

# Analyzing the Efficacy: A Comparative Study Between the Conventional AHP Model and Fuzzy- AHP Model for Groundwater Potentiality Prediction in Basement Terrain Using Geophysical Data Sets

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## ABSTRACT

This study integrates geophysical, geological, and remote sensing techniques to evaluate groundwater potential in the basement complex terrain of southwestern Nigeria, an area where sustainable groundwater development remains a critical challenge. To produce a comprehensive groundwater potential map, eight thematic layers known to influence groundwater occurrence and movement were derived from the available datasets. These include lithology, slope, recharge rate, lineament density, aquifer transmissivity, hydraulic conductivity, overburden thickness, and aquifer resistivity. Each parameter was carefully analyzed and weighted to reflect its relative significance in groundwater occurrence. The mapping process employed both the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) and its advanced fuzzy-based extension (FAHP) to compare the performance of conventional and modified multi-criteria decision-making techniques. The integrated analysis delineated the study area into five distinct groundwater potential zones, namely very high, high, moderate, low, and very low. These classes provided a spatial framework for understanding the variability of groundwater occurrence across the region.

Validation of the models was carried out using the Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) curve approach. The FAHP-based groundwater potential model achieved a prediction accuracy of 81%, demonstrating a marked improvement over the conventional AHP model, which yielded 73%. Additional qualitative validation was conducted by correlating the FAHP-generated groundwater potential zones with the geological and hydrogeological attributes of the study area. The comparison revealed a high level of agreement of approximately 90%, confirming the robustness of the FAHP approach in capturing actual field conditions.

Overall, the findings highlight the effectiveness of integrating FAHP with geophysical, geological, and remote sensing datasets for reliable groundwater potential assessment in basement terrains.

**Keywords:** Groundwater potential, Geophysics, Remote sensing and GIS, AHP, FAHP

## INTRODUCTION

Groundwater refers to water stored within subsurface aquifers, occupying pore spaces in rocks. It serves as a dependable source of water, particularly in remote areas where the development of surface water is limited (Adeyemo et al., 2017). However, increasing population growth and rapid urbanization have placed significant pressure on groundwater resources, posing challenges to their sustainable management.

In basement terrains, groundwater exploration typically targets aquifers within the weathered overburden or fractured crystalline rocks, especially those of Precambrian origin (Omosuyi et al., 2003). These crystalline rocks often contain fractures and fault zones formed by past tectonic activities. The identification and mapping of such hydrogeologic features are crucial for delineating groundwater-bearing zones in basement settings (Omosuyi, 2010). While fractured crystalline bedrocks can yield potable water, achieving high-yielding wells

remains difficult due to the heterogeneity of fracture systems across regional scales. Groundwater occurrence in these formations is largely controlled by secondary porosity and permeability generated through weathering and fracturing. In hard rock environments, the subsurface profile generally consists of fresh bedrock overlain by an overburden or regolith, which is further divided into aeration and saturation zones separated by the water table (Omosuyi et al., 2012).

Effective groundwater management requires the application of remote sensing and geophysical methods to evaluate groundwater potential at both local and regional scales. As noted by Jyrkama and Sykes (2007) and Kaliraj et al. (2013), understanding groundwater recharge processes is fundamental to sustainable groundwater use. In Nigeria, groundwater remains a critical resource for domestic, agricultural, and industrial purposes, making its evaluation and sustainable exploitation essential (Ouedraogo et al., 2016; Yousefi et al., 2018). With the pressures of population growth, urban expansion, and climate change, groundwater resource management has become indispensable for ensuring both the quantity and quality of supply, especially in urban and semi-urban regions (Ouedraogo et al., 2016).

This study highlights the significance of geophysics in evaluating groundwater potential. Groundwater is located within cracks and pore spaces in subsurface, stored and flowing gradually through geologic formations like sediment, sand and rocks known as aquifer (Alabi et al., 2010). These geologic formations are precisely mapped or delineated using geophysical techniques for potential groundwater development. Among the various geophysical methods utilized in groundwater hydrology, the Electrical Resistivity Method (ERM) stands out to be most favoured approach (Alabi et al. 2010). Some of the techniques in ERM is the Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) are the 3-D ERT, 2-D ERT and 1-d ERT to name a few. For the purpose of this research and based on availability, preference will be given to 1-D Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) over other methods. 1-D ERT can also referred to as Vertical Electrical Sounding (VES). VES is commonly used due to its efficiency in mapping potential groundwater zones in comparison to other geophysical techniques (Oyedele et al., 2013). VES measurements are valuable in groundwater studies as they do not disturb the soil structure or dynamics (Adiat et al., 2009; Ariyo and Adeyemi, 2009). Various field configurations (arrays) are used to achieve VES techniques. There are roughly one hundred independent geoelectric arrays (Szalai and Szarka, 2008), but the Schlumberger array is set up to be more suitable and common in groundwater delineation.

Among the various geophysical techniques, the magnetic method is considered one of the most adaptable since it can be utilized for investigating both shallow and deep subsurface features (Dobrin and Savit, 1988). In groundwater exploration, it has gained prominence as an effective approach for detecting structural features such as faults, joints, and fracture zones, which often act as conduits for groundwater accumulation and storage (Al-Gharni, 2005; Abdulkareem et al., 2018; Oni et al., 2020). Recent improvements in magnetic survey acquisition and processing have further enhanced its application, particularly when integrated with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for better interpretation (Oni et al., 2020). In this study, derivative aeromagnetic map (Lineament density) will be incorporated as thematic layers alongside other datasets to improve the delineation of groundwater potential zones.

The employment of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) techniques in the field of groundwater hydrology has proved excellent in the decision making process (Rahmati and Meselle, 2015; Rahmati et al., 2015; Manap et al., 2014). This is adduced to the fact that there is easy and quick access obtainable from satellite data base archive (Zare et al., 2013). For the driver of the proposed models in this study, the efficacy of geospatial techniques (RS and GIS) will be employed.

Various statistical decision-making models have been applied to interpret Vertical Electrical Sounding (VES) data in groundwater studies. Among these, Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) methods have gained prominence for assigning weights to parameters based on prior research (Chowdhury et al., 2009; Adiat et al., 2012; Mogaji & Lim, 2016). The Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) is one of the most widely used MCDA techniques, offering a structured framework for complex decision analysis through pairwise comparisons and expert judgment (Saaty, 1987). Despite potential subjectivity and inconsistency, AHP has been effectively employed in groundwater hydrology (Mogaji et al., 2017; Akinlalu et al., 2017).

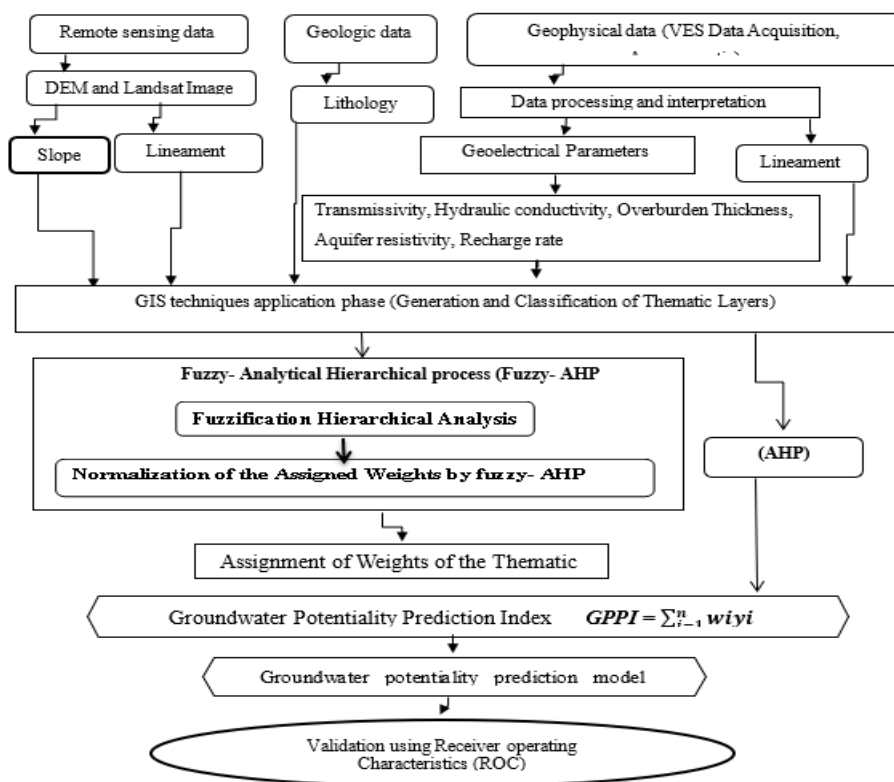
FAHP method systematically solves the selection problem that uses the concepts of fuzzy set theory and hierarchical structure analysis. Basically, FAHP method represents the elaboration of a standard AHP method into fuzzy domain by using Fuzzy numbers for calculating instead of real numbers.

In order to have a robust research, the FAHP based model will be applied in modeling the groundwater potentiality of the study area. The FAHP model will be used to integrate the derived parameters from the surface and subsurface source (lineament, lithology, slope, aquifer transmissivity, hydraulic conductivity, overburden thickness, aquifer resistivity and recharge rate) with the view of obtaining potentiality index which will help in categorizing the groundwater condition of potentiality the study area.

