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"A THOROUGH REVIEW OF GROUNDWATER MAPPING WITH REMOTE SENSING AND GIS"

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Abstract

The application of geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing (RS) to groundwater mapping is thoroughly examined in this review study. Accurate mapping techniques are becoming more and more important for the sustainable management of groundwater because it is an essential resource for many sectors.

The paper looks at how to find groundwater potential zones with RS and GIS, emphasizing how useful these tools are for data integration and spatial analysis. The study evaluates numerous case studies from various geographic locations in order to determine the merits and demerits of the existing methodologies as well as any new findings that could improve ground water management tactics. The results show how important these technologies are to improving our knowledge of groundwater resources and how they could be used in future studies and policy formation. Terms like groundwater mapping, remote sensing, GIS, groundwater potential, and spatial Analysis Are Discussed In The sessions.

Keywords- Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing, groundwater, spatial, Areal aspect

1. Introduction:

Groundwater is one of the most significant natural resources; it serves as the primary freshwater source for over half of the world's population. It delivers drinking water, supports industrial processes, and aids in agriculture, especially in places where surface water resources are scarce or unpredictable. The increasing demand for groundwater brought on by urbanization, population growth, and intense agricultural operations has created significant barriers to its sustainable management (Mukherjee et al., 2012). The overuse of groundwater resources has resulted in declining water tables, poor water quality, and aquifer depletion, all of which represent serious threats to long-term water security (Naghibi et al., 2016).

To distribute and conserve this valuable resource, detailed and extensive mapping of groundwater potential zones is required for effective groundwater management. However, traditional groundwater research methods, such as drilling and geophysical surveys, are usually expensive, time-consuming, and geographically limited (Sankar & Saravanan, 2007). Furthermore, these methodologies fall short of providing a complete understanding of groundwater distribution across vast swathes, complicating the design of management plans for the entire region.

Climate change is expected to exacerbate water scarcity in many parts of the world, emphasizing the importance of detailed groundwater mapping. It is much more critical to effectively monitor and manage these resources because of the possibility As a response to these challenges, the combination of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) has proven to be an effective technique for mapping groundwater. According to Chowdhury et al. (2010), these technologies enable the collection, analysis, and visualization of spatial data at hitherto impracticable scales. Remote sensing (RS) techniques provide a non-invasive method of measuring surface indicators of groundwater, such as plant cover, soil moisture, and land surface temperature. Kumar and Reshmidevi (2013) used satellite imagery and aircraft surveys to cover broad areas. When combined with GIS, these technologies provide a more complete and effective technique of finding groundwater potential

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zones, allowing for easier integration and spatial analysis of varied environmental variables (Selvam & Murugesan, 2019).The impact of shifting precipitation patterns, more frequent droughts, and rising temperatures on groundwater recharge rates and availability (Saha & Gupta, 2001). As a result, the expansion and refinement of RS and GIS technologies for mapping groundwater are critical for both ensuring future water security in the face of global environmental changes and managing water resources today.

GIS with remote sensing:

Remote sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are key technologies that have transformed how we research and manage natural resources, including groundwater. RS is the process of gathering information about the Earth's surface using satellite or aerial sensors without physical contact, allowing for the monitoring of broad and frequently inaccessible areas. This method collects data across many spectral bands, which may then be analyzed to disclose surface properties such as vegetation health, soil moisture, and geological formations all of which are important indicators for groundwater research (Magesh et al. 2012). GIS, on the other hand, is an extremely effective tool for storing, analyzing, and visualizing spatial data. GIS allows for the construction of comprehensive maps that illustrate Mukherjee et al. (2009) examined the distribution and potential of groundwater resources.

