

A Study of Ground Water Potential for Sustainable Development in Igbo-Ora, Oyo State, Nigeria

By

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Abstract

The entire system of Opeki Dam serving the Igbo-Ora Community of Oyo State is spent. Rainfall, rivers, ponds and swamps are seasonal and grossly inadequate. There are quests for alternative sources of supply. The objective of this paper is to ascertain the reliability of ground water as an alternative source in Igb – Ora, Oyo State of Nigeria. Electrical Resistivity method of Geophysical investigation was adopted using Rectified Resistivity Meter (RRM) Model. Readings were taken of the earth resistance by sending fairly large current $I(\mu A)$ into the ground. Data were collected from three locations: Igbole, Saganun, and Isale-Oba. A typical geo-electric section showing the thickness, depth, and lithography reveals that topmost is sandy clay soil (1m), followed by wet clay soil (2.1-3.1m); and at a depth of about 8.7m is the unsaturated weathered basement rock which is about 5.6m thick. Saturated weathered basement rock is about 11.3m thick and it is 20.0m deep on the average. The average resistivity within the first 1m is $120.3\Omega m$ and it is $156.1\Omega m$ to a depth of 20.0m. The groundwater potential may be feasible at the sounded points with average groundwater yield: An overburden unit depth of about 25m (on the average and total drill depth of between 35 and 38m). For sustainable water, the hole must be properly cased to a stable earth unit below the overburden unit.

Keywords: *Unsustainable water supply, ground water potentials, sustainable development, Igbo-Ora*

1. Background to the Study

Access to safe drinking water is indicated by the number of people using proper sanitary sources, (Wikipedia, 2008). The improved drinking water sources include household connection, public standing pipe, borehole conditions, protected dug wells, protected springs, and rain water collection, (Aderogba, 1999 and 2005 and Wikipedia, 2008). Sources that do not encourage improved drinking water include: unprotected wells, unprotected springs, rivers or pounds, vendor-provided water, bottled water (consequential of limitations in quantity and quality) and tanker truck water. Access to sanitary water comes hand in hand with access to improved sanitation facilities for excreta. These facilities include connection to public sewer, connection to septic system, pour-flush latrine, and improved ventilated pit latrine. Unimproved sanitation facilities are: public or shared latrine, open pit latrine, or bucket latrine (Wikipedia, 2008). According to this source, the earth's surface consists of 70% water; and that water is available nearly everywhere if proper methods are used to get it. It went further to say that 'as a country's economy becomes stronger (as its GNP per capital or PPP rises) a larger percentage of its people tend to have access to drinking water and sanitation. Access to drinking water is measured by the number of people who have a reasonable means of getting an adequate amount of water that is safe for drinking, washing, and other domestic uses.

There was substantial short fall in availability of potable water in less developed countries, primarily arising from industrial contamination and pollution, (Aderogba, 2005 and 2008 and Wikipedia, 2008). As of the year 2000, 20% of the populations of lesser developed countries did not have access to safe drinking water (World Health Organization, 2005 and Wikipedia, 2008). Implications for disease propagation are significant. Many nations have water quality regulations for water sold as drinking water, although these are often not strictly enforced outside of the developed world. The World Health Organization sets international standard for drinking water. A broad classification of drinking water safety worldwide can be found in safe drinking water for international travelers. It reflects the health of a country's people and the country's capacity to collect, clean, and distribute water to consumers. According to the World Health Organization (2005), more than one billion people in low and middle - income countries lack access to safe water for drinking, personal hygiene and domestic use. These numbers represent more than 720% of the World's people. In addition, close to 3 billion people did not have access to adequate facilities for sanitation. Certainly, Nigeria is absolutely within this cohort; and undoubtedly the almost 100,000 people living in Igbo-Ora and its immediate environment falls into this proportion.

