

OF LAND USE LAND COVER CHANGES ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF WESTERN HIMALAYA

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ABSTRACT

The present research is an attempt to examine and investigate the impact of land use land cover changes on the environmental sustainability and livelihood security of the local community in the Upper Kullu Valley of the Western Himalaya. Research is based on both the primary as well as secondary data sources. For the primary data were collected through Direct Field Investigation Technique (DFIT) based on Stratified Random Sampling (SRS) Technique. The secondary data were collected from various Governmental as well nongovernmental offices working in the field of Himalayan environment and sustainability.

In the Himalayan geosystem, changing relationship between man and environment have brought about irreversible changes in the ecosystem those of fast depleting forest cover, of the dismantling soil layer and the sediment laden stream, off increasing number of landslips, of changing glacier behavior and increasing number of avalanches hence, frequent occurrences of the hazards have become a common phenomenon.

Increasing anthropogenic activities particularly urbanization and industrialization have altered the micro-climatic condition by increasing the level of pollution mainly a large-scale emissions of the vehicular pollution. Drying up of the perennial springs, sinking glaciers and monsoonal anomaly have already investigated. Government of India has also approved the above facts during the last meeting of the Members of Parliament.

Present research has investigated the History of the past 50 years of the land use land cover changes and related environmental degradation in the Western Himalaya. At the end, the author has suggested various techniques to improve the environmental sustainability and to gain livelihood security in the Himalayan geosystem.