



Land Degradation Studies in Retrospect: A Review

Kiran Kumari Singh*

Research scholar, Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

Received June 01, 2010; Accepted December 25, 2010

Abstract: Land degradation is a phenomenon that exists in many parts of the world and is caused by different factors; natural and socio-economic. For success in combating land degradation requires an enhanced understanding of its causes, processes, severity, extent and impacts. This understanding calls for adoptability of appropriate techniques/methods depending upon its suitability and applicability to physical and cultural setting of the area and the approaches applied in the study. There are numbers of assessment methods; quantitative and qualitative of land degradation on global and regional levels. This study, aims at exploring and reviewing conceptual and methodological aspects covered in various land degradation studies used at global, regional and local levels. In compiling this review three general objectives have guided the process. Firstly, an attempt has been made to incorporate the literature on land and soil degradation in a single document. There is various scattered information within the literature of several disciplines. Secondly, a systematic arrangement of collected literatures has been made on global and national scales. Thirdly, there has been a fairly strong emphasis on the role of science and technology in the land degradation literature. It has been tried to find out the different techniques/methods of land degradation measurement used by scholars and organizations in their studies.

Keywords: *Land degradation, assessment methods/techniques, remote sensing,*

*Corresponding: E-Mail: kiran.singhgeo@gmail.com, +91-9208386919