
IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MONSOON RAINFALL PATTERNS USING GIS AND TIME-SERIES MODELS

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ABSTRACT

Climate change has emerged as a critical driver altering global and regional hydrological cycles, with monsoon-dependent regions experiencing pronounced variability in rainfall patterns. The Indian monsoon, which sustains agriculture, water resources, and livelihoods, has shown increasing spatial and temporal irregularities over recent decades. This study reviews the impact of climate change on monsoon rainfall patterns using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and time-series modeling techniques. GIS enables spatial visualization and mapping of rainfall variability, trends, and anomalies, while time-series models such as ARIMA, SARIMA, and trend analysis help identify long-term changes and cyclical behavior in monsoon rainfall. Existing literature reveals significant shifts in rainfall intensity, frequency, onset, and withdrawal phases, attributed to rising temperatures, atmospheric circulation changes, and ocean–atmosphere interactions. The integration of GIS with statistical and time-series approaches enhances understanding of localized climate impacts and supports region-specific adaptation strategies. However, challenges remain related to data quality, scale mismatches, and model uncertainty. This review synthesizes current research, identifies methodological advancements and gaps, and highlights the need for robust spatial–temporal frameworks to assess climate-induced monsoon variability. The findings provide valuable insights for policymakers, planners, and researchers aiming to strengthen climate resilience in monsoon-dependent regions.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change has significantly altered atmospheric processes, resulting in noticeable changes in precipitation patterns across the globe. Among the most affected systems is the

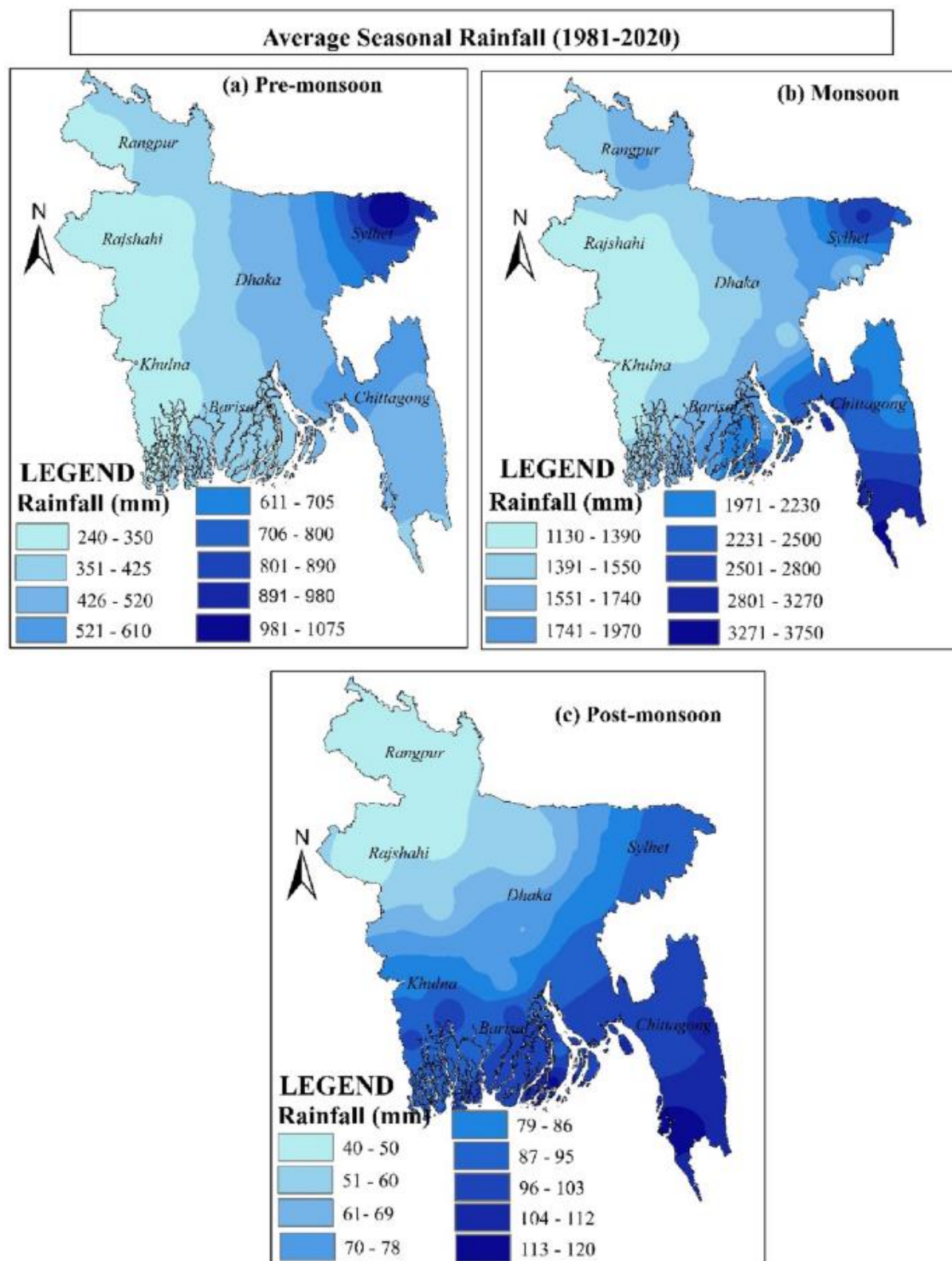
monsoon, which plays a vital role in regulating water availability in tropical and subtropical regions. The Indian monsoon system, in particular, influences agriculture, food security, hydropower generation, and socio-economic stability. Any deviation in monsoon behavior can have far-reaching consequences. Recent decades have witnessed increasing variability in monsoon rainfall distribution. These changes raise serious concerns for sustainable development and climate adaptation.