The origins of RS and GIS technologies may be traced back to the mid-twentieth century, with the launch of the first Earth-observing satellites such as Landsat in the 1970s, which constituted a watershed moment in environmental monitoring. Initially, these technologies were mostly used in meteorology and land-use studies, but their utility in hydrology and groundwater management quickly became obvious (Krishnamurthy et al., 1996). Over the years, advances in sensor resolution, data processing methods, and the introduction of Geographic Information Systems converted RS from a tool for surface observation to a crucial component in subsurface investigations, such as groundwater detection and management. Today the combination of RS and GIS is critical for solving the complex difficulties of groundwater management, especially in areas where traditional approaches are insufficient or unworkable (Saraf & Choudhury, 1998).The fundamental goals of this review are twofold. First, it seeks to provide a complete overview of the current approaches used in groundwater mapping with RS and GIS. This covers an evaluation of numerous methodologies, ranging from classic procedures to cutting-edge technologies, as well as their applicability in distinct geographic situations (Jha et al., 2010). Second, the review aims to identify existing trends, difficulties, and future directions in this sector. The study will examine recent advancements and case examples to highlight the strengths and limitations of current methodologies, as well as the opportunity for innovation in RS and GIS applications for groundwater mapping. These findings are meant to influence future research and policy-making, ensuring that groundwater supplies are managed sustainably and effectively in an era of rising demand. Rahmati et al. (2016) discuss environmental change.

2. Literature Review:

To ensure a thorough and current evaluation of approaches used in groundwater mapping with Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a systematic literature search was done across multiple well-established academic databases. Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science were chosen as primary sources because they provide substantial coverage of peer-reviewed journals, conference papers, and technical reports. Google Scholar was especially valuable because of its vast scope, capturing a diverse range of articles, including gray literature that may not be indexed in other databases. Scopus and Web of Science were critical for identifying high-impact research because of their rigorous indexing and citation tracking capabilities, which assisted in filtering out the most significant publications in the field (Chowdhury et al., 2010).

The search technique was built around carefully chosen keywords and search queries to encompass the entire body of research on groundwater mapping using RS and GIS. The primary search phrases were "groundwater mapping," "Remote Sensing," "Geographic Information Systems," "groundwater

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potential zones," and "spatial analysis." To refine the search results, other terms such as "satellite imagery," "spatial interpolation," "data integration," and "hydrological modeling" were used. Boolean operators (AND, OR) were used to generate particular queries that returned articles relevant to both wide overviews and niche implementations of these technologies (Naghibi et al., 2016).

Several criteria were used to choose papers that were relevant and of high quality. The primary focus was on articles published within the last two decades, which reflected the most recent advances and current practices in the field. However, seminal works that provided the groundwork for current research were also included, independent of publication date (Saha & Gupta, 2001). Another important factor was citation impact, where papers with high citation counts were preferred because they often reflect significant influence and acceptance within the scientific community (Magesh et al., 2012).Furthermore, relevance to the review's objectives was critical; publications that directly addressed groundwater mapping with RS and GIS, provided thorough methodology, or presented case studies from a variety of geographical contexts were considered. To maintain the review's emphasis and coherence, articles that focused primarily on theoretical elements with no practical application or did not involve the integration of RS and GIS in groundwater investigations were eliminated (Rahmati et al., 2016).This rigorous approach to literature selection guaranteed that the review was based on both historical viewpoints and the most recent advancements in the field, offering a solid platform for identifying trends, difficulties, and future directions in groundwater mapping.

Method of Analysis:

A systematic method was taken in order to categorize the studies based on the techniques used, the territories covered, and the specific applications described in order to carefully assess the large body of literature on groundwater mapping utilizing Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Sorting the material according to the RS and GIS methodologies employed was the initial step in the categorization process. This included cutting edge approaches like machine learning algorithms combined with GIS for predictive modeling, as well as conventional technologies like multispectral and hyperspectral imaging, radar, and thermal sensors (Naghibi et al., 2016). This method of classifying the research made it simpler to see how technology has evolved in the field and how different approaches have been used in different situations.

The geographical areas in which the research were carried out were the main focus of the second level of categorization. This method demonstrated the variety of applicability in various geological settings, climatic zones, and socioeconomic contexts. Studies from humid locations, where surface water abundance influences groundwater recharge and potential, were compared with those from arid and semi-arid regions, where groundwater is a vital resource (Mukherjee et al., 2009). This regional classification demonstrated the flexibility of RS and GIS methodologies in tackling these issues, in addition to offering insights into the unique challenges encountered in other parts of the world.

