

Picturing Adaptation: Examining the Social Determinants of Adaptation to Climate Change in the Khumbu Region of Nepal using Photovoice

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It is widely accepted that human systems must adapt to the effects of climate change. This is particularly important in areas, such as the Khumbu Region of Nepal, where socio-economic/political constraints intersect with sensitive climatic conditions. Despite a growing body of adaptation literature, scant attention has been given to understanding how important social factors (both local and broad-scale) shape the adaptation process. This project aims to examine the social determinants of adaptation, to understand the implications of local social dynamics for regional policy. Conversational interviews and Photovoice, a participatory method where cameras are given to participants, are used to gain a contextual understanding of adaptation to climate change as told by those affected by it. A key finding demonstrates how certain social features (e.g. religion, gender, ethnicity) can manifest as determinants of political discrimination, to ultimately reduce an individual's ability to cope with, and respond to the negative effects of climate change.



Khumjung (Source: Author 2013).