Application of Geospatial Technologies in Geology mapping of Bheemili in the district of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

B. Sridhar

Department of Geo-Engineering, Andhra University College of Engineering (A), Visakhapatnam

sridhar.bendalam@gmail.com, Tel.: +91-8341556390

Neela Victor Babu

Baba Institute of Technology and Science, Visakhapatnam

Aditya Allamraju

Abstract- A geological map gives primary data for analyzing both past and present day to day processes affecting a region on the Earth. This kind of information is vital for providing information relating to geology that can aid to minimize damage and death caused by geologic hazards such as earthquakes and landslides. In the present investigation, thematic maps of geology have been produced from the IRS-ID-LISS III, 2004 and standard visual interpretation methods have been followed to portray on-screen digitations of the features. This study shows that three major kinds of rocks are exposed in the area, out of which khondalite is in majority followed by Quartzite and then Charnockite. The structural trend of rocks is NNE-SSW considering the local variations at few places. These features play an important role with respect to drainage development and erosion in the area.

Keywords: Geological hazards, Khondalite, Quartzite, Charnockite, Erosion

1. INTRODUCTION

GIS is a new and effective tool in geological mapping that helps the surveyors to generate 3-D maps of any area with accurate and desired scaling. In the present analysis, the geological thematic layers have been studied to identify the geological vulnerable areas along the road management. Standard on-screen interpretation techniques as per the nomenclature proposed by NRSA, have been followed and delineated the features on-screen. These values are obtained to understand the rock and soil behavior in sub-aerial erosions. The road constructed along the sea shore, thus the influence of marine activity on the road is also explored to locate areas vulnerable under marine conditions. The rocks along the coast are observed as khondalite, leptynite that belong to the metamorphic group. In general, the trend coincides with the trend of Eastern Ghats. The khondalite appears red to brown color rich in sillimanite, garnets and occasional occurrence of graphite, biotitic, etc. in subordinate amount. Huge red kanker or talus material has been observed along the road cutting. This material is liable to slide on to the road. Bad land topography is famous in the area. Highly gullied land masses with sparse vegetation, red soils, and quick sands are the hallmarks of the area. A number of non-perennial streams erode the area into bad land topography.

2. STUDY AREA

The area of investigation is located in between $17^{0}73^{1}$- $17^{0}80^{1}$ Northern latitude and $83^{0}32^{1}$-$83^{0}45^{1}$ Eastern longitudes. Geographically, the area of study is located along the Bay of Bengal coast and comes under the Eastern Ghats Mobile Belt (EGMB) covering an area about 236 km^{2}, out of which approximately half of the area cover is under the jurisdiction of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and rest comes under the Bheemili municipality. Bheemili is a town cum mandal headquarters in Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh. The 25 kilometers stretch of road from Visakhapatnam along the coastline to Bheemili is a picturesque. The study is concentrated to the recent expansion of four lane roads connecting Visakhapatnam and Bheemili. The road lay adjacent to the sea coast of Bay of Bengal and is under the natural vagaries of sea coast on one side; land and its natural activities on the other side render the road vulnerable. Recently, several resorts and urban built-up lands came into existence. These anthropogenic activities have turned-up the topography along the road system. The traffic load is increasing year after year. In view of the traffic load, recent road expansion has been taken into account of the old road network. This activity has led to cutting of hill flanks, foothills, sea sand dunes, culverts, drainages and highly denuded land forms etc

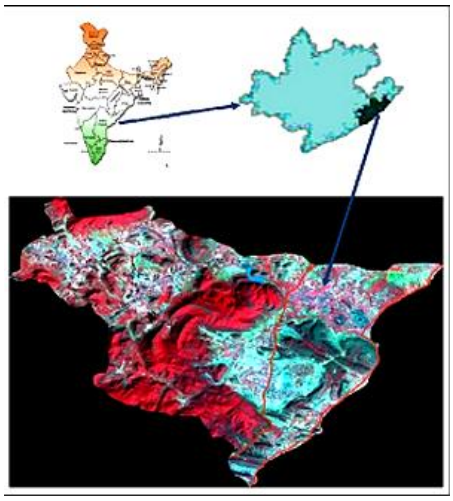

Figure1: Location Map of the present study area as viewed on IRS 1D LISS III, 2004.

3. METHODOLOGY

The investigation zone covers 2 sequences of the Survey of India (SOI) topographic maps, they are 65 O/5 and 65 O/2 on 1: 50000 scale. These maps are geo-rectified and projected to polyconic projection. Visakhapatnam topographic map has been scanned and saved in .jpg format which is then referenced to polyconic projection using ERDAS IMAGINE 9.1 software. The study area boundary is demarked on 1:50000 toposheet and later verified by ground truthing. Essential corrections were carried out and checked in the field with the help of GPS. Image processing was carried out for IRS – ID LISS –III (23.5m resolution) - dated April, 2004 (satellite imagery shown in Figure 1). After applying necessary image enhancement, Geology map has been generated using the GSI Visakhapatnam District map 2001. In the present study, the following weight classes were assigned to different rock

types which in turn, is easy to study weathering, cohesiveness and erosion. The following weight classes assigned to the rock types in which khondalite country rock is considered in the GIS analysis. (Table 1). The area covered under each class is given in Table 2. The geology map of the area is shown in Figure. 2.

