

Technical and Social Impact Assessment of Watershed based intervention in Badrighat, Tehri Garhwal District, Uttaranchal

Investigators: **Omprakash, M.D. ; Banerjee, V.S.**

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Livelihood of majority of the people living in hilly areas depends on natural resources. Soil moisture and water crisis is accelerated due to recent abnormality in the precipitation in these regions. A study was conducted in Badrighat, Upper Yamuna sub-basin, Jounpur block, Tehri-Garhwal district, to assess the watershed interventions in the area and to document the impact of the projects on local ecology, socio-economic conditions of the people living therein. The main objectives of the study were: 1) To map and quantify the impact of development projects on natural resources; 2) To study the conflict between various committees working in the village; 3) To measure the attitudinal, and physical changes due to development projects.

The current study attempted assessment of works carried out by the Indo-German Bilateral Project (IGBP) and JFM. The Society for Promotion of Development (SPD), a voluntary organization implemented IGBP program as a NGO partner in the study area. SHG's were constituted in 17 villages and various income-generating activities Bunaya – wool, Alloo chips making, Designing/ embroidery etc. have been initiated. In the last one year the groups were able to save over rupees 1.5 lakh and Rs 50,000 was lend out for various income generation activities. Due to the small field size and high slope, the modern techniques in cultivation can not be implemented in the area. The remote sensing data suggests that there is a change in the ecology and vegetation in the watershed area. There is a positive change in the cultivated area due to the soil conservation activity, which combated the nala cutting in the region. The decrease in the closed canopy is the major concern, which indicates the pressure has diverted from JFM area into reserved forest areas.