Methodology, study area and data used

## METHODOLOGY

As indicated in Fig. 1, the study was carried out in four stages, employing geology, remote sensing, and geophysical data. The first stage required collecting, processing, and interpreting remote sensing, geology and geophysical characteristics for the groundwater potential evaluation. Following that, thematic maps of the conditioning factors were created in ArcGIS, and uniformly spaced fishnet points were placed to extract pixel values at those points. The third stage involved the use of FAHP and AHP for the development of groundwater potential index which was synthesized in GIS environment to produce the groundwater potential model maps of the study area. Finally, the models produced were validated using Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) to determine the efficacy of FAHP and AHP models in groundwater potential prediction.



**Fig. 1:** The Flowchart for the Study Area

## Description Of The Study Area

The study area is located at the southwestern part of Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria, as shown in Fig. 2. It falls within geographic grids extending between 5°10'0'' to 5°13'0'' (Eastings) and 7°36'0'' to 7°38'30'' (Northings). Ado-Ekiti is bounded by Ilawe at the West, Gbonyin at the east, Ikere at the North and Iyin at the South as shown in Fig. 2. The total area of the study area is about 6.6 square-km. The study area has the surface elevation ranging from 415 to 536 m above sea level. The western part of the study area is exhibited with high elevation while northern part exhibited low elevation.

Ado Ekiti enjoys a tropical climate with two distinct seasons. These are the rainy season (April – October) and the dry season (November – March). Temperature ranges between 21°C and 30°C with high humidity. The guinea savanna predominates in the study area. The study area is underlain by the Precambrian basement complex of South-western, Nigeria (Rahaman, 1988). The lithological/rock units recognized in the area include Charnokite, Migmatite–gneiss and Quartzite. More than 45% of the area is underlain by Quartzite. Fig. 3 shows the geology map of the area.

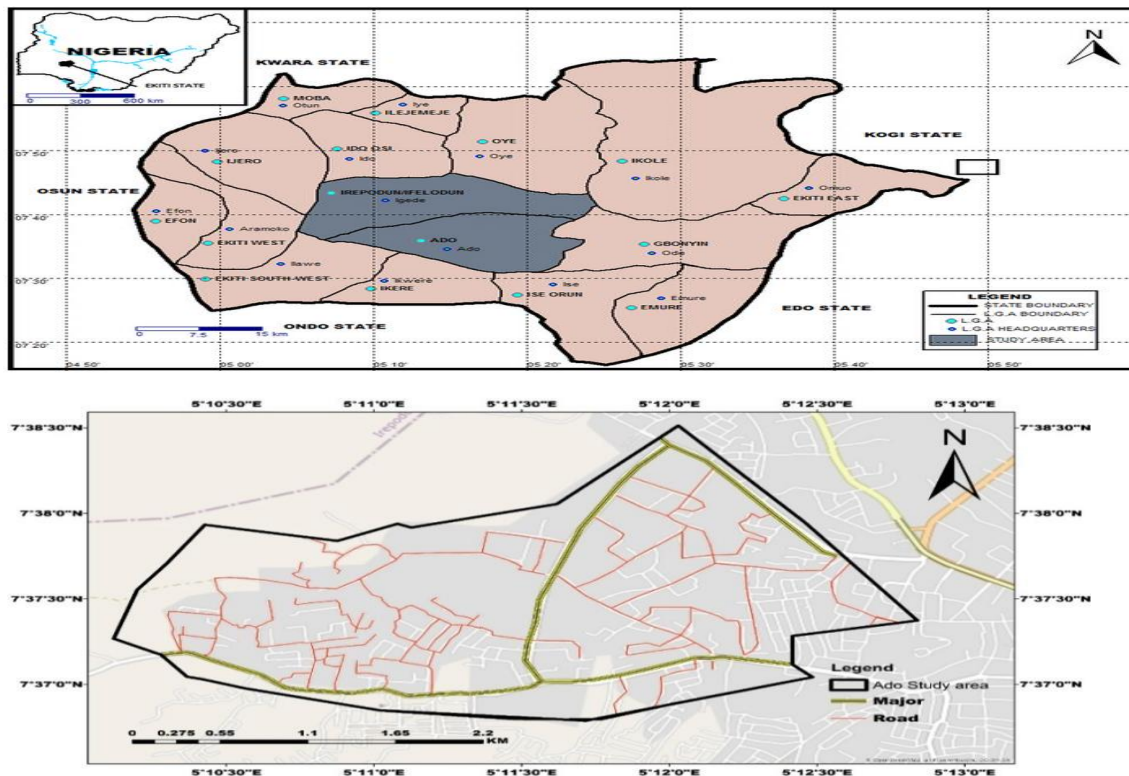


Fig. 2: Base Map of the Study Area

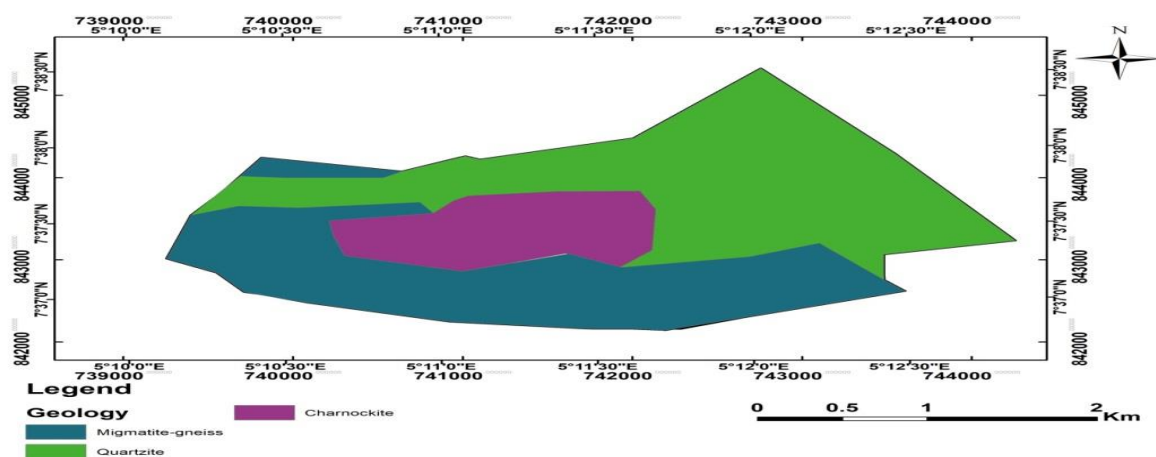


Fig. 3: Geologic Map of the Study Area

## DATA USED

### Lithology

The lithology map used in the research was derived from geological survey conducted in the study area. An important hydrologic factor that affects the groundwater quantity in a specific region is lithology. In areas with hard rock terrain, the underlying rocks are often brittle and prone to fracturing, leading to increased water flow,



accumulation, porosity, and permeability in the weathered and fractured basement of the rock units. The Euclidean function available on the spatial analyst of the ArcGIS software was used to produce the proximity maps of the lithologic units using a buffer of 50 m. The weight, calculated using the FAHP was multiplied with class scores of the proximity map of the lithologic units. The weighted proximity map was subsequently integrated using fuzzy sum operator. The resulting map was thereafter fuzzified using the fuzzy membership function large to produce the fuzzified lithologic map of the study area. This tool converts the crisp lithology map into a fuzzy lithology map by selecting the lithology class with the highest degree of membership at each pixel. Fig. 4 shows the fuzzified lithologic map of the study area.

## Remote Sensing

A Digital Elevation Model (DEM) was downloaded from the United States Geological Survey USGS through (<https://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/gdem.asp>, last access: 20 November 2019) with a spatial resolution of 15 m. The Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data was imported into the ArcGIS environment (ArcGIS 10.3). The ArcTool box on the ArcGIS 10.3 has various spatial tools for producing various groundwater conditioning factors from the DEM. In this research work, the slope was extracted from the DEM and the lineament was extracted from the Landsat Imagery.

## Slope Degree

The slope degree indicates the extent of surface runoff, which varies across different locations. This gradient significantly impacts potentiality, areas with lower slope degrees experience reduced runoff and enhance water infiltration, whereas it is vice versa for areas with high slope degree (Ouedraogo et al., 2016). This factor will be derived from the ASTER digital elevation model (DEM) data of the study area using the slope analysis tool in ArcGIS 10.3 software package.

