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Importance of Chemistry in Human Life

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ABSTRACT: Chemistry is a fundamental branch of science which scientifically studies the structure, composition, properties of matter and the changes occurring in it. The role of chemistry in the development of human civilization has been extremely extensive. Chemistry is present in almost every area of our lives, from biochemical reactions occurring in the human body to manufacturing of medicines, preservation of foods, agricultural production, water purification, energy production, construction materials, textiles, cosmetics, electronics and environmental protection. In modern medical science, medicinal chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology have made unprecedented progress in the identification and treatment of diseases. Agricultural chemistry has made important contributions to the availability of nutrients, soil testing and crop protection. Similarly, environmental chemistry helps in understanding the nature and control of water, air and soil pollution.

Although chemical substances and processes have made human life convenient, their uncontrolled and inappropriate use has also given rise to problems like pollution, poisoning, waste and resource depletion. Therefore, the goal of chemistry in the modern era is not only the creation of new substances but also the development of safe, sustainable and environment-friendly chemical processes. In this context, the importance of Green Chemistry and Sustainable Chemistry is increasing rapidly. According to IUPAC, the basic objective of Green Chemistry is to invent, design and use such chemical products and processes which can reduce or eliminate the use or production of hazardous substances.

This paper presents an analysis of the multidimensional role of chemistry in human life and reviews its contributions and challenges in the context of health, food, agriculture, water, energy, industry and environment. Additionally, the need for responsible and green chemistry in the future for sustainable development and human well-being is highlighted.

KEYWORDS: Chemistry, Human Life, Bio-Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Agricultural Chemistry, Environmental Chemistry, Green Chemistry, Sustainable Chemistry, Water Purification, Sustainable Development.

I. INTRODUCTION

Chemistry is often considered limited to the study of substances and chemical reactions, but in reality it is one of the fundamental scientific forces of human life and civilization. The structure of most of the natural and artificial substances available on earth, their properties and their mutual changes can be understood through chemical principles. The human body itself is an extremely complex chemical system. Processes like respiration, digestion, energy production, transportation of oxygen in the blood, production of hormones, transmission of nerve signals and cellular metabolism depend on chemical reactions. Carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals present in food are essential for the structure and functions of the body.

The importance of chemistry has increased further in modern society. Chemistry provides solutions ranging from creating new medicines in medicine to making water potable, preserving food, increasing crop production, storing energy and reducing pollution.

IUPAC also connects modern chemistry to solutions to global challenges such as health, energy, agriculture, environment and climate.

Thus chemistry is not just an academic subject but a comprehensive applied science improving the quality of human life.

II. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The main objectives of this research paper are as follows:

- To study the wider role of chemistry in human life.
- To understand the importance of chemical processes in human body and health.
- To analyze the contribution of chemistry in medicine and drug manufacturing.
- To study the role of chemistry in agriculture and food security.
- To evaluate chemical technologies in water purification and environmental protection.
- Understanding the role of chemistry in energy, industry and modern materials science.
- To review the potential environmental challenges arising from inappropriate use of chemical substances.
- To explain the importance of Green Chemistry and Sustainable Chemistry.
- To study the future possibilities of chemistry for human welfare and sustainable development.

III. METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

This research paper is a descriptive and review-based study mainly based on secondary sources. Scientific literature related to the subject, materials of international scientific organizations, standard documents related to Green Chemistry and available review articles have been studied.

Various applications of chemistry have been analyzed by dividing them into the following major areas:

- Human body and biochemistry
- Medical and medicinal chemicals
- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- Water and environment
- Energy
- Industry and materials science
- Home life
- Green Chemistry
- Sustainable development

IV. CHEMISTRY IN THE HUMAN BODY

The human body is a complex biochemical system. Chemical reactions take place continuously in every cell of the body. Proper operation of these reactions maintains life.

4.1 Respiration and Energy Production

The body needs energy to function. Nutrients like glucose etc. obtained from food are converted into energy through cellular metabolism. Oxygen plays an important role in cellular respiration and energy is available in the form of ATP. In simplified form, the oxidation of glucose can be written as:



This reaction is a clear example of the fact that the basic energy system of life is based on chemical change.

4.2 Proteins and Enzymes

Proteins are extremely important in the construction and functions of the body. Enzymes act as catalysts for most biochemical reactions. Various enzymes are required for digestion, energy production, and cellular metabolism.

4.3 Hormones and Chemical Messages

Hormones transmit chemical messages between different parts of the body. Hormones like insulin, thyroxine, adrenalin etc. control many physiological processes of the body.

It is clear from this that knowledge of chemistry is essential to understand the structure and functioning of the body.

