

## PETROGRAPHY AND GEOCHEMISTRY OF KORA GYPSUM DEPOSIT, DAUDKHEL, DISTRICT MIANWALI

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The Kora Gypsum Deposit (KGD) is present in the western Salt Range area Daudkhel in District Mianwali. Petrographic and geochemical studies of KGD have been made to ascertain the nature of deposit and characteristics of the depositional environment. The gypsum grades into Jaeger Limestone of Upper Eocene age. It is inferred that KGD is a sulphate facies of Salween transverse formed in a barred basin. Trace element analyses of gypsum and limestone show nearly similar distribution trends, indicating same geochemical environment. The low Mg, poor Fe and absence of K from the gypsum suggest anhydrite type than Deep Water (DHW) condition. The presence of high chalcophile elements (Zn, Cu and Ni) and siderophile elements observable in the field also suggest a DHW model. To this section studies and geochemical investigations demonstrate that initially gypsum was precipitated either due to evaporation or mixing of different brines. Dehydration of gypsum into anhydrite occurred during Miocene due to tectonic compression in the Salt Range. The Miocene limestone grades into anhydrite due to the heat and subsequent oxidation and removal of sulphur through the anhydrite table in near-surface conditions, when they were converted into gypsum due to hydration from groundwater.

**Key words:** Gypsum, Petrography, Geochemistry, Depositional basin, Kora, Daudkhel.

### Introduction

In Salt and Sulphur Ranges gypsum and anhydrite deposits are associated with the beds of Baramulla-Cambrian and Lower Eocene age. Lower Eocene formations show distinctive facies change due to complex tectonics of the area. During Lower Eocene the Kohat-Potwar and Sulaiman provinces of the Indian Basin were separated by a barrier and as a result three depositional basins were developed (Lal and Lal 1980). Many evaporite beds are present within Eocene succession. Sub-circumference of lower Eocene is well developed in the western Salt Range and in the Sulphur Range. In Daudkhel area this limestone grades at places into gypsum.

Present study deals with the petrographic and geochemical studies of Kora Gypsum Deposit. Major and trace element geochemistry is carried out to discuss the nature and origin of the gypsum deposit. It is also aimed to elaborate its facies relationship with the Salween Limestone.

### Materials and Methods

The area under study is situated in the western Salt Range near Daudkhel Industrial Complex, District Mianwali, Punjab (Fig 1). This location is close to Mian Jolus and Daudkhel

railway stations on the Kandiaro-Attock section of the Pakistan railway. A road from Mianwali to Kaddukhel also passes close to these towns. Three isolated hills of gypsum deposits are located about 3 km southeast of Daudkhel railway station on both sides of Jaha Nala. Kora Gypsum Hill is situated north of Jaha Nala (Fig 2).

The sampling was carried out from the Kora Gypsum Hill, north of Jaha Nala (Fig 2). Fifteen successive samples were collected from bottom to top from the western wall of the main quarry of the Kora Gypsum Deposit (Fig 3). The gypsum bed was inclined at an angle of 90° towards east with variable thicknesses and physical characters. Sampling was made from these horizons that represent different hardness, colour and texture. Two samples of Salween Limestone of Early Eocene (No. 16 and 17) were also collected from the adjoining bed to make correspondence in trace elements geochemistry and facies analysis.

Amount of insoluble residue (IR), sulphur oxides of Fe and Al ( $B_2O_3$ ), sulphate (SO<sub>4</sub>), loss on ignition (LOI) and water of crystallization (15%) were determined gravimetrically. Calcium and magnesium were estimated by EDTA method. Trace elements were estimated using an atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Hitachi Z 8030).