## Lineament Density

In this study, remote sensing was utilized to extract lineaments from LANDSAT 8 imagery covering the study area. These extracted lineaments were then integrated with aeromagnetic lineament data, and both datasets were superimposed in ArcGIS to produce a composite lineament map. A common approach for analyzing such features is through the development of lineament density maps (Zakir et al. 1999). Equation (i) expresses the Ld definition mathematically:

$$Ld = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{Li}{A} \quad (Km^{-1}) \quad i$$

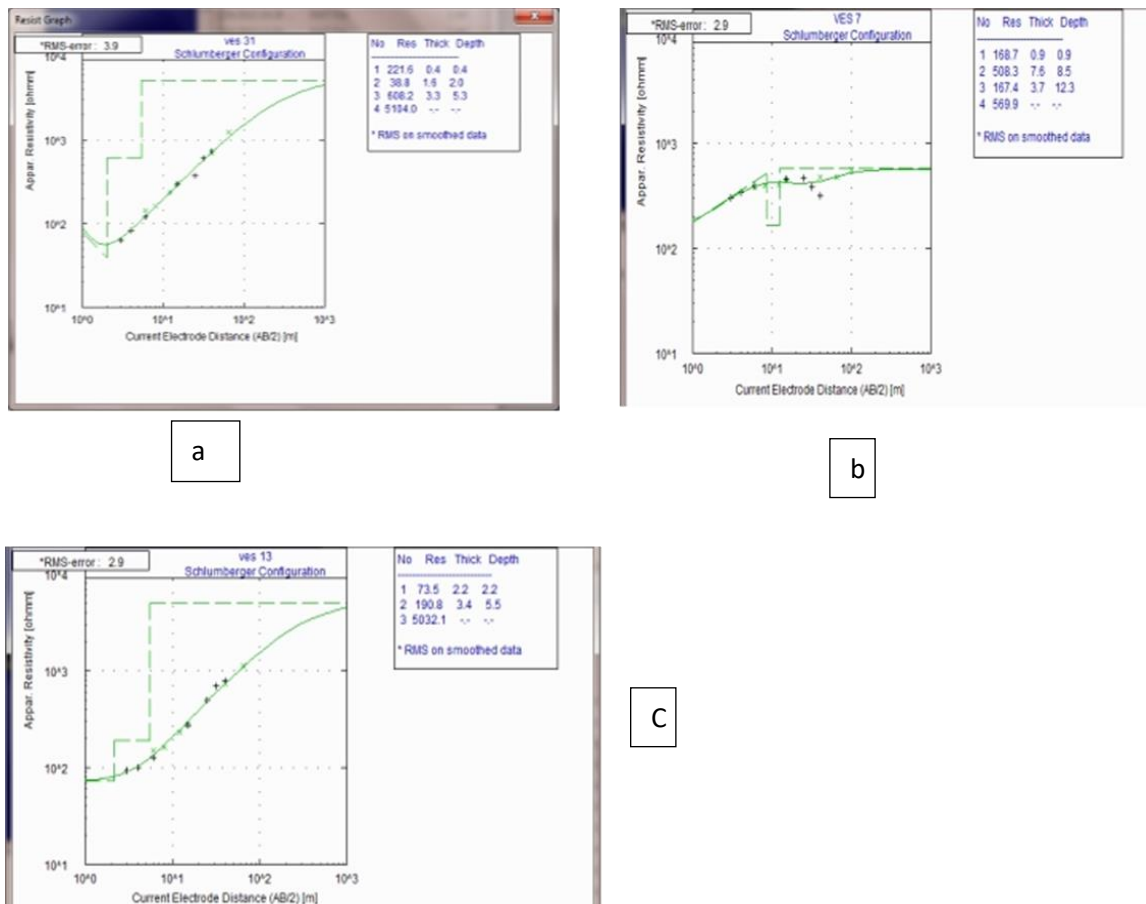
Where  $\sum Li$  = total length of all the lineaments (km) and  $A$  = area of the grid ( $km^2$ ).

## Geophysical investigation

### Data acquisition and interpretation

The geophysical data in the study area were collected using the electrical resistivity techniques. The Schlumberger array was utilized to collect 55 vertical electrical soundings (VES) data from 1 to 200 m utilizing half-electrode spacing ( $AB/2$ ). This approach takes into account vertical differences in the apparent resistivity of the ground, which were measured with a fixed centre of the array. The survey was carried out by increasing the electrode spacing around a fixed centre of the array. Electrodes are positioned in a straight line, with a pair of potential electrodes placed between two pairs of current electrodes. In this work, the Global Positioning System (GPS) was utilized to spatially identify VES sites for spatial analysis in a GIS setting. The apparent resistivity of the VES data is the product of the resistance and the matching geometric factor ( $G$ ) of the electrode spacing for each spread length ( $AB/2$ ). On a log-log graph sheet, these apparent resistivity values were plotted against the electrode spacing. The VES curves that were generated were displayed and divided into types. These classifications demonstrate the qualitative character of subsurface lithology. In addition, quantitative interpretations of the partial curve matching findings, which are the layer thickness and layer resistivity, were determined. The results were entered into the WinResist<sup>TM</sup> Software as model parameters

(Vander-Velpel 2004). The theoretical model curve, the primary geoelectric parameters (layer resistivity, layer thickness), and the depth to the top of each layer provide good insight into the aquifer's subsurface information, which is vital for groundwater potential research. Fig. 4 and Table 1 show typical curves depending on underlying geology and a summary table representation of geoelectric characteristics respectively.



**Fig. 4:** Typical resistivity model curves obtained in the study area; a. charnockite, b. quartzite series and c. migmatite gneiss rock unit.

**Table 1:** Summary of the interpreted results Geoelectric parameters.

| VES Pt | Curve | Layer | Apparent Resistivity ( $\Omega m$ ) | Thickness (m) | Depth (m) | Layer Description  |
|--------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1      | AA    | 1     | 64                                  | 0.5           | 0.5       | Top soil           |
|        |       | 2     | 37                                  | 1.8           | 2.3       | Clayey layer       |
|        |       | 3     | 534                                 | 3.2           | 5.5       | Weathered basement |
|        |       | 4     | 748                                 | ....          | .....     | Fresh Basement     |
| 2      | HA    | 1     | 152                                 | 0.6           | 0.6       | Top soil           |
|        |       | 2     | 72                                  | 2.6           | 3.2       | Clayey layer       |
|        |       | 3     | 432                                 | 5.2           | 8.4       | Weathered basement |
|        |       | 4     | 719                                 | ----          | ....      | Fresh Basement     |

|   |    |   |     |       |       |                    |
|---|----|---|-----|-------|-------|--------------------|
| 3 | A  | 1 | 43  | 1.4   | 1.4   | Top soil           |
|   |    | 2 | 251 | 8.2   | 9.6   | Weathered basement |
|   |    | 3 | 700 | ----  | ----  | Fresh bedrock      |
| 4 | HA | 1 | 238 | 0.6   | 0.6   | Top soil           |
|   |    | 2 | 55  | 1.9   | 2.5   | Clayey layer       |
|   |    | 3 | 571 | 4.4   | 7.0   | Weathered basement |
|   |    | 4 | 953 |       |       | Fresh bedrock      |
| 5 | HA | 1 | 212 | 0.4   | 0.4   | Top soil           |
|   |    | 2 | 56  | 2.2   | 2.6   | Clayey layer       |
|   |    | 3 | 567 | 2.9   | 5.5   | Weathered basement |
|   |    | 4 | 863 | ----  | ----  | Fresh bedrock      |
| 6 | KH | 1 | 204 | 1.0   | 1.0   | Top soil           |
|   |    | 2 | 453 | 5.4   | 6.4   | Sandy Layer        |
|   |    | 3 | 281 | 4.7   | 11.1  | Weathered basement |
|   |    | 4 | 509 | ..... | ..... | Fractured basement |
| 7 | KH | 1 | 169 | 0.9   | 0.9   | Top soil           |
|   |    | 2 | 508 | 7.6   | 8.5   | Sandy Layer        |
|   |    | 3 | 167 | 3.7   | 12.3  | Weathered basement |
|   |    | 4 | 570 | ..... | ..... | Fresh basement     |
| 8 | KH | 1 | 143 | 0.7   | 0.7   | Top soil           |
|   |    | 2 | 534 | 5.8   | 6.5   | Sandy Layer        |
|   |    | 3 | 257 | 4.3   | 10.8  | Weathered basement |
|   |    | 4 | 503 | ..... | ..... | Fractured basement |
| 9 | ?  | ? | ?   | ?     | ?     | ?                  |

|    |    |   |      |      |      |                    |
|----|----|---|------|------|------|--------------------|
|    |    |   |      |      |      |                    |
| 55 | KH | 1 | 169  | 1.1  | 1.1  | Top soil           |
|    |    | 2 | 1261 | 7.3  | 8.4  | Laterite           |
|    |    | 3 | 403  | 2.6  | 10.9 | Weathered basement |
|    |    | 4 | 641  | ---- | ---  | Fresh bedrock      |

### The derived secondary geoelectric parameters

The primary geoelectric parameters, layer resistivity and layer thickness, were utilised to determine the secondary geoelectric parameters, which are important conditioning variables in delineating groundwater potential zones in the research region. The validation method takes into account hydraulic conductivity ( $K$ ), aquifer transmissivity ( $T$ ), recharge rate ( $R$ ), aquifer resistivity ( $AQR$ ) and overburden thickness ( $OVT$ ). The primary geoelectric characteristics in Table 1 were analysed using Eqs. ii - iv, to generate the aforementioned groundwater conditioning factors.

Table 2 displays the values of the calculated  $K$ ,  $T$ ,  $R$ ,  $AQR$  and  $OVT$  parameters. Hydraulic conductivity,  $K$  (m/day), is given by:

$$K = 0.0538e^{-0.0072\rho} \quad \text{ii}$$

Where,  $\rho$  is the resistivity of the aquifer.

$$\text{Transmissivity, } T = K \times h \quad \text{iii}$$

Where  $K$  is the hydraulic conductivity as shown in equation 3.

$$\text{Recharge rate, } R = 34.41 \log_{10}(\rho) + 1.05(D) + 128.38 \quad \text{iv}$$

Where  $D$  is the depth (m) to the aquifer.

