

# ASSESSMENT OF EROSIONAL HAZARDS IN THE HIMALAYA: A CASE STUDY OF CHAMOLI DISTRICT IN UTTAR PRADESH (INDIA)

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The needs of Man, the most intelligent and able living being on earth, are growing day by day with the rapid advancement of human civilisation . To fulfil his needs, Man has been exploring and exploiting Nature, regardless of the crucial intricate interrelationships within ecosystems. As a result, ecosystems are deteriorating, which may ultimately threaten the very survival of the human race.

Chamoli, an administrative unit in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India, is situated on lofty, sharply precipitous slopes. The area is extremely vulnerable to concentrated thunderstorms, high rainfall, structurally crushed folded and faulted rock strata, weak geology, and poor and highly-erodible soil which is subjected to faulty practices. Chamoli, being located in a geostrategic and sensitive area on the border of India and China, has received some attention; and for efficient communication, roads are being constructed on the high and steep mountains. Keeping in mind the ecological vulnerability, strategic location of the area, and the soil being the fundamental resource, erosion hazards in the district have been taken as the topic of research in this paper.

We must leave to future generations a healthy environment, complete with all its diversity and beauty. For successful management programmes, an explicit understanding of the structure and function of the ecosystem is the need of the day.