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The Historical Review Of Flood

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Abstract:Flood is a natural phenomenon in response to heavy rainfall but it becomes a hazard when it inflicts loss to the lives and properties of the people (K.Siddharth 2001).
Flood is a relatively high flow which overtakes the natural channel provided for the run off. (Chaw, 1956). Flood is most common disaster occurred in all over the world. Many countries faces flood in the world. History of flood is discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Flood , natural phenomenon , Historical , Geography.

INTRODUCTION:

Flood is period of high discharge of a river, resulting from conditions such as heavy precipitation, intense melting of snow and ice, the breaching of natural barriers, such as ice, dams, the collapse of man made barrages etc. (Dictionary of Geography , 1995).

River flood has been defined as 'events' of such magnitude that the channels can not accommodate the peak discharge, in other words, flood is a flow in excess of channel capacity and results in inundation of low lying flat land adjacent to the channel. Floods may occur seasonally or at more irregular intervals. The term flood is also used in a wider sense to refer to the inundation of land by other than river water, e.g. as a result of high lake levels resulting from exceptionally high precipitation or abnormally high sea levels during the storms.

INTERNATIONAL FLOODS

The country like floods from two sides threatens Netherland: the sea and the rivers. (Johannes, 1987).

In May 1990, heavy rainstorm caused floods in Texas, flooding more than 200 square miles along the Trinity River. A record 100,800 cubic feet of water passed through Lake Livingston Dam, destroying crops Far East. More than 700,000 acres of Louisiana farmland were covered with water.

According to some scientists, the record floods of 1990 were caused by global warming; the theory that the earth's atmosphere traps heat nears the earth, slowly warming the earth. This greenhouse effect may have heated the water in the Gulf of Mexico, causing it to evaporate faster. With more water vapor in the lower atmosphere, small storms escalated into large systems with lot of moisture. These storms moved over the southern United States and released a torrent of rain that led to massive flooding. If the global warming theory is correct, sea levels will rise three to five feet in 60 years. Coastal areas may be partially submerged underwater or easily flooded. (library /thinkquest.org)

Other seasonal weather conditions can also cause floods. In September 1982, large amounts of rain fell in Utah, followed by heavy winter snows. In May, an unexpected heat wave melted the snow, causing water to cascade down the mountain slopes. The water raced into Salt Lake City and through much of the plains.

National Floods

Floods are an annual feature in one or the other part of India and are considered the most devastating hazards, which occur frequently all over the northern India. The legendary city of Rohtak, due to its saucer shaped topography, is considered often more vulnerable to floods. That's why in twentieth century; the city has experienced devastating floods in the years of 1933, 1960, 1983 and 1995. (Sangwan, 1999).

The August 2006, floods in Rajasthan Thar desert, western Rajasthan have affected around 8 lakh people (30 % of population of Barmer district) as well as live stock. Floods in the area have taken a few hundred human lives and few thousand cattle have also lost their lives.

Heavy rains (601 mm against the normal annual rainfall of 227 mm) in Barmer area flooded the depressions and plains particularly underlain by clays bentonite and fuller earth (Tertiary) and gypsite (Quaternary). The most affected villages include Malawa, Kayas and Bhadaka. (Current Science, 2007).

18 major rivers recorded the highest floods which were 5 m and more above their respective danger level at 28 gauge sites. Only 6 major rivers at 8 gauge sites recorded the highest floods, also called worst floods, which were 10 m and more above their danger level. The highest ever recorded flood in India was recorded in the Teesta River in October, 1968 at Anderson Bridge in North Bengal which stood 18.10 m. above the danger level. Monsoon months of August and September were found to be the worst flood affected months of the country during 20 years period from 1966 to 1985, the flood affected states were those of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and

Assam. (Dhar, Mulye, Mandal 1986).

MAHARASHTRA FLOOD

In the monsoon of 2006, the state of Maharashtra experienced the floods causing heavy damages to the life and property. This was happening consecutively for the second year. The State had to bear too much loss in terms of agricultural products, life and property. Moreover it had to divert substantial amount of funds towards the relief measures.

The area which were worst affected during these floods were Western Maharashtra – Sangali and Kolhapur district in Krishna proper and Pandharpur city on river Bhima sub-basin, Marathawada- Nanded city and areas below Paithan dam along the Godavari, Vidarbha –Bhandara District in Wainganga sub basin.

In Marathwada the floods of 2006 worst affected the areas below Paithan dam along river Godavari and Nanded city. These floods occurred in this region during the period 25 July to August 14, 2006. The highest daily rainfall of 396 mm at Yeldari was observed during this period. The rainfall during the flood period (25 July to 14 August 2006) was 690.8 mm. which was about 47.5% of total annual rainfall (1453 mm.) Heavy floods in year 2005 and 2006 due to intense rainfall.

CONCLUSION:

Floods at international level occurred due to heavy rainstorm, Green house effect, Global warming, snow melt; heat wave melted the snow, causing water to cascade down the mountain slopes. Coastal areas may be partially submerged underwater or easily flooded.

In India flood is occurred due to mostly due to heavy rainfall, in Rohtak saucer shaped topography is main cause of flood.

In Maharashtra flood is occurred mainly due to heavy rainfall in monsoon season and heavy rainfall in catchment area.

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