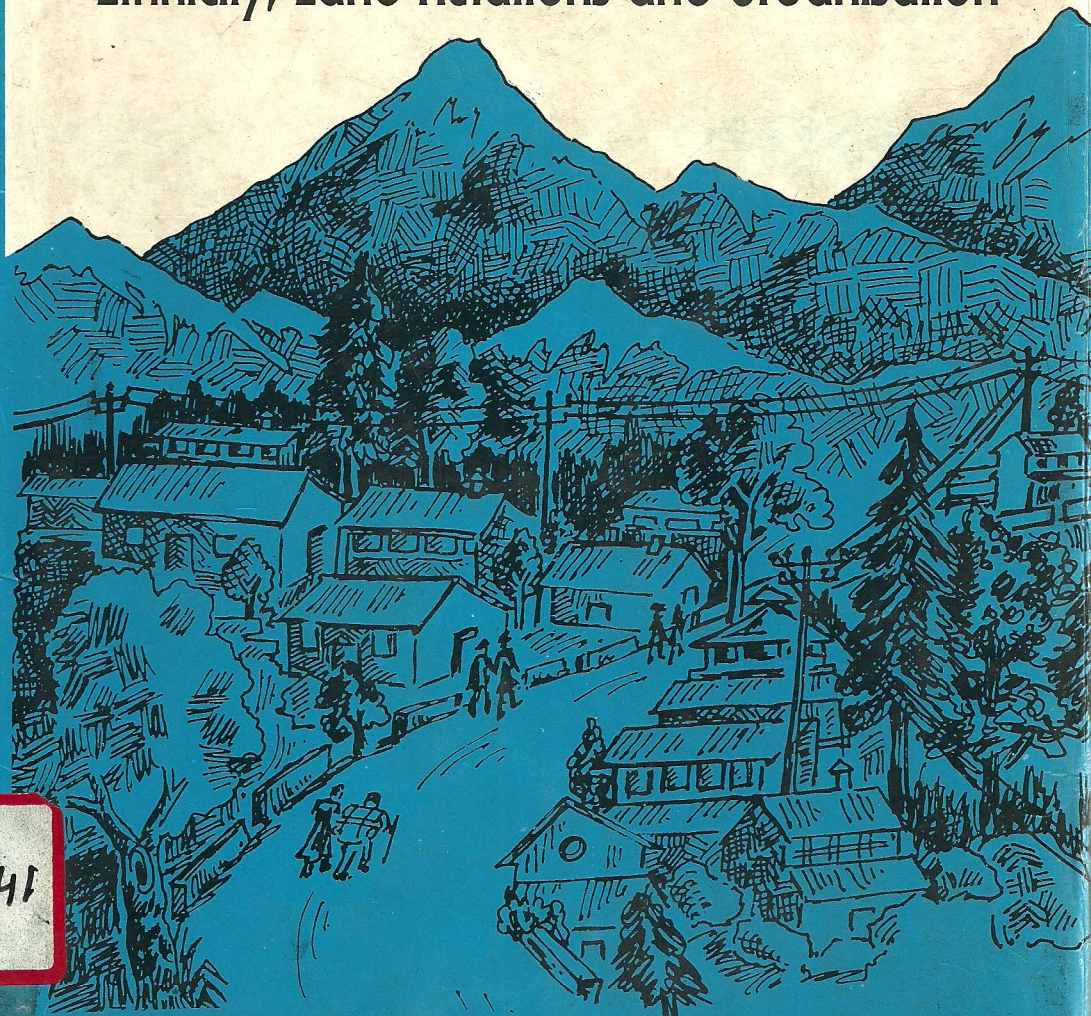


HILL CITIES OF EASTERN HIMALAYAS

Ethnicity, Land Relations and Urbanisation



41

Edited by

A.C. Sinha • Pariyaram M. Chacko • I.L. Aier

This anthology of a dozen papers is an inter-disciplinary effort to uncover the traditional land tenure, urban land relations, inter-ethnic issues and the process of urbanisation in the predominantly tribal states of North Eastern Frontier region of India. Authored by a geographer, historians, political scientists and sociologists, this book displays the unique scenario in which these ex-British administrative outposts have turned into arena of new opportunities and inter-ethnic collaborations. Immensely readable and useful for policy planners, public men, urban managers, corporators and municipal councillors, and academicians alike, the book may be used as a text for various courses in anthropology, geography, history, political science, and sociology in different universities.

Prof. A.C. Sinha, the head, Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hill University, (NEHU) Shillong, is an authority on ethnic, urban and regional issues of the Eastern Himalayan region.

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Preface

This study is a product of academic collaboration among the social science faculty of the North Eastern Hill University. The initiative to examine the land relations, inter-ethnic issues and civic participation at the urban level among the hill states of the region was taken up by the Department of Sociology. The faculty of history, political science and geography readily agreed to respond to the proposal to hold a workshop with a view to examining the above issues on an agreed format. The Mokokchung Town Committee (Nagaland) invited the workshop to be held at their headquarters as part of their town's centenary celebration in 1990. Infrastructural facilities during the workshop were extended to us by the Nagaland Campus of NEHU. The papers were presented in the workshop by the academics and discussed by the administrators, civic representatives, concerned citizens, community leaders and local historians. Then the papers were thoroughly revised in the light of the discussions. We, as editors, are extremely grateful to our academic colleagues—the individual contributors—for their patience against our nagging reminders to complete the papers on time.

Many of the issues discussed in the book emerged out of the classroom experience in course of our teaching. Keeping in mind the paucity of literature and academic analysis of the regional urban scenario, we expect the book to fill a significant gap in our understanding of the on-going regional economic transformation and consequent contradictions. The volume is a modest contribution to uncover the complex issues which may interest civic leaders, urban planners, policy makers, concerned citizens and non-Government organisations engaged in various welfare activities. We specially invite their attention to the consensus emerged at Mokokchung Workshop (Chapter 1: 21-22) and the rationale of the quality of the urban life in our cities proposed in

the last chapter. We shall feel gratified if the future students and concerned citizens find the book relevant to them.

While we acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. T. Nokyu Longchar and Mr. C. Imna Longkumer, the civic heads of Mokokchung Town Committee, we are happier to be the part of the centenary celebration of their city. We express our appreciation to the citizens of Mokokchung for participating in our academic discourse and hosting the workshop. We shall like to express our gratitude to Dr. Kiramwati Ao, the then Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Nagaland Campus of NEHU, Principal B. Tekalong of Fazel Ali College, Mokokchung and his colleagues for all the support and active assistance provided by them to us. We record our thanks to Dr. B.S. Mipun, our colleague in the Department of Geography, for reducing the extensive maps to presentable sizes included in the text. Similar favours were extended to us by the Town Planning bodies of other cities such as Dimapur, Kohima, Aizawl, etc for that we thank the obliging functionaries.

M/s A. Dkhar, N.P. Sharma and K. Swer provided the required secretarial back up, for which we are thankful to them. The colleagues in the Department of Sociology deserve special appreciation for providing a congenial atmosphere for the completion of the work on time. And lastly a special thanks to Mr. M.L. Gidwani of Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi for his involved production of this book.

A.C. SINHA
PARIYARAM M. CHACKO
I.L. AIER

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