V. IMPORTANCE IN MEDICAL AND MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

The contribution of chemistry in the progress of modern medical science is very important. Medicinal Chemistry deals with the study of chemical composition, structure, properties and biological activity of medicines. In drug development, identification of biological target related to a disease, design of suitable molecule, its chemical modification and study of its effectiveness and safety are done.

5.1 Development of Medicines

Chemistry has played an important role in the development of medicines used to treat pain, infections, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and many other diseases.

The following scientific fields are interrelated in the development of new medicines:

- Organic Chemistry
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Pharmacology
- Molecular Biology
- Analytical Chemistry

The importance of medicinal chemistry is not limited to making medicines only; it is also important to understand the purity, stability, solubility of the drug and its behavior in the body.

5.2 Medical Examination

Testing various chemical components in blood, urine and other biological samples helps in diagnosing diseases. Analysis of glucose, hemoglobin, electrolytes, enzymes and other biochemical indicators is an important part of medical diagnosis.

5.3 Green Pharmaceutical Chemistry

The pharmaceutical industry may require multiple steps and different chemical substances. Using the principles of Green Chemistry, low waste, low energy and relatively safe chemical processes can be developed. The use of Green Chemistry in pharmaceutical manufacturing has revealed possibilities of reducing environmental burden.

VI. CHEMISTRY IN FOOD AND NUTRITION

Man's health is directly related to his food and food itself is a mixture of various chemical substances.

6.1 Major Nutrients

Mainly the following nutritional components are found in food:

- Carbohydrates
- Protein
- Fat
- Vitamins
- Mineral
- Water

Each of these has a specific chemical and biological function in the body.

6.2 Chemical Changes During Cooking

During cooking food, many chemical changes occur due to heat. Denaturation of proteins, gelatinization of starch and chemical changes occurring in various substances affect the taste, texture and digestibility of food.

6.3 Food Preservation

Various preservation methods are used to protect food from microorganisms and oxidation. Chemistry contributes to techniques such as refrigeration, drying, fermentation, canning and controlled packaging.

6.4 Testing of Food Adulteration

Analytical chemistry is important for identifying adulteration in food items. With the help of modern equipment, various chemical components present in food items can be identified and quantified.

VII. ROLE OF CHEMISTRY IN AGRICULTURE

Agricultural chemistry has immense importance in an agriculture-oriented country like India.

7.1 Soil Chemistry

Soil pH, organic matter, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and micronutrients affect plant growth. The status of these components can be detected by soil testing.

7.2 Fertilizer

Fertilizers are used to provide essential nutrients to plants. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the major nutrients. However balanced use of fertilizers is necessary. Excessive or improper use can have negative effects on soil and water.

7.3 Bio-fertilizers and Sustainable Agriculture

Today, bio-fertilizers, controlled-release nutrients and more efficient agricultural inputs are being developed by combining chemistry and biotechnology. Sustainable Chemistry aims to improve agricultural production while taking into account resource efficiency and environmental protection.

VIII. CHEMISTRY IN WATER AND WATER PURIFICATION

Water is essential for human life. Natural water may contain various dissolved salts, gases, organic matter and sometimes unwanted pollutants.

Various chemical and physico-chemical processes are used in water purification, such as:

- Coagulation
- Precipitation
- Adsorption
- Ion exchange
- Oxidation
- Membrane processes

Chemistry helps in identifying the substances present in water and choosing the appropriate treatment method.

Extensive research is being done on adsorption and other treatment technologies to treat groundwater with the presence of fluoride, nitrate, heavy metals and other contaminants. Low-cost adsorbents, especially those derived from agricultural and natural wastes, are an important research area for sustainable water treatment.

IX. CHEMISTRY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The importance of Environmental Chemistry has increased rapidly in understanding and controlling environmental problems.

9.1 Air Pollution

Carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and other pollutants can affect air quality. Chemistry is important in understanding their sources, chemical transformations and environmental impacts.

9.2 Water Pollution

Industrial waste, agricultural runoff and domestic waste can introduce various chemicals into the water. Analytical and environmental chemistry are used to identify and treat these pollutants.

9.3 Soil Pollution

Heavy metals, industrial chemicals and other pollutants can affect soil quality. Studying their chemical behavior and dynamics is helpful in understanding environmental risks.

X. CHEMISTRY IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

Due to the increasing need of energy, the importance of chemistry in energy science is continuously increasing.

10.1 Fuel

The composition and combustion of petroleum, natural gas and other fuels are based on chemical processes.

10.2 Battery

Rechargeable batteries are important in modern electronic devices and electric vehicles. Oxidation-reduction reactions play a major role in their work.