Table1. Weight classes assigned to the rock types

Rock type	Weight class
Khondalite	1
Active beach	2
Charnockite	Restricted
Quartzite	Restricted
Laterite	Restricted
Sandstone	Restricted

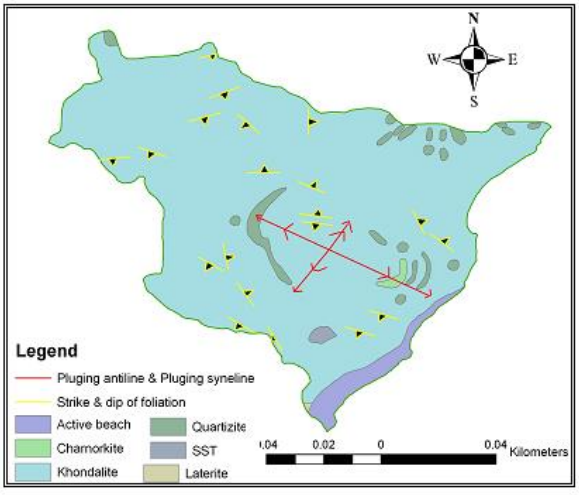

Figure 2: Geology Map of Study Area (Source: GSI map, Visakhapatnam dist.)

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Geology map has been generated using the GSI Visakhapatnam District map 2001. Three important rock types are exposed in the area, out of which khondalite (219.85 km^2) is the major rock type followed by Quartzite (7.11km^2) and Charnockite (0.81km^2). Charnockite and quartzite occur as intrusive bodies into the country rock.

Table 2. Aerial distribution of rock types in the study area.

Type of Geological Feature	Area in Sq Km
Total Area of Active Beach	7.270
Total Area of Charnockite	0.810
Total Area of Khondalite	219.850
Total Area of Laterite	0.110
Total Area of Quartizite	7.110
Total Area of SST	0.813
Total Study Area	235.963

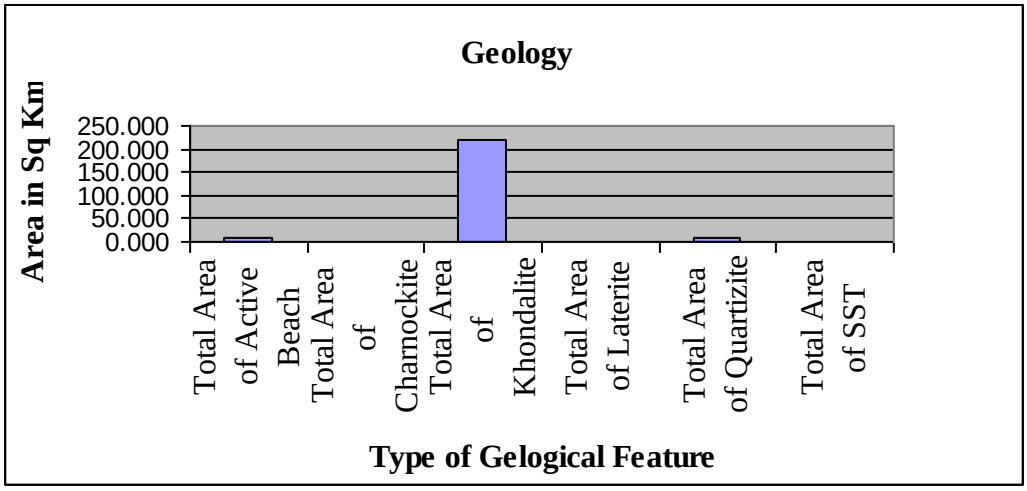

Figure 3. Geological features of the study area in sq.km.

The area is covered with hills of khondalite group of rocks belonging to Archaean age. The isolated hillocks formed at the foot hill area are composed of Charnockite and Quartzite rock types. These rocks are later intrusive into the country rock (Figure 2). However, local variations are also identified (Sriramadas, 1964; Chetty *et al*, 2002).

Khondalite is susceptible to easy weathering which leads to soil formation. All the hills contain thick soil cover and support semi-evergreen deciduous forest. The rock appears as pinkish red color and it is the parent rock for red soils. Khondalite is composed of garnets, sillimanite, feldspars, graphite, etc. as an abundant mineral. The

rock shows gneissic with banded structure. Weathering of rocks lead to soil formation and various other depositions like bad land topography, laterite soils, etc.

Charnockite rock occurs as intrusive bodies and act as dykes and ledges in the area. They are hard and appear grey in color. The Charnockite is composed of augite, hypersthene, feldspars, hornblende and mafic minerals.

Recent deposits like river alluvium covered the lower reaches of Peddagedda river. This alluvium appears as black to brown in color and it is supporting extensive agriculture particularly paddy, vegetables and millets in the area. A number of bad land topography with calcareous nodules and sparse vegetation were exposed near the foothills. A famous bad and topography namely Erramatti dibbalu is characteristically developed near INS Kalinga which is depositing sand and silt to the road. These areas are covered with red soil and supporting scrub and plantation. Table 3 shows the geological developments in the study area.

Laterite is a product of weathered khondalite; it is yellowish to reddish in color. It is generally ferruginous and hard on the surface containing numerous cavities. But it is gravely at depths, thickness of the laterite capping ranges from 1 to 3 meters.

Table 3. The geological succession of the study area•

Recent	Coastal alluvium, River alluvium and residual soils
Sub-recent	Laterite & Laterite capping
Archaeans	Khondalite suite of rocks intruded by charnockite, Quartzite, pegmatite and Quartz veins

5. CONCLUSION

Khondalite is susceptible to easy weathering which leads to soil formation. All the hills contain thick soil cover and support semi-evergreen deciduous forest. The rock appears as pinkish red color and it is the parent rock for red soils. Khondalite is composed of garnets, sillimanite, feldspars, graphite, etc as abundant minerals. The rock shows gneissic with banded structure. A number of bad land topography with calcareous nodules and sparse vegetation were exposed near the foothills. A topography namely Erramatti dibbalu is characteristically developed near INS Kalinga which is depositing sand and silt to the road.

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