In Igbo-Ora, the needs for water were met over time, mostly from streams, rivers, rain water harvesting, dew and of late, water hawks around by mai-ruwa and or Water Tanker Drivers, (Aderogba in Print). There is Opeki Dam commissioned for use for four of the seven major towns of the then Ibarapa Local Government Area namely Igbo-Ora, Eruwa, Lanlate and Idere. That was over four decades ago. There has not been reliable supply from the source any longer. The dam and its facilities and equipment are spent – it is now an ‘abandoned government property’. Thus, nobody from the community thought of it as any source of supply any more. Whereas, the number, size and needs of the community kept on increasing in quantity and quality. In addition, the streams, ponds, and rivers (apart from drying-up) and rain sources are no longer sufficient nor meet the required specifications. The need for potable water for use industrially, commercially, domestically and even in agriculture, recreation and tourism and others are fast increasing over time, and space. Though Makinde (2002), Okwueze, Selemo, and Ezeanyim, (1995), Edet and Okereke (2002), Emenike (2001), Evans F and George (2007), and Akpabio and Udoinyang (2007) worked in different geological zones of Nigeria and with successes, to the indigenes of Igbo- Ora and the entire inhabitants, to bore holes for groundwater is expensive; and it is reliably uncertain source of water, (Aderogba, 1999 and 2005). These thus explain the need to dispel or confirm the certainty of groundwater for sustainable development in Igbo-Ora.

Therefore, the objective of this work is to ascertain the availability of groundwater and its physical conditions for development in Igbo-Ora. This is necessary because, for now, there must be alternative(s) to Opeki Dam and other sources of water for sustainable development in the community. It will find out the suitability of boreholes, at what levels and locations it may be suitable to store groundwater in quantity and quality for exploitation as a major source of water to the community and for sustainable development.

The study area

The history of Igbo-Ora dates back to the early 18th Century when Lagaye, Lasogba, Olupeti, Ogboja, Baba-Aso, and Ajade came from different parts of ‘the world’ to settle as farmers and hunters where their descendants have finally settled today as distinct Quarters of Igbo-Ora. The amalgamations of the different quarters came to be what is called Igbo-Ora today. She was a nodal town that served as market centre for agricultural produce from the adjoining villages and farmsteads around. She was also a major trade route particularly for cattle between the extreme south and northern Nigeria. She was once the administrative Headquarters of Ibarapa Local Government Area (that was made up of Lanlate, Eruwa, Igbo-Ora, Idere, Aiyete, Tapa and Igangan). Today, she is the administrative Headquarters of Ibarapa Central Local Government Area of Oyo State that was carved out of the former. The population is well over 100,000 (an estimate) people mainly agrarian, local craft men and women and civil servants - local government workers, teachers and lectures predominantly.

She can be located within the coordinates: 70 43'4" and 50 42'32;" and on an altitude of about 130m (450ft) above sea level. It is bounded in the North and West by Ibarapa North and East respectively and in the West and South by Ogun State. She falls within the populous SW Nigeria with the two geological Terrains: the basement complex (massive crystalline rock terrain) and the sedimentary unit (soft rock dominant). But locally, it is typically metamorphic which is underlain with granitic/quartzite suite, (Kogbe, 1986). It is suspected that the rock dominating this study area may be a good aquifer if fracturally weathered. Therefore, it may be a good water reservoir, (Trinity Composite Geoservices, 2008).

The topography is undulating, and the town is traversed by Agogo stream. There are a number of ponds and swamps from where the inhabitants draw water at their seasons - they all have water mainly during rainy seasons; and the swamps do produce spring water in the dry seasons, (Aderogba, In Print).

The climate is tropical continental: rainfall (with double maxima) is about 1600 mm on the average; and the temperature is usually about 27°C on the average too. Relative Humidity is high. It is not less than 80% on the average. The vegetation is purely Guinea Savanna with tall grasses and stunted grown trees of thick barks. Typically, there are tall trees and palms in swamp areas and along river banks. But grass burning and felling of trees, clearing of forest for cultivation of crops and lumbering have changed the natural vegetation to cultigens, secondary forests and grassland. There is a University Campus, a Comprehensive Hospital, Several Secondary Grammar and Comprehensive Schools and Colleges, that is, talk less of numerous Nursery and Primary Schools. Apart from the physical presence of State and Federal Governments, Igbo-Ora has long been the Administrative Headquarters of Local Government Council. There are five major markets that are observed at five days interval, that is, apart from 'Area Commercial Centers', lock-up shops and supermarkets that are found scattered all over along the streets and major roads of the town. Apart from the agricultural produce - maize, yam, cassava, vegetable, melon, and others, - manufactured items are brought in from the neighboring urbanized centers - Lagos, Ibadan and Abeokuta – for sale.

