



COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGICAL AND SHORELINE CHANGE ANALYSIS OF RAMNATHAPURAM DISTRICT TAMILNADU USING REMOTE SENSING AND GIS TECHNIQUES

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ABSTRACT

Shoreline changes are important linear feature on the Earth surface and it presents dynamic in nature. Coastal region has geomorphologically complex processes, such as erosion, accretion, landslides, subsidence and tidal inundation hazard. Shoreline changes are considered a valuable task for coastal monitoring and assessment. Coastal vulnerability is defined as the occurrence of a phenomenon, which has the potential for causing damage to or loss of buildings under natural ecosystems and the other infrastructure man made. The assessment of the coastal erosion hazard and mitigation is an estimation of a coastal area susceptible to erosion, based on a number of factors such as shoreline changes, geomorphology, human impact on coast etc. Many researchers have successfully investigated long-term shoreline changes and geomorphological changes in the coastal landforms based on remote sensing and GIS techniques. The present study is aimed to investigate the coastal changes based on two parameters namely; geomorphological changes, Shoreline changes over the years, rate of erosion and accretion, using remote sensing and GIS techniques.

KEYWORDS : Coastal morphology, Coastal vulnerability index, Risk assessment, Remote sensing, Shoreline changes and Geographic Information System.

Introduction

The shoreline is one of the important dynamic coastal features where the land, air and sea meet. In any open coast, when man-made structures such as harbor or breakwaters interfere with the littoral current shoreline changes drastically. In India, Chauhan and Nayak (1995) have studied the shoreline changes using the satellite data along the Indian coast. During the low tide condition, maximum land is exposed and even low water line/land water boundary and high water line are distinctly visible. This enables better mapping of the shoreline. Coastal zones are facing intensified natural and anthropogenic disturbances including sea level rise, coastal erosion, over exploitation of resources among others. Over 70% of the world's beaches are experiencing coastal erosion and this presents a serious hazard to many coastal regions (Appeaning Addo et al., 2008). According to Zhang (2010), awareness of the quality of global coastal ecosystems being adversely impacted by multiple driving forces has accelerated efforts to assess, monitor and mitigate coastal stressors. Monitoring temporal spatial changes of coastal environments can help understand among others, the spatial distribution of erosion hazards, predicting their development trend and supporting the mechanism research on coastal erosion and its countermeasures. The shoreline, which is defined as the position of the land water interface at one instant in time (Gens, 2010) is a highly dynamic feature and is an indicator for coastal erosion and accretion. The processes of erosion and accretion affect human life, cultivation and natural resources along the coast. Rapid shoreline changes can create catastrophic social and economic problems along populated strands. Design of viable land-use and protection strategies to reduce potential loss is necessary and this requires comprehension of regional shoreline dynamics (Blodgett et al., 1991; Chu et al., 2006).

Many researchers have successfully investigated long-term shoreline changes and morphological changes in the coastal landforms based on remote sensing and GIS techniques (Meijerink 1971; Nayak and Sahai 1985; Prabhakar Rao et al. 1985; Shaikh et al. 1989; Vinodkumar et al. 1994; Capobianco et al. 1999; Loveson et al. 1990; Chandrasekar et al. 2002; Amaro et al. 2002 a,b; Vital 2003a, Vital et al. 2003b; Rajamanikam 2006). They have been described the correlation between the rates of shoreline erosion to the heavy mineral groups and grain sizes of the beach sediment.

Chockalingam (1993) have studied the impact of shoreline changes in Nile delta using the combination of remote sensing data near shore bathymetric surveys, heavy minerals and grain size.