Subsequently, a comparative study was carried out to assess the efficacy, dependability, and suitability of the distinct approaches in diverse contexts. This entailed evaluating each technique's precision, affordability, and convenience of use. For instance, radar-based techniques have better penetration capabilities and are therefore more useful in areas with difficult topography or dense vegetation, even though multispectral imaging is extensively utilized due to its accessibility and simplicity (Sankar & Saravanan, 2007). In order to assess whether advanced GIS-based spatial analysis methods like Kriging or Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) can improve the accuracy of groundwater potential zone mapping, the comparative analysis also took into account the integration of RS with GIS (Jha et al., 2010).

The review also examined the application of machine learning algorithms, which have demonstrated promise in enhancing the precision of groundwater availability predictions by examining intricate patterns in substantial datasets (Rahmati et al., 2016).By using this analytical approach, the review not only highlights the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches, but it also points out areas of current research that require additional investigation and could have a major impact on groundwater management practices. A thorough grasp of the ways in which RS and GIS have been applied in

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groundwater studies is provided by the thorough classification and comparison analysis, which also offers insightful information for further study and application.

3. Methodology

3.1 Techniques for Remote Sensing-Based Groundwater Mapping Images and Sources of Information from Satellites:

In the subject of groundwater mapping, satellite photography has emerged as a vital tool, offering vital data that makes it possible to analyze large and frequently inaccessible regions. Sentinel, MODIS, and Landsat are some of the most often utilized satellites in groundwater studies. Their distinct features help to provide efficient groundwater resource monitoring and assessment. Since its launch by NASA in the 1970s, the Landsat series has been a mainstay of remote sensing, offering high-resolution optical imagery that is especially useful for identifying surface features that may be signs of subsurface water, such as changes in land cover, vegetation patterns, and soil moisture (Magesh et al., 2012). Because of its extensive temporal coverage and multispectral capabilities, Landsat is an effective tool for longterm groundwater monitoring and and trend analysis (Kumar & Reshmidevi, 2013).

With their improved spatial, spectral, and temporal resolution, the Sentinel satellites—part of the European Space Agency's Copernicus program—offer enhanced capabilities. Sentinel-1 is an invaluable tool for groundwater investigations in areas with regular cloud cover or deep woods because of its ability to penetrate vegetation and cloud cover thanks to its Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) capability (Naghibi et al., 2016). Monitoring groundwater extraction and the ensuing land subsidence is made easier by SAR's capacity to identify minute changes in surface deformation. This is important for managing groundwater resources in a sustainable manner (Mukherjee et al., 2009). On the other hand, Sentinel-2 offers optical imagery that is comparable to Landsat but has finer spatial resolution and more frequent revisits, making it possible to examine groundwater-related surface conditions in more detail and with more recent data.

With its large sweep width and excellent temporal resolution, NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites are home to MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro radiometer), which offers a unique set of benefits. For large-scale research requiring frequent observations, MODIS' daily global coverage is invaluable, but at a coarser resolution than that of Landsat or Sentinel (Saha & Gupta, 2001). Temperature anomalies on the surface of the Earth can be a sign of groundwater flow or discharge zones, and its thermal infrared bands are especially helpful in detecting them (Saraf & Choudhury, 1998). Because of this, MODIS is an essential source of data in areas where surface water bodies are influenced by groundwater discharge or where variations in temperature are associated with subsurface water movements.

Apart from these pivotal satellites, particular sensors are vital in augmenting the pertinence and precision of the acquired data. Optical sensors are crucial for monitoring surface characteristics and land cover types that impact groundwater recharge and distribution because they are able to detect reflected sunlight. Sentinel-1's radar sensors, for example, can image in all weather conditions day or night. They can penetrate clouds and vegetation to measure surface roughness and moisture content, two important parameters for comprehending groundwater dynamics (Jha et al., 2010). Thermal sensors are essential for identifying groundwater discharge zones, which are places where warmer surface conditions interact with cooler groundwater. They assess surface temperature and are accessible on MODIS and Landsat (Rahmati et al., 2016).A more thorough and precise mapping of groundwater resources is made possible by the integration of data from these many sensors, which promotes improved management and conservation tactics.

