

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF RURAL NEPAL

A Case study of Sikles Village, Kaski District, Nepal

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By

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Letter of Recommendation

The thesis entitled **Vernacular Architecture of Rural Nepal (A case study of Sikles Village, Kaski District, Nepal)** has been prepared by **Mr. Milan Bagale** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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The thesis entitled **Vernacular Architecture of Rural Nepal (A case study of Sikles Village, Kaski District, Nepal)** submitted by **Mr. Milan Bagale** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Vernacular Architecture of Rural Nepal (A case study of Sikles Village, Kaski District, Nepal)** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgement to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The result of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purpose. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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Mr. Milan Bagale

ABSTRACT

My thesis entitled “Vernacular Architecture of Rural Nepal: A Case study from Sikles VDC, Kaski” investigates about village architecture from the perspective of rural development.

It is said that vernacular architecture is the product of sustainable building cycle. People inherited the traditional way of building from their ancestors and the knowledge has transformed and developed from generation to generation. So it is also called as dynamic cultural heritage having no frozen in time.

Vernacular architecture in Nepal has great diversity in its form, construction technology, material use, craftsmanship, scale and space utilization. Built form in rural Nepal is responding to the climate, local technology, economical, social, religious and cultural aspects. Diversity in geography is the main actor for different type of settlement in rural Nepal. Availability of different building materials in different zone play the major role for different built culture responding to nature.

This research work through literature review of various documents, books, journals, drawings, and case study trying to explore the development of vernacular architecture and its present condition around sikles village.

The objective of this study is to document and present the vernacular architecture in order to provide a better and detailed understanding of the culture, history and built forms of the rural community. To fulfill this objective, the research investigated the existing know how used to design and build vernacular architecture around sikles. The research applied case study methodology in investigating about sikles village. Study also includes photography documentation, sketches, rapid visual damage assessment and Key informant interview. Out of 307 houses, 75 houses are selected randomly for case study.

The aim of study extends to analyze the vernacular architecture with regard to built form and lifestyle, space utilization, building materials, craftsmanship, climatic response, layout and site selection for settlement. For this the research developed various survey method for documentation not only built form, but also characterizing village settlement pattern and its socio-cultural aspects. Key Informant interview was done with mason, carpenter and lama to clarify these aspects.

Not only this, the study trying to focus to analyze and identify the weakness of construction system of rural traditional dwelling from the point of view of earthquake disaster and to recommend the earthquake risk reduction technique by improving construction system without compromising its authenticity. Rapid visual damage assessment was done to identify seismic vulnerability.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACCRONYMS

ACAP	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
CAD	Computer Added Drafting
CAMC	Conservation Area Management Committee
CGI	Corrugated Galvanized Iron
HOD	Head of Department
KII	Key Informant Interview
MOMA	Museum of Modern Art
NBC	National Building Code
NSC	Nepal's National Seismological Centre
NPC	National Planning Commission
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
NTNC	National Trust for Nature Conservation
ODF	Open Defecation free Zone
PDNA	Post Disaster Need Assessment
RCC	Reinforced Cement Concrete
UCO	Unit Conservation office
VDC	Village Development Committee