PREFACE

Fluvial environment is a synthesis of geological, hydrological and geomorphologic conditions and processes which includes a wide spectrum of aspects. Bank erosion is a major geomorphic process of such environment. However due to the huge amount of sedimentation and variation in the flow regime in the river Ganga, it has assumed alarming proportion in Malda and the morphology and behavior of Ganga has undergone drastic changes. The course of the Ganga continues to change unabated. Since the flow of river intercepted at many points, the sedimentation of the riverbed has increased. The huge load of boulders utilized in anti-erosion works are dislodged every year and deposited on the riverbed. Thus the morphology and behaviour of river Ganga has undergone drastic changes due to its variation in flow regimes and pattern of sediment transportation.

The problem has been aggravated since 1931.The villages of Manikchak, Panchanandapur, Bangitola and villages of Kaliachak blocks suffer from devastating floods as floods and erosion are interlinked. Due to the recession of the bank line large scale displacement of the people is taking place as erosion and flooding of large tracks of productive agricultural land, human settlements and infrastructure has caused enormous financial loss. This has resulted in many problems like that of land reallocation which has created a class of neo-refugees.

Incorporating these aspects in the proper perspective will contribute greatly to a better understanding of the fluvio-environmental adjustments and ecological balance in the study area. Considering the huge magnitude of its nature and harmonizing the river system with the environmental system, effective and environment-friendly monitoring and maintenance of activities as immediate solution in relation to land loss problem, sympathetic response to rehabilitation of the affected people needs to be done. Thus, the present study correlates the various aspects of the fluvial environment with the existing geo-environmental scenario of the basin for evolving a suitable strategy for environmental planning and resource management.

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