**Table 2:** Summary of interpreted geo-electric parameters.

| Ves No | Northing | Easting | TR       | K        | AQR | R        | OVT  |
|--------|----------|---------|----------|----------|-----|----------|------|
| 1      | 843014.4 | 739710  | 0.00267  | 0.001151 | 534 | 189.4053 | 5.5  |
| 2      | 843015   | 739893  | 0.007675 | 0.002399 | 432 | 202.2536 | 8.4  |
| 3      | 842738   | 739803  | 0.012361 | 0.008829 | 251 | 204.4274 | 9.6  |
| 4      | 843200   | 843200  | 0.002204 | 0.000882 | 571 | 205.4804 | 6.9  |
| 5      | 842770.9 | 740171  | 0.02467  | 0.009488 | 241 | 204.3037 | 5.5  |
| 6      | 843554.6 | 743202  | 0.04553  | 0.007114 | 281 | 221.694  | 11.1 |
| 7      | 8436615  | 739615  | 0.137406 | 0.016165 | 167 | 224.3471 | 12.2 |
| 8      | 843783   | 739951  | 0.054964 | 0.008456 | 257 | 222.2471 | 10.8 |



|    |        |        |          |          |     |          |      |
|----|--------|--------|----------|----------|-----|----------|------|
| 9  | 843848 | 740594 | 0.076545 | 0.011776 | 211 | 223.5768 | 10.2 |
| 10 | 844065 | 740961 | 0.086678 | 0.012747 | 200 | 219.3848 | 10.2 |
| 11 | 844060 | 739950 | 0.00326  | 0.002138 | 448 | 185.0819 | 4.3  |
| 12 | 844062 | 740256 | 0.033528 | 0.02794  | 91  | 184.7669 | 2.9  |
| 13 | 843355 | 740352 | 0.02992  | 0.0136   | 191 | 195.0103 | 5.6  |
| 14 | 843171 | 740383 | 0.008392 | 0.001785 | 473 | 199.3505 | 8.2  |
| 15 | 843295 | 740659 | 0.008141 | 0.001661 | 483 | 194.46   | 8.3  |
| 16 | 843574 | 740994 | 0.005278 | 0.001056 | 546 | 194.565  | 9.2  |
| 17 | 843151 | 742499 | 0.041911 | 0.02794  | 91  | 192.5655 | 8.4  |
| 18 | 843205 | 740996 | 0.001974 | 0.000581 | 629 | 185.9118 | 6.8  |
| 19 | 842992 | 741427 | 0.009335 | 0.001638 | 485 | 195.6752 | 9.4  |
| 20 | 843416 | 740290 | 0.025895 | 0.019919 | 138 | 165.5793 | 3    |
| 21 | 843384 | 739984 | 0.007605 | 0.001358 | 511 | 196.0562 | 10.5 |
| 22 | 842376 | 741092 | 0.005888 | 0.004206 | 354 | 207.7009 | 4.3  |
| 23 | 842741 | 740477 | 0.001563 | 0.000489 | 653 | 196.2609 | 6.2  |
| 24 | 842742 | 740600 | 0.001321 | 0.000426 | 672 | 194.5813 | 6.6  |
| 25 | 842775 | 740998 | 0.029871 | 0.018669 | 147 | 171.4938 | 3.7  |
| 26 | 842654 | 741428 | 0.03241  | 0.019077 | 144 | 174.1669 | 4.2  |
| 27 | 842963 | 741733 | 0.001518 | 0.000399 | 681 | 200.0249 | 7.1  |
| 28 | 842435 | 740632 | 0.002352 | 0.001176 | 531 | 198.7676 | 5.4  |
| 29 | 842315 | 741338 | 0.001781 | 0.000775 | 589 | 203.1279 | 6.2  |
| 30 | 842472 | 741981 | 0.003177 | 0.001513 | 496 | 199.3301 | 5.8  |
| 31 | 842718 | 741980 | 0.001351 | 0.000675 | 608 | 203.2208 | 5.3  |
| 32 | 842784 | 742807 | 0.001339 | 0.000638 | 616 | 203.5539 | 5.5  |
| 33 | 842107 | 742566 | 0.000747 | 0.000356 | 697 | 203.5539 | 5.6  |
| 34 | 843545 | 741332 | 0.013055 | 0.010879 | 222 | 179.9611 | 3.3  |
| 35 | 843208 | 741548 | 0.001085 | 0.000329 | 708 | 211.1721 | 6.9  |
| 36 | 843391 | 741425 | 0.001164 | 0.000388 | 685 | 211.1139 | 6.5  |
| 37 | 843485 | 741731 | 0.001203 | 0.000388 | 685 | 214.4147 | 7.4  |

|    |        |        |          |          |     |          |      |
|----|--------|--------|----------|----------|-----|----------|------|
| 38 | 843485 | 741731 | 0.001787 | 0.000577 | 630 | 208.516  | 6.6  |
| 39 | 843364 | 742099 | 0.002105 | 0.000726 | 598 | 209.5591 | 6.5  |
| 40 | 843155 | 743357 | 0.026745 | 0.003222 | 391 | 236.0358 | 11.9 |
| 41 | 843492 | 743018 | 0.055988 | 0.006912 | 285 | 236.545  | 12.5 |
| 42 | 843458 | 742497 | 0.148678 | 0.022191 | 123 | 224.3159 | 12.7 |
| 43 | 844441 | 742308 | 0.087321 | 0.012655 | 201 | 226.4954 | 11.1 |
| 44 | 844376 | 741421 | 0.110649 | 0.018139 | 151 | 221.3562 | 12.3 |
| 45 | 843916 | 741790 | 0.12449  | 0.0211   | 130 | 218.3118 | 10.8 |
| 46 | 844378 | 742063 | 0.024873 | 0.003316 | 387 | 209.4487 | 11.1 |
| 47 | 844903 | 742521 | 0.005312 | 0.000435 | 669 | 243.5218 | 14.3 |
| 48 | 844535 | 742707 | 0.04185  | 0.004267 | 352 | 236.97   | 13.3 |
| 49 | 844228 | 742800 | 0.037767 | 0.004392 | 348 | 237.1551 | 12.7 |
| 50 | 845058 | 742827 | 0.018811 | 0.002138 | 448 | 237.0794 | 12.1 |
| 51 | 844875 | 743011 | 0.061076 | 0.006863 | 286 | 236.606  | 13.9 |
| 52 | 844507 | 743228 | 0.138785 | 0.015594 | 172 | 225.1593 | 17.2 |
| 53 | 844139 | 743322 | 0.118125 | 0.013897 | 188 | 224.7177 | 16.5 |
| 54 | 843710 | 743692 | 0.043847 | 0.00522  | 324 | 236.0309 | 16.7 |
| 55 | 843404 | 743908 | 0.024826 | 0.002956 | 403 | 235.4167 | 11   |

## Groundwater potentiality conditioning factors

Groundwater potentiality conditioning factors and production of their thematic layers in the GIS environment. The groundwater potential of the research was evaluated using eight (8) factors: lithology, hydraulic conductivity, lineament, aquifer transmissivity, recharge rate and slope. Thematic maps of these factors were generated using Arc- GIS 10.3's inverse distance weighting (IDW) approach, and data from Table 2 were utilized to develop the geo-electrically linked thematic layers; hydraulic conductivity, overburden thickness, aquifer transmissivity, aquifer resistivity and recharge rate are displayed in Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively.

The groundwater potential conditioning factors (GPCFs) thematic maps shown in Figs. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. These factors were used as decision making to create AHP the FUZZY AHP groundwater potentiality model of the research region. The fishnet point map was created for ease of computation to ensuring uniformly dispersed fishnet points (Fig. 13) over the study area.

## MODELS REVIEW

### The Analytical Hierarchy Process

Thematic map weighting was performed using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), a widely applied GIS-based multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) technique for delineating groundwater potential zones

(Arulbalaji et al., 2016). Eight factors were considered in this study: lithology, slope, recharge rate, lineament, aquifer transmissivity, hydraulic conductivity, overburden thickness, and aquifer resistivity. These parameters directly influence groundwater storage and movement in the area. AHP, introduced by Saaty (1987), remains the most widely adopted MCDA approach, with successful applications reported in geological and groundwater investigations (Adiat, 2013; Fashae et al., 2014; Mogaji et al., 2014).

### Mathematical Model of AHP

If there are  $n$  elements which are compared, the comparison results create matrix form  $A$  with dimension  $n \times n$ .

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{v}$$

The elements of matrix, or ratio between compared criteria are expressed by the formula:

$$\tilde{a}_{ij} = \frac{w_i}{w_j} \quad \text{vi}$$

Considering the first axiom for reciprocal we have:

$$a_{ij} = \frac{1}{a_{ji}} \quad \text{vii}$$

The next step is to obtain a normalized matrix  $B = [b_{ij}]$ . The elements of the matrix  $B$  are calculated as:

$$b_{ij} = \frac{a_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}} \quad \text{viii}$$

The calculation of the weights i.e. eigenvector  $w = [w_i]$  from the normalized matrix  $B$  is performed by calculating the arithmetic mean for each row of the matrix according to the formula:

$$w_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}}{n} \quad \text{ix}$$

### Fuzzy–Analytical Hierarchical Process (FAHP)

Despite its wide range of applications, the conventional AHP approach may not fully reflect a style of human thinking. One reason is that decision makers usually feel more confident to give interval judgments rather than expressing their judgments in the form of single numeric values. As a result, FAHP and its extensions are developed to solve alternative selection and justification problems. The FAHP is a popular technique which has been applied for MCDM problems (Abedi et al., 2013; Wu et al., 2013). This method was proposed by Van Laarhoven and Pedrycs (1983). In the fuzzy extension of AHP, the weights of the nine-level fundamental scales of judgments are expressed via the triangular fuzzy numbers (Table 3) in order to represent the relative importance among the hierarchy criteria (Karimi et al., 2011).

