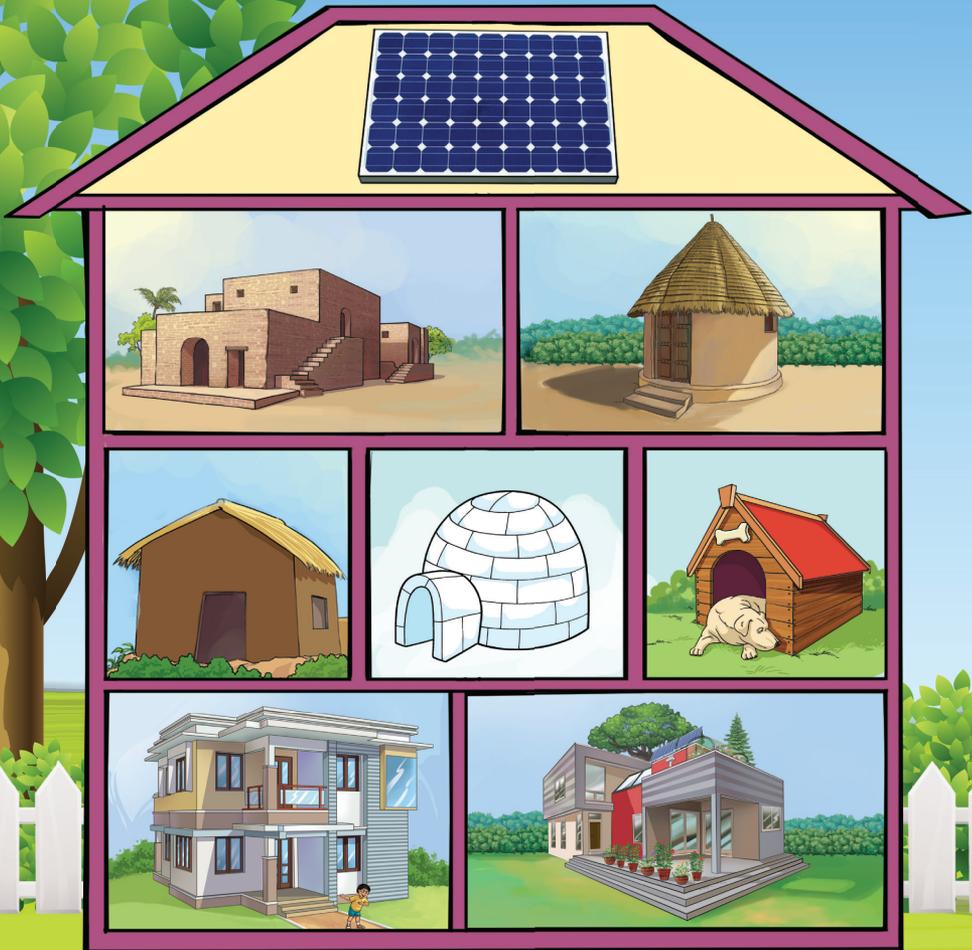




The  
Story  
of

# HOUSE



Benita Sen

## From the Desk of Dr R K Pachauri

We live in a world where our concept of a good life is defined largely by the extent to which we have access to and use of a range of goods and services. We also see all around us a substantial expansion of the means by which transportation and communication make it possible for us to achieve mobility across space and gain access to information and knowledge in very short periods of time which were unimaginable several decades ago. We are living in a period of unprecedented change with major implications for the environment.

A large range of human activities have resulted in damage and degradation of our ecosystems. The Working Group-I Report which forms part of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was released in September 2013 has clearly stated “Human influence has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes. This evidence for human influence has grown since recent past. It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-twentieth century”. The term extremely likely applies to a probability of over 95 percent, which should provide compelling evidence to human society that we need to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases in order to stabilize Earth’s climate.

In particular, the youth of the world who have their lives ahead of them need to take the lead in ensuring that firstly we create awareness on the scientific reality of climate change and secondly in mobilizing action to deal with this challenge. “The story of” series deals with subjects like food, paper, cloth, computers, home, and transport. Essentially we human beings have become addicted to consuming a range of products and then throwing them away for a variety of reasons, often not even dictated by the economic life of the product involved, but for other reasons which essentially constitute our current lifestyles and are part of the inertia in our systems which inhibit change and the adoption of new directions. The youth of the world are in a unique position to make use of existing knowledge and make contributions to the protection of our ecosystems throughout their future. They have to become agents of change by conquering the inertia in our minds and established systems.



