

## **Conservation of Forest: A Case Study of Minkong Forest in Mokokchung District, Nagaland**

**R. Bendangtemjen\* & Temjensangla Pongener**

*Department of Geography, Fazl Ali College, Mokokchung, Nagaland*

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### **Abstract**

Nagaland is a hilly State located on the extreme north eastern corner of India. It has a total geographical area of 16579 Sq.Km. The favourable climatic condition has resulted in luxuriant growth of forest. The recorded forest cover is approximately 8629 Sq. Km accounting to 52.04 percent of the State's geographical area. The forest area owned by the State government is 1008.23 Sq.Km which is 11.68 percent whereas the forest area under private/ community is 7621.07 Sq.Km which accounts to 88.32 percent. The present work is an attempt to study the importance of the village community in the conservation of forest, for which a case study of Minkong Forest in Mokokchung District, Nagaland was taken up. Minkong forest is a Protected Forest under the Department of Forest, Nagaland with an area of 275.32 hectares and a large tract of the hill ranges is under the jurisdiction of three villages i.e. Sungratsu, Chuchuyimpang and Longmisa village. The study will focus on the issues pertaining to the conservation of forest and to examine the benefits of this conservation which can be used as a model.

**Key words:** Forest, Community, Conservation, Village.

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