Remote sensing techniques provide a synoptic vision of the Earth that is not possible to obtain other than by exhaustive and expensive field evaluations. Data from remote sensors allow analysis of a region with sufficient accuracy in an efficient, rapid and low cost way (Berlanga-Robles and Ruiz-Luna, 2002). It also helps in analysing areas that are poorly accessible or rapidly changing (Chu et al., 2006). The use of remote sensing data is therefore increasingly becoming a more effective option for monitoring shorelines. Over the years, geomorphologists, oceanographers and geologist have developed interpretation keys for mapping coastline geomorphic features using aerial photographs; however, few studies of this type have used images generated by remote sensing orbital instruments (Kawakubo, 2011). Though the use of aerial photographs tends to be effective in this case, the frequency of acquisition, cost and coverage presents a challenge (Appeaning Addo et al., 2008). Furthermore, the spectral range of these sources is minimal and may introduce errors in shoreline interpretation (Alsheikh et al., 2007).

On the other hand, multispectral remote sensing satellites provide digital imagery in various spectral bands, including the near infrared where the land water interface is well defined. Furthermore this approach has advantages less time consuming, inexpensive to implement, large ground coverage, and the capability for repeat data acquisition and monitoring (Van and Bihn, 2008). The principal limitation of satellite images is arguably their low spatial resolution when compared to photographs taken from aircraft (Kawakubo, 2011).

The present study relates to an economically important Coastal city Chennai in India through remote sensing approach in which shoreline demarcation is done more precisely and quickly than conventional methods by employing shoreline derivation models and the obtained shoreline is further categorized using DSAS (Digital Shoreline Analysis System) module in ArcGIS according to its rate of erosion or accretion at local level (Kalaranjini 2016). The studied identified and assessed the impact of shorelines changes on Victoria Island in Eti-Osa Local Government Area, Lagos State,

Nigeria. Data were collected through the instrumentality of structured questionnaires Michael Ajide Oyinloye et al., (2016).

The research deals with a combination of the Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS) and remote sensing, studying historical mangrove shoreline changes and mangrove zoning in the Giau Thuy coastal area of the Nam Dinh province, Vietnam. The results show an over-all mangrove area increase of 2,487 hectares during the years 2005-2014. This dynamics results from both degradation and increase of the mangroves. The calculated degradation rate is 1.41m yr⁻¹, and the growth rate is 1.26 m yr⁻¹ on average (Nguyen An Think 2017). The presents an application of RS (remote sensing) and GIS (Geographic Information System) to analyze the spatial changes as well as quantify the shoreline change of Peat Soil Beach in Bengkalis Island, Riau Province, Indonesia. The area of Bengkalis Island is about 900 km², of which 665 km is covered by peat more than 1 m thick. Landsat satellite images were used with a combination of histogram thresholding and band ratio method for shoreline change detection for last 26 years from 1988 to 2014 Sigit Sutikno et al (2017).

Study Area

Ramanathapuram is one of the coastal districts bounded on the north by Sivagangai and Pudukottai districts, on the east and south by the Bay of Bengal, and on the west by Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar districts. The district headquarters is located at Ramanathapuram. The district lies between 9° 05' and 9° 50' North Latitude and 78° 10' and 79° 27' East Longitude the study area detail shown in Fig.1. The general geographical information of the district is simple and flat. Vaigai river and Gundar river are flowing in the district and they will be dry during the summer season. The total geographical area of the district is 4,175 sq.km and has the total population of 11, 87,604 including 5, 83,376 males and 6, 04,228 females.