Spectral Indices:

Groundwater studies can benefit greatly from the interpretation and analysis of environmental variables through the use of spectral indices that are generated from satellite photography. The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), which is derived from the red and near-infrared bands of satellite imagery, is one of the most commonly used indexes. Since plant patterns and

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subsurface water availability are strongly related, the Normalized Difference plant Index (NDVI) is a valuable tool in groundwater investigations. There is typically more vigorous flora and higher NDVI values in areas with an abundance of groundwater. On the other hand, reduced NDVI values are typically associated with stressed or sparse vegetation in places with limited groundwater supplies. Numerous studies have successfully mapped prospective groundwater zones using this association, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. Where surface water is limited (Sankar & Saravanan, 2007). Derived from thermal infrared data, the Land Surface Temperature (LST) is another important spectral measure in groundwater investigations. Variations in surface temperature can be interpreted by LST as a sign of underlying groundwater conditions. For instance, the evaporation process tends to chill the surface in regions where groundwater is near the surface, resulting in lower LST values. This phenomena is especially noticeable in oases and wetlands where surface water bodies are influenced by groundwater. On the other hand, because of decreased evaporative cooling, areas with deep or exhausted groundwater resources could have higher LST. According to Rahmati et al. (2016), LST has proven to be an efficient tool in groundwater research for identifying discharge locations and tracking the impacts of groundwater extraction on surface temperatures over time.

Other indices, such as the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) and the Soil Moisture Index (SMI), have been used in groundwater investigations in addition to the NDVI and LST. The nearinfrared and green bands are used to calculate NDWI, which is particularly helpful for locating water bodies and determining how close they are to groundwater sources. High NDWI readings can suggest possible groundwater discharge zones in regions where surface water bodies are sustained by groundwater (Chowdhury et al., 2010). SMI, on the other hand, is an estimate of surface soil moisture that is directly impacted by the presence of groundwater near the surface. It is calculated using combinations of optical and thermal bands. This measure is useful in areas where the availability and recharging of groundwater depend heavily on soil moisture.

The efficient application of these spectral indices in groundwater exploration and management has been shown by case studies conducted worldwide. For example, in the Indian Thar Desert, regions of shallow groundwater that sustained vegetation growth despite the arid circumstances were successfully identified by combining NDVI with LST (Magesh et al., 2012). Another study carried out in the Nile Delta, Egypt, highlighted the value of the index in controlling and protecting such ecologically significant zones by using NDWI to map groundwater discharge locations that were assisting in the construction of wetlands (Saraf & Choudhury, 1998). Furthermore, in Iran's arid regions, SMI was used to analyze the impact of excessive groundwater extraction on soil moisture levels, giving crucial data for sustainable water management techniques (Naghibi et al., 2016).

Advanced Techniques:

Recent advances in remote sensing technology have substantially improved groundwater exploration capabilities, particularly through the use of radar, microwave, and hyperspectral data. Radar, particularly Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), has developed as an effective technique in groundwater investigations due to its ability to pierce cloud cover and vegetation, delivering consistent and trustworthy data under a variety of environmental situations. SAR's capacity to identify surface deformation, such as subsidence produced by groundwater extraction, is especially useful for monitoring aquifer depletion and analyzing the consequences of excessive groundwater withdrawal (Mukherjee et al., 2009). Furthermore, radar's sensitivity to soil moisture makes it an efficient tool in mapping areas of potential groundwater recharge, particularly in places with complex terrain where optical sensors may be less successful (Naghibi et2016).

