

Situating the Humans Relationship with Nature in the Tangkhul Naga's Lifeworld

Franky Varah

Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067, India
Telephone: +91-8447403644; E-mail: akyvarah@gmail.com

KEYWORDS Tangkhul Naga. Indigenous. Human. Nature. Land. Plant. Animal. Lifeworld. Christianity and Modernisation

ABSTRACT The Tangkhul Nagas are intricately bound to nature in their social, cultural, economic, ethical and religious values. The dynamics of Tangkhul's livelihood activities in many ways reflect the complexities of the human and nature relationship. Interactions between human and nature have undergone significant changes during the last century which leaves unwarranted impact on its natural environment. Today increasing scarcity of natural resources is serious in Tangkhul Naga society. Besides other than population pressures, technological intrusion and developmental activities, the arrival of Christianity in the late 19th century proved ominous to the human and nature relations in the lifeworld of the Tangkhuls. The Colonial British introduced Christianity to the Tangkhul Nagas and used as a preliminary strategy to contain the hostile Tangkhuls from fierce rebellion against British dominions in the region. This paper attempts to present the symbiotic relationship of humans with nature in the antecedent lifeworld of the Tangkhuls while arguing for preserving its traditional knowledge system of nature conservation.