

PREFACE

Urban geomorphology is the study of landforms, and their related processes, materials and hazards, in ways that are beneficial to planning, development and management of urbanized areas. Attention to urban geomorphology has increased in recent years in harmony with the growing recognition of the importance of the much broader, but closely related fields of Environmental Science. In technologically poorly equipped societies such as those in the Darjiling Himalayas problems arising from urban development are most serious as here, growth is uncontrolled and planning is primitive or absent. Being aware of the situation Darjiling town, where unprecedented growth of population poses serious problems to the municipal authority, has been selected for detailed study. This work is self-evidently related to the present day conditions and commonly these conditions present problems and provide hazards to the human use of hilly terrain so that they are inevitably of interest to environmental managers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Prof (Dr.) S.R. Basu (My mentor and Guide) and Dr. S. Sarkar (Co-guide), for leading me towards the realisation of a mere "theme for a dream".

The Lama Family - my parents, brother and sisters, my friends Pauline, Gouri and Amit who have been a constant source of encouragement and assistance, of infallible support and strength.

Thanks are also due to Mr. L.T. Lepcha (Forest Dept.) for his wise counsel and resourcefulness.

Mention must be made of Mr. P. Sada (Executive officer; Darjiling Municipality Corporation); Mr. K. Mukhia (Drinking Water Dept. D.M.C.); Mr. N. Chanda (Cartographer, Geography Dept. N.B.U.); Mr. R. Dutta and Mr. Rai (Tea Planter's Association, Darjiling); Miss Arundhati Mukherjee & family & Miss R. Das (Typist) for without

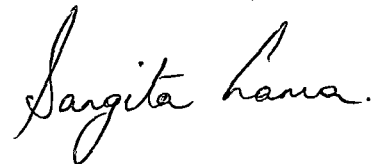
(ii)

their help and co-operation, my thesis would not have seen light.

While the names of individual have been given above, mention should be made of organisation, to which they, and perhaps, some others who contributed, belong : They are : The Agricultural office, Darjiling; Land and Land Reform office, Darjiling; Meteorological Office, Raj Bhavan, Darjiling and Alipore Calcutta; Municipality Corporation and Forest office, Darjiling; Das Studio, Darjiling; the Teachers and non-teaching staff, Geography Dept. N.B.U.; Computer Centre, N.B.U.; National Library, Calcutta - especially Dr. D. Mitra and Mr. R.P. Subba.

Last, but not the least, Prof. B. Bhattacharya, Phycis Dept. N.B.U. - Dean of the Faculty of Science - for his understanding and consideration. Prof. B. Bhattacharya has had an important influence in the completion of this thesis.

To all the friends and well wishers mentioned above and numerous others whose names have not been printed on paper but are surely carved in my heart with gratitude - I would like to 'Thank' them all for changing in PINDAR'S words - "a mere shadow" ----- "a dream" ----- into REALITY!!!



Sangita Lama

Department of Geography
and Applied Geography
North Bengal University
Darjiling

Date : 6th August, 1994