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### **[Abstract Title]**

Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction through culture: Case of Himalayan settlements

### **[Abstract]**

The scientific evidence of climate-induced disasters across the globe is undeniable. Policy-makers at different organisational levels attempt to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) for sustainable development. Most of these interventions focus on developing tangible elements like building materials, services, construction techniques and economy. However, settlements are a manifestation of complex networks of ecological-social-cultural beliefs and practices. The isolated approach of development has broken the inter-connectedness between the tangible and intangible factors that shape the community.

Through literature study, this paper explores the relationships between humans and nature (tangible-intangible factors) through cultural practices. Examples from settlements in the Himalayan region bring forth some of the existing traditional knowledge systems and methods that evolved over the years. This development approach integrates both tangible and intangible factors, enabling the community to be resilient against disasters. The study



compares the traditional inclusive approach to the current development plans confined to physical factors, thus identifying the differences and impacts. The paper argues that for holistic development, it is essential to understand the complex cultural networks that shape the community. It further proposes that culture can play a crucial role to integrate Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

**[Keywords]**

culture, resilience, disaster risk reduction, built environment, anthropology