



**RUSSELL SQUARE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI**



DIGITIZATION AND BEYOND

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INDEX

NO. TOPICS	PAGE NO.
SECTION I (EDUCATION, LAW AND EARTH SCIENCE'S)	
1. DIGITALIZATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: COSTS AND BENEFITS - KISHORE G. KULKARNI.....	9
2. LEGAL ISSUES OF DIGITALIZATION OF MEDICAL RECORDS IN INDIA - ASHA SUNDARAM.....	12
3. REMOTE SENSING AND GIS APPLICATION FOR DEMARCATION OF WATERSHEDS: A CASE STUDY OF SANGMESHWAR TALUKA, RATNAGIRI DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA) - DR. NARENDRA P. TENDOLKAR, DR. SARDAR A. PATIL	17
4. CHANGE DETECTION STUDY OF WESTERN SUBURBS OF MUMBAI USING REMOTE SENSING & GIS - AMRITA ANILKUMAR AGRAWAL.....	20
5. CYBER BULLYING IN INDIA: BIG CHALLENGE IN DIGITAL AGE - MR. WAMAN R. PARULEKAR, MRS. VISMAYI W. PARULEKAR, MR. KISHOR R. BHOSALE	26
6. CYBER LAWS: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE - SATISH M. DHOKE, ARUNA G. POTE	29
7. RECLAIMED FROM THE SEA: A DIGITAL CARTOGRAPHIC TRAJECTORY OF MUMBAI - SMITA GANDHI, SUDHA SRIVASTAVA, DIPTI MUKHERJI, PRASAD GOGATE.....	34
8. IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION ON EDUCATION-PROBLEMS AND PROSPECT - A. B. CHAKRAVARTY	43
9. INDIA'S EDUCATION SECTOR: MOVING TOWARD A DIGITAL FUTURE - PROF. VIPULA MAHINADRAKAR	46
10. HOW DIGITALIZATION MAKES EDUCATION EASIER - DARSHAN MODI, ZAID JAMKHANDI, BILAL SAYED.....	50
11. DIGITIZATION FOR SPEEDY JUSTICE – AN ANALYSIS - PROF. K. SUDHAKAR REDDY	56
SECTION II (FINANCE, MANAGEMENT, MEDIA AND ADMINISTRATION)	
12. PROGRESSION OF DIGITIZATION AND MEDIA - KUMAR KETKAR.....	62
13. ECONOMIC VALUE ADDED AS A PERFORMANCE MEASURE - RELATIVE COMPARISON WITH MVA & DIGITIZATION - CA. REETA SHAH, PROF. S.V.D.N. RAO	65
14. IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION IN MEDIA - SUNJAY AWATE.....	70
15. THE DIGITIZED SOCIETY - CHANDRA SHEKHAR NENE.....	72
16. SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES PROS AND CONS - SATISH G. ATHAWALE	75
17. DIGITIZATION OF INDIAN NEWSPAPERS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES - MS. DEEPTI GANAPATHY, DR. M. S. SAPNA.....	82
18. E-GOVERNANCE: A POLICY TO CREATE INCLUSIVENESS - DR. GOUTAM G. SAHA	87
19. A UNIQUE VIRTUAL NGO - MALAIKA KAURA.....	91
20. DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATION IN BUSINESS - DR. ZULEIKA F. HOMAVAZIR, MR. MALCOLM F. HOMAVAZIR.....	95
21. DIGITIZATION: POSITIVES & NEGATIVES - PROF. PRAGYA GULATI	99
22. ONLINE CONSUMER BUYING THE WAY AHEAD IN MODERN INDIA - SAMEER. A. VIRANI.....	103
23. TV ADVERTISEMENTS AND ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN - SACHIN S. HATOLE	111
24. A STUDY OF CONSUMER PURCHASE BEHAVIOR IN ONLINE MARKETS - MS. RASHMI KANITKAR.....	117

NO. TOPICS

PAGE NO.

