Geographical Information System Approach to Delineate the Watershed’s Morphometric Parameters for Sustainable Hydrological Modeling of Barind Region, Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Water is an important resource of the earth’s surface and it is integral for all on this planet. The availability or the scarcity of water depends on the watershed characteristics that consider the basic, linear, and shape parameters of any waterbody. The objective of the study was to delineate 14 morphometric parameters in the Barind region (Dinajpur district, Bangladesh) for sustainable hydrological modeling. An ASTER-DEM of 30-meter resolution data, geographical information system (GIS), and Remote sensing technique were used for extracting drainage components of interest region. The whole study region was covered by the flow of the Purnovoba river, Jamuna river, Atrai river (part-1 and part-2). Research results found that the Purnovoba river had a high bifurcation ratio (0.9982) that defined hydrologically more disturbed than the other three watershed areas and it had a high stream frequency (0.8332) that denoted rocky having low infiltration capacity. Jamuna river had a low drainage density (0.7322) that defined more vegetation having higher permeability. Besides, the Jamuna river had the lowest no. of stream order that was insignificant in the steady runoff process and less prone to cause a flash flood. The research predicted that the availability of groundwater might decrease to Jamuna river in the future as it had the lowest basin area (217.42 sqr. km ) and perimeter (114.90 km ) and the basin surface slope would become gentle to Atrai river part-1 for the lowest length of overland flow (0.6072). Purnovoba river experienced the lowest form factor (0.2351) which indicated the most possibility for erosion. The elongated ratio of all basins was greater than 0.5 which considered all the shapes were more elongated. These findings will help for further modeling of an integrated watershed for sustainable hydrological models in the Barind region.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Land and water resources both are vital elements of the earth as life depends on them. But these resources are being limited due to rapid population rises and other activities. Watershed management is a crucial part of the conservation and utilization of the natural resources in the water bodies (B.-W. Liu et al., 2020; Rong et al., 2019). Effective watershed management can play an important role in managing the damage runoff (Fu et al., 2019), reducing the impact of sediment output and river erosion (Du et al., 2016), increasing groundwater storage (Ghorbani Nejad et al., 2017), and utilizing land and water resources (Ervinia et al., 2019; Wada et al., 2020). A watershed is a region that sustains all kinds of runoff of the stream, lake, or ocean. Watershed’s morphometric modeling is commonly used for sustainable watershed management (Ahn & Kim, 2019; Alnahit et al., 2020), resource protection (Wada et al., 2020), and sustainable development (Prasannakumar et al., 2013; Sujatha et al., 2014) in any region. Morphometric analysis is an important method for hydrological research that provides the quantitative results of drainage basins (Choudhari et al., 2018). Besides, morphometric analysis of watershed
includes the preparation of drainage map with the order of drainage streams, catchment area, and perimeter, stream order, and stream length (Alam et al., 2020; Charizopoulos et al., 2019). Three morphometric parameters such as basic parameters (Banerjee et al., 2017; Choudhari et al., 2018; Elsadek et al., 2019; Gajbiye et al., 2014), linear parameters (Gajbiye et al., 2014; Patel et al., 2012), and shape parameters (Ahmed et al., 2010; Gajbiye et al., 2014; Panhalkar et al., 2012; Patel et al., 2012) are used to characterize the watershed. The basic parameters characterize the area, perimeter, basin length, stream order, stream length, maximum and minimum height, and slope. Basin length is considered as a straight-line interval from a basin mouth to the outlet point (Senter et al., 2017; Soni, 2017). The linear parameters are analyzed for the stream order, stream length, mean stream length, and bifurcation ratio (Harsha et al., 2020). The mean stream length is related to the drainage network and corresponds with its surface (Dragičević et al., 2018; Pondari et al., 2020). The shape parameters include the form factor, shape factor, elongation ratio, compactness coefficient, and circulatory ratio (Al-Assadi, 2020; Saha et al., 2020). Though linear parameters have a substantial effect on erodibility, but the shape parameters have negative relationship on erodibility (Ratnam et al., 2005).