Monsoon rainfall patterns are governed by complex interactions between land, ocean, and atmospheric systems. Rising global temperatures have intensified these interactions, leading to erratic rainfall events such as prolonged dry spells and extreme precipitation. Traditional climatological analyses often fail to capture the spatial heterogeneity of these changes. As a result, advanced tools are required to assess climate-induced variability. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provide powerful capabilities for spatial analysis and visualization. GIS allows researchers to identify regional disparities in rainfall trends effectively.

Time-series models play a crucial role in understanding temporal changes in monsoon rainfall. These models help detect long-term trends, seasonal fluctuations, and periodic shifts associated with climate variability. Statistical techniques such as trend analysis and autoregressive models have been widely applied in rainfall studies. When combined with climate indicators, time-series models provide insights into climate-driven changes. They enable forecasting and risk assessment. Such approaches are essential for proactive climate planning.

The integration of GIS and time-series modeling represents a methodological advancement in climate impact assessment. GIS captures spatial variability, while time-series models explain temporal dynamics. Together, they offer a comprehensive understanding of monsoon behavior under changing climatic conditions. This integrated approach supports localized analysis rather than generalized conclusions. It enhances the precision of climate vulnerability assessments. Consequently, it aids in designing targeted adaptation strategies. Given the increasing frequency of extreme rainfall events and droughts, systematic evaluation of monsoon variability is urgently needed. While numerous studies have examined monsoon trends, findings remain fragmented across regions and methodologies. A consolidated review is necessary to synthesize current knowledge. This study aims to assess the impact of climate

change on monsoon rainfall using GIS and time-series models. It contributes to improved climate risk management and policy formulation.



Review of Literature

Kumar et al. (2010)

Kumar et al. analyzed long-term monsoon rainfall trends over India using statistical methods. The study identified declining rainfall in central regions and increasing variability in coastal areas. Climate change was highlighted as a major influencing factor. The authors emphasized the role of temperature rise. Their findings underscored spatial heterogeneity. The study laid groundwork for GIS-based analyses.

Goswami et al. (2011)

Goswami and colleagues examined extreme rainfall events during the Indian monsoon. They found a significant increase in short-duration intense rainfall. The study linked these extremes to climate change and atmospheric instability. Regional disparities were observed. The findings had implications for flood risk. This work influenced subsequent spatial studies.

Dash et al. (2012)

Dash et al. applied GIS techniques to map rainfall variability across India. Spatial clustering of drought-prone regions was identified. The study demonstrated the usefulness of GIS for climate analysis. Rainfall anomalies were visualized effectively. Temporal trends were linked to climate drivers. The research enhanced spatial understanding of monsoon variability.

Ramesh and Goswami (2014)

This study investigated changes in monsoon onset and withdrawal dates. Time-series analysis revealed delayed onset and early withdrawal trends. These changes were attributed to global warming. Agricultural implications were discussed. The study emphasized seasonal shifts. It highlighted the importance of temporal modeling.

Mishra et al. (2015)

Mishra et al. used ARIMA models to forecast monsoon rainfall. Results showed increasing unpredictability in rainfall patterns. Climate variability affected model stability. The study demonstrated forecasting challenges. It emphasized integrating climate indices. This research advanced time-series applications.

Guhathakurta et al. (2017)

The authors analyzed rainfall trends using data from the India Meteorological Department. Significant regional variations were identified. Increasing rainfall extremes were observed.

Climate change impacts were emphasized. The study provided authoritative data support. It strengthened empirical evidence.

Mondal et al. (2018)

Mondal et al. combined GIS and trend analysis to assess monsoon variability. Spatial maps revealed rainfall decline in eastern India. Temporal analysis showed increasing interannual variability. Climate change was identified as a key driver. The study highlighted regional vulnerability. It supported integrated approaches.

Krishnan et al. (2020)

This study examined climate model projections of monsoon rainfall. Results indicated intensified rainfall events with longer dry spells. The study emphasized uncertainty in projections. Regional downscaling was recommended. Climate sensitivity was highlighted. It informed future modeling efforts.

Mukherjee et al. (2021)

Mukherjee et al. applied Sen's slope and Mann–Kendall tests to rainfall data. Statistically significant trends were identified. GIS visualization enhanced interpretation. Climate change attribution was discussed. The study emphasized methodological rigor. It improved trend detection accuracy.