SECTION III (SCIENCE, HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY)

25. BUILDING REAL-TIME BUSINESS ANALYTICS CAPABILITIES USING IN-MEMORY COMPUTING - BISWADIP GHOSH, LANE GILLESPIE.....124

26. DECRYPTING THE HISTORY OF CRYPTOGRAPHY - SUSHANT PAWAR, VAIBHAV PAWAR128

27. DIGITIZATION AND MEDICINE - DR. ASHWINI NABAR.....131

28. A BIG DATA INFRASTRUCTURE: OVERVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH OPEN SOURCE PRODUCTS - PROF. KISHOR R. BHOSALE, PROF. VIDULA K. BHOSALE, PROF. WAMAN R. PARULEKAR133

29. INNOVATIVE DIGITALIZATION FOR TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEM - HUZEFA BOOTWALA, INSIYA ZIYA, SHOEB ANSARI.....137

30. IMPROVED VISION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY - SMRUTI NANAVATY, SWAPNALI LOTLIKAR, BABITA KACHROO141

31. QUICK RESPONSE CODES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR MOBILE MARKETING - PALLAVI K. MHATRE.....146

32. FRACTALS AND FRACTAL DIMENSION - NEHAL MANIAR.....152

33. MICRO WEB SERVER BASED MULTIPLE PATIENT MONITORING SYSTEM IN - DIMPLE D. BAVLECHA, ARCHANA SHUKLA.....155

34. 2G, 3G AND NOW 4G – AND BEYOND... HEADING FOR TECHNOLOGICAL PROSPERITY OR DEARTH OF HEALTH? - DR. VINOD MORESHWAR VAZE157

SECTION IV (HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCE'S)

35. EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION ON INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM - DR. SHAILENDRA DEOLANKAR165

36. DIGITAL AGE FOR RURAL INDIA - MRS. DHANASHREE JOSHI.....168

37. DIGITISING MUSEUM RESOURCES: A CASE STUDY OF DR. BHUA DAJI LAD MUSEUM - DR. R. K. CHEEMA171

38. SILICON VALLEY TO GENOME VALLEY: INDUSTRY-ACADEMIC INTERFACE – A CASE STUDY - DR S. S. BARVE174

39. IMPACT OF DIGITALISATION ON LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY RESOURCES - SHAIKH S. SIMEE176

40. IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION ON FOLK LITERATURE - DR. PATIL VIJAYKUMAR AMBADASRAO182

41. IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GAMBLING - PROF. SAVINA R. CRASTO187

42. DIGITAL PRESERVATION FOR CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: A CASE FOR AROMATIC CULTURE OF KANNAUJ - JYOTI MARWAH, SHAKTI VINAY SHUKLA192

43. RENEGOTIATING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES: A PSYCHO-SOCIO PERSPECTIVE OF FACEBOOK - OMKAR BHATKAR198

44. DIGITISING MUSEUM RESOURCES : DIGITAL ARCHIVES: BOON TO HISTORICAL RESEARCH - DR SWAPNA SAMEL203

45. THE DIGITIZATION OF THE MAHATMA: A CASE STUDY OF ETERNAL GANDHI MULTIMEDIA MUSEUM - DR NAMITA NIMBALKAR.....208

46. THE AGE OF THE INTERNET AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF IDENTITY - DR. KEITH SHARP, MR. ANDREW DIMARCO211

47. RESEARCHING ONLINE: SOME ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS - ANDREW DI MARCO & KEITH SHARP217

REMOTE SENSING AND GIS APPLICATION FOR DEMARCATION OF WATERSHEDS: A CASE STUDY OF SANGMESHWAR TALUKA, RATNAGIRI DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)

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1.0 Introduction:

