

Urban growth centers in Darjeeling hills of West Bengal: a Geographical analysis

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Abstract

The growth and development of Darjeeling and other hill cities were something different from the cities of the plains. The hill cities were primarily seasonal trip of the Britishers where as the cities of the plains were multifunctional. In a certain sense the Britishers selected the hill cities for their own needs of comfort and control, for enjoying both bodily comfort and control over hill recourses. The rapid growth of urbanization in Darjeeling hills was primarily through the introduction of tea industry in the hills. By the middle of the nineteenth century tea industry had become the major economic activity in Darjeeling. Intact the tea industry exerted a deep influence upon the growth and development of the hill city.

Environmental protection in the light of Rio declaration in the hill station Darjeeling, West Bengal

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Abstract

At the present scenario, Darjeeling is one of the most polluted hill station in India. There are all sorts of pollution responsible for overall environmental degradation experiences by this urban centre. The physical environment, while similar in many respects, has some unique characteristics as it constitutes high and sloping lands, low laying valleys, forests and vegetations of various types as well as river beds and meadows. These unique features of mountain environments tend to be quite sensitive to disturbance and disruption by external factors. Therefore, environmental degradation is an adverse alteration of natural system's integrity, diversity and productivity. In an ordinary sense, an environmental degradation is a process of degeneration of elements and factors pertaining to the conditions and circumstances of life on the planet earth. Though some British East India Company officials stayed in the village of Darjeeling in 1828 and considered the place suitable for a sanatorium for British soldiers, the remote hilly village might not have turned into a hill city of international repute had the Sikkim Chogyal not imprisoned the British East India Company Director Arthur Campbell and explorer botanist Joseph Dalton Hooker in 1849. This ensured a rescue operation by the British and a renewed interest for this 'home-like' territory and by 1866 it came to exist in its present shape and form as a hill station. The overall physical environment in Darjeeling is highly in bad shape. The population explosion particularly in developing country like India as well as unplanned urban expansion and unscientific life style pose the hill people with a great threat.

Estimation of climatic balance and ground water potential in Sriniketan-Santiniketan planning area

Prakash Singh

Abstract

In order to meet the water shortages, search for new sources of fresh water especially ground water has been emphasized. For this purpose both qualitative and quantitative approaches have been applied. The former are largely based on water table profiles and contours whereas the later are based on change in ground water shortage and factors causing them. Some of the villages of the study area record over utilization and remaining record under utilization of ground water. Water balance for the area as a whole has been studied for each of the heavy, normal and low rainfall years. Water is surplus in the months of August and September in heavy rainfall years, and in July and August in normal rainfall year. Naturally, there is no surplus in less rainfall years. A suitable plan for its development has been emphasized here by taking into account conjunctive use of water resources.

Population and food security: India's Challenge

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Abstract

The status of food security has been a matter of great concern in the era of increasing population. In india, after green revolution the growth rate of foodgrains production has however been higher than the population growth rate and it tried to keep pace with the increasing population over the long time in order to sustain the increasing population. The per capita availability of food grains which improved after green revolution from 395 grams in 1951 to 468 grams in 1971 and 510 grams in 1991 has declined to 462 grams in 2012. The declining trend has serious implications for the country's food security situation. The present study intends to analyse the effects of above highlighted issues viz. Increasing population and its effects on the status of food security in india. The results showed that due to population growth agricultural intensification has increased which lead to problems of land degradation, overexploitation of underground water resources, water logging, salinization and alkalization. These problems are more peculiar in green revolution areas mainly in north-western states. The study suggests that to have sustainable food security region specific measures should be taken.

Morphological analysis of Contai town, East Midnapore, West Bengal, India

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Abstract

Morphology of a town is concerned with the ground build and skyline of the houses . The plan may be internal which concerns with the arrangements of streets and built space or external which concerns with shape and the bird's eye view of the street patterns developed in a settlement. Morphological character is closely associated to functional character of a place .Morphology is not a matter of historical interest; there are trends in development leading from the past to present. The presumption is that trends obvious at the present time which have been established over the past, will be continued into the future unless positive action is taken to change them. This article made study of evolution of the cultural lands cape of contai town by a systematic investigation of its function. Morphology is dynamic .So morphology of contain town will never be static in future. So the main objective of this article is to shoe the formation of present and systematic development of the town in future and also giving an idea of the areal coverage of the open spaces and parks.

Advertisement as rights of the consumer

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Abstract

Advertising, in a broad sense, has been part of economics, since at least the beginning of trade. Merchants have always shouted out the advantage of their goods in the market place. The oldest known written advertisement is a 3000 year old Babylonian tablet requesting the return of a slave. Shop sign and broad sides affixed to walls, post or trees were common advertising devices in all civilization prior to Newspapers¹, followed by the advertising through public announcement and using folk-theaterist. Then the invention of printing by moveable type ushered in a new age of commercial communication. The first printed advertisement in English appeared in 1477, the year after William Caxton set up his first press in England. By the middle of the seventeenth century, British newspapers had adopted advertising as an intrinsic part of their contents. But the revolution in advertising was brought about by the Americans. As America became more industrialized, especially from the 1880's to the 1920's, mass-appeal advertising paralleled the mass production of goods. Nationwide advertising directed the public attention to the increasing variety and quantity of products distributed on nationwide basis. Most advertising during this period focused on the products to its construction, its performance, its uses, its price and its advantages. Product information advertising aimed both to familiarize the newspaper reader with the national brand and to introduce new products and educate the consumer as to their purposes. After 1920's, the product information model was replaced by a model of competitive mass advertising that stressed product imagery and product personality². During 1950 and 1960, marketers began to differentiate goods less by describing the real or reputed character of the product itself and more by product imagery. Greater affluence and the popularity of television, among other things made it easy for advertiser to promote the lifestyle ethic.