Weighting of the thematic maps was carried out using the Fuzzy Analytical Hierarchical Process (FAHP). This method helps in integrating all the eight (8) different thematic factors for this research; the thematic factors include lithology, slope, recharge rate, lineament, aquifer transmissivity, hydraulic conductivity, overburden thickness and aquifer resistivity. The eight thematic factors influence the movement and storage of water in the area. Thus equation (xi) is used to weight the importance of each criteria.

The weight vector is then given by:

$$W = (d(B_1), \dots, d(B_m))^T \quad x$$

Where  $B_i (i=1, \dots, m)$  has  $m$  elements.

Calculate normalized weights

Via normalization, the normalized weight vectors are:

$$W = (d(B_1), \dots, d(B_m))^T \quad xi$$

Where  $W$  is a non-fuzzy number. As pointed out by Wang et al., (2008).

**Table 3:** Fuzzy linguistic scale (Radionovs and Užga-Rebrovs, 2016)

| Linguistic scale             | Triangular fuzzy scale | Reciprocal    |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Just equal                   | 1, 1, 1                | 1, 1, 1       |
| Equally important            | 1/2, 1, 3/2            | 2/3, 1, 2     |
| Weakly more important        | 1, 3/2, 2              | 1/2, 2/3, 1   |
| Strongly more important      | 3/2, 2, 5/2            | 2/5, 1/2, 2/3 |
| Very strongly more important | 2, 5/2, 3              | 1/3, 2/5, 1/2 |
| absolutely more important    | 5/2, 3, 7/2            | 2/7, 1/3, 2/5 |

**Table 4:** Ratings, groundwater storage potential type- classification, AHP and FAHP weight of the GPCF produced thematic layers.

|                     |           |                  |        |         |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|--------|---------|
| Lithology           | High      | Quartzite        | 0.2623 | 0.19655 |
|                     | Medium    | Charnockite      |        |         |
|                     | Low       | Migmatite Gneiss |        |         |
| Aquifer Resistivity | Very High | 91 - 258Ωm       | 0.1958 | 0.16501 |
|                     | High      | 258 - 345Ωm      |        |         |
|                     | Medium    | 345- 441Ωm       |        |         |
|                     | Low       | 441- 543Ωm       |        |         |
|                     | Very Low  | 543 - 708Ωm      |        |         |
| Lineament           | Very High | 0.0063- 0.0084   | 0.1566 | 0.14362 |
|                     | High      | 0.0046- 0.0063   |        |         |
|                     | Medium    | 0.0029- 0.0046   |        |         |
|                     | Low       | 0.0009 – 0.0029  |        |         |
|                     | Very Low  | 0- 0.00099       |        |         |

|                        |           |                                   |        |         |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Hydraulic Conductivity | Very High | 0.0164- 0.0279m/day               | 0.1203 | 0.12453 |
|                        | High      | 0.0112- 0.0164m/day               |        |         |
|                        | Medium    | 0.0076- 0.0112m/day               |        |         |
|                        | Low       | 0.0044- 0.0076m/day               |        |         |
|                        | Very Low  | 0.0003- 0.0044m/day               |        |         |
| Overburden Thickness   | Very High | 13.5- 17.2m                       | 0.0884 | 0.11445 |
|                        | High      | 10.5- 13.5m                       |        |         |
|                        | Medium    | 8.4- 10.5m                        |        |         |
|                        | Low       | 6.4- 8.4m                         |        |         |
|                        | Very Low  | 2.9- 6.4m                         |        |         |
| Recharge Rate          | Very High | 223.96- 243.52Ltr/d               | 0.0684 | 0.10218 |
|                        | High      | 210.52- 223.96Ltr/day             |        |         |
|                        | Medium    | 200.43- 210.52Ltr/day             |        |         |
|                        | Low       | 191.57- 200.43Ltr/day             |        |         |
|                        | Very Low  | 165.57- 191.57Ltr/day             |        |         |
| Aquifer Transmissivity | Very High | 0.0889- 0.1487m <sup>2</sup> /day | 0.0633 | 0.09103 |
|                        | High      | 0.0610- 0.0889m <sup>2</sup> /day |        |         |
|                        | Medium    | 0.0396- 0.0610m <sup>2</sup> /day |        |         |
|                        | Low       | 0.0193- 0.0396m <sup>2</sup> /day |        |         |
|                        | Very Low  | 0.0007- 0.0193m <sup>2</sup> /day |        |         |
| Slope                  | Very High | 0- 2.79°                          | 0.0335 | 0.06260 |
|                        | High      | 2.79- 5.29°                       |        |         |
|                        | Medium    | 5.29- 8.56°                       |        |         |
|                        | Low       | 8.56- 13.57°                      |        |         |
|                        | Very Low  | 13.57- 24.54°                     |        |         |

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

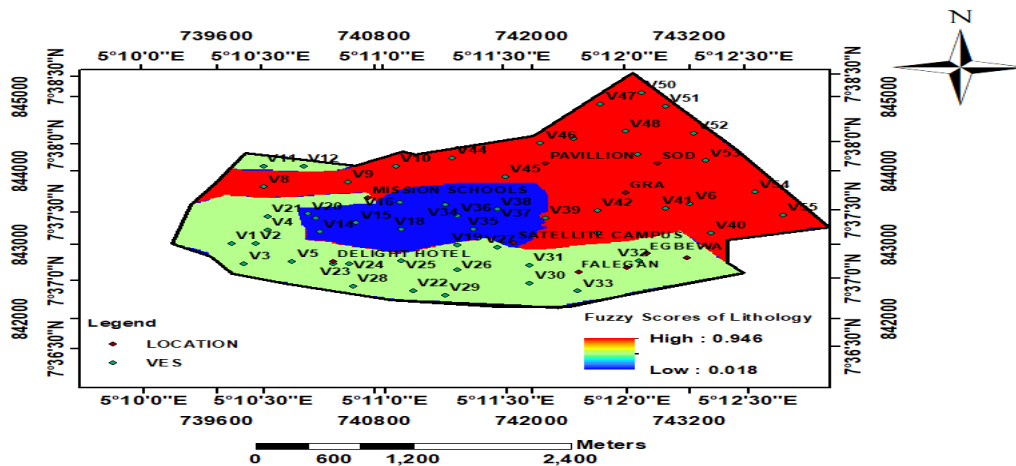
### Discussion of groundwater potential conditioning factors

#### Lithology

Lithology plays a crucial role in groundwater accumulation, influencing both its quality and quantity. The study area comprises three major rock units: migmatite gneiss, charnockite, and quartzite schist (Fig. 3). Among them, quartzite exhibits the highest degree of fracturing, whereas charnockite shows the least. The



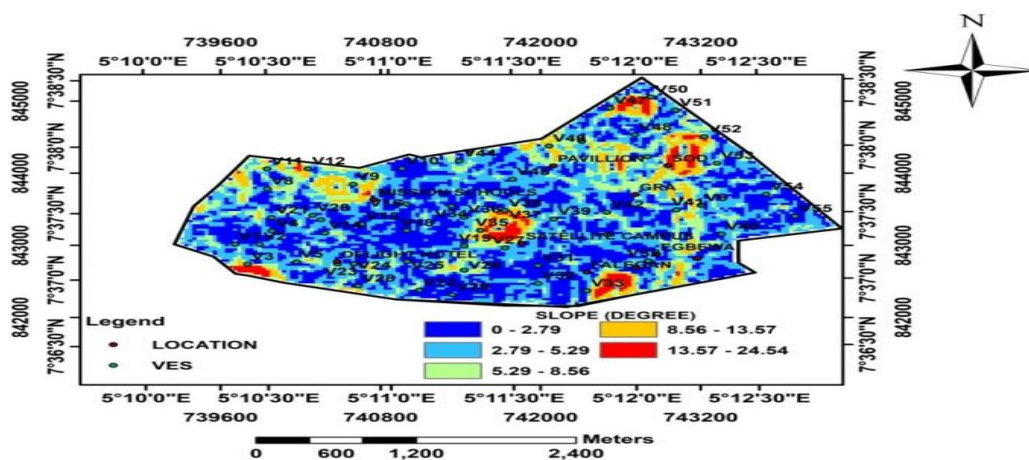
extent of rock weathering significantly affects groundwater potential, rocks with higher weathering capacity generally yield greater groundwater potential. According to the fuzzified lithologic map (Fig. 5), quartzite-dominated zones are associated with high weightage values, migmatite gneiss with medium weightage, and charnockite with medium to low weightage value. Quartzite occupies about 42% of the study area, while migmatite gneiss and charnockite cover the remaining portions.



**Fig. 5:** Fuzzified lithologic map of the study area

## Slope Degree

Haujie et al. (2016) reported that groundwater flow is primarily governed by surface forces, with terrain boundaries often coinciding with shallow aquifer limits. Fig. 6 illustrates the slope map generated from remote sensing data and classified into five categories using ArcGIS. Very low ( $0^{\circ}$ – $2.79^{\circ}$ ) and low slopes ( $2.79^{\circ}$ – $5.29^{\circ}$ ) dominate the north-central, central, southern, south-western, and parts of the north-eastern and eastern sectors. Moderate slopes ( $5.29^{\circ}$ – $8.56^{\circ}$ ) occur in the northern, central, eastern, and north-western zones, while high to very high slopes ( $8.56^{\circ}$ – $24.54^{\circ}$ ) are concentrated in the north, north-east, east, and localized pockets of the central and southern regions. Areas with low slope gradients constitute potential groundwater accumulation zones.