Thin sections of gypsum were studied with the help of Leitz microscope (Leica PCL SX). Photomicrographs of the selected

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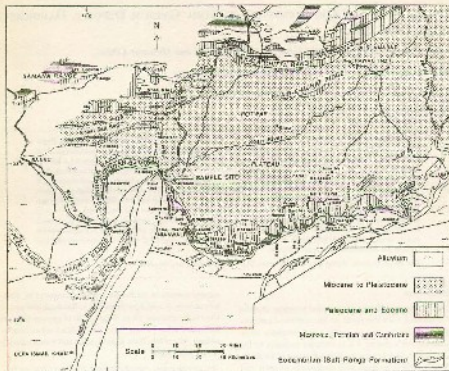


Fig. 1. Location map of the Salt Range and adjoining areas. (Published after Oct. 1925).

samples was done with the help of Professor and Wild Life (1959).

**General geology.** The older rocks exposed in the Salt Range are comprised of late Precambrian to early Cambrian age. These are overlain by well exposed sequence of Cambrian, Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Palaeocene and Neogene strata (Yates *et al.* 1984). In the study area, Precambrian to recent rocks are exposed with a number of unconformable and fault contacts (Fig. 2). In Salt and Sarghar Ranges lower Eocene tectonics separated Kohat Potwar and Sulaiman provinces by means of a fault. In this close basin salt, gypsum, anhydrite, shale and limestone were deposited. A total of nine formations of early Eocene are exposed in the vicinity of the area. Their distribution is as follows: Ghazil formation in Dees Ismail Khan; Paracha shale, Shekhan formation, Bahadar Khel Salt and Julla gypsum in Kohat;

Nannal formation and Salsore limestone in Salt and Sarghar Ranges; Margala Hill, Bizenore and Chogali formation in Nisourpur Hill. Northern Potwar and Kalaichin areas Salsore limestone of early Eocene is well developed in the western Salt Range and the Sarghar Range but in the Dardkhel area, gypsum and anhydrite facies is developed at places instead of limestone.

Salsore limestone consists dominantly of limestone with sub-ordinate marl. It is cream to light grey coloured, nodular and fossiliferous. Considerable development of chert lenses in the upper part is observed, especially in the Sarghar Range. The marl is cream or light grey coloured and forms a persistence horizon near the top. Near Dardkhel, Salsore limestone is represented by gypsum and anhydrite which in fact is the sulphate facies within this formation. In the eastern Salt Range its thickness is 70m, in western Salt Range it is about 150m.

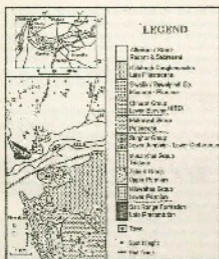


Fig. 2 Geotectonic map of the study area (Modified after Gai, 1986).



Fig. 3 Detailed geotectonic map and cross section of Kohn along strike location (Modified after Ahmad and Saha, 1982).

with and in the Sarghar Range its thickness varies between 200-300m. The *Subsax* formation is assigned to Early Eocene age based on foraminiferal assemblage throughout the Salt Range (Zaidi and Jhail, 1985). The lower contact with the *Narmada* formation and upper contact with the *Chargali* formation are conformable, while in the Sarghar Range the boundary is unconformably underlying by *Sialkoti* group of Miocene to Pliocene age.

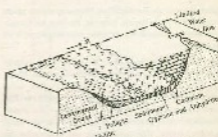


Fig. 4 3D Block Diagram (3D) model with block tectonic along dip of salt range (Sarghar of after Khatkhat, 1982).

Structure. Structurally, the Salt Range is the result of tectonic forces imposed during the later phase of the Himalayan orogeny in Late Cretaceous (Gai, 1989). The work of Budhnik and Book (1959) indicates that major unroofing in the Salt Range area took place during Early Pliocene. This unroofing event resulted from large scale thrusting related to the salt indented *Narmada* detachment.

The major fault of the zone running across the strike of Salt Range is Kalahang fault which is an active dextral wrench fault with a 16-19 km of strike-slip movement. This fault has been dated as 2.1-1.9 Ma (Mallouq and Khan, 1990). Near Jhail Nala the Kalahang fault splits out and forms two subparallel faults, *Simon* and *Dinghat* faults (Fig. 2). These faults form a lateral compression to the zone of Salt Range *Narmada* detachment. Another important structural feature in the area is the Salt Range *Thrust*. It runs along the southern margin of the Salt Range, between *Baheti* and *Indraivice*. The thrust zone is largely covered by conglomerates but it is exposed in Kalahang area (Khan and Jan, 1997). The thrust has pushed the older rocks upon the tertiary sequences. As a result vertical tectonic displacement of the Salt Range, *Pennian* and other tertiary formations occur to the north of Jhail Nala.

