



# HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

---

Volume 19  
Number 2 *Himalayan Research Bulletin; Special  
Topic: The Tharu*

Article 13

---

1999

## Recent Publications

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya>

---

### Recommended Citation

. 1999. Recent Publications. *HIMALAYA* 19(2).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya/vol19/iss2/13>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the DigitalCommons@Macalester College at DigitalCommons@Macalester College. It has been accepted for inclusion in HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Macalester College. For more information, please contact [scholarpub@macalester.edu](mailto:scholarpub@macalester.edu).



Another strength of Rao's work is to be found in her concern to supplement her more "cultural" data and analysis with quantitative data, demographic and otherwise. So, for example, she provides 35 tables on such subjects as frequency of common names, perinatal mortality, wedding costs, ages at marriage, residential patterns, frequency of endogamous unions, and the hierarchical ranking of patriline. There are also a multiplicity of kinship diagrams and figures designed to graphically illustrate points made in the texts: to give just two examples, "Fluctuations over the life course in the amounts of [the basic human properties of] *nafas*, *osh*, and *rull* and "The sequential development of domestic groups according to gender and age." The quantitative figures and tables, in particular, lend an indispensable element of concreteness that both aids in evaluating the more general interpretations found in the text and opens up the possibility for Rao or others to make useful comparisons with data from other field studies in the future.

Rao's project in this book is an ambitious one: it attempts to combine ethnographical ly-based description and interpretation of one particular "case", cross-cultural comparison, and a theoretical argument about the relationship between the individual and culture in non-Western settings. This is a challenging agenda and one that leads to certain problems in terms of readability and theoretical coherence. In her concern to take account of and quote as many relevant ideas and ethnographic examples as possible from the very large body of anthropological literature that is available on issues of selfhood and individuality in cultures around the globe, Rao sometimes causes the reader to lose track of where her argument is headed. The book is, however, a real contribution to our knowledge of an area of South Asia that is both understudied and very much in the news at the present day. Theoretically also it is thought-provoking; Rao's contribution to the debate around which she has framed her study will certainly be taken into account by other scholars, as the dialogue continues in the future.

Sylvia Vatuk  
Professor of Anthropology  
University of Illinois at Chicago

---

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

---

### ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) Publications

For information on other ICIMOD Publications, visit the Publications' Catalogue:  
<http://www.icimod.org.sg/publications/catalogue/catalind.htm>

All prices quoted include the cost of handling and shipping. For orders and further inquiries, please write to:

Nira Gurung-Burathoki  
Distribution Officer  
ICIMOD  
P.O. Box 3226  
Kathmandu, NEPAL  
Tel: 977-1-525313,536747  
Fax: 977-1-524509  
E-mail: [distri@icimod.org.np](mailto:distri@icimod.org.np)

#### **Profiting from sunshine - passive solar building in the mountains: collection of papers on national workshops in China, India, Nepal and Pakistan.**

Bansal, N. K. and Rijal, K. 2000. ISBN 92-9115-099-1. 284p. Price: US\$ 20.00 (Developed Countries); US\$ 15.00 (Developing Countries); US\$ 10.00 (ICIMOD Member Countries)

In the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) Region it is difficult to keep houses warm during winter. Usually biomass fuels are burned for cooking and space heating. Using biomass fuels has resulted in large-scale deforestation and ill effects on the health of mountain people, especially women and children, from the smoke produced. Solar radiation is available in most parts, and it is sensible to take solar energy consciously into consideration in designing buildings

in order to reduce the use of biomass fuels for space heating.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is committed to improving the living standards of people living in the HKH Region. In the light of this objective, the Centre organized Workshops on Passive Solar Building Technologies in China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan to establish a network of institutions involved in promoting Passive Solar Building Technology (PSBT) in mountain areas. The state-of-the-art reviews clearly indicated that concrete efforts had been made in China and India to promote a solar passive heating programme, whereas there have been individual efforts in Nepal and Pakistan to build passive solar homes. The compilation of these papers in

a comprehensive and concise manner should help to share knowledge about new developments in the respective countries as a means of promoting PSBTs in mountain areas.

This book, the first of its kind, provides an overview of the (i) National Workshops; (ii) Potentials for Application of PSBTs in Mountain Areas; (iii) Fundamentals of Solar Energy and Solar Radiation; (iv) State of the Art in Solar Passive Technologies; (v) Solar Passive Building Designs in the Mountains; (vi) Building Materials for Hilly and Mountain Areas; (vii) Application and Design of Passive Solar Systems for Buildings; and (viii) Issues and Future Directions required for the promotion of PSBTs in mountain areas of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region.

Overall, concrete solutions are needed to introduce solar passive building concepts in the HKH Region. Understanding climate, traditional architecture, construction materials, and construction techniques is important for optimum passive building designs, and this book attempts to provide some insights.