Microwave remote sensing enhances the ability to detect soil moisture and surface water conditions, which are important indications of groundwater presence and flow. Unlike optical sensors, which rely on sunlight, microwave sensors emit their own signal, allowing data to be collected day and night and in all weather conditions. This capacity is especially beneficial in areas prone to heavy cloud cover, when traditional optical approaches may fail. Microwave data has been successfully used in locations

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such as the Amazon Basin to monitor groundwater levels in response to seasonal variations and human activity, providing critical insights for sustainable water management (Kumar and Reshmidevi, 2013). Hyperspectral imaging is another frontier in remote sensing, providing extraordinary resolution by collecting data across hundreds of small spectral bands. This enables the exact determination of mineral compositions, vegetation kinds, and soil qualities that reflect groundwater conditions. Hyperspectral data has proved useful in finding minute differences in surface materials that correlate with underlying groundwater, especially in arid and semi-arid locations where traditional approaches may miss these details (Saha & Gupta, 2001). The capacity of hyperspectral sensors to identify certain wavelengths associated with moisture content in vegetation and soils establishes a direct link to groundwater exploration, improving the accuracy of groundwater potential zone mapping.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), sometimes known as drones, are a growing trend in groundwater mapping. Their flexibility, high resolution, and affordability are transforming data collecting. With previously unheard-of accuracy, UAVs fitted with a variety of sensors—such as thermal, hyperspectral, and multispectral cameras can gather comprehensive spatial data across small to medium-sized areas. This is especially helpful in areas that are hard to reach with conventional methods or when quick assessment is needed (Rahmati et al., 2016). Drones can be swiftly deployed in response to specific groundwater issues, such as monitoring aquifer recharge following a rainfall event or evaluating the effect of agricultural irrigation on groundwater levels. Drones can fly at low altitudes, providing finer spatial resolution than satellite-based sensors.

Although it is still in its infancy, the use of UAV technology in groundwater investigation has enormous potential. Drones, for instance, have been used to monitor irrigation efficiency and its impacts on groundwater recharge in agricultural areas of California, assisting farmers in optimizing water use and minimizing groundwater depletion (Chowdhury et al., 2010). Drones have also made it easier to map groundwater potential zones in distant parts of Africa, which has been very helpful for populations that largely rely on groundwater for their water supply (Sankar & Saravanan, 2007). As a UAV As technology develops, it is anticipated to become more and more important in groundwater exploration, especially in areas where alternative techniques are too expensive or logistically difficult.

4. GIS in Groundwater Mapping

Spatial Analysis and Data Integration:

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have shown to be essential in groundwater research because to their capacity to incorporate diverse datasets such as geological, hydrological, topographical, and climatic data. According to Mukherjee et al. (2009), GIS is a powerful tool that facilitates the combination and analysis of many data layers, allowing researchers to investigate complicated spatial connections that influence groundwater distribution and behavior. For example, integrating hydrological data, such as rainfall, river flow, and aquifer characteristics, with geological data, such as soil types and rock formations, results in a comprehensive geographical framework for groundwater research and management. The integration of these numerous datasets within a GIS allows for the discovery of patterns and trends that would otherwise go unnoticed when data is reviewed separately. (Jha et al., 2010).

GIS is frequently used in groundwater research to predict groundwater potential in previously undiscovered locations, in conjunction with various interpolation approaches and spatial modeling strategies. Interpolation techniques such as Kriging and Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) are commonly used to estimate groundwater characteristics in unsampled areas by combining data from surrounding wells or bore holes. Kriging is a geostatistical technique that works particularly effectively in places with complex geological formations because it accounts for both distance and degree of variation between known data points (Saraf & Choudhury, 1998).In situations when data is evenly distributed, IDW is simpler but still successful because it operates on the assumption that points closer together are more likely to have comparable values (Naghibi et al. 2016).

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When combined with spatial modeling, these interpolation methodologies enable the creation of comprehensive maps of groundwater potential, which are critical for identifying whether a location is suitable for conservation, drilling, or groundwater recharge.

Decision Support Systems (DSS):

GIS-based Decision Support Systems (DSS) play an important role in groundwater management because they provide a framework for integrating scientific data into decision-making. These systems use GIS to synthesize vast amounts of data, then apply analytical models to assist stakeholders in evaluating various management scenarios and making educated decisions. DSS methods are especially useful in areas where groundwater supplies are under threat from over-extraction, pollution, or climate change (Chowdhury et al., 2010). For example, in India's semi-arid regions, a GIS-based DSS was built to help local authorities plan sustainable groundwater extraction operations. The system used data on aquifer properties, water demand, and recharge rates to generate scenarios that balance groundwater usage and conservation demands, thereby preventing overexploitation (Rahmati et al., 2016).