But non-existence of adequate supply of potable water has made the inhabitants to seek for alternatives for sustainable development, (Aderogba, In Print). Among the alternatives is the borehole source which is perceived to be very expensive to dig and equipped that is compared to the financial capabilities of individuals the agrarian community. That explains why members of the community would like ascertain availability and suitability of the ground water for development.

2. Methodology and data collection

Electrical Resistivity Method of geophysical investigation was adopted for the study, that is, using Rectified Resistivity Meter (RRM) Model otherwise known as Terra Meter of High Precision and Accuracy. It involves measurement of the earth resistance by sending a fairly large current I (mA) into the ground and recording the response as potential difference ΔV (mV). The currents were sent into the ground at ten points each at pre-determined locations at Igbole, Saganun and Oke-Odo. Two of the locations (Igbole and Oke Ode) are privately owned and sponsored while the third belongs to Oyo State Government. But the three locations were examined within the second week of the month of March, 2008. The eventual plotted resistivity values were obtained using the working relations, as specified by Wenner Array quoted by Sheriff (1991): In the concept, electrode arrangements were used in resistivity survey. It consists of four equally spaced collinear electrodes with the outer two serving as current sources and the inner as potential measuring points, (Sheriff, 1991):

$$K = 2\pi a$$

Where K = constant

a = inter-electrode spacing.

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Similarly, Schlumberger Configuration electrode arrangements were used in surface resistivity survey. It consists of four collinear electrodes with the outer two serving as current sources and the inner two (which were closely spaced about the midpoint of the outer points) serving as potential measuring point; see Table IV and Fig. IV above. This can be expressed as:

$$K = \frac{2\pi(L^2-l^2)}{2l}$$

Again, where K = Geo-electric constant.

$$\rho_a = K.R$$

= apparent resistivity

L = Distance between 1st and last electrodes (Two outer electrodes).

l = Distance between 2nd and 3rd electrodes (Two inner electrodes)

Table I: Resistance and Resistivity Readings at Igbole.

Station Number	Resistance	Resistivity
1	1.810	170.6106
2	1.528	144.0292
3	1.455	137.1483
4	1.119	105.4769
5	1.2	111.112
6	1.219	114.9029
7	1.15	108.399
8	0.962	90.67812
9	1.094	103.1204
10	1.019	96.05094

Source: Field Work

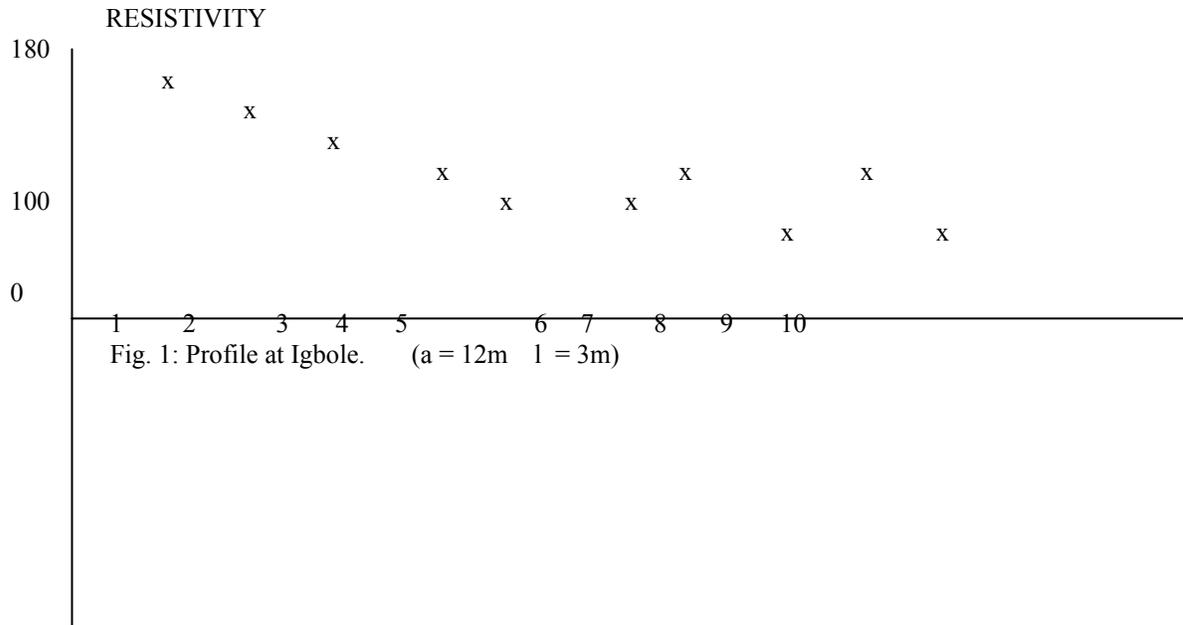


Table II: Resistance and Resistivity Reading at Saganun.

