

## Development and Environment: A Case Study of Kakkad River in Kannur District

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### Abstract

In the contemporary world environmental issues are not just confined to territorial boundary of independent states but their impact had become truly global. Development is a process of social, economic and political change usually associated with Third World Nations. The discussions on of sustainable development and related issues are pertinent and attract attention at international level. The relationship between environment and development is the crux of the environment. In Kerala we can see a lot of rivers at present and their rivers of Kerala are in deplorable condition. At Kannur in Kerala we had a river Kakkad Now the river is almost dead a tributary of the Valapattanam river in Puzhathi Panchyath. Several agitations had taken place by environmental groups and social activities in Kannur for the protection of the river Kakkad. In earlier years the river Kakkad was the symbol of wealth and prosperity of Kannur. **The present study** is an attempt to explore the importance of Kakkad river in the environmental discourse of Kerala.

**KEYWORDS:** Development, Environment, Pollution, Waste dumping.

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The condition of the environment today is well known to all and sundry. Deforestation, global warming, climate change, toxic pollution, and many more harmful phenomena, have spread all over the world at a pace so fast that the people of the world have had no time to react to it effectively. All over, the loss of greenery, fresh air to breathe and clean water to drink is striking at the very heart of humanity. Sustainable development is the concept of needs and limitations imposed by technology and society on the environment's ability to meet the present and future need. The term sustainable development was brought into common use by the world commission on environment and development in its reports (WCED). According to WCED sustainable development means a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potentiality to meet human needs and aspirations. Sustainable development is a development that meets needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. For achieving sustainable development what is needed in global movement as well as significantly increased political will and public pressure in order to persuade industry, governments and institutions to take responsibility for their action. It must be borne in mind that development should not endanger the natural system that supports life.

The rivers play a very important role in environmental pictures of Kerala. It plays a vital role with the formation of civilization of particular place (Indus valley civilization, Mesopotamian civilization, and Egyptian civilization). Kerala called "God's Own Country" because of its environmental asset consisting 44 rivers and a lot of small rivers.

The official measurement length of river is need to minimum 15 KM. Kakkad River is an important small river in Kannur district, it was originated in Aanakkullam and tributary river of Valappattanam (firstly 5<sup>th</sup> position in rivers of Kerala).In Kerala we can see a lot of rivers at present and their rivers of Kerala are in deplorable condition. At Kannur in Kerala we had a river Kakkad Now the river is almost dead a tributary of the Valappattanam river in Puzhathi Panchayat. Several agitations had taken place by environmental groups and social activities in Kannur for the protection of the river Kakkad. In earlier years the river Kakkad was the symbol of wealth and prosperity of Kannur. Now it is facing a great threat of due to large-scale dumping of waste, especially waste from slaughter houses. The natural flow of the river is fully stopped. The Panchayat authority says that there is no river in that place and they are trying to use all land for the construction. Developmental programme play an important role in each and every countries of the world. But in the name of development most of the people are degraded environmental sustainability. Kakkad River's disaster can be considering a symbol of environmental degradation due to developmental projects of that locality. Kakkad River located at Kannur District in Puzhathi punchayat. It was the tributary of Valappattanam main river. Valappattanam river also called heart and soul of Kannur. The medieval period Kakkad River was the main part of Kannur's trade and commerce and also people are using Vallam and boat services for conduct fruitful running of trade and commerce activities.

### **Significance of the Study**

Developmental programmes play an important role in each and every countries of the world. But in the name of development most of the people are degraded environmental sustainability. Kakkad River's disaster can be considering a symbol of environmental degradation due to developmental projects of that locality. Kakkad River located at Kannur District in Puzhathi punchayat.it was the tributary of Valappattanam main river. Valappattanam river also called heart and soul of kannur. The medieval period Kakkad river was the main part of Kannur's trade and commerce and also people are also using Vallam and boat services for conduct fruitful running of trade and commerce activities. Kakkad river is started from Aanakkulam place and length of river is 6 KM to reach Valappattanam main river, river is played a vital role of agricultural trading sectors of Kannur people in medieval time. So this river is enlarging with large scale of wet land and fertile land of agriculture production. The historical disaster of Kakkad river is so pain full and empathetic. Firstly government started a bridge cum regulator across the river at the place of Kattambally. In these special circumstances Kannur lost 4000 acres of agricultural land. It will badly affect agricultural production. The main aim of bridge cum regulator is how to increase the agricultural production in a three times in a year. Before the bridge construction the Kakkad people are used land for one time cultivation in a year (Kaippad cultivation).On the basis of agricultural development government constructed bridge cum regulator (Kattambally Project) in across the river. This project could not full fill the main aim of agricultural development. This 4000 acres of land remains underutilized, on the basis of scarcity of water. This land became un productive with shortage of water leads to reduce the fishing and agricultural production. It leads to mass distraction of bio diversity in Kakkad River and badly effected on the arrival of migratory birds from different part of the world.