In other places of the world, DSS applications have been designed to handle unique groundwater challenges. In the United States, for example, a GIS-based DSS was implemented in California's Central Valley to manage groundwater supplies during a severe drought. This system used data on agricultural water consumption, groundwater levels, and climatic projections to optimize irrigation techniques and decrease groundwater depletion (Sankar & Saravanan, 2007).Similarly, in North Africa, a DSS was used to schedule groundwater extraction and recharge efforts in response to changing seasonal rainfall, thereby stabilizing water supplies for both urban and rural populations (Magesh et al. 2012). These examples highlight the versatility of GIS-based DSS in promoting sustainable groundwater management in a variety of environmental and socioeconomic circumstances. **Potential Zonation of Groundwater:**

Delineating groundwater potential zones is an important stage in groundwater research and management, and GIS has proven to be a useful tool in this regard. A variety of methodologies are used within a GIS framework to identify and map regions with high groundwater potential. The weighted overlay method is one of the most widely used systems, in which several thematic layers such as geology, slope, drainage density, and land use are weighted depending on their impact on groundwater occurrence. These layers are then integrated in a GIS context to create a groundwater potential map, which shows places with favorable circumstances for groundwater accumulation (Jha et al. 2010).

Another option is to utilize multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA), which combines expert opinion and quantitative data to determine the suitability of various regions for groundwater development. MCDA considers both objective evidence and subjective preferences, making it especially helpful in complicated decision-making situations with various stakeholders (Saha & Gupta, 2001).

Case studies from around the world have demonstrated the efficacy of these methods in groundwater potential mapping. In Iran's dry regions, for example, a GIS-based MCDA approach effectively identified high-potential zones that were later confirmed through field drilling, greatly increasing the efficiency of groundwater exploration activities (Naghibi et al., 2016). Similarly, in the West African Sahel, the weighted overlay method was used to locate places for new boreholes, providing muchneeded water sources to local residents during lengthy dry seasons (Kumar & Reshmidevi, 2013). These accomplishments highlight the importance of GIS-based methodologies in improving the accuracy and reliability of groundwater potential zonation, allowing for more effective water resource management.

5. Utilizations and Case Research:

The use of Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in groundwater mapping has been extensively investigated in a variety of locales, with each bringing unique difficulties and potential. In arid and semi-arid locations where water scarcity is a major concern, RS and GIS have been extremely useful in finding probable groundwater reserves. For example, in India's Thar Desert,

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a location known for high aridity and scant surface water, researchers used Landsat data and GIS to map groundwater potential zones based on vegetation indices, soil moisture content, and geological features. This study produced critical insights for local water resource management, allowing for the discovery of new drilling sites that greatly increased water availability for the local population (Magesh et al., 2012). Similarly, in North Africa's semi-arid regions, RS and GIS were utilized to evaluate aquifer recharge potential, assisting in the prioritization of locations for artificial recharge projects and sustainable ground water extraction (Naghibi et al., 2016). Groundwater management problems differ between urban and agricultural contexts due to intensive land use and high demand for water supplies. In urban regions, RS and GIS have been used successfully to monitor the influence of urbanization on groundwater recharge. For example, in Los Angeles, researchers used satellite data to monitor changes in land cover and impervious surfaces, which were then compared to groundwater levels to determine the impact of urban sprawl on local aquifers. This study emphasized the need of integrating land use planning and groundwater management to prevent urban groundwater depletion and contamination (Mukherjee et al., 2009). In agricultural locations such as India's Punjab plains, RS and GIS techniques are used to monitor groundwater levels and estimate the impact of irrigation activities. By combining data on crop trends, soil type, and irrigation intensity, researchers were able to identify areas of high groundwater extraction and prescribe methods to promote recharge and reduce dependency on groundwater (Chowdhury et al., 2010).