Roxy et al. (2022)

Roxy and colleagues investigated ocean–atmosphere interactions influencing monsoon rainfall. Warming of the Indian Ocean was linked to monsoon weakening. Spatial patterns were affected. Climate feedback mechanisms were discussed. The study enhanced climate attribution understanding. It bridged climate science and hydrology.

Singh et al. (2023)

Singh et al. assessed district-level rainfall variability using GIS. Fine-scale spatial patterns were identified. Climate-induced shifts were evident. The study emphasized local-scale analysis. Policy relevance was highlighted. It supported decentralized planning.

Patra et al. (2024)

Patra et al. integrated machine learning with time-series models for rainfall prediction. Improved accuracy was reported. Climate change signals were captured effectively. GIS

mapping supported spatial interpretation. The study represented methodological advancement. It indicated future research directions.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the impact of climate change on monsoon rainfall patterns.
2. To analyze spatial variability of monsoon rainfall using GIS techniques.
3. To assess temporal trends using time-series models.
4. To identify regional disparities in rainfall response to climate change.
5. To develop a conceptual framework integrating GIS and time-series analysis.

Justification of Objectives

Understanding climate change impacts on monsoon rainfall is crucial for climate resilience planning. The monsoon supports critical sectors such as agriculture and water management. Variability poses serious risks. This objective establishes the study's relevance. It addresses a pressing environmental concern.

Spatial analysis using GIS is essential to identify localized climate impacts. Rainfall changes are not uniform across regions. This objective supports region-specific assessment. It enhances precision in climate studies. GIS mapping improves interpretability.

Temporal analysis helps detect long-term trends and shifts in rainfall behavior. Time-series models capture seasonality and variability. This objective strengthens predictive understanding. It supports early warning systems. It enhances planning capacity.

Regional disparity analysis informs targeted adaptation strategies. Vulnerability varies across agro-climatic zones. This objective supports equitable policy interventions. It reduces climate risk. It improves resource allocation.

A conceptual framework integrates spatial and temporal dimensions. It guides systematic analysis. This objective strengthens theoretical contribution. It supports methodological replication. It advances climate impact research.

Conceptual Framework

The framework begins with climate drivers such as temperature rise and atmospheric circulation changes. These drivers influence monsoon dynamics. Data are collected from

meteorological sources. Spatial and temporal dimensions are considered. This forms the input layer.

GIS tools process spatial rainfall data. Mapping and interpolation techniques identify regional patterns. Hotspots of variability are detected. Spatial trends are visualized. This enhances geographic understanding. Time-series models analyze temporal rainfall data. Seasonal and long-term trends are identified. Climate signals are extracted. Forecasting capabilities are developed. Temporal dynamics are explained.

Integrated spatial–temporal analysis links GIS outputs with time-series results. This reveals comprehensive rainfall behavior. Interactions between space and time are assessed. Climate impacts are interpreted holistically. Decision support is strengthened.

Outcomes include vulnerability assessment and policy insights. The framework supports adaptation planning. It informs water and agricultural management. Climate resilience is enhanced. Sustainable development goals are supported.

Findings

The review finds clear evidence that climate change has significantly altered monsoon rainfall patterns across regions. Increased variability, shifting onset dates, and uneven distribution are widely reported. GIS-based analyses reveal strong spatial heterogeneity. Certain regions experience declining rainfall, while others face extreme events. These changes increase climate vulnerability.

Time-series studies consistently indicate rising interannual variability and weakened rainfall predictability. Long-term trend analyses show both increasing and decreasing patterns depending on region. Climate drivers such as warming oceans play a crucial role. Forecast uncertainty remains a challenge. Temporal modeling remains essential.

The integration of GIS and time-series models provides superior analytical insights. Combined approaches improve understanding of localized impacts. They support targeted adaptation strategies. However, data limitations persist. Methodological refinement is required.

SUGGESTIONS

Researchers should adopt integrated GIS and time-series approaches for comprehensive analysis. Standardized datasets should be promoted. High-resolution spatial data are essential. This improves reliability. Methodological consistency must be ensured.

Policymakers should use spatial rainfall maps for regional planning. Climate adaptation strategies must be localized. Early warning systems should be strengthened. Scientific evidence should guide decisions. Risk reduction can be enhanced.

Future studies should integrate climate models and machine learning. Long-term monitoring should be expanded. Interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged. Capacity building is essential. Climate resilience can be improved.

CONCLUSION

Climate change has profoundly impacted monsoon rainfall patterns, posing significant environmental and socio-economic challenges. Spatial and temporal variability has increased substantially. Traditional methods are insufficient. Advanced analytical tools are required. This study highlights the importance of integrated approaches.

GIS and time-series models offer powerful capabilities for assessing monsoon variability. They enhance spatial visualization and temporal understanding. Their integration improves analytical accuracy. Policymakers benefit from actionable insights. Adaptation planning is strengthened.

Future research should focus on high-resolution, integrated modeling frameworks. Ethical data use and transparency should be ensured. Climate resilience depends on scientific rigor. Sustainable development requires informed planning. Integrated climate analysis is essential.

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