The main cause of river destruction is land acquisition practiced by land and real estate mafia. Around the 40 years river land is fully acquired by private land mafia. On the basis of industrial development government provided license to build a factory on the pool of Kakkad river. In the recent time Kakkad river was the main sufferer of development. Puzhathi Panchayath also constructed a pillar market in river of Kakkad and also plan to construction of a sports stadium that place. The government has failed to control waste management process in Kakkad river and also another reason for Kakkad river disaster. In recent time Kakkad River consider as waste container of Kannur town, is facing a threat from large scale dumping of waste, especially waste from slaughter houses. So that it badly affected clean water shortage in Kannur. In historical evidence, it seems like 'Lost River' in Kannur district on the basis of mismanagement of development programmes. In even government have policies of protection of rivers but in the matter of Kakkad instead of Protection, destruction happened with mind support of government on the basis of development. In this context, the present study reveals the impact of development programs on environmental degradation with reference to Kakkad river of the Kannur District. The findings of this study may help the authorities to plan and implement developmental projects which are not affecting the sustainability of environment.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In kerala state consisted 44 rivers almost all rivers face a lot of problems. Kakkad river is the best example of how one river died with causes development policies implemented by panchyath authority. In earlier years the rivers Kakaad was the symbol of wealth and prosperity of Kannur. Now it facing a great threat of due to large scale of dumping of waste, especially waste from slaughter houses .The natural flow of the river fully stopped by the establishment of Kattambally Bridge cum regulator. It badly affected to Kaippad Agriculture cultivation on the basis regulator stop salt water enter into to the river and 4000 acres of agricultural production was diminished. Later period most of the land was acquired by private individual and land mafia. More over in the bank of the river the Panchyath authority build a pillar market and leads to dumping UN controllable wastage in river. The river also had given to a plywood factory for lease; they also destroyed the river which is the public property of the people living near it. Many other encroachments are also in the river, schools, play ground etc. Now the Panchayath authority says that there is no river in that place and they are trying to use all land for construction works. Many agitations had taken place by environmental groups like Jilla parishthithi samithi, Kakkad puzha samrakshna samithi...etc. Since the present study looks into the degradation of Kakkad river due to the developmental project of the region, the study can be entitled as “ DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT: A CASE STUDY OF KAKKAD RIVER IN THE KANNUR DISTRICT”.

### **Objective**

To examine the impact of developmental project on the degradation of “Kakkad” river in Kannur district

## **Methodology**

Investigator visited at Kakkad river and observe the real conditions about river. Investigator is implemented historical data in this paper to understand how Kakkad river influenced the civilization culture of Kannur people.

## **History and Geography of Kakkad River**

Kakkad river is situated in Kannur district, Puzhathi panchayath in Kerala state consisting from RS 196/4 To 205. The length of the river is 6 KM. both rivers are joined at place of Kakkad angaadi then reached Valapattanam River and finally reach Arabian ocean. This river is also main part of ancient Kannur civilization. Ancient Kannur name is called Noura or Kolathanaad. The rivers played a very important role in history of kannur. Several travelers reached in Kannur like Marco Polo recounts the visit to area in mid 1290 other visitor included Faxian, the Buddhist pilgrim, Ibnu Bathutha writer and historian of tangier. it also said that the ship of Solomon had anchored along the coast of the Kannur to collect timber for building the temple of the lord. The Portuguese explore Vasco De Gamma visited in Kannur in 1498 and shortly their after it became a Portuguese settlement. The Kannur district mainly consisting around 6 rivers, longest is the Valappattanam river with length of 110 KM. other river following through kannur district Kuppam river, Mahe River, Anjarakandi, Thalassery, Ramapuram and Peumba. The majority of the people of the district is depended directly or indirectly on agriculture or non agriculture for the livelihood. The main crops grown in the district are Paddy, coconut, pepper, cashew, and tapioca....etc. The river closely associated with life of the people of the Kannur. The Land of Kakkad River is more suitable for agricultural cultivation and spices production. It also contributed a good wet land to reduce water shortage of this area.

## **Economic significances of the river**

In ancient time the Kakkad river the people used the boat services a chain service between vallapattanam river then Arabian sea. The merchant came clearly business root had goods and transmitted the river Kakkad played a very vital role in trade sectors of Kannur districts 4000 AC agricultural field located in the bank of Kakkad river. a lot of fishes included the river. The salt water entered in the river. the people used the kappiad method for the production of rice. a lot of birds, reached in the field. After the establishment of Kattambaly Bridge come regulator the salt water is not entered the river. so the small insects died the eco system from the part of development. In Kannur town people drinkers the water of Pazhasi river. Kannur district is the most urbanized district in Kerala, with more than 50% of its residents living in urban areas. Kannur has an urban population of 1,212,898, which is the second largest in Kerala after Ernakulam district. Now Kakkad River is almost died. In the ancient Kannur the Kakkad River played a very important role. They as follows.

1. Kakkad river's shore was more fertile and suitable for agricultural production
2. It is the main hub of the merchant's trade in ancient period.
3. It was the main plot of timber industry in Kannur.

4. It was the main plot of Fishes ecosystem in Kannur.
5. River was the enlarged with migrated birds and specious
6. River contributed largest scale of Wet lands.

### **Findings**

1. Un planned development policies are the main cause's death of river and it leads to environmental degradation of a region.
2. Lack of environmental law enforcement mechanism leads to environmental exploitation.
3. Burocratic level corruption leads to land encroachment process conducted by land mafia in Kakkad River.

### **Suggestions**

1. To implement strict environmental enforcement law mechanism in state level.
2. To implement environmental programmes at district level.
3. To implemented strict land protection law against acquisition.

### **Conclusion**

It was unimaginable to think complete elimination of river which played vital role in developments of Man's civilization. It represents the death of man itself. Here in the name of development, the local authority itself paved the way to the environmental degradation as well as Kakkad river in particular. In other parts of Kerala, people are agitating these kind of environmental degrading activities with tooth and nail with the help of local authorities, Aranmula, Plachimada, Vilapil shala etc were instances of that kind. But when we take the case of Kakkad the respective Panchayat itself caused the decay of river. Decentralization of power is for the purpose people's friendly administration, so there is a need to perform such authorities in accordance with the people's hopes and aspirations. The present issue can overcome only with imitative of Puzhati panchayat itself. This paper demands withdrawn of this project by the panchayat and function according to the needs of the local people. Today decentralization has been the sole way to sustainable development.

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