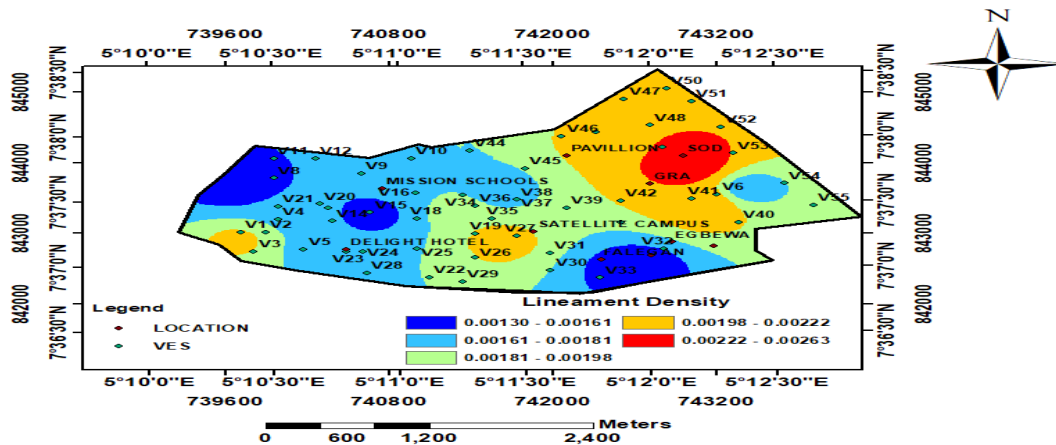


**Fig. 6 :** Slope Degree map of the study area

## Lineament Density

Lineament is defined as observable geomorphic linear features typified weak zones that have characteristic of fissures/joint, fractures and probably weathered formation and can be attributed to geological structures, notably fractures or lithologic contacts (Chowdhury et al., 2009). And it was extracted from aeromagnetic and remote sensing data. The distribution of the lineament density map (Fig. 7) shows that eastern part of the study

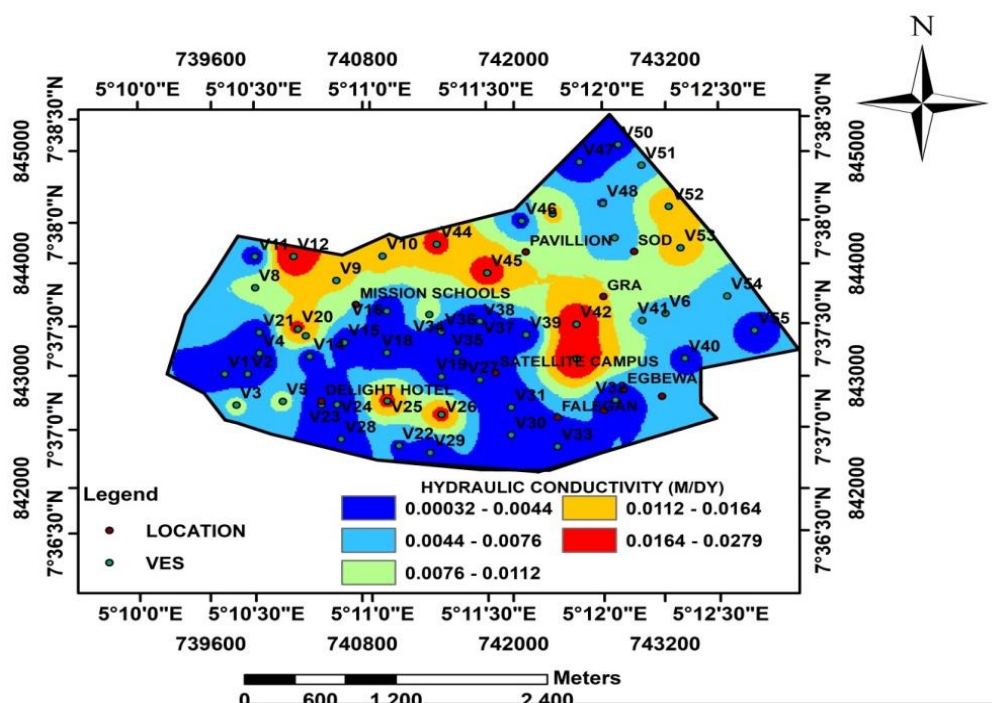
area is underlain by high to very high density of lineament. However, the zones with high groundwater potential in the study area is due to the occurrence of secondary porosity and permeability developed occasioned zones characterized with high lineament density (Olabode, 2019).



**Fig. 7:** Lineament Density Map of the Study Area

## Hydraulic Conductivity

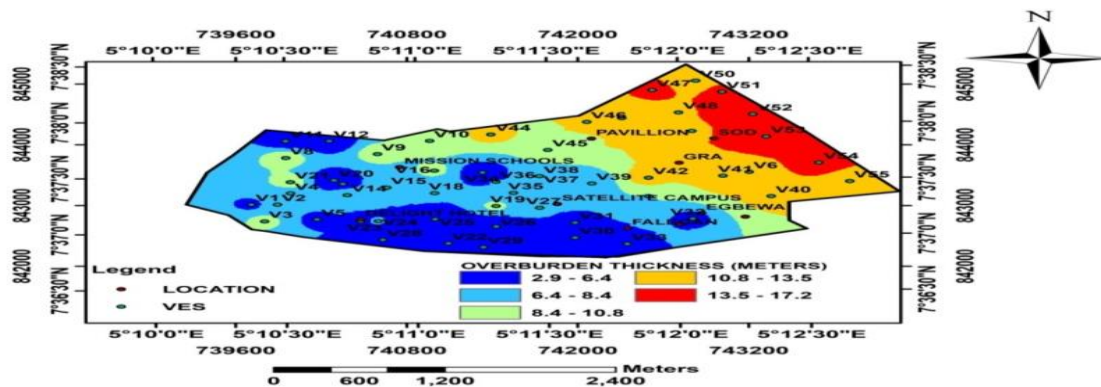
The hydraulic conductivity is a measure of how easily water can pass or flow through soil or rock. The hydraulic conductivity (Fig. 8) values obtained for the investigated area generally varies from (0.00032-0.0279 m/day) using Eq. 2, and means value of 0.014 m/day. The hydraulic conductivity generated for the investigated area was classified into very low (0.00032-0.0044 m/day), low (0.0044 -0.0076 m/day), moderate (0.0076 - 0.0112 m/day), high (0.0112-0.0164 m/day) and very high (0.0164-0.0279 m/day) hydraulic conductivity. The areas with low and very low hydraulic conductivity characterize low rate at which water moves through the aquifer which results to low groundwater potential and less resilience to droughts and fluctuation in groundwater availability. According to Adeniji et al. (2017) areas with high hydraulic conductivity are most likely to possess good aquifer recharge quality and hence the high groundwater potential. Therefore, in this study, area with moderate, high and very high hydraulic conductivity values are more likely to possess significant groundwater potential.



**Figure 8:** Hydraulic Conductivity map of the study area

## Overburden Thickness

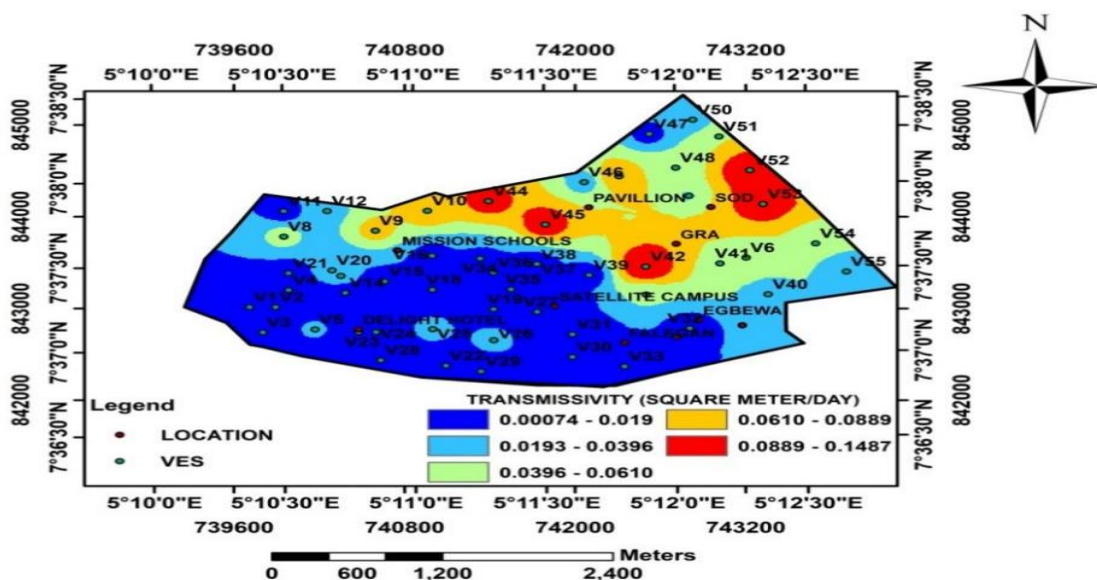
Figure 9 reveals that, the overburden thickness values in the study area generally range from 2.9- 17.2 m having a mean value of 10.05 m. Generally, areas with thick overburden values with low percentage of clay content and characterized with expected pronounced inter-granular flow are expected to have high groundwater potential, particularly in Basement Complex terrain (Okhue and Olorunfemi, 1991). Moreover, the weathered layer, the partly weathered/fractured basement and the fractured basement constitutes the major aquifer unit with significant hydrogeologic importance within the study area. Therefore, the zones that are characterized by medium, high and very high overburden thickness values can be considered as prospective zones for possible location of borehole in the study area.



