

LANDSCAPE OF KANNUR: A GEOMORPHOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

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ABSTRACT

Geomorphology is the study of landforms and the analysis of processes that shape them. The most significant fact about the earth surface is that each area is unique and has its own assemblage of bio-physical setting. Since the combination of landforms and geomorphic processes varies from one region to the other, a proper understanding of them is essential for planning and development. Kannur is one of the fourteen districts of Kerala located in its northern part. It is characterized with diversified surface relief and distinctive geomorphic processes. The land undulates from steep slopes of Western Ghats in the east to the seashore in the west having a series of hills and valleys intersected by streams and rivers. Elevation ranges from 10 to 1800 meters. The geological formations in the district range from Precambrian to recent age. Kannur district is endowed with a well- developed drainage system. The district has a humid climate with an oppressive hot season from March to the end of May. Physical conditions are most ideal for insitu weathering and laterization. Isolated lateritic mesas rise abruptly all along the midlands of the district. Landscape possesses innumerable permutation combinations and their arrangement over the space is a basic domain of geographical research. The present study is intended to perceive the configuration of landforms in the study area from a geomorphological standpoint. This Paper is one of the outcomes of the Minor Research Project of the author, funded by ICSSR, New Delhi.

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