

A Temporal Study of Flood Damages in India: A Geographical View

Sneh Gangwar

*Assistant Professor, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi
sneh_geo2005@yahoo.co.in*

ABSTRACTS

In this paper a comprehensive temporal analysis of flood damages in India has been attempted on the basis of flood damages statistics published by Central Water Commission, New Delhi for a period of 55 years from 1953-2013. A close examination of the data revealed that flood affected area in India exhibited a discernible increasing trend. Also, the flood affected population in the country is increasing with a slope of 0.35 million people per year. The increasing trend in the flood affected population in India is in agreement with those reported in World Water Development reports and the finding of the impacts of the global flood disasters. Bihar has the highest number of flood affected people in India followed by Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Higher number of flood affected people in these states can be attributed to greater flood plain occupancy, high density of population and greater channel alternation by human structures. About 88875 human lives were lost due to flood disaster in India and this loss has progressively increased during 1953-2007. The total damage of public utilities such as rail, roads, telephone, electricity, industries etc. was reported to be about Rs. 4653.5 billion with an average of Rs. 81.6 billion per year. To sum up, almost all damages due to floods have exhibited an increasing trend since independence in India. The only logical explanation to the fact is that the concentration of the population in the most flood prone areas has increased remarkably in recent years and the water-carrying capacity of the rivers have been affected by hapahazards development along the rivers.

Keywords: flood, temporal analysis, damage assessment, impact, spatial effects.