Watershed is a basic hydrologic unit, and hydrologic and ecologic processes govern the quality of soil and water resources within the watershed. It can be defined as a delineated area with a well-defined topographic boundary and water outlet (Mishra, Archana, 2005). The watershed is an important source of drinking water and only protected watershed can provide pure water to drink. Recently central government of India has introduced Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) (<http://dolr.nic.in>) at village level. Watershed management is a term meant to capture the sum of the actions taken to preserve and maintain watersheds. Demarcation of watersheds and its mapping is a vital important for the sustainable watershed management. For the sustainable watershed management, delineation of micro watersheds is prerequisite condition. Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System (GIS) plays an important role in the demarcation of watersheds. It creates easily readable, rapidly accessible maps and database, which facilitates the administrators and planners to identify micro watersheds. In recent decades, remote sensing and GIS techniques are used to demarcate watersheds for both research and operational applications. In the present research paper, an attempt is made to demarcate watersheds of the study region by using remote sensing and GIS technology.

2.0 STUDY REGION:

For the present research paper, Sangmeshwar taluka of the Ratnagiri district is selected as a study region. The Sangmeshwar Taluka is located in the eastern part of the Ratnagiri district. It covers an area about 1275.5 sq. km. Chiplun taluka in the north, Ratnagiri taluka in the west, Lanja taluka in the south bound the taluka. The Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara districts bound the eastern boundary of the taluka. It is located between 16° 54' 15.9803" north and 17° 19' 55.5366" north latitudes and 73° 24' 52.5850" east and 73° 50' 38.9990" east longitudes (Fig. 1). The altitude of the taluka is ranges between 1 meter and 1038 meters from Mean Sea Level (MSL). The east-west length of the study region is 32 km while north-south width is 40 km, in an average. The population of the taluka is 2, 14, 819 persons, according to 2001 census.

3.0 OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of the present study is to demarcate micro watersheds by using remote sensing and GIS technology and create database for the same.

4.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present research work is entirely based on satellite data. Hence, Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) Global Digital Elevation Model (GDEM) satellite data of the study region downloaded from the internet through Global Mapper GIS Software. The shape file of the taluka boundary is also downloaded from the DIVA-GIS.

After downloading the ASTER-GDEM satellite data, it has been cropped to study region by using Global Mapper GIS software. For that purpose, the shape file of the study region is used. After cropping,

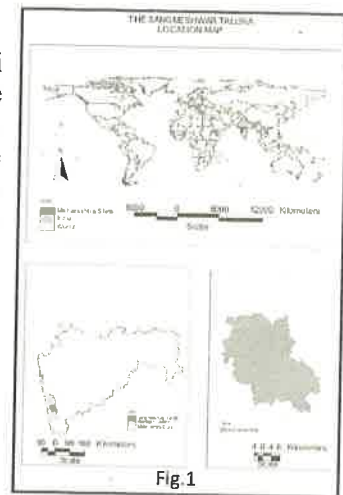
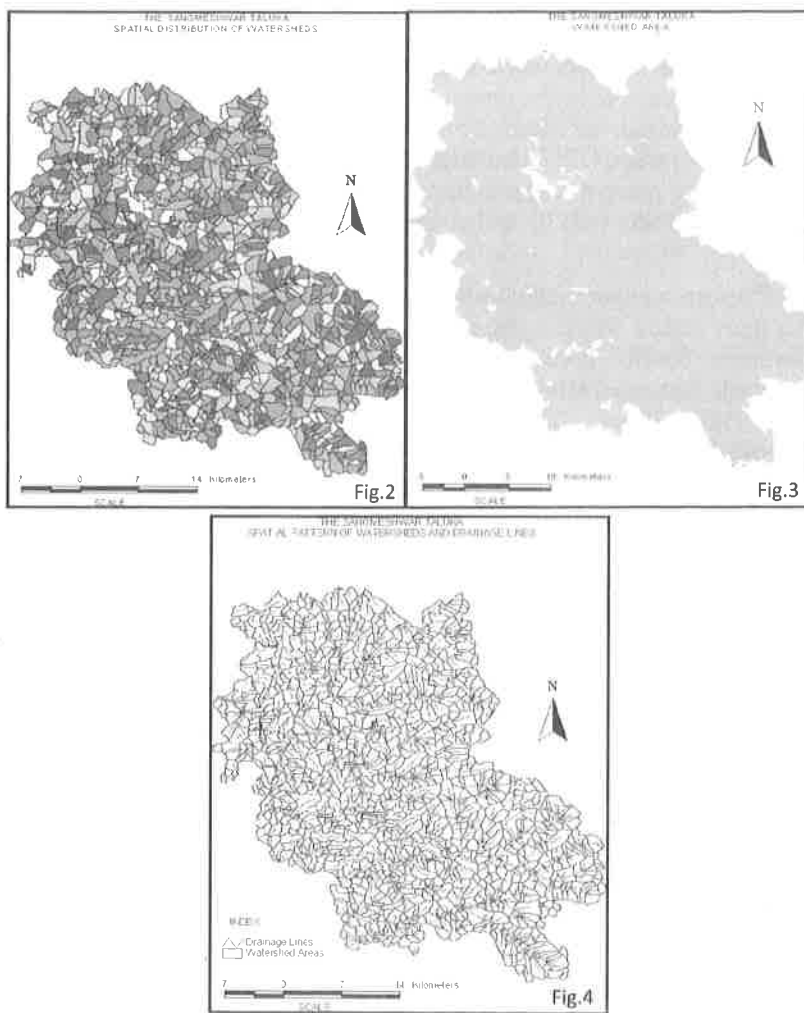