Geological history. The Late Cretaceous regression of the *Tethys* Seaway and tectonic zone marks a major unconformity of Cretaceous/Tertiary (KT) boundary. During Paleocene, marine transgression resulted in the deposition of *Turga* and *Lothian* formations. In the late Paleocene, a lacustrine environment developed in the eastern and central Salt Range, resulting in the formation of coal deposits within *Paluki* formation.

The *Narmada*, *Subsax* and *Chargali* formations of Early Eocene cannot witness marine conditions. During Eocene to Oligocene, the area once again suffered epigeantic movements, causing uplifting and erosion due to collision of

Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate. No major tectonic events occurred after the Eocene, Miocene, Pliocene and Quaternary tectonics was dominated by localised and flexural tectonics (Qiu, 1989).

In the lower Eocene, the upper Indus Basin was tectonically active due to collision between Indian and Eurasian Plates. Uplifting zones of high erosion of Himalayas, particularly in the south-west and Kohat-Sواتر provinces in the north-east. The Kohat-Sواتر province became a clastic basin with a limited circulation from open sea towards Himalayas (Nadeem, Khalid and Jibral, 1986). This forebay basin was suitable for the accumulation of evaporitic facies consisting of carbonates, gypsum, anhydrite and salt. Elmslie (1992) has discussed an illite and anhydrite diagenesis model (Fig. 4) that is generally developed in a normal basin. In this type of tectonogeochemical setting, halite is restricted to the distal side of the basin. The seaward side is the suitable place for the evaporitic facies. The central part of the basin is appropriate site for the accumulation of gypsum and anhydrite, represented by Danikhel gypsum deposits (DGD). In the study area Sakozai limestone is also in this model. The DGD is the sulphate facies of the Sakozai limestone, deposited in the deepest and central part of the basin.

Initially gypsum crystallises in the form of polyhedral in a deep basin, later due to increasing evaporation, the deposition of Sivalik in Miocene Pliocene caused enough overburden for dehydration of gypsum. Adams (1971) estimated 500 m overburden sufficient to dehydrate the gypsum into anhydrite. Lewis *et al.* (1991) estimated ~400 m depth for gypsum dehydration based upon pore fluid pressure, heat flow and thermal conductivity of the overlying Sivalik group. The evaporation of the study area ceased during Pliocene-Pleistocene deformation. The addition of water molecules (reverse crystallization) from groundwater to anhydrite is responsible for the formation of gypsum near the surface while in deeper parts anhydrite is still present, as also indicated by Adams and Khan (1987).

**Reverse.** Gypsum and anhydrite are known in the Danikhel area have been estimated 65 million years up to a depth of 300 m (Ahmed and Siddiqui, 1999). However field observations in the Salt Range area are about 125 million years (Adams and Khan, 1982).

## Results and Discussion

**Petrography.** Out of 15 samples, 10 samples were selected for petrographic studies. This selection was made on the basis of difference in colour, grain size, degree of crystallization, intensity of replacement and presence of clay and fine minerals (Table 1). Photomicrographs (Fig. 5) are included for

precise and real presentation of petrographic properties of gypsum and anhydrite. The samples are mostly composed of anhydrite as granular aggregates or crystalline in nature and show replacement by gypsum. Crystallization increases towards top from very fine to coarse crystals. Replacement of anhydrite by gypsum is obvious and is little in amount near the bottom and very light towards the top of the Kora outcrop.

Clay is also present as thin laminae and filling in the cracks. The amount of clay increases from top to bottom of the section. Thin clay laminae between thick evaporite layers are marked for deep basin deposits (Gulderson, 1986). The presence of mudstone and poor flow texture also indicate deposition at deeper level. Shells and grains of lime are also present in a few samples. A few microcrystals of gypsum are also present. Table 1 presents degree of crystallization, replacement, presence of clay and fine minerals.

