



Dr. Renuka Thapliyal

Associate Professor

Department of Geography

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Educational Qualifications & Awards

- Ph.D. from the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi**, with specialization in Urban Sustainability of fragile ecosystems, specifically the Himalayan Region.
- M. Sc. Geography (**Gold Medalist, Himachal Pradesh University, India**) .
- Certificate Course in German Language (**Gold Medalist, Himachal Pradesh University, India**).
- Recipient of **Gold Medal & Santosh Shiksha Puruskar** by **HIMOTKARSH (Sahitya, Prakashn Aivm Jankalyan Parishad, H. P.)** for securing first position in M. Sc. Geography in the state.
- Recipient of the **Utkrisht Sewa award** for stellar services while associated with IGNOU in different capacities.
- As Coordinator of IGNOU Study Centre, received **Best Vibrant Centre 2023** and **Best Learner Support Centre Award 2024** on 38th convocation on 5th March, 2025, at Regional Centre, Shimla.
- In 2018 invited by the Chief Project Director, HP Forest for Prosperity Project, Tallend (Office of Forest Department Headquarters), Shimla, to give a presentation before the **World Development Bank Mission Team** on various issues related to the forest and water management system of Shimla.

My deep love for nature has been one of the primary reasons for my extended stay in the serene valley of Banjar, located within the Great Himalayan National Park region, renowned for its pristine environment, traditional culture, and simplicity. Serving rural

students in this remote setting has been both a challenge and a deeply rewarding experience, particularly for someone trained in a highly structured and technical academic environment.

I earned my Doctoral Degree from the **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi**, one of India's most prestigious institutions. Before pursuing my research, I taught Geography at various institutions across Himachal Pradesh, a predominantly mountainous state. As a scholar with a keen interest in ecology and geography, I have always been deeply concerned about the sustainability of ecosystems and the delicate balance between development and the environment.

My academic background, rooted in Science at the undergraduate level and advanced studies in Geography at the postgraduate level, has equipped me with a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of the interconnections between development, the environment, and society. My research interests encompass livelihood issues, settlement expansion in hilly regions, the importance of green spaces in urban environments, and the sustainability of fragile ecosystems.

Additionally, my training in Remote Sensing and GIS for Urban and Regional Planning at the **Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (ISRO)** has enhanced my ability to analyze land use and land cover transformations in cities. The application of these technologies has enabled me to integrate socio-economic and physical dimensions in understanding environmental sustainability.

Participation and presentation of research papers at various **national and international conferences** have further enhanced my perspective on the dynamics of fragile hill ecosystems and sustainable development.

As an educator, I have consistently gone beyond the prescribed curriculum to promote the holistic development of students, fostering in them a sense of social responsibility and humane values. As a senior faculty member, I have also contributed to institutional growth through active participation in various college committees and administrative responsibilities.

As a result of my initiatives, Government Degree College, Banjar, was accorded the status of a **Nodal Centre for the IIRS/ISRO Outreach Programmes**. In this capacity, I efficiently coordinated several ISRO outreach initiatives, enabling students to participate in advanced learning programmes and successfully earn certification from the Indian Space Research Organisation.

In 2016, I organised a workshop for students on "Basics of Geographic Information System (GIS)", held on 5 October 2016. The workshop was facilitated by **Dr. J. C. Kuniyal**, *Scientist-F and Theme Head, Environmental Assessment and Management & Environmental Governance and Policy*, at the G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development. The session aimed to familiarise students with the core principles of GIS and Remote Sensing, which have emerged as powerful

interdisciplinary tools in environmental research and sustainable development, offering significant potential for future academic and professional pursuits.

In 2021, I coordinated the delivery of the *myEnglish Pre-Intermediate Course*, organised by the **British Council** for students, held from 27 May to 6 July 2021. This initiative provided students with an opportunity to enhance their English communication skills through an internationally recognised programme.

Colleges Served

1. Government College Ghumarwin (District Bilaspur)
2. Government College Arki (District Solan)
3. Centre of Excellence Sanjauli Shimla (District Shimla)
4. R.K.M.V. Shimla (District Shimla)
5. Government College Banjar (District Kullu)

Courses and Workshops

Apart from completing refresher courses and training programmes mandatory for teachers, various other courses completed are:

2024-FDP on Research Methodology and Academic Development w.e.f. 20th to 26th June 2024, organised by Himalayan Council for Scientific Research in collaboration with GC Sainj, Kullu, H.P.

2023- One-week Faculty Development Programme on National Education Policy-2020 w.e.f. 29th May- 4th June 2023 with “A” grade from Teaching Learning Centre Ramanujan College (NAAC A++), University of Delhi, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching.