Conducting watershed analysis and hydrological research for large drainage basins catchment areas through topographical maps or field observation are quite impossible but in small watersheds, it can be measured streamflow and water quality (Choudhari et al., 2018; Harmel et al., 2006). Recently, researchers used geospatial techniques like Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) for sustainable watershed analysis and modeling. GIS and RS techniques have high efficiency and effectiveness for extraction of drainage components (Gong & Xie, 2009; Metz et al., 2011), watershed development, and management (Ameri et al., 2018; Chatterjee et al., 2014; Okumura & Araujo, 2014). Nowadays GIS techniques are inexpensive, reliable, and fast way to calculate morphometric analysis (Balasubramanian et al., 2017; Sreedevi et al., 2009) and used for drainage pattern, topography, and subsurface material studies (Balasubramanian et al., 2017; Chandniha & Kansal, 2017; Javed et al., 2011; Withanage et al., 2014). RS data offer accurate, timely, and real-time information about specific aspects such as watershed size and form, soil distribution, drainage characteristics, etc (Suresh et al., 2004).

Elsadek, W. M. et al., 2019 have analyzed the morphometric characteristics to estimate the flood risk hazards of sub-watersheds using morphometric analysis in Qena watersheds. In their research, the shuttle radar topography mission (STRM) data are used to analyze the topography, modeling of surface processes, and flood risk zone. The calculation of hydrological parameters, extraction of topography map, drainage network, and the direction of the flow of floods are analyzed by GIS techniques (Elsadek et al., 2019). Choudhari, P. P. et al., 2018 have analyzed the morphometric parameters and prioritization of sub-watersheds for groundwater potential and conservation structures for a watershed of the Mula river basin in the Puna district of Maharashtra, India. The prioritization of five watersheds of the Mula river is graded by computing morphological parameters where the lowest ranking is represented the top priority of soil erosion and less measure of conservation. In their research, the STRM data and GIS technique are used for estimating morphometric parameters of the Mula river basin (Choudhari et al., 2018).

The present research contributes to delineate the 14 morphometric parameters in the Barind region where there is limited such research work in Bangladesh. The research findings will help for further modeling of an integrated watershed for sustainable hydrological models. Besides, it will help for solving hydrology-related problems such as irrigation, harvesting of surface water, cause of river erosion, surface stormwater runoff process, and water resource management in the Barind region.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Study Area Profile

Watershed basin of Dinajpur region is located in between 25° 10' and 26° 04’ North latitudes and between 88° 23’ and 89° 18’ East longitudes at the Northern part of Bangladesh (Figure 1). It is bounded by Thakurgaon and Panchagram districts on the North, Gaibandha and Joypurhat districts on the South, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts on the East and West Bengal state of India on the West. Geographically it is situated in the Barind region of Bangladesh. The Barind region is influenced by lower rainfall and higher temperature as compared to other regions of Bangladesh (Rashid et al., 2013). Jamuna river, Purnovoba river, and Atrai river are major rivers that pass through the area of interest (AOI). The Dinajpur district experiences a hot, wet, and humid tropical climate. In Bangladesh, the Northern part is the steepest slope than the Southern region (Figure 2). In the AOI the water flow usually happens from the Northern to the Southern direction and it is occurred based on the slope of the land (Figure 3).

B. Data Description

Digital elevation model (DEM) generated from advanced spaceborne thermal emission and reflection radiometer (ASTER) data were used for this research (K. Liu et al., 2020; Mokarram & Hojati, 2017; Poongodi & Venkateswaran, 2018) and they were collected from open topography website (https://opentopography.org/) (Figure 4). The numbers of Columns and rows of the raster data were 1107 and 1000 respectively. Spatial extents of the DEM were 26.05930 degree at the top, 25.22597 degree at the bottom, 88.38231 degree at the left, and 89.30481 degree at right. The pre-processed DEM image was used for extraction and quantification of watershed morphometric parameters. Districts and Upazilla boundary data were collected from the Survey of Bangladesh (SoB). Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection system was used as spatial parameter and World Geodetic System (WGS) 1984 was used as a datum for the data preparation and mapping.
Figure 1: Study area map including major river and watershed in Dinajpur district, Bangladesh

