenon that depends on a number of variables, including the surface morphology and area of the adsorbent, the particle size of the adsorbent material, the functional groups found on the adsorbent, and many other factors. For this reason, proper adsorbent selection is thought to be the key to the efficient removal of pollutants. The characteristics of nanoscale particles, such as their increased surface area, greater particle density, improved surface contact, etc., make them suited for adsorptive removal and effective nanosorbents. The characteristics of an effective nanosorbent must include non-toxicity, high sorption capacity, selectivity, recyclability, reversibility, etc. According to their form, structure, and chemical makeup, the many nanosorbents used in wastewater treatment may be categorised; a brief overview of each of them is provided below. This book discusses some of the work that has been done over the last 20 years for each class in a concise manner.

NANOSORBENT TYPES

Nanosorbents made of metal

Many research teams have cited nanoscale metals and metal oxides as effective and potent nanomaterials, emphasising their special qualities such as huge surface areas, high adsorption capacities, and surface functional groups that may interact with heavy metal ions. Titanium oxide, iron oxide, manganese oxide, aluminium oxide, cupric oxide, nickel oxide, and cupric oxide are some of the nano metal oxides that have received the most reports. The size, shape, and crystal structure of these nanosorbents are discovered to be greatly impacted by the process of synthesis and can be readily altered by adjusting the reaction's temperature and pH as well as the starting material. Additionally, nano zero valent iron placed on different mesoporous materials has been reported by several studies to be among metallic nanoparticles. Various researchers also modified the surface of nanosorbents to boost their adsorption capability. Such adjustments were shown to boost the removal efficiency.

Nanosorbents made of carbon

Sumio Iijima is credited with the discovery of nanoscale carbon, which he dubbed carbon nanotubes (CNT), which are structurally classified into two types: single walled CNT (SWCNT) and multi walled CNT (MWCNT). In recent years, the use of CNT and modified CNT as nanosorbents for the removal of heavy metal ions from contaminated water has been documented. Numerous studies looked at the adsorptive abilities of functionalized CNT and discovered that it performed better than regular CNT in removing heavy metal ions like lead, chromium, mercury, and many others. It has also been observed that modified and agrowaste-derived activated carbon (AC) are efficient nanosorbents for the removal of chromium.

Composite Nanosorbents

In order to avoid the issues of nanoparticle agglomeration under high pressure settings, several researchers have used polymeric materials as supports or covering substrates to stabilise nanoparticles. Once the nanoparticles develop, they may readily agglomerate or collapse with one another. Researchers have used the polymeric backbone of silica, alumina, polyaniline, fly ash, chitosan, etc. to remove copper and lead. The separation and filtering process is more efficient and faster using polymeric supports.

Bio-Nanosorbents

The biosorptive qualities of bio-sorbents, which are generated from naturally occurring biomass such as plant-based waste materials, algae, fungus, or microbes, have been researched by several organisations for less expensive heavy metal absorption. Sawdust, wheat bran, sugarbeet pulp, sugarcane bagasse, maize cob and husk, and sago waste, and several other agrowastes have all been mentioned in literature as being used for this purpose. Algae, fungus, and bacteria have all been used at the microbiological level. Due to the large number of plant species that are underused or wasted in our nation, the adoption of such sorbents may greatly expand our options.

Nanosorbents with Silica

In light of the abundance of silica in the earth's crust, provide a low-cost source for a powerful adsorbent substance. A team of researchers uses mesoporous silica to remove lead, copper, and cadmium. Due to silica's surface activity, its changed surface may also be used more productively. Silica surface functionalization has been employed effectively for more efficient biological detoxification of heavy metal ions. Nano silica's non-toxic properties and biocompatibility make it an efficient sorbent for a variety of applications.

Nanosorbent Hybrids

Any of the aforementioned nanomaterials may be combined to create hybrid nanosorbents. For this aim, inorganic and organic nanocompounds are often supported by polymeric bases. Techniques for creating nanohybrids include loading, encapsulation, impregnation, polymerization processes, solvent casting, etc. When compared to individual sorbents, it is discovered that such nanosorbents are more efficient in removing heavy metals.

Therefore, a variety of combinations may be discovered for next study projects.

CONCLUSION

As was mentioned above, many kinds of nanomaterials have been employed successfully to remove harmful heavy metal ions from water using an adsorption approach. The usage of such materials at lab size is recommended because of their simple synthesis procedures, and they also have economic advantages. Researchers must focus on a lot more issues before scaling up these techniques for widespread use. Practices for environmentally friendly methods could be more beneficial for possibilities for the future and sustainable growth. Thus, we may conclude that nanosorbents can provide a successful heavy metal cleanup strategy.

***Assistant Professor**
Department of Chemistry
L.B.S Govt. College
Kotputli (Raj.)

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