

Conserving the conservation trends in the cultural capital, Bhaktapur**Shyam Sunder Kawan, Nepal**

Heritage resources both tangible and intangible carry sense of belongingness and enrich urban landscapes. They also portray an authentic community formation with its generic identity; enable cultures to inherit and memories to reverberate in historic cities. Conserving these resources not only transforms historic cities into cultural centre with nourished city environment for city dwellers but also secure collectively as fundamental elements for urban heritage. However, historic cities which are sensitive to development are equally complicated to conservation.

Apart from the traditional sponsorship from the head of the state or government and international donors, heritage conservation in Bhaktapur and other valley towns is unique because of 'Conserving conservation trends'. Music and Dances, rituals and festivals, feasts and Worships still prevail in Bhaktapur, the cultural capital of Nepal. This study examines how such rituals are still retained by the inhabitants with very less funding from the central government but by their own capacity. It also highlights the significant ways these rituals and community initiatives adopt traditional mechanism to renovate monuments and heritages in modern context. In other words, conservation trends in such ways flourished to maintain social order in historic cities even before conservation policies were promulgated globally. This paper generally presents the findings from a study of socio-cultural context in one of the traditional neighbourhoods located at the edge of Bhaktapur, especially the *Guthi system of Newars* and the impacts of economic aspiration of the communities in this globalized context.