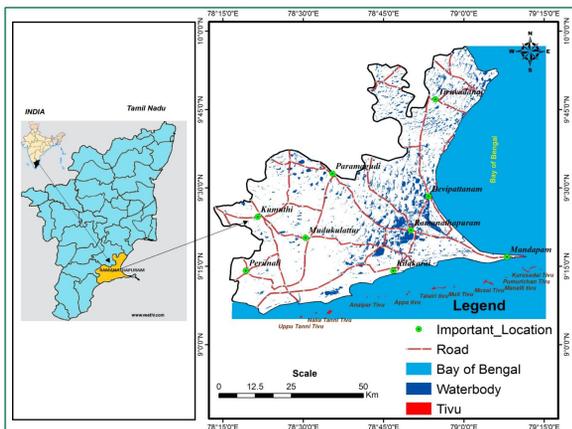


Fig.1 Location map of the Ramanathapuram district

Methodology

The study area base map was prepared using Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scales. These toposheet were scanned and converted in GIS environment for geo referencing which is a process of stabilizing the relationship between map and the known real coordinates. Geo registration is a process of stabilizing the relationship between map, and the known real world coordinates. Re sampling in each case was performed using cubic interpolation technique to keep the spatial distortions at the minimum. Accuracy of the geo correction is tested by swiping one image of the other and confirmed by limited field check. The geo corrected data is through the ArcGIS environment for digitization of shoreline. High waterline shown in the topographic sheets 1973 and different periods of IRS satellite data in the year 2006 and 2016 are digitized as the line feature. Quantification of erosion/accretion rate is done by end point rate (EPR) method and digitization as a polygon features using ArcGIS.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Coastal geomorphological changes

Geomorphology is the science of studying the external landscape architecture of earth's crust, which stands as a testimony not only to the palaeo morphotectonic and morphodynamic activities but, for the present day geological processes as well. One of such commonly adopted scheme in India is proposed by Nayak (2002) which has used the scale of mapping as base to group the geomorphic forms in to the Level-I, Level-II and Level-III categories with increasing scale. Accordingly, the Level-I features include vegetated and non vegetated coastal areas, water bodies, shore land and other man made features whereas, the Level-II includes all major landforms in its descriptive sense like mangroves plantation, mudflats, sand, bays, lagoon, delta plain, back swamps, coastal dunes and ridges, etc. The Level-III specify the features at much higher scale like intertidal zone, high tide and low tide lines, spits, bar, tidal channel, dense and sparse vegetated areas, etc. For the present study author has largely used the descriptive terms which either depict the sediment nature or the style of geomorphic unit. The area comprises of an interesting assemblage of palaeo and neo coastal landforms which include alluvial plain, coastal plain, deltaic plain, eolian plain, flood plain, habitation mask, pediplain and upland etc. Geomorphology changes 2006 and 2016 shown in Table.1.

Table.1 Coastal Geomorphology Changes in 2006 to 2016

Geomorphology Change in 2006 to 2016						
S. No	Geomorphol ogical class	Area (Km ²) in 2006	Area (% n 2006	Area (Km ²) 2016	Area (%) 2016	Changes (%) n 2006 to 2016
1	Alluvial plain	2843.8	68.87	2343.8	56.79	-12.12
2	Coastal plain	640.47	15.51	1040.47	25.20	9.68
3	Deltaic plain	6.65	0.16	104.65	2.53	2.42
4	Eolian plain	157.25	3.81	157.25	3.81	0.00
5	Flood plain	81.51	1.97	83.51	2.02	0.05
6	Habitation mask	10.48	0.25	10.48	0.25	0.00
7	Pediplain	295.87	7.17	205.87	4.99	-2.18
8	Upland	93.09	2.25	183.09	4.43	2.18
Total Areas		4129.12	100.00	4129.12	100.00	

The alluvial plain has decreased from 2843.8 km² to 2343.8 km² it is almost -12% changes. The coastal plain has increased 640.47 km² to 1040.47 km² the change in 9% increased. The other feature some small change only occurred. The geomorphology map 2006 and 2016 shown in Fig.3 and Fig.4.

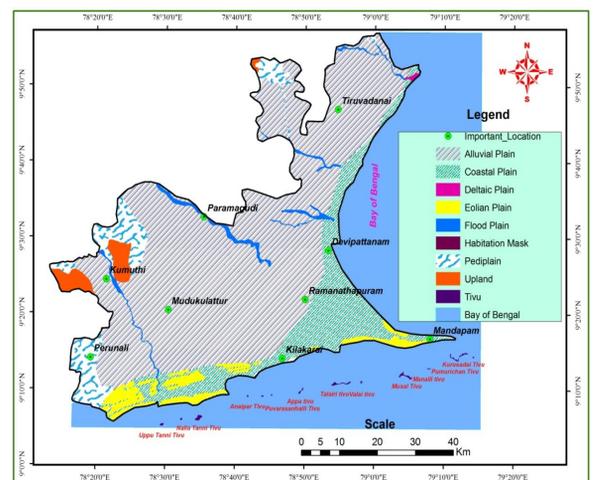
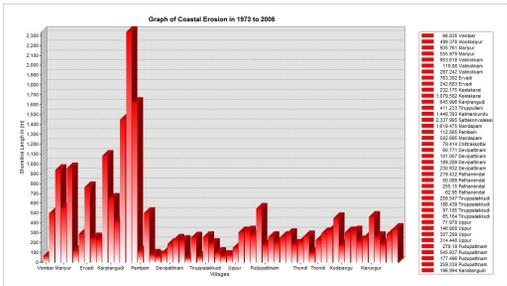