Station No.	Resistance	Resistivity
1	1.86	171.8110
2	1.552	146.1112
3	1.123	124.1121
4	1.116	106.0845
5	1.6	113.105
6	0.898	89.8821
7	1.221	115.0121
8	1.126	113.103
9	1.096	115.0101
10	1.018	95.10102

Source: Field Work

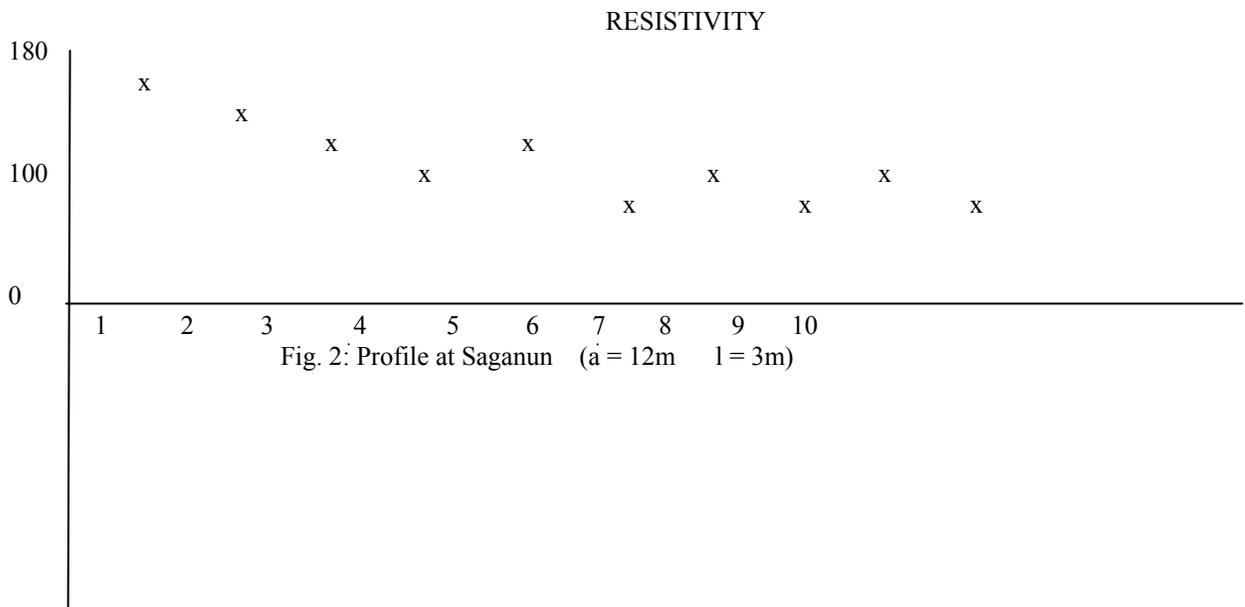


Table III: Resistance and Resistivity Readings at Oke-Odo.

Station Number	Resistance	Resistivity
1	1.78	162.6101
2	1.422	138.1210
3	0.891	88.7781
4	1.011	101.2887
5	1.2	110.013
6	0.92	114.2014
7	1.15	101.158
8	1.331	128.1282
9	1.090	98.01202
10	1.004	94.60502

