

**Table 1** Example of studies on water quality in arid and semi-arid areas

S/n	Study o	Region/Country	Water Quality Indices		Statistical Techniques		The mechanism of controlling water quality		
			WQI	HPI	Correlation (r)	PC A	HC A	Natural	Anthropogenic
1	Kwaya et al. <sup>76</sup>	Maru town and environs, NW, Nigeria		√		√	√	√	√
2	Rasool et al. <sup>77</sup>	Punjab, Pakistan				√	√	√	√
3	Abbasnia et al. <sup>78</sup>	Sistan-Baluchistan, Iran	√						
4	Abu Al Naeem et al. <sup>39</sup>	Gaza coastal aquifer, Palestine			√		√	√	√
5	Abu Khatita et al. <sup>79</sup>	South Eastern Sinai, Egypt		√					
6	Acikel and Ekmekci <sup>52</sup>	Azmak Spring Zone, Mugla, Turkey				√	√	√	
7	Alarcon- Herrera et al. <sup>80</sup>	Semi-arid regions in Latin America			√			√	√
8	Al-Farraj et al. <sup>66</sup>	Kharj agricultural area, Riyadh Saudi Arabia		√		√	√	√	√
9	Aminiyan et al. <sup>41</sup>	Rafsanjan plain, Iran			√		√		√
10	Aminiyan et al. <sup>37</sup>	Karoon river, Iran	√		√		√	√	
11	Amiri et al. <sup>81</sup>	Urmia aquifer, NW Iran		√		√	√	√	
12	Rasool et al. (2016)	Punjab, Pakistan		√		√	√	√	√
13	Ayadi et al. <sup>82</sup>	Teboursouk area Northwestern, Tunisian Atlas				√	√	√	√
14	Agoubi and Gzam <sup>83</sup>	Ghannouch field, Southeastern Tunisia				√	√	√	√
15	Agoubi et al. <sup>84</sup>	Marine Jeffara Aquifer, SE Tunisia		√			√	√	
16	Agoubi et al. <sup>54</sup>	Coastal Arid Area, SE Tunisia		√		√	√	√	
17	Bahloul et al. <sup>85</sup>	Sfax Solar Saltern, Tunisia				√	√	√	√
18	Barakat et al. <sup>67</sup>	Oum Er Rbia River, Morocco		√		√	√	√	√
19	Barzegar et al. <sup>86</sup>	Shabestar Area, Northwestern Iran			√		√	√	√
20	Basahi et al. <sup>40</sup>	Wadi Baysh Basin, Saudi Arabia	√	√		√		√	

21	Batayneh and Zumlot <sup>87</sup>	Yarmouk Basin of North Jordan		✓	✓
22	Batsaikhan et al. <sup>88</sup>	Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia		✓	✓
23	Belkhiri and Mouni <sup>89</sup>	Soummam Basin, Algeria		✓	✓
24	Bencer et al. <sup>54</sup>	Ain Djacer area, Eastern of Algeria	✓	✓	✓
25	Bhakar and Singh <sup>90</sup>	Rajasthan, India		✓	✓
26	Boughariou et al. <sup>91</sup>	Sfax coastal aquifer, Southeast Tunisia		✓	✓
27	Bouteraa et al. <sup>38</sup>	Boumerzoug-El Khroub, NE Algeria	✓	✓	✓
28	Singh et al. <sup>92</sup>	Delhi, India		✓	✓
29	Carlson et al. <sup>93</sup>	Tucson Basin, USA			✓
30	Chaves et al. <sup>94</sup>	Brazilian semi-arid region			✓
31	Dehghanzadeh et al. <sup>95</sup>	Eastern Area of Urmia Salt Lake Basin		✓	✓
32	Ehya and Marbouti <sup>55</sup>	Behbahan plain, SW Iran	✓	✓	
33	El Alfy et al. <sup>18</sup>	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia		✓	✓
34	El Yaouti et al. <sup>96</sup>	Bou-Areg (NE Morocco)		✓	✓
35	El-Ameir <sup>48</sup>	Damietta Branch of Nile River, Egypt	✓		
36	Eslami et al. <sup>42</sup>	Jiroft, Iran	✓	✓	✓
37	Hamzaoui-Azaza et al. <sup>97</sup>	Zeuss-Koutine aquifer, SE Tunisia		✓	✓
38	Hamzaoui-Azaza et al. <sup>98</sup>	Jeffara of Medenine, Southern Tunisia		✓	✓
39	Gasmi et al. <sup>69</sup>	Wadi El Bey, Tunisia		✓	✓
40	Gomes et al. <sup>99</sup>	Iberian Peninsula, Portugal		✓	✓
41	Gubran et al. <sup>56</sup>	Wadi Nisah, Central Saudi Arabia	✓	✓	✓
42	Yu et al. <sup>100</sup>	Wuliangsuhai Lake, Mongolia		✓	✓
43	Hamdi et al. <sup>43</sup>	Sisseb El Alem Nadhour Saouaf, Tunisia	✓	✓	✓
44	Wu et al. <sup>5</sup>	Northwest, China		✓	✓

