

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE AND IT'S RELEVANCE FOR POST-DISASTER HOUSING REHABILITATION: THE CASE OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

SADHU VENKATA KRISHNA KUMAR

Associate Professor of Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture: Vijayawada, Nagarjunanagar,
District Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

Architecture was always a derivative of Climate, Geology or available building materials, people's beliefs and Socio-economic character. The relation is thus inherent and eternal. A HOUSE and thereby the HABITAT was an epitome of such vital aspects, as evident through architectural history viz., Harappa Housing, Traditional Indian habitat, batter walls of Egypt, Narrow rooms of Assyria, Columnar architecture of Persia, Classical orders of architecture, wall arcading of Romanesque architecture etc. were reflective of the vernacular issues of a place.

In the context of the rehabilitation exercise (in Maharashtra, India) undertaken after the earthquake which occurred in 1992-93, the beneficiaries disowned such irrelevant housing envelopes which lacked HOMESTEAD and which hardly matched their original traditional habitat. Agreeably, recreating the organic neighbourhood may be difficult but designing a neighbourhood which at least has relevance to the vernacular / indigenous architecture can very much be the way forward to evolve a meaningful habitat.

KEYWORDS: Vernacular Architecture, Homestead, Participatory Planning .