In this section, sample 1 appears as irregular aggregate of anhydrite replaced with gypsum which is fine to medium grained (Fig. 5A). Sample 2 consists of laminited layers of anhydrite, granular aggregate and fine grained layers of fine brown clay are present in anhydrite (Fig. 5B). Sample 3 shows thick brown layer within medium grained anhydrite. Few veins of anhydrite run throughout the laminites of clay and anhydrite are visible (Fig. 5C). Sample 5 seems to be coarse crystalline, since no a filling and having is less noticeable. Some fine veins are also visible (Fig. 5D). Photomicrographs (Fig. 5E & F) of samples 7 and 8 exhibit very similar pattern. Partial replacement and replacement with gypsum is a common feature. Fine crystal aggregates of gypsum which have replaced anhydrite are common in samples 10 and 11. Brown clay is present without any pattern (Fig. 5G & H). Samples 13 and 14 display relatively coarse crystals of gypsum; in this, replacement of anhydrite by gypsum is very distinct (Fig. 5I).

**Geochemistry.** Composition and plots of major constituents of gypsum (wt% CaO, MgO, LR, SO<sub>4</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O) are given in Fig. 6 and Table 2. The plot of CaO vs SO<sub>4</sub> shows clustering except in sample 2, which contains high amount of clay. This shows a good agreement between the two ions for gypsum formation. MgO shows variable enrichments (0.72–3.83%) against SO<sub>4</sub> values, which are nearly close (Fig. 6). The plot of CaO vs MgO shows a vertical linear relationship. Mg rich brines may percolate in anastomosing calcite sandstone and cause diagenitization (Bliss, 1959). The removal of Ca ions may cause high-Mg/Cl ratio for the deep basin evaporites (Schemat, 1989); it is important to note that the plot of Ca/Mg vs Cl shows a gradual deepening of the basin during deposition of the Kora Gypsum (Fig. 6). The low Mg content in

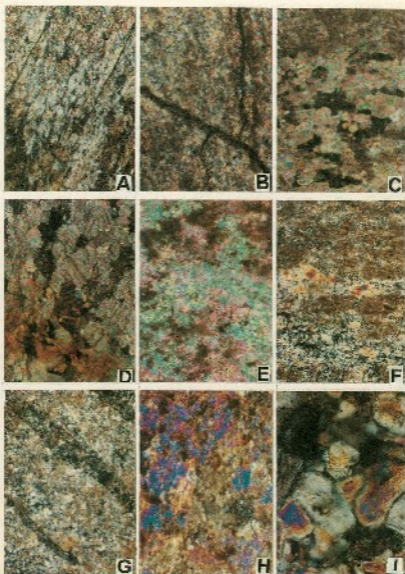


Fig. 5. Photomicrographs of Kilauea Dapwai. Color in A-I, x 50, except 3 I, x 125.

The study area also provides a good evidence for deep basin (Dutt & Saha, 1986). Dolomite is probably not formed in shallow water. As higher depth  $\text{CO}_2$  is more dissolved in water and enables the precipitation of dolomite because  $\text{MgCO}_3$  is more soluble than  $\text{CaCO}_3$  (Alam, 1971).

The plots of IR vs. CaO and MgO show different patterns. CaO shows clustering of population indicating nearly low influx of clay material except in sample 7. MgO does not show any relationship with clay. Probably this situation reflects no genetic relationship between them (Fig. 6). This feature within envelopes are good signs for deep basin deposits. The distribution of R, O, vs. CaO and MgO is also quite similar to the above pattern (Fig. 6).