The following activities are recommended: (i) analysis and classification of climatic conditions in the HKH Region; (ii) study of vernacular architecture and identification of passive building elements; (iii) study of urban architecture; (iv) selection of an appropriate thermal simulation programme; (v) creation of a database and thermophysical properties of building materials and traditional building components; (vi) quantification of individual design patterns, for example, direct gain, indirect gain, thermal storage, solarium, cavity insulation, building form, roof shape, and underground structure; and (vii) preparation of manuals on design guidelines, design context, and construction issues. The information and knowledge thus prepared should then be disseminated to architects, users, and the construction industry, in both the formal and informal sectors. Design guidelines have not been provided for rural

mountain areas anywhere in the world. Any initiative in this respect would help improve the health, efficiency, and lifestyles of rural people residing in mountain areas.

**KEYWORDS:** Engineering / Building design / Construction technology / Solar heating / Mountain areas / Hindu Kush- Himalayas

### **Kathmandu valley GIS database: bridging the data gap**

Shrestha, B.; Pradhan, S. 2000. ISBN 92-9115-085-1. 197p. Price: US\$ 20.00 (Developed Countries); US\$ 15.00 (Developing Countries); US\$ 10.00 (ICIMOD Member Countries)

Recently, there has been a continuing growth in the use of GIS and related technologies by many organizations engaged in planning and management of the Kathmandu Valley. As a result, the demand for accurate standardised spatial data of the Valley for government use as well as for use by research and development organizations has grown.

This study is about attempts to build a comprehensive GIS Database of the Kathmandu Valley as a means of bridging important data gaps. The study employs a fresh approach using the maps available and integrating with satellite images. The maps presented in this publication visualise the environment and raise awareness about digital databases. It is hoped that the application presented in this publication will increase awareness about the usefulness of digital databases and demonstrate what can be achieved with GIS and related technologies. It is also hoped that this database will improve information on the Kathmandu Valley and assist different stakeholders engaged in planning and management of services.

Furthermore, the study advocates a building block approach to development, management, and revision of databases in a complementary way to avoid duplication of efforts in costly production of digital data. The study aims to sensitise senior executives and decision-makers about the need for a sound policy on database sharing, development, and standards. Such a policy, at the national level, known as a National Spatial Database Infrastructure (NSDI), should evolve in order for everyone to benefit from the prevailing GIS technology. In using GIS and related technologies, the study facilitated the establishment of a Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Kathmandu Valley.

**KEYWORDS:** Surveying methods / Nepal, CDR, Kathmandu / Geographical information systems / Urbanization / Mountain environment / Statistical data

**Participatory Forest management: Implications for Policy and Human Resources' Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, Vol. III Eastern Himalayas**

Bhatia, A., 2000. ISBN 92 9115 970 0/92 9115 006 1. 73p. Price: US\$ 20.00 (Developed Countries); US\$ 15.00 (Developing Countries); US\$ 10.00 (ICIMOD Member Countries)

The Workshop on Participatory Forest Management: Implications for Policy and Human Resources' Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas brought together forest management personnel from various parts of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. The basis of their discussions was the people-centred forest policies that have emerged in many countries of the region and their objectives of supporting and strengthening participatory forest management to ensure that the needs of mountain people receive the priority they deserve. The policies along with their constraints and opportunities were discussed in depth, guided by papers provided by the participants themselves. Volume 1 is the Workshop Document, Volume 2 deals with China, Volume 3 - Eastern Himalayas, Volume 4 - India, Volume 5 - Nepal, and Volume 6 - Pakistan.

**Keyword(s):** Forest management / Social participation / Human resources / Government policy / Bangladesh / Bhutan / Myanmar

**General Publications**

4. ICIMOD's Annual Report for 1999 - available online at [http://www.icimod.org.sg/ann\\_reports/arep99/annual99.htm](http://www.icimod.org.sg/ann_reports/arep99/annual99.htm)

5. ICIMOD's Updated Publications' Catalogue (soon to be available on the homepage)

ICIMOD provides its technical publications free-of-charge to:

- Institutions with whom it has entered into formal publications' exchange agreements
- Developing country institutions with a mandate for sustainable development of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region A written request highlighting the institution' programme thrusts is required; and
- Students from the ICIMOD Member Countries pursuing a university degree related to sustainable mountain development.

A maximum of two documents will be provided gratis upon submission of a photocopy of the student's valid identity card and information pertaining to the degree being pursued.

The following discounts are offered:

- 75% discount to students from the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region
- 50% discount to full-time students worldwide
- 25% discount for bulk orders of 10 documents or more of any publication.

All general publications, as listed below, are available free-of-charge for all countries.

- a. ICIMOD Newsletter (published three times a year)
- b. Issues in Mountain Development (8-12 issues published annually)
- c. Annual Report
- d. Brochures, pamphlets, and other public relations' materials
- e. Publications' Catalogue