

Local Communities' Perception and Attitude towards Transformed Ecosystem: A case study from Kailash Sacred landscape-India

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Introduction

Pithoragarh is the north-eastern border district of Uttarakhand - 96% area is recognized as Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL)-India.

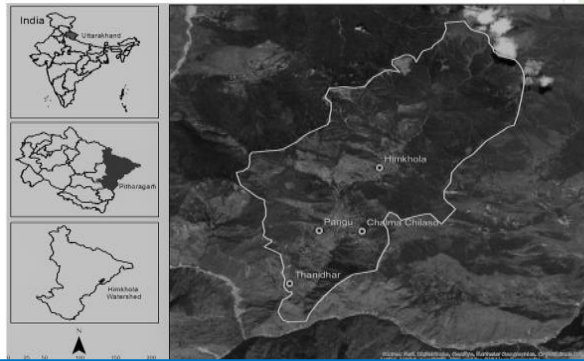
KSL -exceptionally important representing social, cultural, ecological wealth and trans-boundary historical linkages. Study attempts -access the native people's perception and attitudes towards transformed ecosystem in higher elevation of KSL -India.

Their awareness-can prove as better inputs for conservation and management of natural resources to protect them.



Study site

Himkhola is a micro watershed of Kali River. 30°0'12.12"N and 80°37'49.18"E (central point) of Pithoragarh District -Chaundas valley, Block-Dharchula in Kumaon Himalaya of Uttarakhand



Result and Discussion

- A total 130 people were administered from each of the hamlets
- 23 males and 31 females above the 45 years successfully filled the questionnaires
- 42 males and 34 females of aged between 14 to 45 years completed the questionnaire

FOREST- Old people -unsatisfied with forests, 3 males (13.04 %) and 2 females (6.45%) -- conditions -- good, 19 males (82.61%) and 29 females (93.55 %) c- conditions -- poor.

FACTORS- Deforestation, forest fires, NTFPs collection, Increasing land encroachment, long-standing unrevised laws and policies

AGRICULTURE- each family =1-80 Nali (1Nali =2160 Sq. Ft.), which is rain fed and scattered. Share cropping system is traditionally opted system by rural communities and, cultivate two types of crops i. e. Ravi and Kharif.

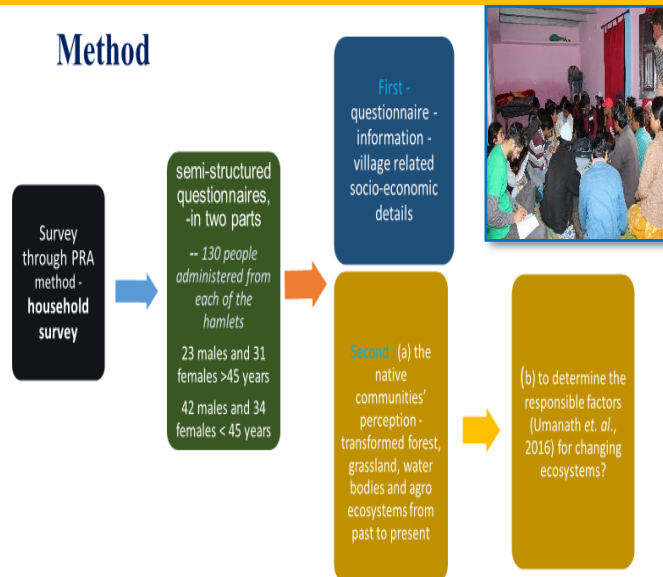
Chuwa (*Amaranthus paniculatus*), Uwa (*Hordeum himalayens*), Ogal (*Fagopyrum esculentum*), Mandua (*Eleusine coracana*) Bhatt (*Glycine max*) Masoor (*Lens culinaris*), etc --cultivated earlier, now limited to wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), maize (*Zea mays*), Rajma (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), Kalyun (*Pisum sativum*) and Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) etc.,

86.96 % males > 45 age - good in the past,

86.96 % males and 90.32 % females-- bad now,

males 71.43% and 91.18 % < 45 years - present farming condition as poor

Method



WATER RESOURCE- Steadily, reduction in the supply of the existing drinking water source along with increased dependency is threatening alarm for future

- 67.75 % - bad condition in the present time
- 67.65 % - past conditions as good
- 9.52 % < 45 years - male respondents - were bad in the past
- 65.22% > 45 years male and 54.84 % females - past conditions as good
- 13.04 % males and 22.58 % females > 45 years -- conditions same
- GRASSLANDS- one of the major ecosystem of the site.
- Like Malpa, Syunkutti, Chunbhatti, Chhumare, Fukaka, Gandamelu and, Pansyalu, etc. grasslands, villagers collect grasses (locally known as Gajjyo) from October to December, and store for odd seasons.
- 80.65 % females >45- conditions good in past
- 80.65 % females < 45- conditions bad in present
- 21.75 % males > 45 years and 40.48 % males < 45 years reported no change in condition

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE-

Heavy rainfall	Untimed Snowfall	Increased Temperature
Earthquake	Landslides	Floods
Cloudbursts	Soil Erosion	Steep slope and improper drainage
Increased Population		
Indiscriminate and Excessive Grazing		
Extension of Settlements Zones and Development Activities		

CONCLUSION

* significance of direct experience of local people and their perspective towards natural assets.

* to protect their natural resources, they have achieved some objectives due to their views, efforts and interventions

* the difficulties, which need to be discussed by stakeholders with local people, engaging them in conservation practices and promote the green employment for them.

WAY FORWARD-

* Awareness, capacity build can be an entry point for intervention

* Community-based traditional management and restoration activities related to ecosystems should be supported and promoted

* Local strategies and policy should be revised and the unit like BMC should be responsible

* Perception of benefits and positive attitudes toward management can -- correlated with both socio demographic characteristics and knowledge