2020- “21 days online GIS training program using QGIS” conducted by the Department of Geography, School of Earth Sciences, Central University of Karnataka, India, jointly with State Institute of Urban Development, Karnataka, India, from 13-07-2020 to 02-08-2020.

2020- Seven Days Online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on “ICT Interventions in Higher Education” from 14th to 20th June, 2020, organised by Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, UP.

2020-Two Week Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on “Earth, Environment and Space Sciences for Mankind” from 21st to 30th May 2020, organised by the Department of Geography, Faculty of Earth, Environment and Space Sciences, Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani.

2014- Off-Campus Outreach Certificate Program in Basic course on ‘Remote Sensing, Geographical Information System & Global Navigation Satellite System’ conducted by Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, Indian Space Research Organisation

(ISRO) Department of Space, Government of India, and sponsored by National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) from 4th August to 14th November, 2014.

2013-Participated in IIRS User Interaction Meet (IUIM)-2013 on 11-12 March, 2013, at IIRS, Dehradun, organized by the Government of India Department of Space ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun.

2011-UGC Sponsored Short Term Course on Disaster Management held from 19th-21st December, 2011 at the Academic Staff College, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.

2009-Course on Computer Applications in Social Sciences conducted by the Centre for Social Studies, Surat, from 16th to 25th March 2009, sponsored by the ICSSR, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.

2007-ISRO sponsored NNRMS (National Natural Resource Management System) course on *Remote Sensing in Urban and Regional Planning from IIRS* (Indian Institute of Remote Sensing), Dehradun, from 7th May to 29th June, 2007.

2007 - Workshop organized by *IIRS on EDUSAT-based Distance Learning* for Remote Sensing, GIS, and GPS.

2007 - One-day interactive workshop programme on *Space Technology Enabled VRCs* (Village Resource Centers) on 25th August, 2007 at Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan, H.P.

2006-*Springboard Women's Development Programme* organized under the Springboard project 2005 from November 2005 to March 2006. A collaboration of the Women's Studies Network of Indian Universities and the British Council Division, British High Commission.

2006- Participation in a survey of children across the country conducted by the citizens of India for the *Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)*, October-November 2006.

2005 - Workshop on climate change organized by TERI (The Energy Research Institute) on 25th August, 2005 at St. Bede's College, Shimla, H.P.

2000- Workshop on the topic Management of Diversity for India in New Millennium by Ford Foundation Project Workshop (LEAD) on 8th -9th June, 2000.

Seminars/Conferences/Symposium

2025-Presented a paper on "Village studies and Issues in Western Himalayas" in HCSR International Conference on The Changing Dynamics of Himalaya: Economy, Ecology, and Society held on 11th -12th February 2025, organized by the Government. College Sainj, Kullu, in collaboration with Himalayan Council for Scientific Research, Kullu, H.P.

2025-Presented a paper "Empower Women for a Happier Nation" in the National Seminar on Women: History & Beyond held on March 8, 2025, (Hybrid Mode) at GDC-Darlaghat District, Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

2025-Invited lecture on 'IGNOU as an Option for Distance Learning' at GDC Darlaghat on 26-12-2024.

2024-Presented a paper entitled “Aging and Disability: A growing concern for India” in the International Conference on The Himalayas Revisited: Identity and Development in the Himalayan Region on 17th and 19th June 2024, organised by Himalayan Council for Scientific Research in collaboration with GC Sainj, Kullu, H.P.

2024-Organised International Conference on Identity, Culture, Development and Environment in the Himalayas: Challenges and Future Prospects held at the Govt. College Banjar, Himachal Pradesh, on 13-14 August 2024.

2024-Presented a paper titled “Reconceptualizing Tribal Identity: A Critical Discourse on the Interstices of Continuity and Change in the Anthropology of Cultural Persistence and Adaptation” in the International Conference on Identity, Culture, Development and Environment in the Himalayas: Challenges and Future Prospects, organized by the Government. College Banjar, Himachal Pradesh, on 13-14 August 2024.

2024-Presented a paper on “The Paradox of Continuity and Change in Western Himalaya” in the International Conference on Modernization, Globalization, and the Paradoxes of Transformation in Indian Society held on 11th -13th October, 2024, organized by the Government College Pangri, Chamba, in collaboration with the Himalayan Council for Scientific Research, Kullu, H.P.

2023-Presented a paper on ‘Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change’ in the National Seminar on Community Participation and Environmental Sustainability: Initiative and Achievement sponsored by ICSSR and organised by DPBS PG College, Bulandshahar Meerut University on 29-30 April 2023.