10.3 Hydrogen Energy

Hydrogen is considered important in potential future clean energy systems. Chemistry plays an important role in hydrogen production, storage and fuel-cell technology.

10.4 Solar Energy

Solar cells use special semiconductor materials to convert light into electrical energy. Materials chemistry is important in controlling the structure and properties of these substances.

XI. CHEMISTRY IN INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

The development of modern industry is not possible without chemistry. Many important industrial products are made by chemical processes. Major areas include:

- Cement
- Glass
- Polymer
- Rubber
- Paint
- Colors and dyes
- Soap and detergent
- Paper
- Fertilizer
- Petrochemical
- Cosmetics
- Electronic materials

Polymer chemistry has made possible the development of plastics, synthetic fibers, packaging materials and many engineering materials.

XII. CHEMISTRY IN DOMESTIC LIFE

Many things in our daily life are the contribution of chemical science. Examples are soaps and detergents, toothpaste, cosmetics, perfumes, paints, adhesives, cleaning agents and packaging materials.

The cleansing action of soap is related to surface chemistry. Surfactants in detergents affect the surface properties of water and aid in the removal of oily dirt.

Thus even common household activities are deeply linked to chemistry.

XIII. TEXTILE AND COSMETICS INDUSTRY

Both natural and artificial fibers are used in the textile industry. Along with natural fibers like cotton, wool and silk, synthetic fibers like polyester, nylon etc. are also widely used.

Organic chemistry has an important contribution in the manufacture of dyes and pigments.

Similarly, various substances related to skin and hair care are used in cosmetics. Formulation chemistry, colloid chemistry and analytical chemistry are important in the manufacturing of these products.

XIV. MATERIALS SCIENCE AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Today's technological era is based on advanced materials. Nanotechnology, semiconductor chemistry, polymer science, biomaterials and smart materials have become important fields of modern science.

14.1 Nano Chemistry

The properties of materials at the nano level may be different from those of bulk materials. For this reason, the use of nanoparticles has become an important area of research in medicine, catalysis, sensors and energy applications.

14.2 Electronic Materials

Semiconductors and other advanced materials are used in mobile phones, computers, sensors and other electronic devices. Solid-state chemistry and materials chemistry are important in their development.

XV. GREEN CHEMISTRY: NEW DIRECTION FOR HUMANS AND ENVIRONMENT

With the development of chemistry, the need was felt to develop processes in which pollution and hazardous substances could be reduced from the very beginning.

According to IUPAC, Green Chemistry aims at the design and application of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or production of hazardous substances.

The famous 12 principles of green chemistry include ideas such as waste prevention, atom economy, less hazardous synthesis, safer chemicals, safer solvents, energy efficiency, renewable feedstocks, catalysis and design for degradation.

15.1 Waste Prevention

It is best to develop processes that reduce waste generation from the beginning rather than treating it after it is generated.

15.2 Atom Economy

In a chemical reaction, an attempt is made to incorporate maximum atoms of the initial substances into the desired product.

15.3 Safer Solvents

Where possible, efforts are made to develop safer solvent or solvent-free processes.

15.4 Energy Efficiency

Reactions occurring at lower temperatures and lower energies may be more stable.

15.5 Renewable Feedstocks

The use of renewable raw materials is important to reduce dependence on fossil resources.

Green Chemistry aims to advance not only environmental protection but also resource efficiency, economic benefits and protection of human health.

XVI. CHEMISTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The objective of sustainable development is to meet the needs of the present generation while not affecting the needs of future generations. Chemistry can play an important role in achieving this goal.

Efficient use of water, energy and raw materials, less waste production and safe chemical processes are the main components of Sustainable Chemistry. IUPAC links Sustainable Chemistry to the design of chemical products and processes that prevent pollution and hazardous waste and reduce risks to human health and the environment.

Green Chemistry has also been considered important in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

XVII. BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF CHEMISTRY

Chemistry has brought about many positive changes in human life, but it has also brought some challenges.

17.1 Key Benefits

- Development of modern medicines.
- Food preservation and food security.
- Improvement in agricultural production.
- Water purification.
- Development of energy and fuel technology.
- Development of construction and industrial materials.
- Improvement in clothing and consumer products.
- Identification and remediation of environmental pollutants.
- Development of modern electronics and materials technology.

17.2 Major Challenges

- Hazardous chemical waste.
- Plastic pollution.
- Industrial waste.
- Improper disposal of chemical substances.
- Excessive use of natural resources.
- Long-term environmental persistence of some chemical substances.
- More energy required in production processes.

Therefore, the aim of modern chemistry should not only be to increase production but also to achieve safe and sustainable production.