**Fig. 9:** Overburden Thickness map of the study area

## Aquifer Transmissivity

The Aquifer transmissivity is the discharge rate at which water is transmitted through a unit width of an aquifer under a unit hydraulic gradient. The Aquifer transmissivity values obtained for the investigated area generally varies from (0.00001644-0.029 m<sup>2</sup>/day) using Eq. iii, with a mean value of 0.014 m<sup>2</sup>/day. The aquifer transmissivity map generated for the investigated area (Fig. 10) was classified into very low (0.000744-0.019 m<sup>2</sup>/day), low (0.0193-0.0396) moderate (0.0396-0.0610 m<sup>2</sup>/day), high (0.0610 -0.0889 m<sup>2</sup>/day), and very high (0.0889-0.1487 m<sup>2</sup>/day). The areas that are characterized by very low and low characterize the area with low groundwater potential. The regions with moderate high and very high aquifer transmissivity values can be identified as area of high water bearing potential and aquifer materials are known to be relatively permeable to fluid movement (Akintorinwa *et al.* 2020).

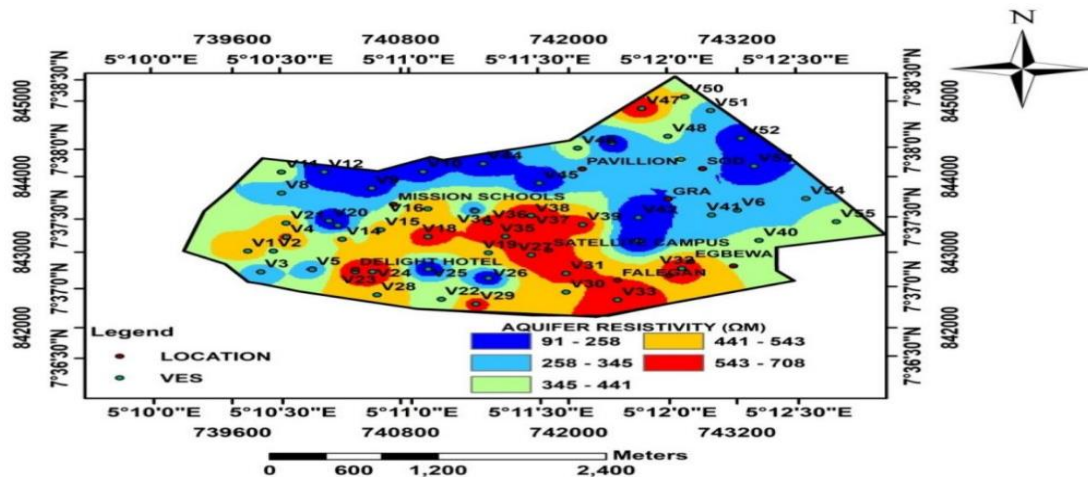


**Fig. 10:** Transmissivity map of the study area



## Aquifer Resistivity

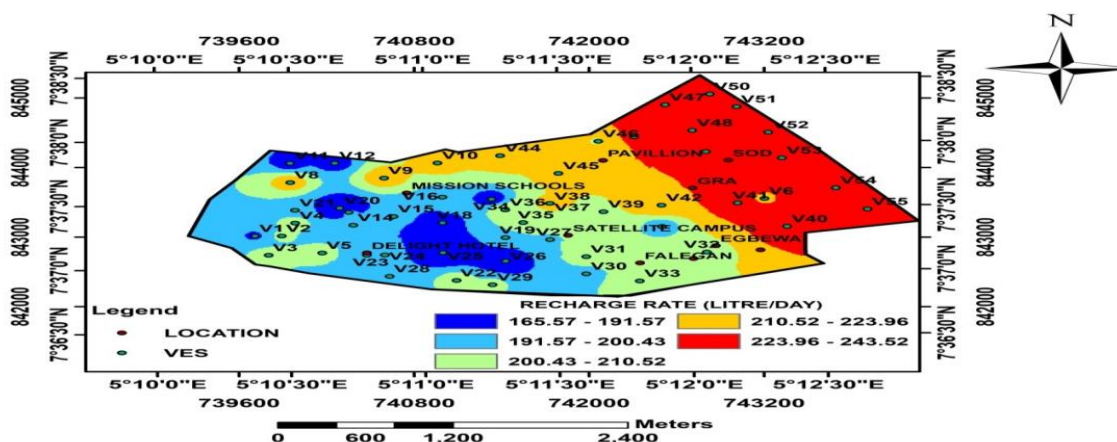
The aquifer resistivity map was prepared by determining the resistivity of the aquifer layer. Clay has low resistivity value but generally, areas with low values with low percentage of clay content and characterized with are expected to have high groundwater potential, particularly in basement complex terrain (Okhue and Olorunfemi, 1991). Moreover, the weathered layer the partly weathered/fractured basement and the fractured basement constitutes the major aquifer unit with significant hydrogeologic importance within the study area. Therefore, the zones that are characterized by very low, low and moderate aquifer resistivity values can be considered as prospective zones for high groundwater potential.



**Fig. 11:** Aquifer Resistivity map of the study area

## Recharge rate map

The recharge rate (R) of an aquifer denotes the quantity of water per unit area that infiltrates the subsurface, either from surface infiltration or accumulated ponded water, and eventually contributes to groundwater storage (Anderson et al., 2015). Aquifers with higher recharge rates are typically associated with greater groundwater potential, as recharge directly influences groundwater availability. Using the values in Table 2, derived from (eqn. iv) (Mogaji et al., 2015), the recharge rate within the study area was estimated to range between 165.57 and 243.52 litres per day. A thematic map of recharge (Figure 12) illustrates the spatial distribution of recharge levels, categorized into five classes: very low, low, medium, medium-high, and high. According to the map, the northern and eastern sections of the study area fall predominantly within the high recharge zone, indicating areas of substantial groundwater potential. Conversely, the southwestern, southern, and parts of the north-central zones are characterized by low to very low recharge, which corresponds to areas of limited groundwater potential (Mogaji et al., 2015).



**Fig. 12:** Recharge rate map of the study area

## THE AHP AND FAHP RESULTS

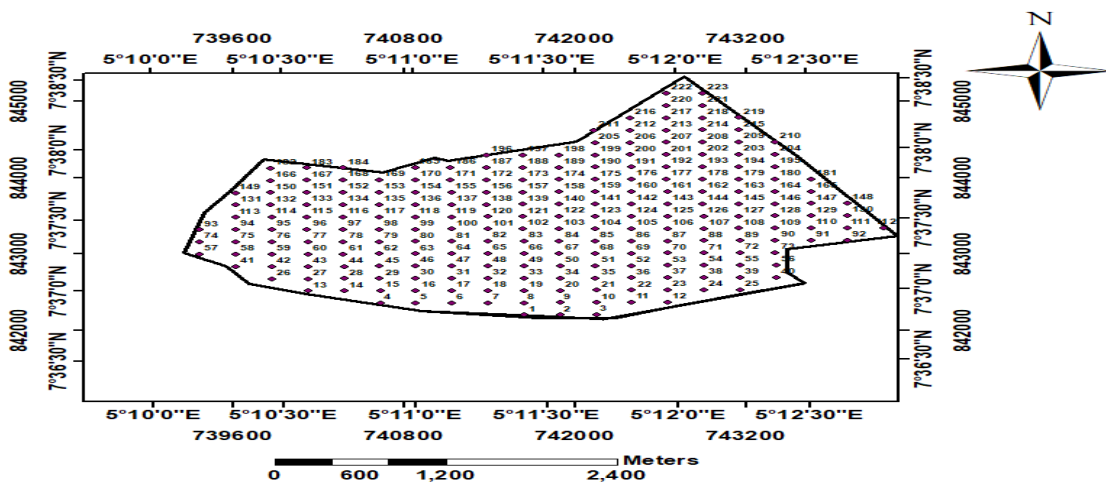
### Groundwater Potential Map

In order to generate the Groundwater Potential Index Evaluation (GWPE) map for the study area. Eight different thematic analyzed maps comprising Overburden Thickness, Aquifer Resistivity, Lineament Density, Recharge Rate, Hydraulic Conductivity, Aquifer Transmissivity and Slope Degree. The groundwater index for the evaluation for the study area was computed using Eq. xii. The fishnet ensures the evenly distributed of points data on the study area (Fig.13) which the groundwater potential maps for AHP and FAHP models was generated using ArcGis 10.3.

$$GWPI = \sum W_i R_i$$

xii

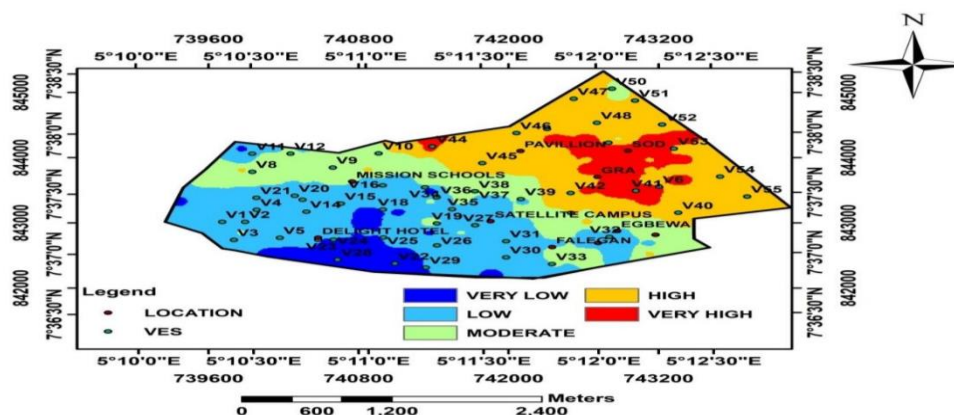
where  $W$  is the weight of parameter 'i' and  $R$  is the rating score of parameter 'i'.



