



Impact of Climate Change on Surface Water Resources in Chhattisgarh: A Review on Assessment, Vulnerabilities, Implications, and Adaptation Strategies

Anju Jangade¹, Bhumika Chandrakar¹, Mangal Singh Meravi¹, Sandeep Goyal¹, Deeksha Chandrakar¹

¹ Department of civil Engineering, Government Engineering College, Raipur, India

Abstract

Climate change poses significant threats to surface water resources in Chhattisgarh, India, affecting hydrological patterns, water availability, and ecosystem health. This paper assesses the impacts of climate change on surface water resources in Chhattisgarh, identifies vulnerabilities, explores implications for water security and socio-economic development, and proposes adaptation strategies. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature and data analysis, this study highlights the urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and ensure sustainable water management in the region.

Keywords: Climate Change, Surface Water Resources, Chhattisgarh, Assessment, Vulnerability, Implications, Adaptation Strategies.

I. Introduction:

Climate change is a global phenomenon with far-reaching consequences, and its impact on regions like Chhattisgarh, India, is of particular concern. Chhattisgarh, located in central India, is characterized by diverse ecosystems, including forests, rivers, and agricultural lands. It is known for its rich surface water resources, including rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. However, the region is experiencing the impacts of climate change, which pose significant challenges to water availability, quality, and management. The state faces the challenge of balancing economic development with environmental sustainability. This research proposal aims to assess the current state of climate change in Chhattisgarh, identify its impacts on local ecosystems, surface water resources and communities, explore its implication for various sector and propose adaptation strategies for sustainable development.

Objectives:

1. To analyse historical climate data to understand trends and patterns of temperature, precipitation, and extreme weather events in Chhattisgarh.
2. To assess the impacts of climate change on key sectors, including agriculture, water resources, biodiversity, and human health.
3. To review existing literature on climate change in the Chhattisgarh region, summarizing previous research findings, identifying gaps, and building upon existing knowledge.
4. To identify vulnerable communities and ecosystems in Chhattisgarh and evaluate their capacity to adapt to climate change.
5. To propose effective adaptation and mitigation strategies for Chhattisgarh based on the research findings.

II. Methodology:**a. Data Collection:**

- Gather historical climate data, including temperature, precipitation, and evaporation rates, from meteorological stations across Chhattisgarh.
- Collect surface water data, such as river discharge, water levels, and reservoir storage, from relevant government agencies and hydrological stations.
- Utilize remote sensing and GIS technology to analyse changes in land cover and land use, which may affect surface water dynamics.

b. Hydrological Modelling:

- Develop hydrological models using software such as HEC-HMS or SWAT to simulate surface water flows under different climate scenarios.
- Validate the models using observed data to ensure accuracy and reliability in predicting water availability and runoff patterns.

c. Climate Change Projections:

- Utilize global climate models (GCMs) to project future climate scenarios for Chhattisgarh.
- Downscale GCM outputs using regional climate models to obtain finer-scale projections of temperature, precipitation, and other relevant variables.

d. Impact Assessment:

- Analyse the projected changes in temperature and precipitation to assess their implications for surface water resources.
- Evaluate changes in streamflow, river discharge, and water availability under different climate scenarios.
- Assess the vulnerability of surface water systems to climate change-induced risks, such as droughts, floods, and changes in water quality.

Tools:

1. Climate Modelling Software: Utilize climate modelling software such as CMIP5 and regional climate models to simulate future climate scenarios.
2. GIS and Remote Sensing: Employ Geographic Information System (GIS) and remote sensing tools to analyse land-use changes, map vulnerable areas, and assess ecosystem health.
3. Statistical Software: Use statistical software (e.g., R, Python) for data analysis and trend identification in historical climate data.

III. Significance of Climate Change in Chhattisgarh:

1. Environmental Impact: Climate change poses a threat to biodiversity, ecosystems, and water resources, impacting the overall environmental health of Chhattisgarh.
2. Socio-economic Impact: Agriculture, a major livelihood source, is vulnerable to changing climate conditions, affecting food security and rural economies.
3. Human Health: Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns can influence the prevalence of vector-borne diseases and heat-related illnesses, affecting public health.
4. Policy Implications: The research findings will inform evidence-based policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Chhattisgarh.

IV. Implications:**a. Water Availability:**

- Climate change may alter the timing and magnitude of precipitation, leading to shifts in surface water availability.
- Decreased snowpack and glacier melt may affect river flows, particularly in the upper catchments of Chhattisgarh's rivers.

b. Water Quality:

- Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns can influence water temperature, nutrient loading, and sediment transport, affecting water quality.
- Increased frequency of extreme events may lead to pollution runoff and contamination of surface water bodies.

c. Ecosystem Health:

- Altered hydrological regimes may impact aquatic ecosystems, including fish populations, riparian habitats, and wetlands.
- Changes in water temperature and flow regimes can affect biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by surface water resources.