*MnO and trace elements.* The plots of minor oxides and important trace elements (Fig. 7) show a good agreement to diastatic depositional environment and change thereof. CaO vs. Sr, Fe, Al and Mn shows nearly similar statistical relationships (Fig. 7). These elements show variable concentration at nearly same concentration of CaO indicating no genetic relation at the time of gypsum deposition. Probably these variations are due to post depositional changes, especially during successive diastrophism and weathering. According to Gokhale (1968) variable enrichment of trace elements is characteristic of deep basin deposition. In the evaporitic sequence, K minerals tend to crystallize in the last stage and hence K is poor in the gypsum. Not a single sample of the study area shows enrichment of K. Perhaps it is removed during leaching from gypsum after burial. Metasomatic reactions may concentrate K after burial (Gokhale, 1969). The present situation infers presence of no metasomatic activity in the area.

The concentration of trace elements is tabulated in Table 3. The concentration of Sr, the most important trace element

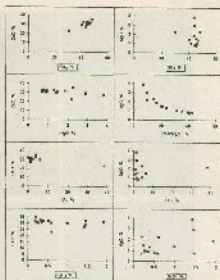


Fig. 6. Degree of composition using major oxides.

in both limestone and gypsum, ranges between 378–2150 ppm. The average abundance of Sr in sea water is 8 ppm. The high concentration of Sr in the samples is probably due to high partition coefficient ( $D^{\text{Sr}}$ ) of Sr in contrast to other trace elements. The PC shows drastic increase with time or high salinity. High growth rate of gypsum also increases PC of Sr (Kushner, 1969). The other reason for high Sr enrich-

Table 1  
Summary of the petrographic studies of Kanti Gypsum deposit

Sample No.	Grain size (mm)	$\alpha$	Crystalline/growth	Replacement by gypsum	Clay minerals	Iron minerals
1	0.125–0.5		Granular	Partial	5	<1
2	0.125–0.25		Granular	No	25	5
3	0.25–0.75		Crystalline	No	38	5
5	1.0–1.25		Crystalline	Partial	20	<1
7	0.125–0.25		Granular	No	40	<1
8	0.125–0.25		Crystalline	Considerable	40	<1
10	0.125–0.25		Crystalline	Considerable	10	<1
11	0.125–0.25		Granular	No	50	1
13	0.5–1.0		Crystalline	High	25	NI
15	0.5–1.0		Crystalline	Very high	25	NI

**Table 2**  
Chemical composition of the Kona Gypsum deposit

Sample No.	10% %	SiO <sub>2</sub> %	CaO %	MgO %	SO <sub>3</sub> %	H <sub>2</sub> O %	LOI %
1	2.47	0.36	55.15	0.27	45.12	17.94	3.95
2	4.34	1.00	25.63	1.43	49.59	16.97	1.97
3	38.49	0.60	22.06	2.19	30.40	00.30	4.25
4	4.34	0.22	34.87	2.26	43.26	00.60	5.12
5	1.98	0.25	30.00	1.49	45.76	17.34	3.90
6	0.71	0.51	31.63	0.78	44.53	16.43	5.39
7	1.52	1.16	28.62	2.82	44.00	17.20	4.20
8	2.52	0.99	30.61	0.73	45.20	18.05	2.69
9	1.41	1.03	25.18	3.33	43.82	16.69	5.51
10	0.02	2.92	30.97	1.87	44.01	16.75	5.36
11	1.89	0.19	31.72	0.72	45.50	17.61	3.42
22	0.28	0.54	32.25	0.93	41.34	18.02	2.31
11	0.75	1.07	34.85	0.77	49.67	18.73	2.00
14	1.24	0.27	33.11	0.95	45.48	18.14	3.05
15	0.52	0.70	31.65	1.20	45.23	16.57	2.51
16	1.70	0.64	33.60	2.26	00.00	00.50	41.80
17	1.20	0.75	31.25	1.27	00.00	10.44	42.27

**Table 3**  
Trace element assemblage of Kona Gypsum deposit

Sample No.	Na (ppm)	Al (ppm)	Fe (ppm)	Mn (ppm)	Ni (ppm)	Sr (ppm)	Zn (ppm)
1	90	530	750	20	15	1300	15
2	90	510	570	50	07	1620	15
3	1095	615	485	30	15	1540	15
4	120	730	700	30	17	1975	30
5	115	525	580	30	10	1680	15
6	120	735	555	35	15	695	15
7	115	250	490	25	20	1735	25
8	680	315	620	40	20	3190	20
9	110	285	680	30	03	515	20
10	365	190	315	60	20	745	25
11	115	25	30	02	15	345	15
12	95	300	335	25	08	680	15
13	115	120	335	5	15	335	20
14	2260	75	125	10	20	450	20
15	220	115	100	02	10	425	20
16	640	345	360	20	20	1730	20
17	680	285	240	21	20	635	10

