

A NOVEL APPROACH TO VALUE AND CONSERVING THE GEOHERITAGE OF PESHAWAR BASIN, KP PAKISTAN: IN ASPECT OF GEOSCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC IMPORTANCE

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Abstract

Every region has various distinctive geological and geomorphologic landscapes which establish its geoheritage. With the passage of time, the development processes demolishes many of these features and this loss compels the conservation of typical and/or spectacular features which explain the geological process over geological time or otherwise attract interest due to their splendid chromatic physiognomies. Geoheritage has been abandoned feature in the conservation landscape of Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The proposal of this work is aimed at creating an opportunity to raise awareness of the most venerable geological features present in the different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. In Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, there is little awareness of the significance of our geological heritage outside academia and industry. There is a need to develop and conserve this geological distinctiveness identifying and understanding the scientific value of the features and landforms. This article presents the results of a detailed geological field work to Nowshera reef complex and Gaju Gundai (Gohati Rhyolite). These two outcrops are very important on Geo-heritage perspective. The first Nowshera reef complex is the only coral reef body which represent all the three part i.e. back reef, core reef and front reef in Pakistan. This formation is important for studying the Paleozoic Paleogeography, paleoclimatology and paleotectonic configuration in Pakistan. Furthermore, this formation is also important to establish the relation of Peri-Tethyan Indian domain to Tethyan and Peninsular Indian domain. The second igneous body is the Gohati rhyolite (Gajju Gundai). This formation has its own scientific importance as it represent the lone easily accessible Cenozoic volcanic activity in Pakistan. This is an isolated body where students and researchers of Geology can easily observe all the volcanic activities from lava flow to volcanic ash (tuff). Scientifically, it is deposited by a hot spot which make it important in formulation of plate movement and it regional placement in continues time domains. Importantly, these outcrops are closely located to major scientific research centers in the country. It is in these range of less than 100 km of major 10 universities and federal and provincial capitals which make it easy and economical to research these outcrops. These important features are under constant threat of extinction because its pervasive use for building material. In addition, protection of the described geosites, and in general of the geological heritage of the whole Peshawar basin, would be possible through the introduction of a specific regional law, Considering the fact that criteria for geodiversity valuation are neither agreed upon nor acknowledged by regulations. This may also happen through public initiatives aimed at increasing a consciousness about the richness of this geological heritage within the local population.