

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**STUDY ON THE SHERPA AGRARIAN ECONOMY AND MANAGEMENT OF  
LOCAL RESOURCES IN A VILLAGE OF KALIMPONG DISTRICT**

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**Abstract:** *The Sherpa, a specific Scheduled Tribe of Indian subcontinent, is mainly found in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong district of West Bengal and the state of Sikkim, though their main habitat is in Nepal. A socio-anthropological study was carried out (145 households with 836 individuals), to have an idea about the agriculture-based economy and local resource management in Sherpa community at the study area, during 2016-18.*

*It was observed that, Sherpa community come under the generic term, the Bhotia, along with some other tribal groups like the Yalmo, Toto, Dukpa, Kagatay. The Sherpas of Kalimpong Khasmahal village of the Community Development block 1 of Kalimpong district of West Bengal are basically agriculture-based. Majority of them (68.45%) are living as terrace cultivators. Some of them found to be engaged in trade, service holders and other professions. As terrace cultivators they totally depend upon the natural resources, and therefore develop their own system of natural resource management. They have their own system of land and irrigational management which makes a pattern of their economic life. These resource management systems not only help them to survive in the harsh ecological condition but also give a distinct pattern to their socio-cultural life. The present article has been made to understand how the Sherpas utilize their indigenous knowledge to maintain local natural resources.*

**Key Words:** Sherpa community, terrace cultivation, resource management, village of Kalimpong district.