

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ANTHROPOGENIC PRESSURE ON THE RIVERS OF PENINSULAR INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Changing climate pose a serious threat to the rivers of peninsular India, challenging securities in food, water and energy. Shifts in regional climate together with human interference make perennial rivers seasonal. Predicted extremes in climate will have serious impact on water resources, with reflections on all facets of life. Entire region becomes increasingly vulnerable to seasonal floods and droughts, affecting food production with impact on rural life and economy, leading to serious social issues like migration and conflicts. This paper assesses the impact of climate change on the river basins of Peninsular India, and their reflections in socio-economic, environmental, health and power sectors. Existing policies and strategies have been critically reviewed. There is an urgent need for an appropriate policy, strategies for adaptation and management and an efficient mechanism for their implementation. Guidelines for this have been provided, in view of changing climate and increasing anthropogenic impacts on the environment.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: climate change, anthropogenic pressure, river basins, Peninsular India, adaptation, management