V. Adaptation Strategies:**a. Integrated Water Resource Management:**

- Develop and implement integrated water resource management plans that consider climate change impacts and prioritize sustainable water use practices.
- Promote water conservation measures, including rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and efficient irrigation techniques.

b. Infrastructure Resilience:

- Enhance the resilience of water infrastructure, such as dams, reservoirs, and embankments, to withstand extreme weather events and changing hydrological conditions.
- Invest in adaptive infrastructure designs that accommodate future climate uncertainties and changing water dynamics.

c. Ecosystem Restoration:

- Restore and protect riparian zones, wetlands, and floodplains to enhance natural water retention and filtration processes.
- Implement river restoration projects to improve ecological connectivity and enhance the resilience of aquatic ecosystems.

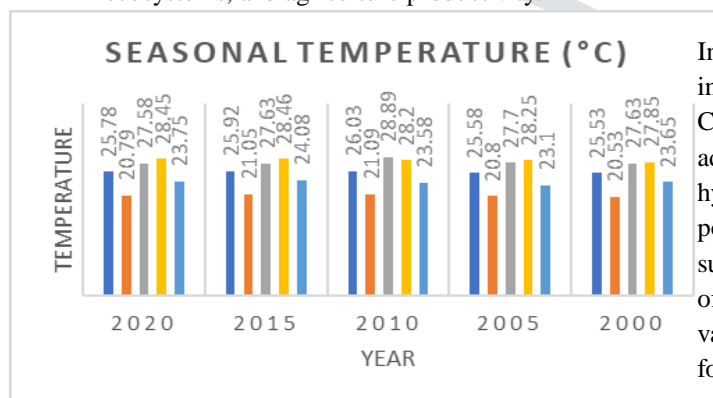
d. Community Engagement:

- Engage local communities and stakeholders in water resource management and climate adaptation planning.
- Raise awareness about climate change impacts on surface water resources and empower communities to participate in decision-making processes.

VI. Results and discussion:

The analysis reveals several key findings regarding the impacts of climate change in Chhattisgarh:

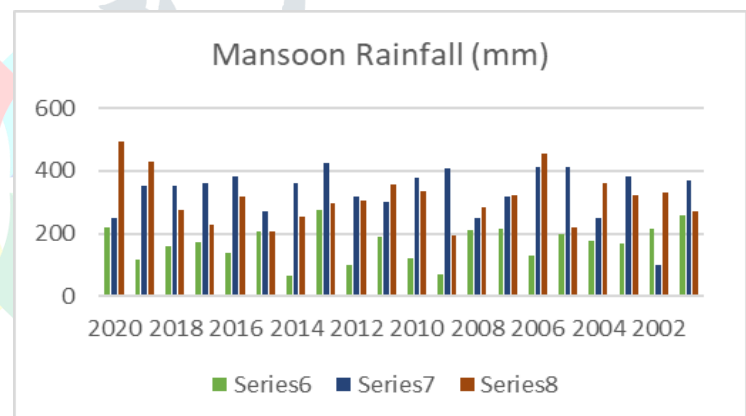
- Changes in precipitation patterns: Shifts in monsoon patterns leading to altered rainfall distribution and intensity, affecting agriculture and water availability.
- Temperature rise: Increasing temperatures exacerbating heat stress, affecting human health, ecosystems, and agriculture productivity.



- Impacts on agriculture: Changes in cropping patterns, reduced yields, and increased vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate risks.
- Water scarcity: Declining groundwater levels, drying of rivers and water bodies, and challenges in water resource management.
- Vulnerability of forests: Increased incidence of forest fires, habitat loss, and biodiversity degradation due to changing climatic conditions.

Discussion:

- The discussion section examines the implications of the results and explores potential adaptation strategies to address the challenges posed by climate change in Chhattisgarh. These strategies include:
- Sustainable agriculture practices: Promoting climate-smart agriculture techniques such as drip irrigation, crop diversification, and agroforestry to enhance resilience and productivity.
- Water conservation measures: Implementing rainwater harvesting, watershed management, and groundwater recharge initiatives to address water scarcity and ensure water security.
- Forest conservation and restoration: Protecting natural forests, restoring degraded landscapes, and enhancing forest resilience to wildfires and climate-induced stresses.
- Capacity building and awareness: Educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders about climate change impacts and adaptation strategies to foster informed decision-making and proactive responses.

**VII. Conclusion:**

In conclusion, this research work highlights the significant impact of climate change on surface water resources in Chhattisgarh and underscores the importance of proactive adaptation strategies. By integrating climate projections, hydrological modelling, and stakeholder engagement, policymakers can develop robust strategies to safeguard surface water availability, quality, and resilience in the face of ongoing climate change. This research will contribute valuable insights to the development of sustainable strategies for climate change adaptation in the region.

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