

Role of Class and Practices of Witchcraft Accusation in Bhangaha Municipality, Mahottari

This thesis is submitted for the partial fulfilment of Master's in Art (M.A.)

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Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled **Role of Class and Practices of Witchcraft Accusation in Bhangaha Municipality, Mahottari** is my own work submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University. This is entirely original work and prepared under the guidance of **Dr. Youba Raj Luintel**.

I have acknowledged to all ideas and information received from sources in the course of preparing the thesis. The findings of this dissertation have not been presented anywhere in any purpose till date. I am responsible if any evidence is found any against my declaration.

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Date: October 6, 2023

Letter of Recommendation

I am pleased to state that the dissertation “**Role of class and practices of witchcraft accusation in Bhangaha Municipality Mahottari**” has been successfully completed under my supervision by Ushakiran Timsena in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of master in sociology.

I would like to recommend this dissertation to be examined by the dissertation evaluation committee.

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Letter of Approval

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Acknowledgement

I owe a lot to so many people who in one way or other contributed and made it possible to complete this study. I am highly indebted to all of them.

My utmost gratitude is to my thesis supervisor Dr. Youba Raj Luintel for providing his time and detailed advice for this study. I thank him for his valuable guidance, criticism, patience and understanding during the course of completing this study. Likewise, I am very grateful with sir Keshab Raj Silwal, my external supervisor of this study.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my respected professors of Department of Sociology without their support this thesis would not have been completed. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all the respondents of Bhangaha Municipality, Mahottari for their generosity and patience and for allowing me an insight into their life.

I would like to thank my family members for their support and encouragement. At last, I don't want to miss thanking my friends Ms. Samjhana Wagle, and Harishankar Bhattarai for providing me feedback for the thesis and Ramesh Yadav, Manju Yadav, Surya Thakur, Sanjaya Yadav Laxmaniya Yadav for supporting me in the field. Without their support, the thesis could not get its shape.

Thank you all for your support.

Abstract

This thesis explores the beliefs surrounding the existence of witchcraft, its origins, and its social implications in Nepal. A comprehensive understanding of any society necessitates an examination of its belief system. Throughout various cultures and time periods, beliefs in supernatural powers and their practices have been widely prevalent.

The issue of accusing women of witchcraft is a global social problem, and Nepal is no exception. Numerous studies have been conducted to investigate the root causes and impact of witchcraft accusations. These studies have focused on various factors such as superstition, cultural values, social constructs, and patriarchy. In this thesis, I aim to demonstrate the role of social class in witchcraft accusations, building upon existing literature. The study is based on twelve case studies, all of which are from Bhangaha Rural Municipality in Mahottari.

Through my research, I have examined the correlation between witchcraft accusations and superstition, illiteracy, class oppression, patriarchy, and social constructionism. I have found a positive relationship between these factors. The majority of victims of witchcraft accusations were found to be poor, illiterate, marginalized, and neglected by the state apparatus. Consequently, they became vulnerable to exploitation by others.

Table of Contents

Content	Page No.
Acknowledgement	ii
Abstract	v
Chapter One: Introduction	1-13
1.1 Overview	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	5
1.3 Objective of the Study	12
1.4 Limitations of the Study	12
1.5 Organization of the Study	13
Chapter Two: Review of Literature	14-46
2.1 Witchcraft and Superstition	14
2.2 Witchcraft: Historical and Cross-cultural Practice	16
2.3 Witchcraft Accusation in Nepal	21
2.4 Some Media Coverages of Witchcraft Allegation in Nepal	25
2.5 Constitutional and Legal Provisions Against Accusation of Witchcraft in Nepal	30
2.6 Social Constructionism and Witchcraft Accusation	32
2.7 Patriarchy and Witch Accusation	36
2.8 Class Oppression and Witchcraft	39
2.9 Conclusion	45
Chapter Three: Methodology of the Study	47-55

3.1 Research Design	48
3.1.1 Introduction of Mahottari District	48
3.1.2 Bhangaha Municipality	50
3.2 Sample Size for the Study	51
3.3 Sources of Data	51
3.3.1 Primary Data Source	52
3.3.2 Secondary Data Source	54
3.4 Field Reflection	54
Chapter Four: Findings and Interpretation	56-69
4.1 General Interpretation	56
4.2 Illiteracy and Witchcraft Accusation	60
4.3 Class and Witchcraft Accusation	63
4.4 Patriarchy and Witchcraft Accusation	64
4.5 Impact of Legal Provisions against Accusation of Witchcraft in Nepal	67
Chapter Five: Conclusion and Theoretical Reflection	70-79
5.1 Conclusion	70
5.2 Suggestions	77
References	80-85
Annexes	86-105
END Notes	106-107