

Book Review

BOOK REVIEW

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Book Review (Genre-scholarly articles)

Contemporary Environmental Issues: Vulnerability and Resilience, Prof Vishwa Raj Sharma (Professor)
Department of Geography, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, New Delhi (Research India Press, New Delhi Publication) Year 2015, 477 pages.

The purpose of this editorial work is to provide a comprehensive text on the environmental issues faced by different regions of world and suggest the possible solutions to each problem. Resilience is the word of the decade and the mantra of present urban planning. The concept is neither new nor uniform across the world. Resilience is the term used in disciplines ranging from ecology to psychology. It became very popular to apply the term to cities after disasters faced by different cities.

The book consists twenty-two contributions from eminent academicians, teachers and research scholars. All the research papers are divided into 5 sections: Resource Management, Urban Environment, Water Management, Sustainable Tourism and Women and Environment. The first section deals with resource management and again the third section is about water (resource) management. The resource management could have been one section including water. There can be one section focusing on problem-oriented issue. Section 5 is very interesting and it deals with women and environment. Vulnerability concept remains missing through-out the book.

Papers are written in easy and conducive language and easy to understand to the targeted readers. Book is comprehensive and very useful not only for researchers but also for the graduate and undergraduate students.

The complicated data has been explained with the help of cross-tabulation. As most of the contributors and editor are having geography background, the use of maps, photographs and diagrams have made the content more interesting and easier for the readers. Methodology of papers is based on primary study of different regions on different urban issues. Authors used mapping and other statistical software and techniques to enrich their studies.

A city is resilient when it has the developing capacities to overcome natural and economic disasters and still able to maintain same function, structure, system, and identity. More than half of the world's population now lives in cities or urban centers. Urban settlements are the lifelines of society but cities all over the world are now facing new risks: failed infrastructure and services, environmental urban degradation, increasing informal settlements and most importantly different natural and man-made disasters. This makes many urban citizens more vulnerable to natural hazards. The policy-makers and planners with researchers are trying to find out the probable solution to each problem. The book on such a relevant issue is very significant contribution at present scenario. The papers have focused on various types of environmental problems from solution point of view.