Source: Field Work

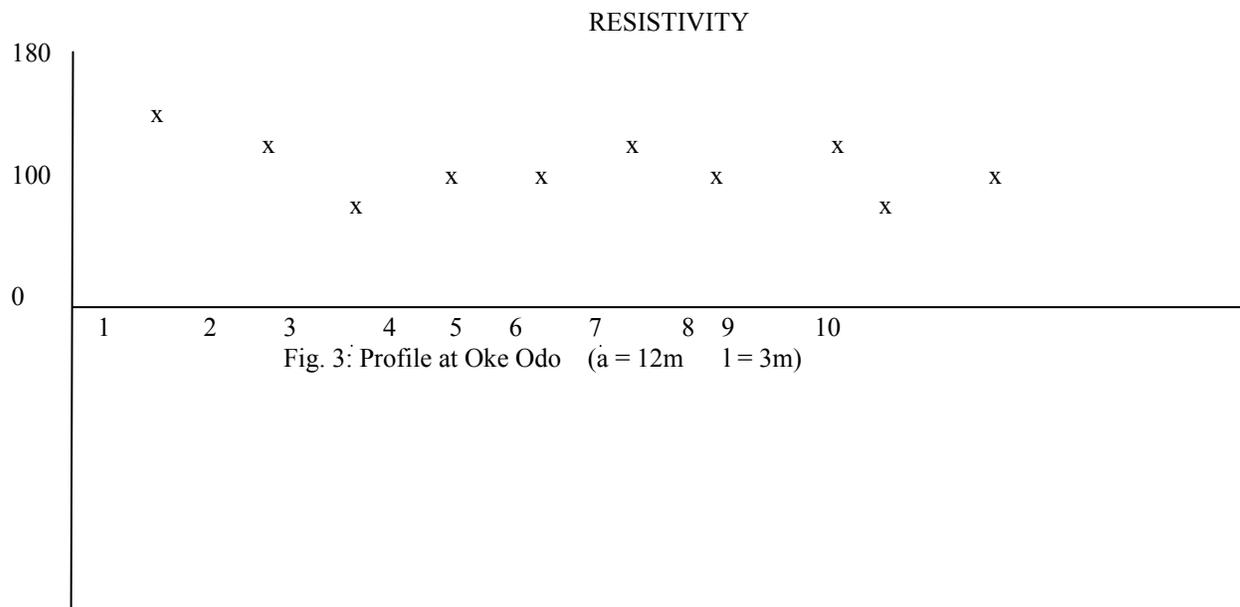


Fig. 3: Profile at Oke Odo (a = 12m l = 3m)

Table IV: Typical Schlumber's Configuration for Igbo-Ora.

No.	Distance	Resistivity
1	1.00	119.3300
2	1.50	114.7900
3	2.00	85.4600
4	2.50	73.6400
5	3.00	74.5300
6	4.00	72.5600
7	5.00	77.7700
8	6.00	78.0100
9	8.00	81.2500
10	10.00	80.5600
11	12.00	74.6300
12	15.00	71.2900
13	20.00	2.2300
14	5.00	56.4300
15	30.00	58.9100
16	35.00	60.1400
17	40.00	67.3300
18	45.00	86.3100

