

Problem and Challenges Of Water Resources In India: An Overview

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Abstract

Water is the most invaluable natural resource for the sustenance of life on Earth. The country of India is well endowed with networks of various major and minor rivers, both perennial and monsoon or rain fed. Along with these rivers, multitudes of lakes, ponds and underground aquifers contribute to the country's freshwater reservoir. India has about 4% of the world's water resources. With a staggering large population of about 1.21 billion (according to Census 2011) the country struggles to meet their requirements of clean and safe water for utilization.

Water scarcity and non-availability, its overuse and misuse has created a situation of crisis all around the world and India is no different. This article aims to discuss the water resources available in India, substantiated by the data assessed from various governmental institutes such as Water Resource Information System of India (WRIS), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) etc. Furthermore, the study elucidates the problems and challenges faced by the country in terms of sustainable development of its water resources. It also ventures to suggest the ways for better planning and management in order to efficiently tackle these grave water crisis situations.

Introduction

India is endowed with a rich and vast diversity of natural resources, water being one of them. Water, which sustains life on earth, is an invaluable natural resource. Earth is the only planet in the entire solar system which supports life, because it contains water. Three fourth of earth's surface is covered with water but only a small proportion of it accounts for fresh water fit for use. 96.5 per cent of the total volume of world's water is estimated to exist as oceans and only 2.5 per cent is fresh water. Water resources constitute one of the vital asset of any country. The rainfall in India shows very high spatial and temporal variability.

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