2023-Presented a paper on ‘Impact of Demographic Transition in India’ in National Seminar on Population Control sponsored by ICSSR and organised by and organized by Mahatama Gandhi PG College, Sambhal, U.P., on 17-18 December.

2023-Presented a paper titled “Do We Need to Go Back to ‘Villages’ Again? The Answer Lies in Environmental Ethics” in the National Seminar on Ethics in Society-Issues and Challenges organized by PG College Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, on 16 September 2023.

2023-Presented a paper titled “Sustainable development the only answer to mitigate the impact of climate change” at the National Conference on Climate Change: Effective and Innovative Solutions for Achieving Net Zero, organized by DS College, Aligarh & JJT University, Rajasthan on 13 October 2023.

2023-Presented a paper titled “Impact on the Tribal Ecology and Economy of Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh after Development of Hydropower Projects” at the International Conference on History & Culture of Himalayan Tribes: Status and Continuity, organized by the Regional Centre, Dharamshala, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, on 27-28th October 2023.

2023-Presented a paper titled “Role of Ecotourism in Environment Conservation in Himachal Pradesh” at the National Conference on Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change: Two Faces of the Same Coin, organized by Rabindranath Tagore Government Degree College, Sarkaghat, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, on 3rd December 2023.

2023-Presented a paper titled “Waste Generation and Management in Urban Areas of District Kullu” at the International Conference on Development in Mountains: Issues, Challenges and Solutions, organized by Government Degree College Darlaghat, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, on 11-12th December 2023.

2023-Presented a paper titled “Promoting Climate Literacy and Education” at the International Conference on Resilient Futures: Adapting to Climate Variabilities in Agriculture, Economy, and Environment, organized by S. C. V. B. Government College, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, on 29-30th December 2023.

2020-Participated in a Global Webinar organized by the Alumni Association of JNU along with the Department of Biotechnology on “Global Research Perspectives to Pandemic COVID-19” on 13th June 2020.

2020-Participated in Two Days International Webinar on Geospatial Technology & Sustainable Environment organized by Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, IASE Deemed to be University, Sardarshahr, Churu, Rajasthan, in collaboration with Swami Shraddhanand College (University of Delhi) and Netra Institute of Geoinformatics Management & Technologies Foundation, Dwarka, New Delhi on 25th & 26th June, 2020.

2020-Participated in Webinar "Japan and India - Historical and Cultural Partnership" held on July 17, 2020, organised by IQAC, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, India, in collaboration with the South Asia Research Centre (SARC), Soka University, Japan.

2018 -Delivered an invited lecture on the topic ‘Sustainable Development’ as a guest speaker in S.S.V. College Hapur, affiliated to CCS Meerut University, on 24th January 2018.

2018 -Delivered an invited lecture on the topic ‘Conservation of Water’ as a guest speaker in N.R.E.C. affiliated to CCS University, Meerut, on 31st January 2018.

2016 -Invited to attend the 3rd Popular Lecture on the occasion of the 129th Birth Anniversary of the Bharat Ratna Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant on 10 September 2016 at G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development, Himachal Unit, Kullu.

2016 -Invited as an external examiner for the M. Tech Programme in "Urban Resources, Services & Facilities Analysis" at IIRS (ISRO), Dehradun, on 21st March, 2016.

2015-My paper entitled ‘Carrying Capacity of Shimla: Assessing its Bio-physical Resource Base’ was presented in the International Conference on ‘Sustainable Urbanization in India: Challenges and Opportunities’ organized by the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata in association with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research on January 15 and 16, 2015.

2015- Participated in the international conference on “*Global environmental change in the Himalayan Region: Controversies, Impacts, Futures*” between 06.-08.11.2015, held

at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi sponsored by DWIH (German House for Research and Innovation - New Delhi), HCSA (Heidelberg Centre South Asia), South Asia Institute Heidelberg, TERI University, FU Berlin with partners Friedrich Naumann Foundation, GIZ–Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Göttingen University, TUM.

2014- A paper entitled ‘Sustainable Development of Shimla’ presented at the International conference on Environment, Technology and Sustainable Development: Promises and Challenges in the 21st Century organised by ABV- Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India in collaboration with Center for Ecological Economics and Natural Resource, Institute for Social and Economic Change Bangalore, Karnataka and College of Arts and Science, University of San Francisco, California, USA on March 2-4, 2014.

2013- A paper entitled ‘Noise Pollution and Health Issues in Indian Cities’ was presented in the National Seminar on Population Growth and Environmental Degradation in India on 17-18 February, 2013, at Pt. Sunder Lal Memorial Post Graduate College, Kannauj, U.P.