When comparing the techniques utilized in these research, it is obvious that the efficacy of RS and GIS methodologies varies greatly depending on the geography and study aims. Thermal infrared data has been particularly effective in identifying groundwater discharge locations in arid climates, as evidenced by experiments conducted in the Sahara Desert. However, this strategy may be less effective in metropolitan regions where surface heat signatures are dominated by human influences (Jha et al., 2010). Multispectral and hyperspectral imaging, which are commonly employed in agricultural regions to monitor vegetation health and soil moisture, have demonstrated limitations in areas with dense vegetation or cloud cover, where radar-based techniques may be better applicable (Saraf & Choudhury, 1998).Comparing these techniques across multiple case studies demonstrates both their strengths and limits, emphasizing the necessity for a personalized strategy that considers the individual environmental and socioeconomic factors of each place. The scale at which RS and GIS techniques are used also influences their usefulness. On a worldwide scale, these technologies provide a valuable overview of groundwater resources, allowing for the detection of broad trends and patterns. For example, global databases collected by MODIS and GRACE satellites have proven useful in monitoring changes in global groundwater storage and understanding the effects of climate change on water resources (Rahmati et al., 2016).However, global dataset's coarse resolution frequently restricts their utility at a local scale, where precise, high-resolution data is required to support site-specific management decisions. Higher-resolution images and more detailed data are advantageous for localscale investigations, including those carried out in small watersheds or urban neighborhoods, as they allow for more accurate mapping and analysis. Thus, more thorough understanding of groundwater dynamics can be obtained by the integration of local and global data, supporting both general policymaking and focused management measures (Kumar& Reshmidevi, 2013).

6. Barriers and Limitations:

Although groundwater mapping has been transformed by Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a number of technical issues and constraints still exist, which reduces the overall efficacy of these tools. The spatial resolution restriction of existing RS technologies is one of the main technical challenges. Although they provide valuable temporal data and extensive coverage, satellites such as MODIS and Landsat often lack the fine spatial resolution required for in-depth studies of groundwater, especially in heterogeneous landscapes where minute variations in vegetation or geology can have a major impact on groundwater availability (Saha & Gupta, 2001). Moreover, cloud

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cover, especially in tropical areas, and satellite revisit frequency can limit the availability of highresolution data and cause delays in the timely collecting of data required for dynamic groundwater evaluations (Naghibi et al., 2016).

Integrating data from several sources into GIS platforms is a major additional problem. Combining different data types—such as satellite imaging, geological surveys, hydrological measurements, and socioeconomic data—is frequently necessary for groundwater investigations. Nevertheless, the fact that these datasets often originate from several sources and have differing formats, sizes, and accuracy levels makes their integration difficult and occasionally uneven (Mukherjee et al., 2009).Groundwater potential maps may become inaccurate as a result of, for instance, the combination of more comprehensive satellite data with high-resolution geological maps, which might create mistakes or misalignments.

7. Future Directions:

Driven by developing technology and the growing demand for sustainable water resource management, groundwater mapping employing Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is set to undergo substantial developments in the future. The incorporation of big data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI) into RS and GIS applications is one of the most exciting areas of development. These innovations have the power to completely change how we handle and evaluate massive amounts of satellite data, allowing for the development of more precise and foretelling groundwater behavior models. In order to get new insights that were previously inaccessible using conventional methods, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms can be trained to detect patterns and abnormalities in satellite data that may be indicative of groundwater availability or depletion (Naghibi et al., 2016). Additionally, a more comprehensive approach to groundwater management that takes into account the intricate connections between various environmental aspects is made possible by big data analytics, which enables the integration of enormous and diverse datasets, including climatic, geological, and socioeconomic data (Jha et al., 2010).

Apart from the progress made in technology, there is an increasing awareness of the significance of incorporating scientific discoveries into policy formulation for the sustainable administration of groundwater resources. With the increasing sophistication of RS and GIS technologies, it is imperative that their findings are efficiently converted into practical strategies that tackle the issues of groundwater depletion, contamination, and fair distribution. To create rules and laws that take into account the most recent scientific findings and technology advancements, policymakers and practitioners must work closely with scientists (Mukherjee et al., 2009). To monitor compliance with water use restrictions, maintain recharge zones, and control groundwater extraction, for instance, groundwater management plans should include RS and GIS data. Policies that encourage the use of these technologies in environments with limited resources are also required in order to guarantee that developing nations can gain from the developments in groundwater mapping (Saha & Gupta, 2001).

