

**A STUDY ON ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS OF THE MUSAHAR
COMMUNITY
IN GOLBAZAR MUNICIPALITY OF SIRAHA DISTRICT, NEPAL**

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Submitted By:

Jitendra Kumar Sah

Roll No.: 67/2067

Exam Roll No.: 280527

T.U. Regd. No.: 7-2-13-327-2005

Central Department of Economics

Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled **A STUDY ON ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS OF THE MUSAHAR COMMUNITY IN GOLBAZAR MUNICIPALITY OF SIRAHA DISTRICT, NEPAL** submitted by Mr. Jitendra Kumar Sahunder my supervision and guidance in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Economics. I forward it with recommendation for approval.

Prof. Dr. Sohan Kumar Karna
Thesis Supervisor

Date: 21/12/2075 B.S.

04/04/2019 A.D.

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled **A STUDY ON ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS OF THE MUSAHAR COMMUNITY IN GOLBAZAR MUNICIPALITY OF SIRAHADISTRICT, NEPAL** submitted by Mr. Jitendra Kumar Sahhas been evaluated and accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS by evaluation committee comprised of:

Thesis Committee

.....

Prof. Dr. KushumShakya

Head of Department

.....

External Examiner

Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Gyanwaly

.....

Prof. Dr. Sohan Kumar Karna

Thesis Supervisor

Date: 04/01/2076 B.S.

17/04/2019 A.D.

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to describe the Economic Backwardness of the Musahar community, a socially excluded caste group of Terai, Nepal. For this purpose, Golbazar municipality of Siraha-District were selected because Musahardwells in this areas of this district.

Descriptive and analytical methods were used in this study. Mainly primary data are used focusing on qualitative in nature.

The Musahar is one of the lowest Hindu untouchable groups in the Tarai. Traditionally, the Musahar people were engaged in agriculture but their main occupation is land worker. Except it, their other occupations are making a variety of baskets and sell them. They are Sudra and known as Achhut (Untouchable).

The Musahar is Hindu. They follow Hindu religion and worship Hindu Gods and Goddesses. The festivals of the Musahar is similar with other Hindu castes. They mainly celebrate Dashain, Tihar, MagheSakranti, ChhathaParva, Dina BhadriPooja, Naga Panchami, Chaurchan, Jursital, Faguwa (Holi or Hori).

The Musahar is poor and exploited by higher castes. Most of them are landless and uneducated. Therefore, they are backward in every field. In the study-sites, it is difficult to see their traditional type of dresses and ornaments. They speak Maithili language.

However, caste based discrimination is not so rigid as it was in the past, but some discriminations can be seen clearly. The Musahar is not allowed to enter the home of upper castes. They have separate tube-wells for their own use because they are not allowed to fetch water either from the private or public tube-wells.

The Musahar is not found actively participating in local and national political affairs. Most of them are only voters. They have not access in local resources management. They are not aware about to get their citizenship and to register the vital events.

There is satisfactory trend of getting health services from governmental health offices in the Musahar community.

Different types of NGOs/INGOs are found working to improve and enhance the life style of Dalits, but there is not seen any positive sign of improvement in the socio-economic condition of the Musahar's life style. Gradually, social awareness is improving and enhancing among the Musahar community of the study area due to the effect of modernization.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Aelani	:	Unclaimed land
Anchal	:	Tip of Sari
Bataiya	:	A basis of sharing crop
Bhanja	:	Nephew
Chaurchan	:	Festival of Terai people (worship of Moon)
Holi/Hori	:	Festivals of colors
Juwai	:	Son-in-law
Kattha	:	Unit of land (1 hector = 29.5305 kattha)
LalPurja	:	Land Ownership Document
M A	:	Master in Arts
Mainjan/Jawar:		Community leader
Matkor	:	A Festival/ Worship Which happens before a Day of marries ceremony
Mun	:	40 kg
Pahur	:	Pig's baby.
Panchhoti	:	worship doing by five male persons on the Same time and places
Parada	:	Cloths that cover something as hide.
Pooja	:	Worship
Sutkeri	:	Women who have given birth a baby
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
U S	:	United Nation
VDC	:	Village Development Committee