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LIVELIHOOD PATTERN AND ITS IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT (A CASE STUDY OF THE INDIGENEOUS PEOPLE OF NAGALAND)

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ABSTRACT

Human systems and environment are dependent on one another throughout the history of Homo sapiens. Risk to the environment engenders risk to human because of their dependence on environment and natural resources, and this intercourse in turn leads to changes in the livelihood patterns of human community. With the entry of industrialism and consumerism, man has become a factor of production and nature a resource only to be exploited for meeting man's never ending greed. Also, Science and technology has placed an enormous power in the hands of man imposing hazards and problems on the fragile environment within the confines of which lies the home of most of the indigenous people. The traditional homeland of 14 major tribes of Nagaland: Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Khiamniungan, Konyak, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sangtam, Sumi, Yimchungriü, and Zeliang spreading over an area of 16,527 sq km in the far north-eastern part of India is bordered by Assam in the west, Arunachal Pradesh and part of Assam in the north, Myanmar in the east and Manipur in the south. The indigenous people of the land have always contributed their cultural wisdom to restoration, conservation and wise use of the biodiversity and natural resources over the millennia. Their knowledge in terms of technology, endogenous or cosmological beliefs, folklore, custom and oral tradition has a great bearing on the use of natural resources and the biodiversity. The present study is an attempt to evaluate the sustainable livelihood pattern of the indigenous people of Nagaland who are closely attached to physical environment, and the factors responsible for the deterioration of their environment at the present hour.

KEYWORDS; *Indigenous people, Sustainable livelihood, Environment, Dependent, Problems etc.*