2013- Participated in IIRS User Interaction Meet (IUIM)-2013 on 11-12 March, 2013, at IIRS, Dehradun, Organized by Government of India Department of Space ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing Dehradun-248001.

2012- Participated as delegate and Rapporteur in the National Seminar on ‘Impact of Disasters on Economic Development’ organized by Disaster Management Centre on 5th May, 2012 at Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Fairlawns, Shimla.

2012- A joint paper entitled ‘Hydroelectric Projects and Livelihood Issues of Tribals: A Case Study of the Kinnaur District of the Himalayan State of Himachal Pradesh, India’ was presented in an International symposium on ‘Mountain Resource Management in a Changing Environment’ organised by The Aquatic Ecology Centre, Kathmandu University and Institute of Forestry, Tribhuvan University in collaboration with the Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragic), University of Life Sciences, Norway at Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu, Nepal, from 29th-31st May, 2012.

2011- A paper entitled ‘*Impact of Climate Transformation on the Hydroelectric Projects of Himachal Pradesh and Future Challenges*’ was presented in a National seminar (Sponsored by University Grants Commission) on Climate Transformation and Socio-economic Development-Issues and Challenges, organized by the Department of Geography, Meerut College, Meerut from 26th - 27th Feb., 2011.

2011- A joint paper entitled ‘*Being Tibetan in Shimla: Cultural Hybridity and Social Development of the Tibetan Diaspora*’ presented in International conference (Sponsored by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Reserve Bank of India) on Diaspora and

Development: Prospects and Implications for Nation States organised by School of Extension and Development Studies, School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, on 7th -8th September, 2011.

2011- Participated in National Seminar-cum-Colloquium on Choice-based and Credit-based System for Assessment and Evaluation, Himachal Pradesh University, on November 28, 2011.

2011- A paper entitled '*Relating Eco-feminism With the Contemporary Women Issues of Banjar Area of Kullu District in Himachal Pradesh*' was presented in the National Seminar on Women Empowerment: Contemporary Concerns organised by HPIMS, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, on 10th -11th December, 2011.

2010- A paper entitled '*Impact of Global Climatic Change on Agricultural Production and its Future Implications for People in the Himalayan State of Himachal Pradesh*' presented in National Seminar (Sponsored by ICSSR New Delhi) on Climate Change and Socio-Economic Development in India-Spatial and Temporal Variation organized by the Department of Geography, Meerut College, Meerut from 8th -9th May, 2010.

2010- A paper entitled '*Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Concerns of Protected Area Tourism for the Climate Sensitive State of Rajasthan*' was presented in a National conference (Sponsored by University Grants Commission) on Climate Change, Impacts and Mitigation Strategy for Sustainable Development with Special Reference to Rajasthan, organized by S.N.K.P. Govt. College, Rajasthan from 2nd -3rd October, 2010.

2010- A paper entitled '*Development and Drying up of Water Sources in Shimla's Catchment: A Case Study of Kufri Area*' was presented in the National Seminar on Global Changes & Challenges organized by N.R.E.C. affiliated to Meerut University from 14th -15th March, 2010.

2008- A paper entitled '*Sustainability of water supply in the hill town of Shimla, India*' was presented in an International Conference on Water Supply Policy in South Asia held at Colombo, Srilanka from 17th -20th December, 2008.

Publications

2025-Published a paper "Balancing Residents' Aspirations with Sustainable Transport Goals: A Case Study of Shimla, India" in the Journal of Geography, Environment and Earth Science International, Received: 15/05/2025. Published 22/07/2025 volume 29 (Issue 7) page 151-170.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.9734/jgeesi/2025/v29i7923>

NAAS SCORE 5.10(2025)

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2025-Dialogue published in JK Monitor by Ajmer Alam Wani titled "A visionary dialogue with Dr. Renuka Thapliyal: Pioneering Identity, Culture, Development, and Environmental Stewardship in the Himalayas" Category: Spotlight. Published: 14 July 2024 in JK Monitor

Weblink: <https://mail.jkmonitor.org/index.php/spotlight/a-visionary-dialogue-with-dr-renuka-thapliyal-pioneering-identity-culture-development-and-environmental-stewardship-in-the-himalayas>

2024-Published a paper entitled “Can Shimla be Fitted into the Compact City Model?” in the journal *The Scientific Temper (UGC Care II)* E-ISSN: 2231-6396, ISSN: 0976-8653(2024) Vol. 15 (2): 2362-2374. Doi: 10.58414/SCIENTIFICTEMPER.2024.15.2.52.