45	Jampani et al. <sup>101</sup>	Hyderabad, India		✓	✓		✓
46	Jassas and Merkel <sup>57</sup>	Al-Khazir Gomal Basin, Northern Iraq	✓	✓	✓	✓	
47	Kaba et al. <sup>102</sup>	Littoral aquifer, Northern Senegal		✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Karroum et al. <sup>103</sup>	Central Morocco	✓			✓	
49	Ketata-Rokbani et al. <sup>104</sup>	El Khairat, Tunisian Sahel	✓				
50	Khazaala et al. <sup>105</sup>	Lake Habbaniyah, Al-Anbar, Iraq	✓				
51	Kolsi et al. <sup>58</sup>	Hajeb Elyoun–Jelma, Central Tunisia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Kraiem et al. <sup>106</sup>	Chott Djerid, south-western Tunisia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Krishna et al. <sup>107</sup>	Hydrabad, India		✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Kuisi and Abdel-Fattah <sup>108</sup>	Amman Zarqa Basin, Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Kumar et al. <sup>109</sup>	Delhi, India		✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Kumssa et al.. <sup>110</sup>	North Rift and North Eastern Kenya	✓				
57	Kwami et al. <sup>59</sup>	Gombe and Environs, North-East Nigeria		✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Belkhiri et al. <sup>111</sup>	Ain Azel plain, Algeria		✓	✓	✓	
59	Belkhiri and Mouni <sup>112</sup>	Ain Azel plain, Algeria		✓	✓	✓	
60	Belkhiri et al. <sup>112</sup>	Ain Azel plain, Algeria			✓		
61	Kwaya et al. <sup>49</sup>	Yobe State, NE Nigeria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	M'nassri et al. <sup>113</sup>	Ouled Chamekh Plain, Tunisia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Ma et al. (2016)	Yellow River, China	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Machiwal and Jha <sup>44</sup>	Aravalli range, western India	✓		✓	✓	✓
70	Mahfooz et al. <sup>45</sup>	Faisalabad, Pakistan	✓		✓	✓	✓
71	Masoud et al. <sup>45</sup>	Tanta District, Egypt		✓			✓

72	Masoud et al. <sup>114</sup>	Dakhla Oasis, Egypt			✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Maurya and Srivastava <sup>50</sup>	Agra districts of Uttar Pradesh, India	✓	✓				✓
74	Mehrabi et al. <sup>115</sup>	Ahangaran, west of Iran	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
75	Merzougui et al. <sup>116</sup>	Beni-Ounif syncline, SW Algeria			✓	✓	✓	
76	Modibo Sidibé et al. <sup>117</sup>	Sahel Region in Africa			✓	✓	✓	
77	Monjerezi and Ngongondo <sup>118</sup>	Lower Shire Valley, Malawi	✓				✓	
78	Monjerezi et al. <sup>119</sup>	Lower Shire River valley, Malawi:			✓	✓	✓	
79	Monjerezi et al. <sup>119</sup>	Lower Shire River valley, Malawi		✓	✓	✓		
80	Mountadar et al. <sup>60</sup>	Sidi Abed-Ouled Ghanem, Morocco		✓	✓	✓	✓	
81	Murgulet et al. <sup>120</sup>	Gulf of Mexico, USA		✓			✓	
82	N Adimalla <sup>121</sup>	Telangana State, India	✓					
83	Nadiri et al. <sup>61</sup>	Tasuj plain aquifer, Iran		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Narsimha Adimalla and Li <sup>122</sup>	Telangana State, India					✓	
85	Narsimha Adimalla and Wu <sup>121</sup>	Central Telangana, India				✓		✓
86	Narsimha Adimalla et al. <sup>122</sup>	Nirmal Province, India				✓		
87	Noshadi and Ghafourian <sup>123</sup>	Fars province, Iran			✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Ogwueleka <sup>124</sup>	Kaduna River, Nigeria			✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Ogwueleka <sup>124</sup>	Kaduna River, Nigeria	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Singh et al. <sup>125</sup>	Bokaro, Central African Republic	✓					
91	Pei-yue et al. <sup>126</sup>	Ningxia, Northwest China	✓					