Figure 2: Flow direction of water in the AOI
Figure 3: Slope aspect map of Study area

Figure 4: DEM map of Study area
C. Morphometric Parameter Analysis Technique and Computation

Watershed basin created stream orders like 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th order stream depending on the flow characterizes. All the streams in a watershed area were delineated from DEM image using ArcGIS software v 10.7. Firstly, the collected DEM image was reconditioned by a commercial DEM developer, and based on AOI reconditioned DEM was extracted. Secondly, the Flow direction of the DEM developer, and based on AOI reconditi...
3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Area (A) and Perimeter of the Basin (P)
Area and perimeter were the basic parameters of a watershed basin and these were described in the way of the extent of the basin over a watershed region. The research focused on the area of four analyzed watersheds that were 699.664 km$^2$, 217.424 km$^2$, 244.047 km$^2$, and 298.788 km$^2$ for Purnovoba river, Jamuna river, Atrai river part-1, and Atrai river part-2 watershed basin area respectively. The minimum and maximum perimeters were 187,199.00 km for Purnovoba river and 114,907 km for Jamuna river (Table 2). So, the availability of groundwater might decrease in the Jamuna river watershed region in the future as its basin area and perimeter were low.

B. Stream Order ($u$)
Higher stream order denoted the higher discharged rate and greater velocity of a stream while lower-order was described as opposite. The maximum stream order was demarked as 5th order stream and the minimum was demarked as 1st order. Analyzed results showed that there was a total of 1214 no of the stream (Table 2). Increasing the order decreased the number of streams. The 1st order stream contained the highest number of stream orders in the study area. The 5th order stream was found in the Purnovoba river watershed area which was denoted the main river stream (Figure 5d; Fig. 6a). The 1st to 4th order stream was found in both Atrai river part-1 and Atrai river part-2 (Figure 5a, b; Figure 6a). Only 1st, 2nd, and 3rd order streams were found in the Jamuna river watershed (Figure 5c; Figure 6a).

C. Stream Length ($L_u$)
The stream length of a watershed basin represented the travel distance and time of a stream. The total length of all streams was 1117.77 km in the study area (Table 2). The 1st order stream contained the highest length and the 5th order contained the lowest (Figure 6b). Among them, the Purnovoba river contained the highest distances (534.03 km) and carried a higher stream length that defined the area as hydrologically more active. As a result, the velocity of the stream was greater and it consequence the erosion and sediment transport in the AOI. Figure 6c showed the Spider graph that showed the 1st order stream both in stream order and stream length carried the highest value than other stream orders.

![Figure 5: Map of the watershed and stream order of the research area (a) Atrai river part-1, (b) Atrai river part-2, (c) Jamuna river (d) Purnovoba river](image-url)
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**Figure 6:** (a) Stream according to no. of order, (b) Stream according to the length of order, and (c) Spider graph of total no of order and total length

**D. Basin Length (Lb)**
Basin length was described as the shape of a basin. The geological structure of a watershed basin was dependent on the length of a basin. In the AOI the Atrai river (part-1 & part-2) contained the highest length of the basin (approximately 63.63 km). But in a single watershed area, the Purnovoba river was considered as the highest and more valuable basin length (Table 2). It was computed through equation (1).

**E. Bifurcation Ratio (Rb)**
Bifurcation ratio was the foremost parameter linking the hydrological regime in a basin. A high bifurcation ratio suggested the flash flooding during the storm events when the early hydrograph peak was potential. In the study, the maximum bifurcation ratio was 0.9982 and the minimum was 0.2919 (Table 3). Purnovoba river was found with a higher ratio and the Jamuna river was found with a lower ratio. While the mean bifurcation ratio was 0.51969 and at 95% confidence level it was 0.51779 (Table 4). It was computed through equation (2). The bifurcation ratio was predicted that the Purnovoba river was hydrologically more disturbed than the other three watershed areas. While Atrai river and Jamuna river watershed were delayed to happen any flash flood.