2024-Published a paper entitled “Lost “Village” Perceptual or Real: Finding Answers in Environmental Ethics” in *National Journal of Environment and Scientific Research (NJESR)*-ISSN-2582-5836 May-2024, Vol-06 /Issue 05 DOI-10.53571/NJESR.2024.6.5.22-20-Page No. 22-30.

2019-Ravishment of the Mountains A Myth or Reality: Policy and Livelihood Debates Related to Hydro Power Projects in Himachal Pradesh, India (Vol. 9, Issue 10, pp 346-357) October 2019 in *International Journal of Research in Social Science* 2249-2496.

2019-Changing Climate and Biodiversity: A Latent Threat to Rajasthan’s Tourism (Vol. 6, Issue 12, pp 76-84) December 2019 in *International Research Journal of Human Resources & Social Sciences* O: 2349-4085 P: 2394-4218.

2018-Pollution in Indian Rivers and Conflicting Aspects of its Management (Vol 7 No. 10 pp 73-79) October 2018 in *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management & Social Sciences* 2278-6236.

2017-Safe transport- A crucial dimension for sustainability of Shimla (Vol. 7, Issue 11, pp 634-639), November 2017 in *International Journal of Research in Social Science* 2249-2496.

2015-Can Ecotourism Support Sustainability of Hill Areas- A Study of Himachal Pradesh (Vol. 5, Issue 7, pages 283-289) July 2015 in *International Journal of Research in Economics & Social Sciences* 2249-7382.

2014- A chapter entitled ‘Integration and ‘Limited Acculturation’ of Tibetans at Shimla: Experience and Perceptions of a Diaspora’ published with Dr. Vibha Arora as joint author in the book "Global Diasporas and Development: Socioeconomic, Cultural, and Policy Perspectives" page 267-281 Edited by Sadananda Sahoo and B. K. Pattanaik. DOI 10.1007/978-81-322-1047-4 © Springer India 2014.

2013- My joint paper entitled ‘Hydroelectric Projects and Livelihood Issues of Tribals: A Case Study of the Kinnaur District of the Himalayan State of Himachal Pradesh, India’ published in the Proceedings of ‘International symposium on Mountain Resource Management in a Changing Environment’ on page 87-99, May 29-31, 2012 Kathmandu Nepal Organized by Kathmandu University and Institute of Forestry NUFU HIMUNET Project, Pokhara, Nepal Edited by Mohan K. Balla, Roshan M. Bajracharya and Subodh Sharma.

International Reviewer: Reviews verified by Web of Science

- i.** A certificate of excellence in reviewing was awarded for Manuscript No Ms_IJECC_135973 of the International Journal of Environment and Climate Change titled Water quality of River Ganga and variation analysis of important water quality parameters for Real Time Water Quality Monitoring Systems (RTWQMS). This journal is indexed in Index Copernicus (ICV: 97.48), NAAS Score: 5.16 (2024), CNKI (China), Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS, American Chemical Society, USA), Google Scholar, etc.
- ii.** A certificate of excellence in reviewing was awarded for Manuscript No Ms_AJOER_13469 of the Asian Journal of Current Research titled Climate Change and Coastal Activities: Impacts on Aquatic Ecosystems in South-Eastern Nigeria. This journal is indexed by Index Copernicus (ICV: 92.26), NAAS score: 4.78 (2024), CNKI (China), etc.
- iii.** A certificate of excellence in reviewing was awarded for Manuscript No Ms_AJGR_141925 of the Asian Journal of Geographical Research titled The Changing Course of Adi Ganga River: Causes of Decay, Present Scenario and Proposed Development Plans in West Bengal, India. This journal is indexed by Index Copernicus (ICV: 95.10), NAAS score: 4.78 (2024), CNKI (China), etc.

Memberships

1. Life member of the Alumni Association Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
2. Life member of the Alumni Association of the Government of India Department of Space, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun (ISRO).
3. Life member of the HCSR (Himalayan Council for Scientific Research, Himachal Pradesh) registered under the Societies Registration Act 2006, devoted to promoting research activities, conducting seminars and workshops, etc.
4. One of the Members in the Panel of Examiners in the Government of India Department of Space, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun (ISRO).
5. Life Member of the Association of Punjab Geographers (Registered under the Societies Act 21 of 1860, No.1902 of 1998-99).
6. Remained a member of Springboard Women's Development Programme, a collaboration of Women's Studies Network of Indian Universities and British Council Division, British High Commission.
7. Remained a member of the Subcommittee Constituted for the selection of books under the RRRLF Programme 2006-07 and 2007-08 by the Directorate of Education, H.P.