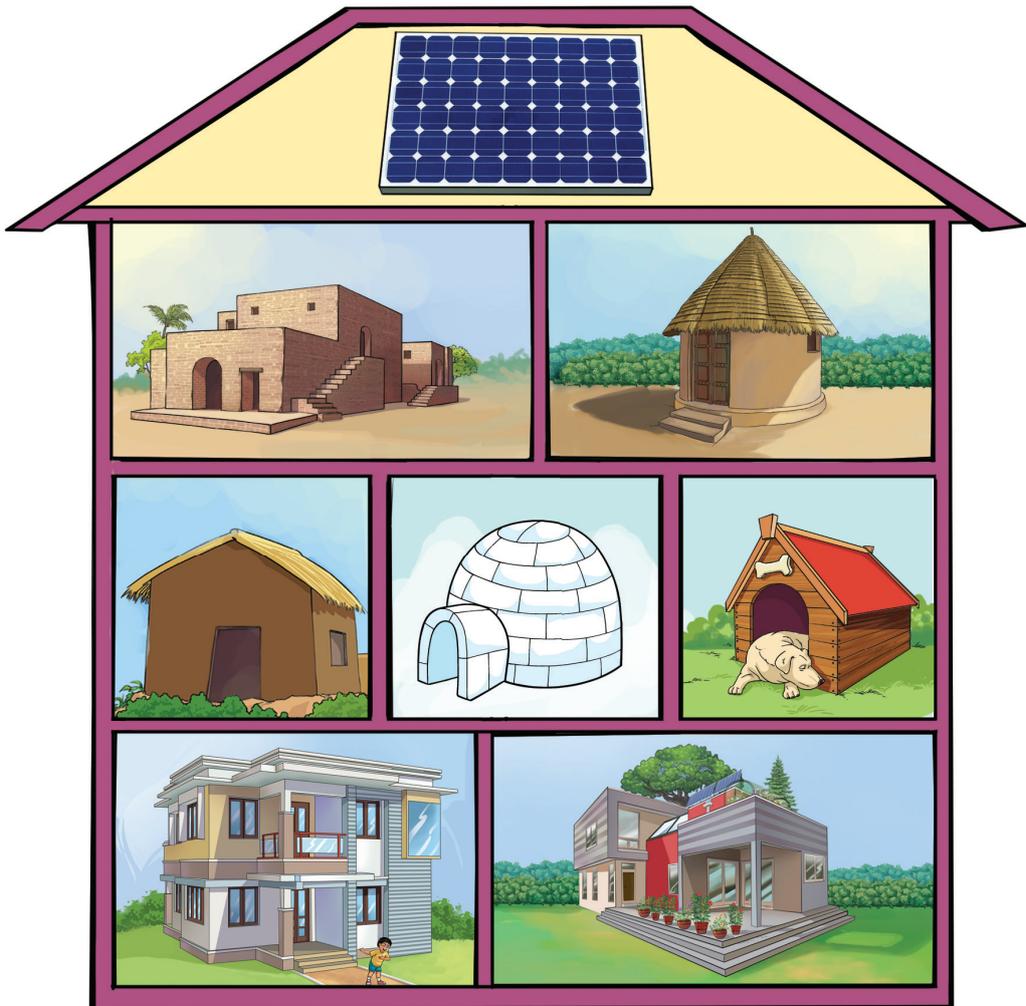
**R K Pachauri**

Director-General, TERI

Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

# The Story of HOUSE

Benita Sen



The Energy and Resources Institute



An imprint of The Energy and Resources Institute

© The Energy and Resources Institute, 2015

First published in 2015 by  
The Energy and Resources Institute  
TERI Press

Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003, India

Tel. 2468 2100/4150 4900, Fax: 2468 2144/2468 2145

India +91 • Delhi (0)11

Email: [teripress@teri.res.in](mailto:teripress@teri.res.in) • Website: <http://bookstore.teriin.org>

ISBN 978-81-7993-512-5

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

All export rights for this book vest exclusively with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Unauthorized export is a violation of terms of sale and is subject to legal action.

**Author:** Benita Sen

**Publishing Head:** Anupama Jauhry

**Editorial and Production Teams:** Nandita Bhardwaj, Rupak Ghosh,  
Himanshi Sharma, Ekta Sharma; Aman Sachdeva

**Design and Illustration Teams:** Santosh Kumar Singh;  
Yatindra Kumar, Vijay Nipane

**Image Researcher:** Shilpa Mohan

Printed and bound in India

**This book is printed on recycled paper.**



# CONTENTS

**4 HOUSE OR HOME?**

**6 IN AND OUT OF CAVES**

**8 FOR ANIMALS ONLY!**

**10 THE EARLIEST HOUSES**

**12 DIFFERENT HOUSES**

**14 BUILDING A HOUSE**

**16 MODERN HOUSES**

**18 FAMOUS HOUSES**

**20 ECO-FRIENDLY HOUSES**

**22 WAYS TO AN ENERGY-FRIENDLY HOUSE**

# HOUSE OR HOME?

A house is a human-made structure, which has a roof and walls. The house you live in is your home, but a house can also be used to study (school), work (your parents' office), pray (temple or church), store things (warehouse), or sell things (a shop).

So, a home is a house, but not every house is a home.

The word "house" comes from *husan*, a very old European word. Probably, *husan* came from a similar word that meant "to hide". Hide is what people did to stay safe! *Husan* was shortened to become *hus*, and its spelling was later changed to house.