**Fig. 13:** Fishnet template map of the study area

### Groundwater Potential Map Obtained from AHP

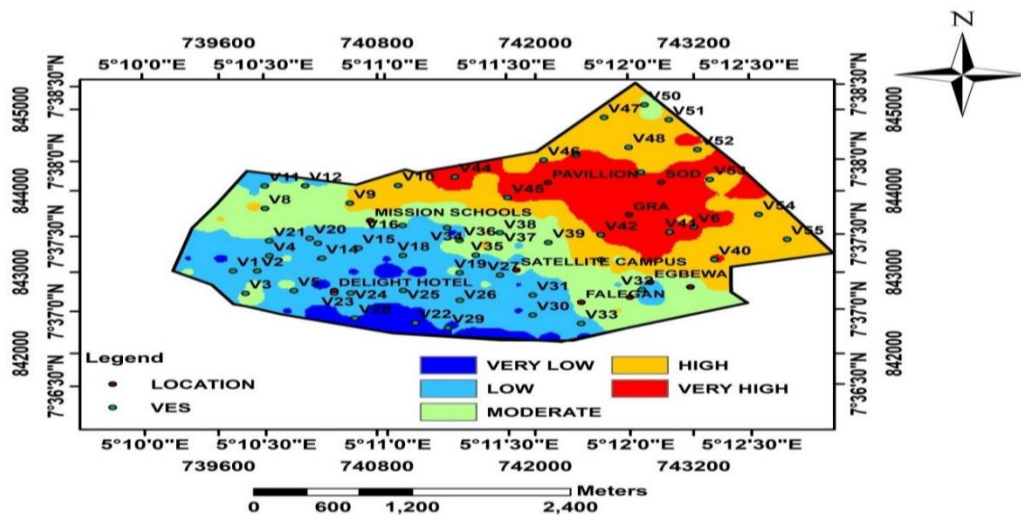
The Groundwater Potential Map from Analytical Hierarchy Process is divided into five classes of very low, low, moderate, high and very high in (Fig. 14). The groundwater potential index evaluation map of the study area shows that the very low and the low index values are found to occupy the south, southwest, central and a small portion of the northwestern part of the study area. The moderate class occupies the northwest, central and small portions in the southeast of the study area. The high and very high class of groundwater potential index evaluation is found to occupy the north, northeast and eastern part of the study area. Area with high to very high groundwater potential index values is the probable area for good groundwater potential.



**Fig. 14:** Groundwater Potential map of the study area from the AHP Model

## Groundwater Potential Map Obtained from FAHP

The Groundwater Potential Map from Fuzzy Analytical Hierarchy Process is divided into five classes of very low, low, moderate, high and very high (Fig. 15). The groundwater potential index evaluation map of the study area shows that the very low and the low index are found to occupy the south, southwest, central and a small portion of the northwestern part of the study area. The moderate class trend from the northwest to the south through the central and also occupies small portions at the northeastern part of the study area. The high and very high classes of groundwater potential index evaluation is found to occupy the north, northeast and eastern part of the study area. Areas with high to very high groundwater potential index values are the probable area for good groundwater potential.



**Fig. 15:** Groundwater Potential map of the study area from the FAHP Model

## Validation and Comparative Analysis of the produced GPM map

In order to test the efficacy and reliabilities of the developed models in this study, validation was carried out on the produced AHP and FAHP based groundwater potential model maps of the study area. The validation was executed qualitatively and quantitatively. The quantitative validation was carried out, using the ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) curve. The ROC curve in Fig. 16 is the plot of the false positive rate (FPR) against the true positive rate (TPR). The ROC curve was applied on the AHP and FAHP based groundwater potential model maps. Also, the binary cut-off which states (True (1) or False (0) cut off points (Atenidegbe et.al 2023), with values between 2.9 and 11.3 as True and 1.29 and 2.9 as False, for the determined water column parameter values of the study area. The corresponding values of the predicted groundwater potential index (GPI) were extracted from GPM maps at different cut-point compared with the actual water column values of the study area. The True Positive (TP), False Positive (FP), True Negative (TN), and False Negative (FN) were determined by the comparison of the water column values with the corresponding GPI values. The TPR (Sensitivity) and FPR (1-Specificity) was computed using eqn. xiii and xiv, respectively. The ROC curve was plotted using python and the Area Under Curve (AUC). The ROC curve prediction accuracy was categorized into five classes (Ekelund, 2011). The categorization is as follows: 0.9 – 1.0 (very good), 0.8 – 0.9 (good), 0.7 – 0.8 (fair), 0.6 – 0.7 (poor) and 0.5 – 0.6 (fail).

Based on the results obtained from this study as shown in figures 16, the AUC value of the prediction rate for the FAHP based model is 0.81 which indicate 81% prediction accuracy while the prediction rate for the AHP based model is 0.73 representing 73% prediction accuracy. It can be concluded that the performance of the developed FAHP based model is ‘better’ compared to the conventional AHP model which performed below the developed one.

The qualitative validation was carried out via correlation of produced groundwater potentiality model maps (FAHP) with geology of the study area.



$$\text{Sensitivity} = \text{TPR} = \frac{\text{TP}}{\text{TP} + \text{FN}}$$

xiii

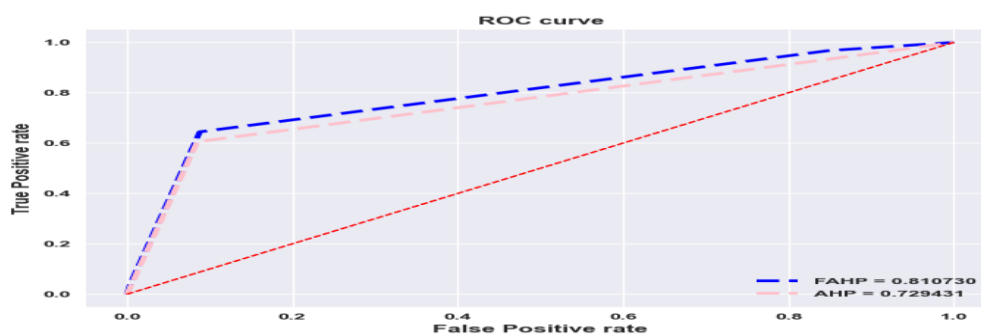
$$\text{Specificity} = 1 - \text{FPR} = \frac{\text{TN}}{\text{TN} + \text{FP}}$$

xiv

**Table 5:** Confusion Matrix application in generating the ROC curves

### Predicted Values

| Cut-point          | High Potential (1) | Low Potential (0)  |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| High Potential (1) | True Positive(TP)  | False Positive(FP) |
| Low Potential (0)  | False Negative(FN) | True Negative      |



**Fig 4.16:** ROC Curves for the FAHP and AHP Model Maps

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study has demonstrated the application AHP and FAHP in multi criteria decision analysis (MCDA) technique to geophysical, remote sensing and well parameters in establishing groundwater potential assessment of the western part of Ado- Ekiti, Southwestern, Nigeria. The MCDA technique was implemented on the produced thematic maps of the study area. The thematic maps were gotten through the application of GIS on the processed data from geophysical, geological and remote sensing data. Fifty five Vertical Electrical Sounding (VES) data were acquired and the data were interpreted qualitatively and quantitatively. The qualitative interpretation reveals three to five layers with curve types A, AA, AKQ, AKH, KH, HA, and HKH Curve.

Both the Fuzzy Analytical Hierarchy Process (FAHP) and Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) methods were utilized to assign weights to the groundwater potential conditioning factors in the study area. These factors include overburden thickness, aquifer resistivity, lineament, lithology, recharge rate, aquifer transmissivity, hydraulic conductivity and slope degree. These factors were integrated to create the groundwater potential index map for the study area. The results indicate that the lithology of the study area has the highest weight and the slope degree having the lowest weight. The results obtained from FAHP address both the imprecision and uncertainty that arise from the AHP approach.

The ROC curve was used quantitative validation, indicating an 81% AUC for the FAHP model, surpassing the conventional AHP's 73% AUC. Based on these validation results, it's evident that the FAHP outperforms the conventional AHP in prediction accuracy. The qualitative validation demonstrated that groundwater potential model maps generated using Fuzzy- AHP, based on geological information of the study area, exhibit favourable prediction accuracy.

This study effectively categorized the study area into high potential and low potential groundwater zones. These findings have significant implications for guiding groundwater development within the study area. The

delineation of these zones provides valuable insights for making informed decisions about groundwater resource utilization and management.

This study has been able to establish the reliability of FAHP MCDA technique vis-à-vis its performance when applied to surface and subsurface geo- parameters for groundwater resources mapping and management.

The comparison between FUZZY AHP and FUZZY TOPSIS method would be really effective for decision making in groundwater resource management.

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**Author contributions :** KAM performed conceptualization, review and editing, and supervision. RBS contributed to study conceptualization and design, data collection, data analysis, software and writing original draft preparation. Both author read and approved the final manuscript.

**Declarations;** I affirm that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any journal house or article.

**Conflict of interest:** On behalf of other author, the corresponding author state that there is no conflict of interest

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