XVIII. POSSIBILITIES OF CHEMISTRY IN THE FUTURE

In future, chemistry can play an important role in solving many global challenges of human life.

18.1 Advanced Medicines

The joint contribution of chemistry and biology will increase in the development of personalized medicine, targeted drug delivery and molecular-level diagnostics.

18.2 Water Security

Low-cost adsorption materials, membranes and renewable-energy-based water treatment technologies can be helpful in tackling the water crisis.

18.3 Clean Energy

Chemistry will be important in the development of better batteries, hydrogen systems, fuel cells and advanced solar materials.

18.4 Sustainable Materials

Biodegradable polymers, recyclable materials and renewable feedstock based materials can play an important role in the future economy.

18.5 Agriculture

Precision agriculture, soil chemistry, controlled-release fertilizers and environmentally safer crop-protection technologies can make agriculture more sustainable.

18.6 Waste to Resources

Chemical technologies that convert waste into resources will be important in the development of circular economy. Research is also being done rapidly on converting agricultural residues into useful chemicals, materials or energy.

XIX. DISCUSSION

The importance of chemistry in human life is evident from its multidimensional nature. It connects health, agriculture, industry, environment, energy and daily life. Many achievements of modern society are the result of chemical science and its related interdisciplinary research.

However, it would not be appropriate to look at chemistry only from the point of view of profit. Before using any chemical substance, it is important to understand its toxicity, persistence, environmental fate and life-cycle effects. In this context, Green Chemistry presents an important change. The traditional approach was to treat pollution after it is produced, whereas the aim of Green Chemistry is to design a chemical process in which the potential for pollution is reduced from the beginning.

Therefore, in future chemical education and research, it is necessary to give importance to environmental safety, resource conservation and social responsibility along with chemical efficiency.

XX. CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

S. No.	Area	Major Conclusion
1	Human Body & Biochemistry	Life processes such as respiration, digestion, metabolism, hormone action and cellular energy production are fundamentally based on chemical reactions.
2	Medicine & Healthcare	Chemistry is essential for drug discovery, drug formulation, diagnosis, quality control and development of safer therapeutic agents.
3	Food & Nutrition	Chemistry helps explain the composition, nutritional value, cooking processes, preservation and safety of food.
4	Agriculture	Soil chemistry, fertilizers, micronutrients, pesticides, biofertilizers and controlled-release nutrients contribute to agricultural productivity and food security.
5	Water Purification	Chemical and physicochemical processes such as adsorption, precipitation, coagulation, ion exchange and membrane treatment are important for providing safe water.
6	Environmental Protection	Environmental chemistry helps identify pollutants, understand their transformation and develop methods for controlling air, water and soil pollution.
7	Energy	Chemistry plays a central role in fuels, batteries, hydrogen technologies, fuel cells and advanced solar-energy materials.
8	Industry & Materials	Modern industries depend on chemistry for polymers, cement, glass, rubber, paints, fertilizers, petrochemicals and numerous advanced materials.
9	Daily Life	Soaps, detergents, cosmetics, toothpaste, perfumes, adhesives, packaging and cleaning products demonstrate the direct presence of chemistry in everyday life.
10	Modern Technology	Nanochemistry, semiconductor chemistry, polymers and biomaterials are contributing significantly to electronics, sensors, healthcare and advanced technologies.
11	Green Chemistry	Future chemical development should focus on preventing waste and pollution at the source, improving atom economy, reducing hazardous substances and increasing energy efficiency.
12	Sustainable	Chemistry can support sustainable development through efficient use of

S. No.	Area	Major Conclusion
	Development	resources, renewable feedstocks, safer materials, waste reduction and circular-economy approaches.
13	Challenges	Improper use of chemicals can contribute to pollution, hazardous waste, resource depletion and environmental persistence; therefore, responsible chemical management is essential.
14	Future Direction	The future of chemistry lies in safer medicines, clean energy, sustainable agriculture, advanced water treatment, recyclable materials and waste-to-resource technologies.
15	Overall Conclusion	Chemistry is not merely the study of substances and reactions; it is a multidisciplinary foundation for human health, technological progress, environmental protection and a sustainable future.

XXI. LIMITATIONS OF RESEARCH PAPER

This study is mainly based on available secondary literature and material published by scientific institutions. It does not involve laboratory-scale experimental testing of any specific chemical process or drug. The applications of chemistry in various fields are extremely wide; therefore, the presented study should be seen as a holistic review.

In the future, experimental and quantitative research can be done on a particular field — such as water purification, medicinal chemistry, green chemistry, agricultural chemistry or environmental chemistry.

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