**F. Drainage Density (Dd)**
Drainage density was the total length of all the streams in the watershed. It helped to determine the permeability and porosity of the watershed and it conveyed the indicator of landform elements in stream-eroded topography. It was derived using equation (3). Low drainage density led to coarse drainage texture while high drainage density led to fine drainage texture. Drainage density was related to the vegetation, permeability, and development of the basin. Here the mean drainage density was found 0.76681 (Table 4) while the Atrai river part-1 showed higher drainage density, it defined the fine drainage texture and it carried low resistant or permeable subsoil material (Table 3). So, it had low vegetation and less permeable capacity. On the other hand, the Jamuna river had low drainage density and so it had high resistant or permeable subsoil material (Figure 7).

**G. Stream Frequency (Fs)**
Stream frequency was defined as computing the unit area that contained the total number of stream segments of all orders. It was extracted by equation (4). Stream frequency was related to permeability, infiltration, and capacity of relief of a watershed. Besides, there is a contradictory relationship between the stream frequency and the number of streams. The present study forecasted the Stream frequency of Purnovoba river, Jamuna river, Atrai river part-1, and Atrai river part-2 watershed were 0.8332, 0.2429, 0.2872, and 0.3716 respectively (Table 3), and the mean stream frequency was 0.43378 (Table 4). As the Purnovoba river carried the highest stream frequency it described the watershed area as rocky and with low infiltration capacity (Figure 7d). On the other hand, the Jamuna river carried the lowest stream frequency (Figure 7c). As a result, it was covered with more vegetation with higher permeability and it was less prone to cause flash floods than other watershed areas.
Table 2
Computation of basic parameters of watershed

| Watershed       | Area (km²) | Perimeter (km) | Total no of stream order | Stream Length (km) | Basin length (km) |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Purnovoba river | 699.66     | 187199.00     | 583.00                   | 534.03             | 54.55            |
| Jamuna river    | 217.42     | 114.90        | 170.00                   | 159.21             | 28.08            |
| Atrai river part-1 | 244.04   | 146.61        | 201.00                   | 200.95             | 29.99            |
| Atrai river part-2 | 298.78   | 166.67        | 260.00                   | 223.58             | 33.64            |
| Total           | 1459.92    | 187627.20     | 1214.00                  | 1117.77            | 146.27           |

Table 3
Computation of linear parameters of watershed

| Watershed       | Bifurcation ratio | Drainage density | Stream frequency | Texture ratio | Length of overland flow |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Purnovoba river | 0.9982            | 0.7632           | 0.8332           | 0.0031        | 0.6550                  |
| Jamuna river    | 0.2919            | 0.7322           | 0.2429           | 1.4794        | 0.6828                  |
| Atrai river part-1 | 0.3441          | 0.8234           | 0.2872           | 1.3709        | 0.6072                  |
| Atrai river part-2 | 0.4452            | 0.7482           | 0.3716           | 1.5598        | 0.6681                  |

H. Texture Ratio (Tr)
Texture ratio was influenced by infiltration capacity. There were five different texture classes: very coarse (less than 2), coarse (2 to 4), moderate (4 to 6), fine (6 to 8), and very fine (greater than 8) (Altal et al., 2013). This texture was related to the soil type, infiltration capacity of the watershed basin. It was computed through equation (5). The study ascertained that the minimum texture ratio was 0.0031 for the Purnovoba river, the maximum texture ratio was 1.5598 for the Atrai river part-2 (Table 3), and the average ratio was 1.10335 (Table 4). All the watershed regions apprehended very coarse texture and so the infiltration capacity was decreased.

