

Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Mr Doungul Paul Lelen Haokip, Registration Number: 1980601, PhD Scholar at the Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Saturday, 05 July 2025 at 9.15 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru – 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Human-Nature Interrelationship: Indigenous Ecological Traditions among the Kukis of Manipur**
- Discipline** : **Sociology**
- External Examiner - I** : **Dr Atrayee Saha**
Associate Professor
Centre for Study of Social Systems
School of Social Sciences
Jawaharlal Nehru University
JNU Ring Road
New Delhi - 110067
- External Examiner - II** : **Dr Arvind N Haldankar**
Associate Professor
Goa University, Taleigao Plateau
North Goa
Goa - 403206
- Supervisor** : **Dr Maya M**
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
School of Social Sciences
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
Bengaluru
Karnataka – 560029

The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 30 June 2025



Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

The thesis explores the indigenous ecological traditions among the Kukis of Manipur, India. Tribals preserve, use and form their worldviews based on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). TEK is a repository of indigenous beliefs and practices about human-nature relationships passed down through generations within specific cultures. Indigenous people usually relate to various ecosystems through TEK and their spirituality. In Manipur, the Kukis are a minority in population, but they live in vast forest areas that are ecologically significant. The indigenous Kukis were affected by the advent of industrialisation in the eighteenth century and the anthropocentric mindset in the nineteenth century, which contributed to the loss of natural resources, biodiversity and led to environmental degradation. In the present socio-political scenario, on the pretext of development, poor people are expatriated from their homes and the forest they live in, and they become ecological refugees in their land. After the Kuki people embraced Christianity in the latter part of the nineteenth century, there was a sense of distancing themselves from nature. The Kukis derive ecological knowledge from their environment and find reflection in their language, village governance, philosophy of life, oral tradition, customary health care, herbal medicine, and social learning techniques. In-depth interviews, participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and participant observations were used to collect data. The data was analysed through NVivo 12. The Kuki tribes believe that their surroundings are sacred and humans are impermanent earth owners. Indigenous ecological traditions could contribute to broader discussions on environmental conservation, sustainable development, and mitigating climate change.

Keywords: *traditional ecological knowledge, ecology, human-nature interrelationship, Kuki, ecological prudence*

Publications:

1. **Paul Lelen Haokip**, Maya M & D. Benjamin Haokip - Effects of the Doctrine of Discovery: A Strive to Build Sustainable and Peaceful Communities in North East India, ECS Transactions.
2. **Paul Lelen Haokip**, Maya M & D. Benjamin Haokip - An ethnographic expose of Mithun-human interrelationship among the Kuki community of North East India, Asian Ethnicity, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14631369.2023.2275588>.
3. **Paul Lelen Haokip**, K. Katini, Maya M, Amalanathan S - Achieving Environmental Sustainability through Digital Finance: Possibilities and Challenges, in *Social Sciences and Humanities: Different Perspectives*, Nitya Publications, ISBN: 978-93-91257-41-5.
4. **Paul Lelen Haokip**, K. Katini, Maya M - Probable Benefits of Human-Nature Relationship during COVID-19 Pandemic, *Impact of COVID-19 on Economy, Business, Education and Social Life*, pp. 14-32, The Native Tribe Publication.
5. **Paul Lelen Haokip** - Organizations Enabling Wellbeing Measures During COVID-19: People's Response, *Impact of Covid-19 on Economy, Business, Education and Social Life*, Eds. Surjit Singha & Ranjit Singha, Vol 2. DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/HQD4W.
6. **Paul Lelen Haokip** - Locating Deadly Manipur Violence 2023 in the Context of Look East Policy: North East India Perspective, *Beyond the Headlines: 2023-2024 Charting India's Path: Expert Commentaries on India's Top Ten Trending News*.
7. **Paul Lelen Haokip** - Environmental Insights from Indigenous People: North East India Perspective, Paul Lelen Haokip, Asian Horizons, Vol. 18, No. 1, pp.113-125.