Fig. 1

watersheds have generated by using generate watershed tool in Global Mapper GIS Software. The export tool of the Global Mapper is used to export the shape file of the watersheds demarcated. The attribute data of the watersheds is exported to the ms-excel for further processes. The location map and final output map of the same is prepared by using Arc-View 3.2 GIS software.

5.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

There are 1233 total number of watersheds demarcated in the study region (Fig. 2). Most of the watersheds are very micro in nature. Thirty-three watersheds have drained area less than one square km. The drained area of 472 watersheds is ranges between one and five sq. km. The drained area between five and nine sq. km. is observed in 193 watersheds and between nine and thirteen sq. km. in 126 watersheds. Drained area of more than 49 sq. km has recorded in 131 watersheds. Ninety-seven and twenty-five watersheds have recorded drained area more than 100 sq. km and 200 sq. km. respectively. The lowest drained area of a watershed is 509 sq. mt. and its estimated maximum flow of water is 502 cusecs whereas the highest drained area is 262.72 sq. km. and its estimated maximum flow of water is 259354 cusecs. It is interesting to note that No. of watersheds have been decreasing with increase in drained area (Table-I). The figure No. 2, 3 and 4 denotes the spatial pattern of watersheds in the study region.



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Table-I
The Sangmeshwar Taluka
Watersheds and Drained Area

Sr. No.	Drained Area in sq. km.	No. of Watersheds	Sr. No.	Drained Area in sq. km.	No. of Watersheds
1	Less than 1	33	8	25-29	24
2	1-5	472	9	29-33	22
3	5-9	193	10	33-37	29
4	9-13	126	11	37-41	13
5	13-17	68	12	41-45	12
6	17-21	44	13	45-49	11
7	21-25	41	14	More than 49	131

Source: Attribute data.

6.0 Conclusions:

There are 1233 total number of watersheds have been demarcated for the study region, by using modern technology. The study reveals that the lowest drained area of a watershed is 509 sq. mt. and its estimated maximum flow of water is 502 cusecs whereas the highest drained area is 262.72 sq. km. and its estimated maximum flow of water is 259354 cusecs. It is also observed that No. of watersheds are decreasing with increase in drained area. For the sustainable watershed management, delineation of watershed is necessary. The modern technology like remote sensing and GIS plays very significant role in the demarcation of watersheds. Remote sensing satellites provide synoptic view of the study region. This advanced sensor technology alongwith GIS has provided immense scope to the mapping and analysis of watersheds.

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