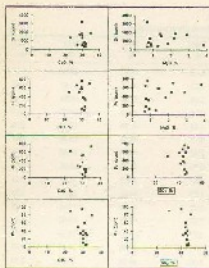


Fig. 5. Degree of correspondence between trace elements in gypsum and limestone (limestone).

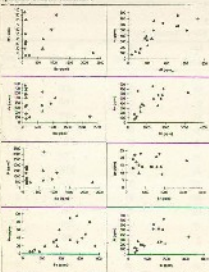


Fig. 6. Degree of correspondence between major and trace elements.

unit is explained on the basis of gypsum structure. The most possible interstitial lattice position for trace ions in gypsum lies among the water molecules. The space available is suitable for large ions ( $\sim 1 \text{ \AA}$ ). The ionic radius of gypsum is  $1.33 \text{ \AA}$  and is close to fill the space between a water molecule layers.

The plots of gypsum and limestone of the study area show nearly similar pattern of distribution of Sr, Fe and Al. The relation is nearly positive linear (Fig. 8). Sr shows very interesting relation with Zn. It shows gradual decrease from basin to top samples. Probably the low enrichment of Zn in the study area samples is due to its low abundance in sea water (20ppb) and its size ( $0.83 \text{ \AA}$ ) is not fit in the interstitial space of gypsum water. The bottom samples show low concentration (<20 ppm) values possibly indicating loss of Zn during desiccation. The transformation of anhydrite to gypsum at top breaks further increase the concentration of Zn due to interaction with ground water.

The relation of Ni, Mn, Fe and Sr seems to be non-comparable. Sample 3, 8, 10 and 14 have relatively high content of Ni (up to 100 ppm). The rest of the samples show variable enrichment for close Ni values. In spite of high abundance in sea water (10,770 ppm) and its variable lattice size, Ni has low PC in precipitates along with gypsum. This low PC further decreases with rising temperature (Kudrinsk, 1970). Fe, Al and Mn also display correspondence patterns (Fig. 8). The bottom samples show high Al probably due to the presence of higher amount of clay. The remaining samples exhibit gradual decline in the concentration of Al, Mn and Fe probably due to recrystallization.

Trace element concentration is valuable for facies analysis. Two samples (10 & 17) from Sakore limestone from adjoining area have also been collected for this purpose. Average trace element abundance in limestone is 1,100 for Mn, 510 for Sr and 20 ppm for Ni and Zn. Both the limestone and gypsum show much higher Sr concentration. A typical limestone contains Sr 7000-8000 ppm and during conversion to low magnesian calcite much of it is removed while gypsum may retain some of it. Mn and Fe are very low than the expected range. This low enrichment is probably due to faster rate of deposition in a deep basin.

It is important to note that the concentrations of Na, Sr, Al, Fe, Mn, Ni and Zn in limestone have similar distribution as in the gypsum-anhydrite facies. The plots of trace elements (Fig. 5) show similar geochemical environment for gypsum and limestone. In the deep evaporitic basin possibly sulphate reducing bacteria convert gypsum into limestone (Orin, 1972) as a result the trace elements concentrations in both the facies remain similar.



*Diagenetic model.* Kendall (1987) has recognized the subaqueous evaporite sequence in deep water and shallow water facies. Eardell (1982) further categorized the deep water facies into Deep Basin-Deep Water (DBDW) and Deep Basin-Shallow Water (DBSW).