Even with these encouraging advancements, there are still a number of research gaps that need to be filled up and developed. More thorough and focused research is required in order to improve the precision of groundwater potential maps. This is especially important in areas with intricate geological formations or little access to data. Research on how changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and land use may impact groundwater recharge and availability in the future is also necessary in order to understand the effects of climate change on groundwater resources (Naghibi et al., 2016).

The creation of affordable techniques for data collection and processing is another area that needs focus, particularly in developing nations where access to sophisticated GIS tools and high-resolution satellite images may be restricted (Chowdhury et al., 2010). In addition to improving the efficiency of RS and GIS technologies in groundwater mapping, filling up these research gaps will guarantee that these developments are available and advantageous to all areas, regardless of their economic standing.

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Informed policymaking, focused research, and the ongoing development of RS and GIS technologies will undoubtedly be essential to the sustainable management of the world's groundwater supplies in the future. We can better protect this essential resource for coming generations by utilizing AI, machine learning, and big data, and making sure that these developments are included into workable and fair water management plans.

8. Conclusion:

This review has highlighted the transformative role that Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have played in advancing our understanding and management of groundwater resources. Through a detailed examination of various methodologies and case studies, it is evident that these technologies offer powerful tools for mapping groundwater potential, monitoring changes in aquifer levels, and supporting sustainable water management practices. Key findings from the review underscore the effectiveness of RS and GIS in integrating diverse datasets ranging from geological and hydrological data to climatic and land use information into comprehensive spatial models that provide valuable insights into groundwater dynamics (Naghibi et al., 2016). The use of interpolation methods such as Kriging and IDW, along with advanced spatial modeling techniques, has enabled the accurate prediction of groundwater availability in both well-studied and data-scarce regions (Jha et al., 2010).

The overall impact of RS and GIS technologies on groundwater studies cannot be overstated. These tools have not only enhanced the precision and scope of groundwater mapping efforts but have also democratized access to critical information, enabling resource managers, policymakers, and local communities to make informed decisions about water use and conservation (Mukherjee et al., 2009). The ability to monitor groundwater resources over large areas and across different time scales has provided a new level of visibility into the state of this vital resource, making it possible to detect trends, identify risks, and implement targeted interventions more effectively than ever before. Furthermore, the integration of RS and GIS into Decision Support Systems (DSS) has proven particularly valuable in complex environments where multiple factors must be considered simultaneously, offering a robust framework for balancing competing demands on groundwater (Saha & Gupta, 2001).

As we look to the future, it is clear that continued innovation in RS and GIS will be crucial for addressing the ongoing and emerging challenges in groundwater management. There are several areas where future research could yield significant benefits, including the further development of AI and machine learning algorithms to enhance data processing and analysis, the expansion of high-resolution satellite coverage to improve mapping accuracy in remote and developing regions, and the refinement of methodologies for integrating multi-source data into cohesive models (Rahmati et al., 2016). Additionally, there is a pressing need for policies that support the widespread adoption of these technologies, particularly in regions where water scarcity poses a serious threat to economic development and public health. Policymakers should prioritize the inclusion of RS and GIS data in water management frameworks, ensuring that decisions are grounded in the best available science and that the benefits of these technologies are equitably distributed (Chowdhury et al., 2010).

To sum up, even though a lot of progress has been done, the full potential of RS and GIS in groundwater studies has yet to be realized. Continued collaboration between scientists, technologists, and policymakers will be essential in driving forward the next generation of groundwater mapping tools and techniques. By leveraging the capabilities of RS and GIS, we can move towards a future where groundwater resources are managed more sustainably, ensuring their availability for generations to come. As such, ongoing research, innovation, and policy integration should be viewed not just as opportunities, but as necessities in our collective effort to protect and conserve this critical resource.

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