Source: **Field Work**

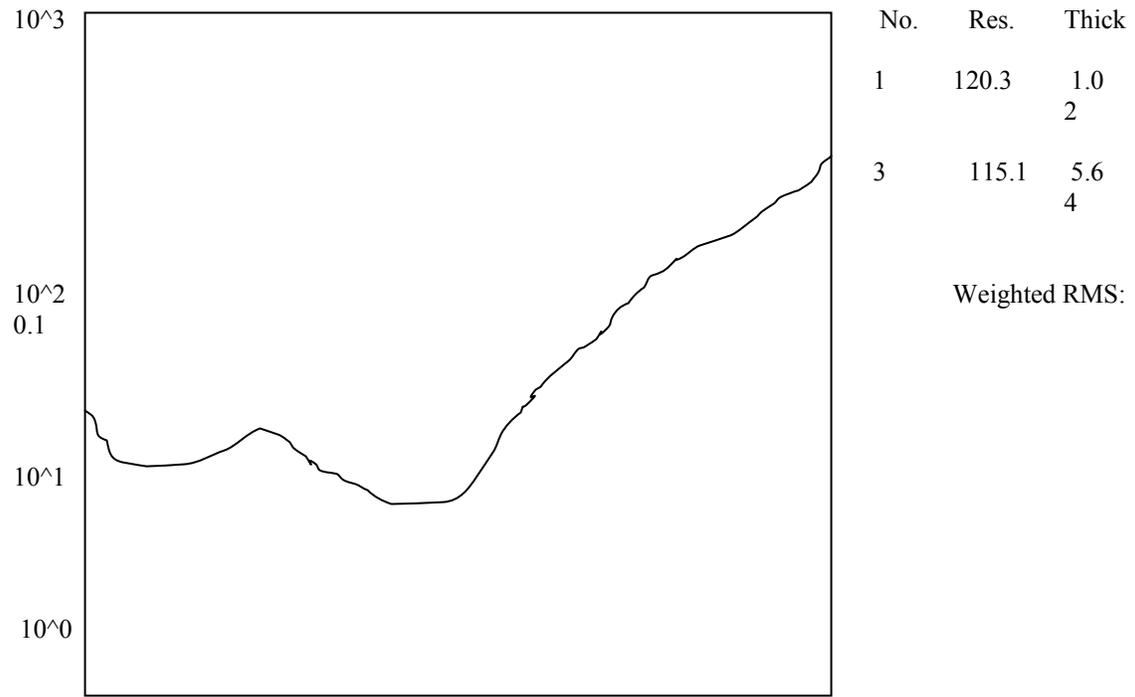


Fig. 4: Typical Schlumberger Configuration for Igbo-Ora

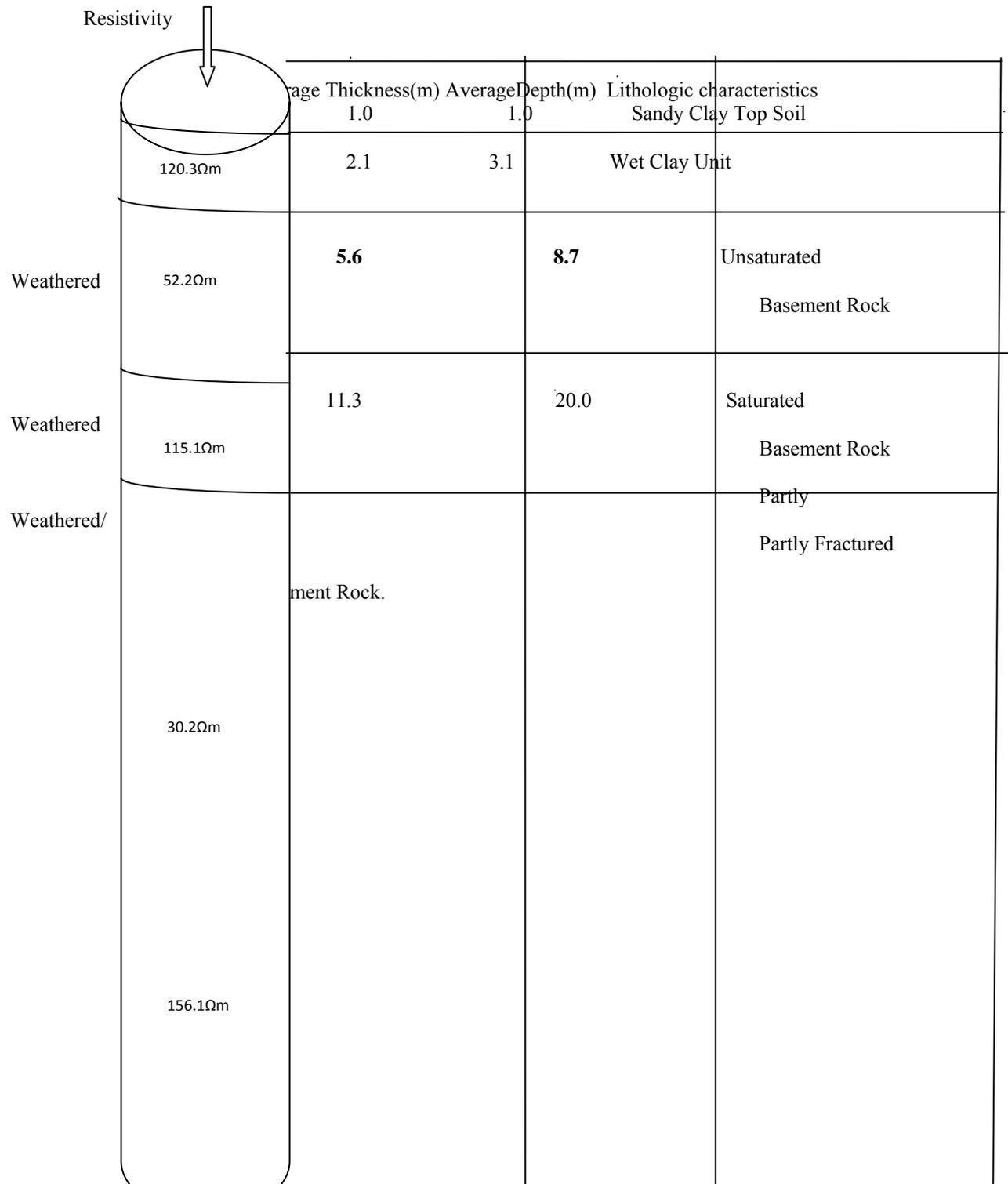


Fig. .5: Typical Geoelectric Section at the Sounding Positions at Igbo-Ora.

To suitably locate the best point for borehole, the ten stations of each location were examined using profiling. The least resistive points were sounded for better vertical resolution. The sounding data were processed with manual curve matching. This involves use of auxiliary and master curves. The obtained parameters were fed into the computer using resist programme for iteration to enhance better sub-surface resolution for geo-electric configuration (Trinity Composite Geosciences Services, 2008).

3. Results and Interpretation

The sounded points are 8, 6 and 3 at Igbole, Saganun and Oke Odo respectively. See Tables I, II, III and IV and Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The resistance and resistivity readings are 0.962 and 90.67812, 0.898 and 89.8821, and 0.891 and 88.7781 respectively on Tables I, II and III. All over, there are five layers of rocks: the topmost layer is the **sandy clay top soil** with average resistivity value of 120.3 Ω m and to the depth of about 1.00m and thickness of 1.00m too. See Fig. 5 above. The top soil is underlined by **wet clay unit** with average resistivity value of 52.2 Ω m and to the depth of about 3.1m on the average. Also, it is 2.1m thick averagely. Immediately beneath is the **unsaturated weathered basement rock** with resistivity value of 115.1 Ω m, thickness of 5.6m and depth of 8.7m. The fourth layer is the **saturated weathered basement rock**. The average resistivity, thickness and depth of the layers are 30.2 Ω m 11.3m and 20.0m respectively. The last layer is fairly deep. This work cannot determine the depth and thickness, but it is **partly weathered and partly fractured basement rock** with resistivity value of about 156.1 Ω m on the average. See Fig. 5 above.

4. Discussions and Conclusion

The type of rock in Igbo-Ora is predominantly massive granitic gneisses quartzite rock and mixed migmatized to unmigmatized gneisses suites. It is typically metamorphic environment which is underlain with granitic/quartzite suite. The curve type encountered is the HKH-curve which is a good indication of suitability for ground water storage and exploitation. The obtained sounding parameters suitably establish the overburden depth of 25m and feasible total drills of 35 - 38m that characterize the sounded points.