Fig.3 Geomorphology map of the Ramanathapuram district in the year of 2006



Graph.2 Coastal Erosion Distances during 1973 to 2006

Shoreline Changes during 2006 and 2016

Shoreline observation during this decade is shown in Fig.7. The erosion and accretion was noticed in the entire coastline. The maximum length of erosion observed was 1329.75m noticed nearby the village of Mandapam in the center part of the study area. The length of erosion during 2006 and 2016 is shown in Graph.3. The lowest distance of erosion was noticed at Kandankudi (9.9m) and Uppur (16.63m). The maximum distance of accretion was noticed at Nochiyurani (1247.97m) in the centre part of the study area, the accretion Graph.4, the mean distance of accretion of 76.60m was measured during this period. More than the mean distance of erosion 252.13m was noticed at Sattakonvalasai, Periyapattinam, and Keelakarai in the southern part of the study area. The shoreline erosion distance has alternate phases of increasing and decreasing, and the pattern was irregular during this period.

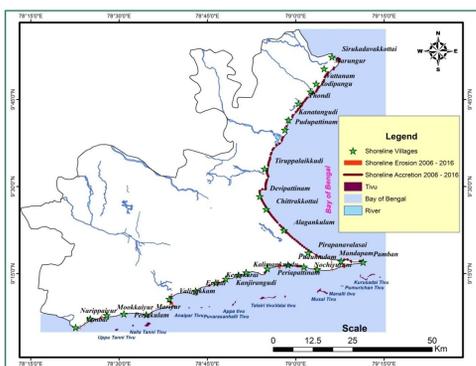
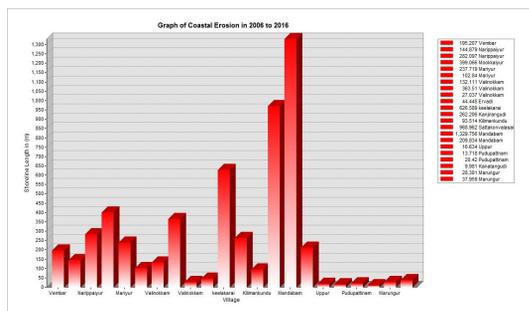
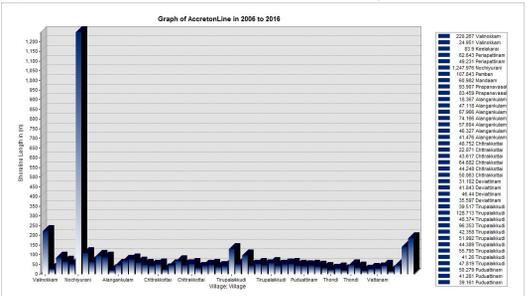


Fig.7 Shoreline changes during the year 2006 - 2016



Graph. 3 Shoreline Erosion Distances during 2006 to 2016



Graph.4 Shoreline Accretion Distances during 2006 to 2016

Shoreline Changes during 1973 and 2016

Between 1973 and 2016 shoreline erosion and accretion map (Fig. 8) shows that erosion activity was dominant than accretion in the study area. The data reveals that more than two third of the coastline length was noticed erosion and their areal extent was 23.94km². Erosion was noticed in the entire coastline except Sattakonvalasai, Mandapam, Kalimankundu, Keelakarai and Valinokkam Graph.5. The minimum was noticed at Sattakonvalasai (2337m) in the south. Shoreline changes due to accretion were noticed as less than one third of the coastline length (0.78km) and their areal coverage was 4.72km². The accretion activities are noticed at Alangulam, Piraanavalasai, and Mandapam Graph.6.