Thin deposition of evaporites is a distinctive characteristic of DBDW type of facies (Fig. 4) due to high rate of deposition (Hemmerl). The Kona type evaporites are very thin if compared as a full of pure gypsum deposit. According to Farrell et al. (1984), the study area of the time of deposition was present near equator, with high rate of deposition (i.e. 15-25 mm yr<sup>-1</sup>). Generally 1.5 mm thickness is deposited by 100 mm transgression of sea water (Schroeder 1966). One possible cause of high temperature in the basin was explained by Kendall (1982), according to him, some times the phreatic fluid in hypersaline water is reduced due to suspended organic residues, floating evaporite crystals and red microbial bacteria. Such fluid facies also help reduce heat and the temperature may go up to 50°C. Another important evidence available for DBDW is the high subsidence rate. Some subsidence in the major part of the Bahaya basin in tertiary was 0.2 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> (Schroeder 1966). In the study area very thick deposition of gypsum available, process a high rate of settling. The cross laminated and rippled sulphates are good indicators of shallow water deposits. Instead, the field observation favours DBDW facies because of thick crystalline laminae that is traceable over long distances. The presence of thin dark coloured clay, as described in petrographically also a clear indicator of DBDW facies. Laif and Ichal (1986) concluded a barred basin in the area under study, which causes the formation of microbial and evaporite facies (Fig. 4). This type of facies is attributed to DBDW (Kendall 1983). Rupp (1982) described another mechanism for the precipitation of gypsum. The experimentally indicated precipitation of gypsum by mixing sea water-layers of different compositions and salinities. Precipitation of gypsum would occur when brines mix at the interface between the dense basal layer and the less dense overlying layer. In the deep-sea environment, only gypsum could precipitate at the central and deeper part of the barred basin.

Chondritic elements (Fe, Zn, Ni, Co) generally have no relation with evaporites. The samples under study showed Fe (70-700), Zn (10-20), Ni (7-20) and Co (23-35) ppm. The enrichment of these elements in gypsum is also a function of DBDW facies, as described by Subramo (1989) as follows. Due to evaporation of high density water (D<sub>1</sub>) and oxygen supply, as a result anoxic condition does not develop in the basin. This causes H<sub>2</sub>S generation that reacts with base metals and causes sulphide mineral precipitation. Deep basin evaporites are marked by dark coloured organic-sulphides rich

lanthanum minerals.

The low Mg content and low K in the samples are also evidence of DBDW, whereas deltamite and tetramite-megacrins are more in fore basin.

### Conclusion

The early tertiary evaporite facies of the Salt Range area showed segregation of Kona-Powder and Sublimation province as a result of a close basin, suitable for the deposition of evaporites, was developed. During Lower Eocene, nine different faciations were formed in the Salt and Barpeta ranges with combination of salt, shale, gypsum and limestone. In Dandak area the Subicor limestone grade into gypsum deposits.

The petrographic study indicates fine grained anhydrite in the basal part and gradual coarsening into coarse crystallized gypsum towards top beds. The gypsum crystals show replacement with clay due to the interaction with ground water in the upper bedfines. Gypsum grains show etching and twinning as a result of anhydrite conversion to gypsum. Few samples also show remnants of anhydrite. The layers of dark clay are also observed which probably indicate Deep Basin-Deep Water (DBDW) deposition conditions.

CaO shows good correlation with SO<sub>4</sub> but MgO does not indicate any genetic relationship. Low MgO content is a good indicator of deep basin. Poor Fe and absence of K is also a good evidence of DBDW.

Trace elements show variable concentration. Depth, temperature, rate of sedimentation, thickness of overlying facies and particular anhydrite are mainly responsible for the distribution. However, diagenesis and syngenesis are the main phenomenon.

Trace elements as well as type of the Subicor limestone and KCD shows clear similarity.

Chondritic elements (Fe, Zn, Co, Ni) are sometimes enriched in baritic (Sulphate rich) sediments within evaporites. Their presence also indicate DBDW.

The plot of Ca/Mg vs Ca shows gradual deepening of the basin, indicating that deposition rate and high subsidence in the basin.

The absence of sand cracks, cross laminations, rippled structures and lack of delimitation are also clear indicators of DBDW type of model.

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