The rock dominating the area may be good aquifer as it is fracturally weathered and thus a good ground water reservoir. The results dispel the fear that any expenditure on borehole will be futile and unproductive effort. The three locations, Igbole, Saganun and Oke Odo have good potential for ground water supply that will worth the investment in boreholes and that will sustain development in the community. At Oke Odo, the aquifer has more potential to withstand high rate of discharge than the others. It is relatively thicker. In addition, the work has revealed the lithologic composition of the study area for purpose of engineering constructions and installations. Also, the aquifers and their depth of burial are now known.

The hole must be properly cased; and to a stable earth unit below the overburden unit to ensure longevity, quantity and quality production. Also in these regards, appropriate gravel packing and grouting will need to be applied in each case for better performance – uninterrupted and clean supplies.

Beyond reasonable doubt, this study has allayed the fear that Igbo – Ora does not have enough groundwater that may worth expending any amount of money for bore holes in the region. It is now a guide to all stake holders in ground water resource development and at the examination locations in particular, to explore and exploit ground water for sustainable development.

5. Conclusion

Igbo-Ora has come a long way in its growth and development. But potable water for sustainable development is a challenge. It hinders progress supply from the existing sources – rainfall and dew, streams, rivers and ponds, swamps and springs and the dam are inadequate. Igbo-Ora cannot afford to be stagnated in the course of its growth and development. Igbo-Ora must develop: there is no community that can develop without reasonable quantity of portable water. Therefore all tiers of Government and Non-Governmental agencies, have to wade-in to provide the community with water through boreholes. The prospects of boreholes are high in quite a number of locations within the locality.

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