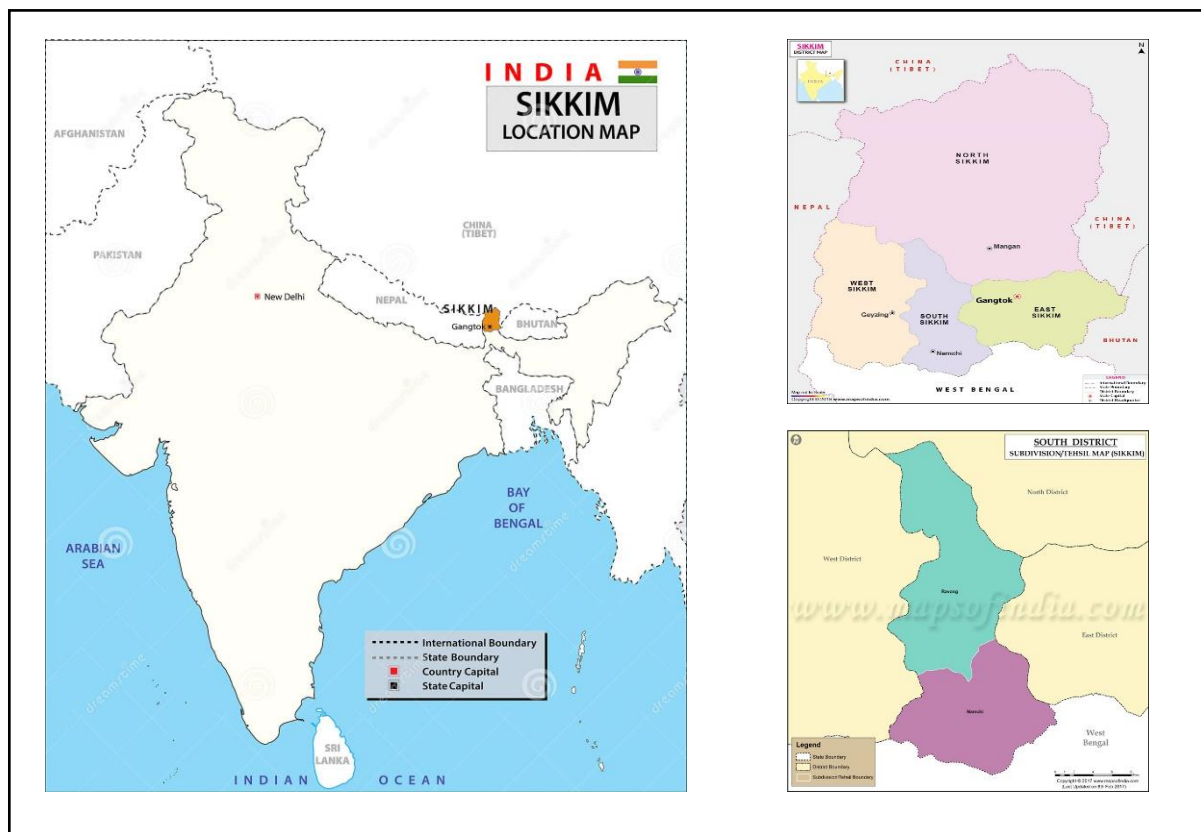


PHYSIO-CULTURAL STUDY OF SOUTH SIKKIM

Sikkim is the second smallest state of India in terms of area and lies between 27°43'40"-28°04'53" N latitude and 88°02'61"-88°97'39" E longitudes. It consists of four districts, namely, North Sikkim, South Sikkim, East Sikkim and West Sikkim. Sikkim is known for its richness in ethnic diversity as well as tribal communities. The topography of the state is highly variable with mountains, ridges and valleys with the altitude ranging between 250-8598 m above mean sea level.

South Sikkim district is the southern part of Sikkim. The total area covered by South Sikkim district is 750 sq. kilometres. Namchi (27.16700 N, 88.36520 E) is the headquarter of the district. South Sikkim district lies at an altitude of 400- 2000 m above mean sea level.



Location map of the study area

OBJECTIVES:

Main objective of the field work, based on secondary data analysis is to identify the remarkable impact of the physical environment on the location and socio-economic development of South Sikkim district.

A socio-economic and demographic profile highlights the quality of life enjoyed by the people and residents of the district through analysis of the various facilities available to them and finally their perception regarding general living conditions as well as how the arrival of tourists help them to improve their livings and economic condition.

This field work is undertaken with certain specific objectives.

1. To carry out an in-depth study to highlight the Socio-economic condition of the people of South Sikkim.
2. To identify linkage between Physical, cultural, Social and Economical aspects.
3. To analyse how the cultural behaviours varies of South Sikkim can promote cultural tourism as well as helps in development of tourism in Sikkim.
4. To review the status of existing development plans of schemes for the development of tourism in South Sikkim.
5. To investigate the major issues and challenges that impact sustainable development in the district. 6. To suggest ways and means to promote culture, tourism resource of South Sikkim

METHODOLOGY:

Here, different socio economic aspects of South Sikkim have been represented with different cartograms based on secondary data sources.

Divided proportional circles and bar diagrams are used here to represent population structure, educational structure, occupational structure, settlement housetype, amenities, agriculture, land ownership and other economic aspects.

FINDINGS:

From the present study, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Total population of South Sikkim District is 97979 people out of which 51% is male and remaining 49% is female. The sex ratio is 990 females per thousand males which shows that there is less discrimination against females. The highest male population is in Yangang (9547 person) and lowest in Namchi (2656 persons). Similarly, highest concentration of female population is in Yangang (8776 persons) and the lowest is in Namchi (2459 persons). 65% of total population belongs to working age group (16-60 years) and 35% belongs to dependent population. Tribal population (ST) of South Sikkim comprises 34% of total population whereas SC and general comprises 5% and 61% population respectively.
- 1% of population is specially abled. 43% of population is currently married and 51% is unmarried.
- 80% of population of South Sikkim is literate. However, only 32% has completed primary education and only 5% is graduate. 13% households have no literate adult members above 25 years. Namchi has the highest percentage of literate population

(84%) and Yangang has lowest percentage of literate population (79%) as compared to other blocks of South Sikkim. The factors responsible for variation in literacy rate are gender disparity, inadequate educational infrastructure, social discrimination, economic exploitation etc.

- There is total 21329 households in South Sikkim district. 4681 households have 3 or more rooms with pakka walls and roof. 498 households have only one room with pakka walls and roof, these households are hence economically unstable. 81% households are owned by individuals, 15% of houses are rented and 4% belong to other category.
- 56% household's main source of income comes from cultivation, 13% from manual labour, 4% from part time or full time domestic service, 5% from account enterprises and 22% from other services. Besides this, South Sikkim is also rich in tourism. Most of the tourists come from neighbouring state of West Bengal. Apart from domestic tourists, international tourists also visit South Sikkim. Hence, the main occupation here is agriculture and tourism.
- 2681.08 hectares of land are unirrigated, 23692.6 hectares of land are irrigated and 18483.26 hectares of land belong to other irrigated category.

Lastly, it can be concluded that South Sikkim is a developing district. From the intensive study from secondary data source, it is suggested that education and population density are the key determinants for ward level disparity in social development of study area.