92	Qishlaqi et al. <sup>127</sup>	Ravar plain, Southeast Iran		✓	✓	✓
93	Qishlaqi et al. <sup>127</sup>	Ravar plain, Southeast Iran		✓	✓	✓
94	R Dehbandi et al. <sup>128</sup>	Sirjan Plain, SE, Iran			✓	✓
95	Rachid et al. <sup>129</sup>	Wadi Ouazzi Basin, Morocco			✓	✓
96	Rafiee et al. <sup>51</sup>	Zanjan Province, Tehran Iran	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Rakotondrabe et al. <sup>47</sup>	Bétaré-Oya, East-Cameroon	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Reza Dehbandi et al. <sup>128</sup>	Southeast of Iran			✓	✓
99	Rocha et al. <sup>130</sup>	Upper Jaguaribe River, Brazil	✓		✓	
100	Sadat-Noori et al. <sup>131</sup>	Saveh-Nobaran aquifer, Iran	✓	✓		
101	Sahu et al. <sup>132</sup>	Lalganj Tehsil, Raebareli, India		✓	✓	✓
102	Sajil Kumar <sup>62</sup>	Tamil Nadu, India		✓	✓	✓
103	Sakram et al. <sup>133</sup>	Zaheerabad area, Telangana, India		✓	✓	✓
104	Singh. et al. <sup>134</sup>	Shivaliks of Punjab, India			✓	✓
105	Soltani et al. <sup>135</sup>	Kordkandi-Duzduzan plain, NW Iran:		✓	✓	✓
106	Subba Rao et al. <sup>46</sup>	Wanaparthy District, Telangana, India,	✓		✓	✓
107	Sudheer Kumar et al. <sup>136</sup>	Nalgonda District, India		✓	✓	✓
108	Tlili-Zrelli et al. <sup>137</sup>	Grombalia, Northeastern Tunisia			✓	✓
109	Trabelsi and Zouari <sup>138</sup>	Takelsa syncline, NE Tunisia			✓	✓
110	Trabelsi et al. <sup>139</sup>	Djeffara, Southeastern Tunisia		✓	✓	✓
111	Vasanthavigar et al. <sup>140</sup>	Tamilnadu, India	✓			
112	Vasanthavigar et al. <sup>141</sup>	Thirumanimuthar sub-basin, Tamil Nadu, India			✓	✓
113	Vesali Naseh et al. <sup>142</sup>	Ghaen Plain, Iran		✓		
114	Wilson et al. <sup>143</sup>	Mayo Tsanaga River Basin, Cameroon	✓		✓	

115	Woocay and Walton <sup>144</sup>	Amargosa Desert, Nevada			✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Xiao et al. <sup>145</sup>	Tarim River Basin, NW China	✓		✓			
117	Yu et al. <sup>146</sup>	Miyun County, Northern China			✓	✓	✓	
118	Yazidi et al. <sup>147</sup>	Ichkeul Lake, Northern Tunisia	✓	✓				
119	Yu et al. <sup>148</sup>	Northwestern China		✓	✓	✓	✓	
120	Zhang et al. <sup>75</sup>	Yinchuan plain, in northwest China			✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Zhang et al. <sup>75</sup>	Yinchuan plain, in northwest China		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
122	Zhu et al. <sup>63</sup>	Jungar region, Northwestern China			✓	✓	✓	✓