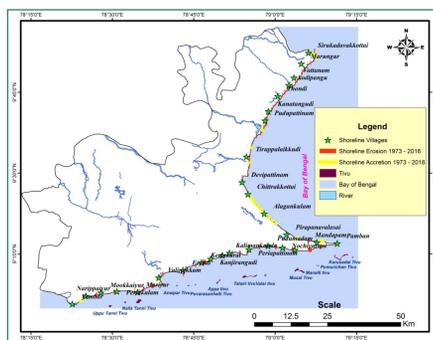
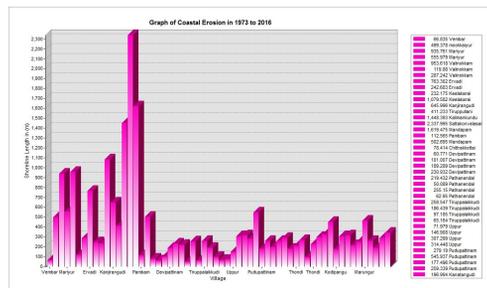
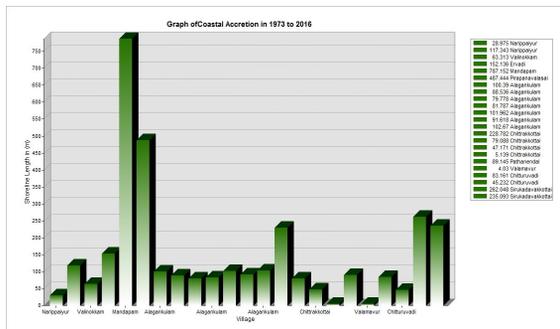


Fig.8 Shoreline changes during the year 1973 - 2016



Graph 5. Shoreline Changes of Erosion during 1973 to 2016



Graph.6 Shoreline Changes of Accretion during 1973 to 2016

Conclusion

A shoreline and geomorphology change is very valuable in regards to coastal hazard assessment. It is concluded that Remote sensing and GIS techniques is most effective tool to detection of shoreline. The geomorphology changes 2006 and 2016 the alluvial plain has decreased from 2843.8 km² to 2343.8 km² it is almost 12% changes. The coastal plain has increased 640.47 km² to 1040.47 km² the change in 9% increased. The other feature some small change only occurred. The shore line shifting or change landward or seaward caused erosion or accretion is studied by using multi-temporal satellite images of Resourcesat and LISS III images. The study has given an output stating that erosion or accretion is found in 1973 to 2006 erosion occurs in Sattankkonavalasai (2337.9m), Kalimankundu (1448.39m), Mandapam (1619.47m), Kelakkarai (1679m). Accretions Mandapam (568.39m), Naripaiyur (372m) Karan (381m), Sattankkonvalasai (360.7m). The year 2006 to 2016

the erosion occurs in Nochiyurani (1247.97m), Valinokkam (220m). Accretion Mandapam (1329.75m) Sattankonavalasai (968m), Kellakkara (626m). The shoreline erosion and deposition changes calculated from 1973 to 2016 at Sattankonavalasai (2337.99m), Kalimankundu (1448.39m), Mandapam (1619.47m), Kilakkara (1079.58m) and accretion at Mandapam (787.152m), Prapannavalasai (487.44m), Sittarakottai (228m) respectively. Overall, during the study periods, erosion activities are high compare to accretion in study area. However, erosion activities are not occurred in the southern side of the study area. Continuous monitoring of shoreline changes is very important need to the study area to understand changes taken place in the coast. Furthermore, studies that link land use patterns, hydrological data, human activities and other processes taking place in the coastal areas are recommended. It is concluded that remote sensing and GIS are useful tools for monitoring the shoreline changes in Ramanathapuram district.

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