I. Length of Overland Flow (Lo)
Length of overland flow was considered as the traveling distance of a stream over the earth’s surface before meeting with the main channel. It was considered the most significant hydrological parameter of the watershed. Besides, the hydrographic development was related to the length of overland flow. The study found that the lengths of overland flow were 0.6072, 0.6681, 0.6550, and 0.6828 for Atrai river part-1, Atrai river part-2, Purnovoba river, and Jamuna river respectively (Table 3). It was computed through equation (6). This result forecasted that the slope became gentle for the watershed basin of Atrai river part-1.

J. Form Factor (Rf)
The basins containing high form factors had high peak flows of shorter duration. On the other hand, elongated watershed regions with low form factors had lower peak flows of longer duration. It was computed through equation (7) and the results were displayed in Table 5. Considering the range of form factor 0 to 1, the maximum and minimum value of form factor defined the possibility of erosion. As the Purnovoba river had the lowest form factor (0.2351), so it had the most possibility for erosion. On the other hand, the Jamuna river watershed contained the highest form factor and it had less possibility for erosion. The mean form factor of the AOI was 0.26151 (Table 7).

K. Shape Factor (Bs)
If the basin area was circular it had more response to watershed after a storm event. Basin with high shape factor intended to shortest basin lag time and low shape factor intended to longest basin lag time. In the present study, the Purnovoba river watershed was engaged in high shape factor and it was considered as shortest basin lag time (Table 5). Consequently, it provided more responses after a storm event. It was computed through equation (8).
Figure 7: Map of drainage density of the research area (a) Atrai river part-1, (b) Atrai river part-2, (c) Jamuna river (d) Purnovoba river
Table 4
Statistical parameter analysis of linear aspects

| Statistical parameter | Rb       | Dd       | Fs       | Tr       | Lo       |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mean                   | 0.51969  | 0.76681  | 0.43378  | 1.10335  | 0.65333  |
| Standard Error         | 0.1627   | 0.0199   | 0.13581  | 0.36878  | 0.01638  |
| Median                 | 0.39469  | 0.75578  | 0.32944  | 1.42519  | 0.66164  |
| Standard Deviation     | 0.3254   | 0.0398   | 0.27161  | 0.73756  | 0.03275  |
| Sample Variance        | 0.10589  | 0.00158  | 0.07377  | 0.544    | 0.00107  |
| Kurtosis               | 3.20087  | 2.18059  | 3.20087  | 3.7776   | 1.90909  |
| Skewness               | 1.7773   | 1.41366  | 1.7773   | -1.9346  | -1.3095  |
| Range                  | 0.70719  | 0.09115  | 0.59028  | -1.55677 | 0.07559  |
| Minimum                | 0.2911   | 0.73226  | 0.24297  | 0.00311  | 0.60723  |
| Maximum                | 0.99829  | 0.82341  | 0.83326  | 1.55989  | 0.68282  |
| Sum                    | 2.07877  | 3.06722  | 1.73512  | 4.41338  | 2.61332  |
| Count                  | 4        | 4        | 4        | 4        | 4        |
| Confidence Level (95.0%) | 0.51779 | 0.06334  | 0.43219  | 1.17363  | 0.05212  |

Table 5
Computation of shape parameters of watershed

| Watershed               | Form factor | Shape factor | Elongation ratio | Compact co-efficient |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Purnovoba river         | 0.2351      | 4.2531       | 4.0397           | 1996.9               |
| Jamuna river            | 0.2756      | 3.6281       | 3.1384           | 2.1988               |
| Atrai river part-1      | 0.2713      | 3.6855       | 3.2177           | 2.6481               |
| Atrai river part-2      | 0.2639      | 3.7883       | 3.3615           | 2.7208               |

L. Elongation Ratio (Re)
The elongation ratio was related to the shape of the watershed basin and a standard was developed to demarcate the shape of an analyzed basin (Table 6). It was computed through equation (9). The elongation ratio of the experimented watershed basin was shown in (Table 5) and the results narrated that the basins were more elongated (Table 6). The mean elongation ratio was 3.43937 (Table 7).

