

## ***ABSTRACT***

### **Science, Communities and Sustainable Management: Case of Kabani River Management in Wayanad**

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**Abstract:** The sustainable development discourse generally claims itself as a scientific management of 'resources'. It always speaks through the concepts like local communities, traditional knowledge, collective action, etc. But, it hardly discusses the discontents within and between different local institutions as well as communities regarding the existing management practices over the life supporting systems like river, forest, etc. It is essential to consider the existing hierarchies within a community for a fair distribution of rights over the life supporting systems. Otherwise, the management efforts may strengthen the existing hierarchies in a society. Therefore, this paper intends to explore the different interventions in the river in a small village in Wayanad, Kerala and the implications over the life of different Adivasi communities who directly depend on the river for their cultural and physical means. This paper draws its observations based on an ethnographic case study conducted in a village in Wayanad. The study village is known for its rich forests, mountains, rivers, wild life and diverse human communities including Hindu, Christian, Muslim as well as six different Adivasi communities. There are different tags that are added synonym with a river such as common property resource, river ecosystem, watershed, river basin etc. All these concepts developed in connection with different management efforts. This paper concludes that the sustainable development tools need to be developed in a way that can primarily recognise the much marginalised sections of the community and the local politics of the existing management practices.

**Key words:** Science, Sustainable Management, Adivasi communities, Wayanad, Kabani River.

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