## UNIT OPERATIONS AND UNIT PROCESSES OF WATER TREATMENT:

Unit operations are the physical operations to remove the impurities present in the water and waste water where as the unit processes are the chemical and biological conversion on the status of the impurities that they will be converted to a form that can be easily separated. Both are applied especially to make the fine colloidal particles to coalesce and grow in size to be removed from the water or waste water. There is no impurity that can be categorized as inorganic, it is named so for it takes time to disintegrate and had been to this hard form, free from decomposable matter with the ecological factors. We can find metal eating bacteria these days that makes the accelerated form to human use get decelerated to favor nature accommodate effectively as indigenous.

**Screens** are in use from the intake structure where they prevent the floating matter to enter into the pumping units, and fine and coarse screens are in use to treat waste water to prevent the entry of floating wastes and coarse solids into the treatment.

**Sedimentation** is simply detaining water for a sufficient time mostly in stagnant or relatively stagnant position to make the flow velocity of water less than the settling velocity of the solid particles that they without being driven by horizontal force settles down by gravity. The efficiency of the process depends on the detention time, how long the waste water remains within the sedimentation tank. When applied to individual units we need not reduce the flow velocity but make it stagnant as fill and draw type that the efficiency will be more. In the continuous flow type the flow velocity is reduced to the level of the minimum velocity which will not carry the particles with it according to stokes law that the vertical velocity, which is the settling velocity of the particle will be more than the horizontal drag velocity and the particle settles down. Mostly the tanks will be rectangular and we also have circular tanks where the flow will be from centre to periphery. Whatever may be the shape of the tank, it is the surface area which makes the travel of particles independent of others which makes the settling efficient that the depth has to be considered taking into effect the sludge accumulation and to prevent the reentry of particles back to flow.

**Filtration** is to the removal of fine particle sand dissolved solids where the fine sand layer and coarse sand layer below serves as the media to remove colloidal solids and the water remains completely free of solids. In trickling filters the waste water that trickles down gets oxidized that the organic matter grows in size and retained over the sand medium and bacteria assimilate on the organic matter to form layer on the surface which grows thicker and thicker to give more bacterial mass to act upon the organic solids. The bottom most layer becomes deprived of oxygen in due course of time that it sloughs and the same reaches the secondary settling tank where the same gets settled for its increased density.

**Odour and colour** present in water and waste water are removed by aeration and adsorption process.The odour and colour causing elements are adsorbed and aerated that the water is free from impurities for use and waste water for reuse and recycling. Toxic chemicals and metals too get adsorbed with suitable media for adsorption.

**Unit processes**:

**Flocculation** is a water treatment process where solids form larger clusters, or flocs, to be removed from water. This process can happen spontaneously, or with the help of chemical agents.

**Coagulation** is the chemical water treatment process used to remove solids from water, by manipulating electrostatic charges of particles suspended in water. This process introduces small, highly charged molecules into water to destabilize the charges on particles, colloids, or oily materials in suspension.

**Coagulants** are added to the water that the flocculent particles grow bigger in size which is by chemical reaction by rapid mixing and slow mixing and the coalescent particles which grew in size gets removed by settling. The coagulant we add changes the quality of water and the sludge volume too, and some of the coagulants add to bulking of sludge where the removal of moisture is difficult. Lime water instead of lime reduces the volume of sludge which is to all the solid coagulants. Liquid coagulants have more influence readily on coagulant particles than the solid coagulants which itself will take time to dissolve and react with the particles.

**Chlorination** is the process of adding chlorine or chlorine compounds such as sodium hypochlorite to water. This method is used to kill bacteria, viruses and other microbes in water. In particular, chlorination is used to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid.

The unit operations and processes can be applied in individual units of houses, colonies and industries that it gives fewer problems to the environment and handled with more efficiency. The entire process of sedimentation, filtration and hardness removal can be done at home, for removal of hardness we need not go for reverse osmosis which is much expensive on installation and maintenance but the simple lime soda process or boiling serve the purpose of both disinfection and hardness removal as the water from the top stratum of aquifer will not be saline in nature with chlorides and sulphates of calcium and magnesium as is seen common with river water discharged with domestic and industrial wastes. The lime soda solution can be sold commercially to separate salts in the tank and that can be removed very frequently. There are plant extracts that helps removing salinity too.