A study on socio-economic and environmental problems of the Kanchrapara slum

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Abstract

Due to rising of population, especially in urban area, the numbers of slum dwellers has grown Indian urban population which is expected to reach 660 million by 2025. Twenty-three urban centers have more than a million inhabitants, and 30% to 40% of urban dwellers are estimated to live under poverty, even more alarming is the fact that urban poverty is often underestimated. Many of the urban poor live in slum areas, unrecognized squatter colonies or in the pavement where extreme difficulties are found to live. Sometimes due to acute uneven distribution of resource in society people are compelled to live in slum areas. That is why they are deprived from various basic social rights Slum problems are manifold-living conditions are deplorable, crime rate is high, sanitation is poor, child mortality is high, education levels are low and diseases are rampant. But the situation has to be tackled and the issues have to be faced. There are many parameters of this study. This study has analyzed the causes of urban poverty. This paper is concerned with the Socio-economic and Environmental problems of the Kanchrapara slum. Its impact has changed the urban ecology and the urban environment. Many of the urban poor live in slum areas and are deprived from various basic social rights. So this paper proves that the Socio- economic and the Environmental problem are there.

Problems and Prospects of Tourism Industry in Sikkim

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Abstract

In mid 1970s, Sikkim became a part of India. Sikkim also holds the status of 8th north eastern state of the country. The state is of strategic importance to the India as it shares three international borders with China, Nepal and Bhutan. The economy of the state is heavily dependent on the central government. Because of its location, the state attracts tourist and the tourism industry also grown manifold in recent years. However, the industry also faces lots of problems in the form of frequent landslides, lack of infrastructure development, poor implementation of government initiatives, lack of proper awareness programme etc. The state of Sikkim at the same time has the potential to be the prime tourist destination of the country with lots of bio diversity, scope for eco tourism, adventure tourism, religious tourism etc. Tourism in the State of Sikkim is growing at a rapid pace in a very well thought of and planned manner. Sikkim now has become one of the best sought after hill destinations at the global level. The leadership is very committed and the State Government has been very effective and successful in educating and guiding the people regarding tourism on the basic principle of Sustainable Development. The present study focuses on the dynamics of tourism development and its positive and negative impacts on resources, environment, and local communities. The scope of the survey is to study about the problems and prospects of the tourism industry in the state of Sikkim. The study uses both the primary and secondary data to elicit information. Basically interview methods are adopted for getting information from the respondents.

Fluoride contamination of underground water and health hazard in Nasipur village of Birbhum district (WB) - A case study

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Abstract

Water is life. Human being cannot survive without water. Water is needed for drinking, taking bath, washing, irrigation and for building purpose. Of all these, drinking purpose is most sensitive because drinking water must be purified from the viewpoint of health. Next, water used for irrigation must also be well balanced mineralised. Underground water is such a source which is equally important for both these purposes. Fluoride is a compound remains in a certain amount in water. Fluoride compound (F^-) is necessary for a certain content to eradicate the dental caries. It does harden the tooth and bones. The normal level of fluoride in underground water is 1 or 1.5 mg. per litre. World Health Organization (WHO) guideline value and the permissible limit of fluoride as per Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) is 1.5 mg/L. Crossing this limit fluoride contaminates the water. If that water is used for drinking purpose then health hazard may occur. This health hazard is known as fluorosis. Person once attacked by this never is cured from this. Patients lost their ability to do work. "The Nasipur is the first place to report cases of fluorosis in West Bengal. The village is located in Nalhati Block-I of Birbhum district" (Chatterjee, 2004). It is in interest to us to find out the problems of fluoride affected people of Nasipur village and to find out the alternative measures to solve this in conclusion part.

Causes of soil pollution and alternative measures to reduce it in Choto Sangra Mouza of Birbhum District, West Bengal

Sourav Debnath

Abstract

The causes of soil pollution are complex and far reaching. Actually it has economic impacts and this in term causes social impacts. Agriculture is the base of village economy. It has been evolved through different stages, from the past to this modern era .In traditional agriculture farmers used to depend on farm manure and cow dung as natural sources of plant nutrients. This traditional system of applying manure could only support low yields but there was no strain on the inherent of the soil. Modern agriculture largely depends on the use of high cost inputs such as chemical fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides etc. The application of such inputs has undoubtedly increased the production but there is growing concern over the adverse effects of the use of chemicals on soil productivity and environment quality.

Now in case of Choto Sangra, only organic manure was used for crop cultivation before forty to fifty years. So, the production of crop was less than now but now with chemical fertilizer, HYV seeds etc the production of this village has no doubt become increased . Negative effect of modern agriculture is also found that the excessive use of chemical fertilizer has reduced the fertility of field. Undergone demonstration is not practiced here. So, sometimes farmers use chemical fertilizers and pesticides unscientifically. Consumption of chemical pesticides had increased during 1990-91 and decreased during 1995-96 and further come down to about 1998-99 while it is necessary to add the required amount of plant food nutrients in the soil to increase crop production. Continuous removal of micronutrient due to excessive amount of chemical inputs application is depleting the soil fertility. It is however, easy to standardize the optimum levels of production factors at the experimental sites but very difficult to popularize them among the vast majority of farmers. Due to tropical climate, organic carbon status, phosphate status of this soil is low. Potash, a nutrient is adequate in the soils of Choto Sangra village. As remedial measure, organic agriculture should be practiced. It relies upon crop rotations with leguminous crops, addition of crop residues, animal manure, bio fertilizer and bio pesticides.