M. Compactness Co-efficient (Cc)
The compactness coefficient explained the relationship between the area of a basin and the circular shape of that basin. Table 5 showed the coefficient factor where all the basins were above 1 that expounded the basin shapes were more deviation from the circular shape. Table 6 showed the elongation ratio range with its basin shape. Here the mean value of the compactness coefficient was 501.3 which examined that the shape of the interested watershed basin largely deviated from the circular shape (Table 7). It was computed through equation (10).
4. CONCLUSIONS

The Barind region, Dinajpur district was selected for its special geographical character like its undulating topography having impenetrable and low productive soils. About 14 sub-parameters were analyzed and these sub-parameters were categorized into three parameters like basic, linear, and shape parameter. Under the basic parameter, the Purnovoba river had the highest area and maximum perimeter. Besides, the Purnovoba river was found a higher discharged rate and greater velocity of the stream as it contained the higher stream order (5th order). On the other hand, the Jamuna river had only 3rd order and stream length was only 159.21 km. The aftermath ascertained that the Jamuna river was considered as a lower discharged rate and fewer velocity of the stream. As the basin length described the geological structure of any watershed region Atrai river (part-1 & part-2) contained the highest length of basin. The bifurcation ratio of the Purnovoba river indicated the lack of structural control over the formation of drainage patterns and it was hydrologically more disturbed than other watersheds. In the study, the Atrai river part-1 was found a higher drainage density. The higher drainage density described the low vegetation and less permeable capacity. Jamuna river was considered as a lower drainage density that had high permeable subsoil material. Permeability, infiltration, and capacity of relief of any watershed depended on stream frequency. As the Purnovoba river had a higher stream frequency, it was rocky and low infiltration capacity. On the other hand, the Jamuna river was covered with more vegetation with higher permeability and less prone to cause flash floods. As the texture ratio was related to soil type or texture class and infiltration capacity of the watershed basin, the Purnovoba river resulted in decreasing infiltration capacity which decreased the availability of groundwater. In the study area, the length of overland flow resulted that the slope became gentle to Atrai river part-1. Under the shape parameter, the Jamuna river had a high form factor that defined the high peak flows with shorter duration and the Purnovoba river had a low form factor that defined the lower peak flows with longer duration. Measuring the shape factor, Purnovoba river contained a high shape factor with the shortest basin lag time and Atrai river part-2 contained a low shape factor with the longest basin lag time. As the value of elongation ratio was >1, all the watershed basins were considered as the deviation of the circular form. These findings will help for further modeling of an integrated watershed for sustainable hydrological and hydrograph models in the Barind region of Bangladesh. Besides, it will help the policymakers, planners, geographers, environmentalists, and many more who use GIS and RS techniques for solving hydrology-related problems such as irrigation, harvesting of surface water, cause of river erosion, surface stormwater runoff process, and water resource management.

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| Statistical parameters | Rf    | Bs    | Re    | Cc    |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mean                   | 0.26151 | 3.8388 | 3.43937 | 501.126 |
| Standard Error         | 0.00912 | 0.14204 | 0.20538 | 498.603 |
| Median                 | 0.26765 | 3.73697 | 3.28964 | 2.68452 |
| Standard Deviation     | 0.01824 | 0.28408 | 0.41076 | 997.206 |
| Sample Variance        | 0.00033 | 0.0807 | 0.16873 | 994420 |
| Kurtosis               | 2.58127 | 2.8806 | 2.95976 | 4 |
| Skewness               | -1.6043 | 1.68828 | 1.71033 | 2 |
| Range                  | 0.04051 | 0.62505 | 0.90129 | 1994.74 |
| Minimum                | 0.23512 | 3.6281 | 3.13846 | 2.19886 |
| Maximum                | 0.27563 | 4.25315 | 4.03974 | 1996.94 |
| Sum                    | 1.04604 | 15.3552 | 13.7575 | 2004.5 |
| Count                  | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Confidence Level (95.0%) | 0.02903 | 0.45204 | 0.65361 | 1586.78 |
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