

Sharma, H. S. (Ed.) 1991: Indian Geomorphology:

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It is matter of great pleasure for the Indian Geomorphologists that the Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) has published the first volume of "Indian Geomorphology" containing selected papers presented at the second IGI conference in Jaipur, in 1989.

The volume, edited by Dr. H. S. Sharma, is a mosaic of research articles on various aspects of Indian Geomorphology. The volume is well-produced and contains twenty-nine papers, written by forty-four authors on environmental geomorphology. It is gratifying to note that the editor has included papers authored by half-a-dozen young researchers as well as earth scientists from other organizations.

There are some serious, interesting and thought-provoking articles. About seven articles focus on important geo-environmental problems, such as, flood hazards, waterlogging, desertification, slope instability etc. but some of them are treated in the traditional geographic style of description and it would have been better if the approach would have been more systematically and quantitatively oriented. About one-third of the articles are on land evaluation, regionalization and traditional morphometric analyses and are essentially micro or meso-level case studies. The articles dealing with Quaternary geomorphology and landforms are a valuable contributions to the discipline.

In addition to these, there are seven papers on the application of remote sensing techniques for landscape analysis, geomorphic regionalization and environmental assessment.

Reading the papers one cannot but get the impression of the diminishing importance of field and laboratory work in recent geomorphic studies in India. Serious workers would agree with Professor Dikshit's opinion that "the dynamic aspects of field realities are still inescapably important and cannot be dispensed" (page 32). Discerning readers cannot miss the short list of references at the end if twenty-two articles included in the volume. Young researchers, interested in latest and useful literature will certainly be disappointed.

The volume, being a proceeding volume, is of heterogenous nature and it would have been better if the editor would have divided the volume into sections, with an introductory note.

Notwithstanding some unevenness in the style and standard of the papers, several articles are useful source of information. The speedy publication of the first volume of Indian Geomorphology by Dr. H. S. Sharma deserves to be emulated. The price of the volume may prove a constraint for individual researchers.

Vishwas Kale, Pune