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**Influence of Ga doping on structural, optical and electrical properties of transparent conducting SnO<sub>2</sub> thin films**

Peddarapu Sivakumar<sup>1</sup>, Harish Sharma Akkera<sup>1</sup>, T.Ranjeth Kumar Reddy<sup>1</sup>, G.Srinivas Reddy<sup>1</sup>, Nagaiah Kambhala<sup>2</sup>, N.Nanda Kumar Reddy<sup>3</sup>

1. Department of Physics, School of Engineering, Presidency University, Yelahanka, Bangalore, 560064, Karnataka, India

2. Department of Physics, School of Sciences, Jain Deemed to be University, Bangalore, 560011, Karnataka, India

3. Department of Physics, Madanapalle Institute of Technology and Science, Madanapalle, 517325, AP, India

**Abstract**

Different concentrations (1, 3, and 5 at %) of Ga doped SnO<sub>2</sub> thin films were deposited onto glass substrate using sol-gel spin coating technique. X-ray diffraction studies revealed that all deposited films were exhibited tetragonal rutile structure of SnO<sub>2</sub> with preferred orientation along (110) direction. The AFM micrographs shown that the grains are in spherical structure, and the average grain size decreased with the increase of Ga doped concentration in SnO<sub>2</sub> lattice. In the visible light region, the average transmittance of pure SnO<sub>2</sub> film found to be above 85%, whereas Ga doped SnO<sub>2</sub> films were found to be a decrease of transmittance up to 74 % in 5 at % Ga doped SnO<sub>2</sub> film. The optical band gap energy values were considerably decreased from 3.92 to 3.68 eV with the increase of Ga content. Further, the sheet resistance (R<sub>sh</sub>) and resistivity ( $\rho$ ) values were found to be increased with the increase of Ga doping. The efficiency parameter figure of merit ( $\phi$ ) was estimated for all deposited films and it was found to be decreased from  $3.3 \times 10^{-3} \Omega^{-1}$  for pure SnO<sub>2</sub> to  $0.7 \times 10^{-3} \Omega^{-1}$  for 5 at % Ga doped SnO<sub>2</sub> film.

**Keywords:**

Dye doped crystal, Dielectric properties, Electrical conductivity

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