Animals too have homes. For example, ants live in an anthill. Snakes live in burrows. Bees live in a hive. Lions live in a den. It is only us, humans, who build different types of houses (apartments, bungalows, farmhouses, cottages, and huts).



Hey!  
Is that your  
home or  
office?



It could be  
my dining  
room too!



I should  
run, before  
I become  
your dinner!

## BRICK BY BRICK

"Shelters" are  
humanmade structures  
that keep humans and  
animals safe from rain,  
snow, heat, and cold.



For most birds, their nest is not their home. Birds live on the ground, or in bushes, shrubs, and trees. The nest is where they lay eggs, and bring up baby birds until the babies are old enough to look after themselves. Rodents like squirrels and rabbits dig burrows in the ground or under logs and rocks to shelter themselves. These burrows connect together many entrances and exit holes with tunnels allowing them to travel underground. Termites across the plains of Africa, Australia, and South America build mounds that are about 10 ft high and have a diameter of 30m. The fingers and toes of monkeys are well adapted for living in trees, allowing them to run and swing from branch to branch.



Humans build their homes with great care. They beautify their homes in a variety of ways taking great care of comfort and safety. "Home sweet home" is a common saying that humans use for their homes.

## HOUSE THAT

**Snails and turtles are said to carry their house on their back. It means their natural shell serves the purpose of a house for them.**



# IN AND OUT OF CAVES

Millions of years ago, our earliest ancestors lived in the open. But soon they found it to be quite uncomfortable. It was difficult to bear with the climatic conditions – hot days, cold nights, and wet grounds from rain and snow. So they started living inside caves.

But caves were not available everywhere. Caves were not very comfortable either, since they were dark and damp. To make matters worse, most of the caves were inhabited by other animals like bats, bears, and tigers, with whom our ancestors had to fight for space!

Even today, some people make caves their home. For example, in Coober Pedy in South Australia, half the townspeople live in caves from which opal stones have been dug out! The Granada Province in Spain has the largest population of cave dwellers in Europe. These cave houses or



## BRICK BY BRICK

Stone tools found in France's Grotte du Vallonnet (Cave of Vallonnet) prove that humans lived there over 1 million years ago.



*casas cuevas* have underground rooms with rock-cut windows and chimneys poking out of grassy roofs. Caves remain cool in summer and warm in winter, so there is no need to spend on electricity to cool or heat up the space! The Sassi di Matera or “stones of Matera” are tufa rock cave dwellings situated in the old town of Matera in southern Italy. The Sassi originate from a prehistoric settlement and are among the first human settlements in Italy. The streets in some parts of the Sassi are located on the rooftops of other houses.

Over the years, people learnt to build houses that slowly became bigger, better, and stronger. Animal skin, mud, straw, grass, logs, stone, and bricks have all been used to build houses.



Yaodong are arched tunnels found in Loess Plateau in Northern China. Even today more than 40 million people live in these ancient and traditional cave constructions.



# FOR ANIMALS ONLY!

Building a house kept people safe from bad weather and wild animals. But what about animals that lived with people?

At first, cattle were kept indoors. But people found it difficult and unhealthy to live under the same roof with animals. So, separate houses were built for animals.

Did you know that the word "kennel" comes from *canis*, the Latin word for dog?

A kennel is a human-made house for a dog. It is also called a doghouse. Usually built of wood or wooden board, a kennel has one opening big enough to allow fresh air. Inside there should be enough space for bedding that should be cleaned and replaced regularly. Today, some kennels are even air-conditioned!

When the animal is not too large, its house is often made light enough so that it

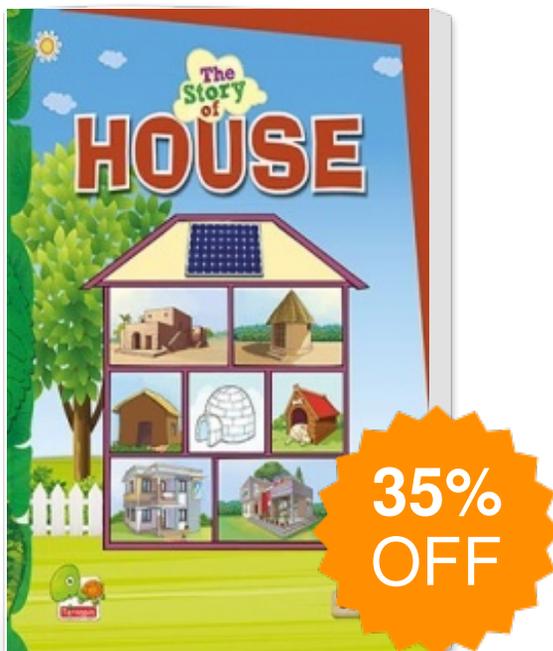


## BRICK BY BRICK

If you see a large nest made of dry grass, mud and twigs on the ground, you may want to run fast. It could be an alligator's!



# The Story of House (Save energy, save the environment! Make your home energy efficient)



Publisher : TERI Press

ISBN : 9788179935125

Author : Benita Sen

Type the URL : <http://www.kopykitab.com/product/8468>



Get this eBook