**A review of Chhattisgarh’s forested watersheds: Research gaps and recommendations**

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**Abstract**

Forested plays a very crucial role in meeting the agricultural, domestic and industrial need. Apart from them it also serve as the foundation for providing numerous ecosystem services to the society. The central Indian state Chhattisgarh stands in 3rd position in terms of geographical area covered by forests covering an area of 55,7171 sq. km. These forests attracts rain and are the major source of water for the watersheds.

This paper provides a detailed overview of the state’s watersheds. The Mahanadi River Basin (MRB) is the most important and dominant river basin, covering 56.2% of the land area, followed by Godavari RB (28.6%), Ganga RB (13.6%), Brahmani RB (1.0%) and Narmada RB (0.6%). More than 100 research papers from the renowned journals were examined for a detailed and in-depth review. Various aspects of forested watersheds include land use and land cover studies, biodiversity along the watershed catchment area, soil erosion and sedimentation status of dams and reservoirs, various aspects of watershed management, morphometric analysis, stream flow estimation, watershed modelling, and impacts of climate change. Due to steady population growth, industrialization and increasing demand for irrigation and industrial water, watersheds are experiencing moderate to severe water stress. River water quality has also deteriorated in various places due to the discharge of industrial effluents, overuse of agrochemicals and domestic sewage.

The present work also examined the demand-supply gap of different watersheds and effective protection measures. Research also seeks to explore the importance of forested watersheds in terms of climate change adaptation and the achievement of sustainable development goals. This review can further contribute to the efficient management of the state’s forested watersheds.

**Keywords: River Basin (RB), catchment area, management, forested watershed**