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The soils in a heavily denuded (40 sq km) catchment area of a fast silting lake at Chandigarh were characterized for their susceptibility to water erosion in this study. Soil samples were drawn and analysed for mechanical composition, pH, organic carbon, CaCO,, saturated hydraulic conductivity (SHC), moisture equivalent (ME), suspension percentage, dispersion ratio and erosion ratio (ER). The soils widely differed in their properties and co-existed in horizontal and vertical bands with sand stone progressively getting washed from within the layers. It seems that lack of cohesion and heterogeneity in strata caused landslides, slips and pot holes. Such an unstable material when disturbed due to biotic interference resorted to mass wasting. Some site specific conservation measures have been suggested to increase sediment trap efficiency of the catchment.