

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE THARU FREED KAMAIYAS

A Case Study of Dhangadhi Municipality, Kailali District, Nepal

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled "**Socio-economic Status of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas**" - **A Case Study of Dhangadhi Municipality, Kailali District, Nepal** - has been prepared by **Mr. Rajesh Kumar Gahatraj** under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the Thesis Committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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APPROVAL SHEET

We certify that this thesis entitled "**Socio-economic Status of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas**" - A Case Study of Dhangadhi Municipality, Kailali District, Nepal - submitted by **Mr. Rajesh Kumar Gahatraj** to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development has been satisfactory in scope and quality.

Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

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ABBREVIATION

BASE	:	Backward Society Education
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CCS	:	Creation of Creative Society
°C	:	Degree centigrade
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DLRO	:	District Land Reform Office
FAYA	:	Forum for Awareness and Youth Activity, Nepal
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
Ha	:	Hectare
HH	:	Households
HMG	:	His Majesty's Government
Ibid	:	Ibiden (cited) Just before
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organization
INSEC	:	Informal Sector Service Center
Km	:	Kilometer
Km ²	:	Square Kilometer
LRO	:	Land Reform Office
Mm	:	Millimeters
NEWAH	:	Nepal Water for Health
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
No.	:	Number
RNA	:	Royal Nepal Academy
SUK	:	Sukumbasi Utthan Kendra
SUS	:	Sukumbasi Utthan Samaj
VDC	:	Village Development Committee

LOCAL NAME

Ailani Land	:	Unregistered land
Bhutuwa	:	Name of Tharu's Ghost
Bukra	:	A kind of house which is made by Kisan for Kamaiyas
Dayaniya	:	Without ventilation to pass air sufficiently there is not sufficient space for all the member of family
Dhakiya	:	A kind of basket locally made by Tharus
Guruwa	:	Tharu's priest
Jand	:	Locally made alcohol prepared by Tharus
Jimidar	:	Non-official tax collecting functionary in the Terai
Kachha	:	Made of wood and mud better than 'Dayaniya'
Kamaiya System	:	Bonded labor system
Katta	:	Unit of land measurement (1 Bigha = 20 Katta = 13 Ropani)
Kisan	:	Landlord of Kamaiyas
Pakka House	:	Made of bricks and cement
Saunki	:	Loan, taken by Kamaiya from his master
Tapari	:	A kind of plate which is made of dry leafs
Terai	:	Plan land

ABSTRACT

The study on "Socio-economic Status of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas" was carried out from August to September 2011 at Himmatpur (Manahera), Dhangadhi Municipality ward no. 12, Kailali District, Nepal, with focusing on analyzing the present socio- economic conditions and identifying their real problems after their freedom.

This study is based on qualitative and quantitative information. The tools, like In-depth Interviews, Observations, Focus Group Discussions were used for the purpose of collection of primary data for the study. Published and unpublished theses, books, research reports and newspaper etc. were also used as secondary sources.

According to the District Land Reform Office, there were total 438 HHs of Tharu Feed Kamaiyas in Dhangadhi Municipality and out of them 273 red cards holder HHs were resettled in survey area. The sample has been taken from the red cards holder HHs of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. Out of them 61 HHs were selected as samples by the simple random sampling method without replacement and with lottery method.

The socio-economic condition of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas is found very poor. It is found that the literacy rate of these Freed Kamaiyas is very low due to poor economic condition and ignorance of the importance of the education. Almost all the respondents are found illiterate and all are from male population. The educational condition of female is found poor than male. Low level of income, insufficient land holding size, lack of good skill except agriculture and other opportunities in earning income are main causes of poor economic condition.

For the socio-economic improvement of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas, additional policy options must be formulated and implemented. The action should be taken to identify the real Tharu Freed Kamaiyas and the identity card, land and other facilities should be provided to the unidentified Kamaiyas, and unsettled Freed Kamaiyas should be settled.

Most of the Freed Kamaiyas have been employed as agriculture and construction labor. They should be encouraged to be unionized in the trade union, which will help them to improve their socio-economic condition.

Similarly, the trainings in different practical fields given to Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are insufficient and even if they are trained, due to the lack of opportunity, they remain jobless. Thus they should be trained and given financial support by loans etc. with lower interest rate so that they can run their own business and become independent economically.

The Tharu Freed Kamaiya also must be united and organized in order to move forward. They must internalize and accommodate the positive help given and efforts made by others. That will be important for the achievement of social solidarity. There is a need for one committee of the Tharu CA members to benefit Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.

Despite the efforts of various NGOs, INGOs, political parties and the government as well, Tharu Freed Kamaiya people have not been able to raise their livelihood. Therefore, it is recommended that they should have right to the natural resources, economic developments and also right to land to be included in the new constitution. Similarly, special legislative protection should be given to Tharu Freed Kamaiya against any criminal offences towards them, as a form of positive discriminations.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Situated in the lap of the Himalayas, Nepal is located in between 26° 22' north to 30° 27' north latitude, 80° 4' east to 88° 12' east longitude and the elevation ranges from 90 to 8848 meter. The average length being 885 km east to west and breadth is about 193 km north to south. The country is boarded by the two most populous countries of the world, India in the east, south, west, and China in the north. Nepal is the landlocked country and home place of natural beauty with traces of artifacts. In the geographic diversity and varied climatic conditions, 24.1 million people of more than 60 caste/ethnic groups are accommodated in the country. Nepal presents an example of being united in diversity over the history and has maintained it's proud to be an independent sovereign state.

Economic growth of the country has not improved markedly over time to take population growth. As the current estimated population growth is 2.3 percent per annual, growing population has concealed the gain achieved by development activities. Little over half about 57 percent of the population of working age reported economically active in 2001 AD and among them 80.1 percent were engaged in agricultural activities. Contribution of non-agricultural activities is gradually increasing in the GDP. Per capita GDP is estimated in the order of US \$ 269 for 2004/5.

Nepal is multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural country. Many caste live in Nepal, among them Tharu caste is one. Tharus are an ethnic group, indigenous to the terai region of Nepal. Tharu caste is one of the most exploited, under privileged and backward ethnic groups of Nepal.

Largest numbers of Tharus are concerned in mid and far-western Development Region, particularly in the district of Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur. They are hard working people and their uncountable contribution is in the agricultural sector. They have their own kind of culture, song, many traditional dances, and life style. Their dressing pattern is different from other ethnic group of Nepal. They are deeply immersed in land work.

At first, in the terai region there were Tharu inhabitants. After eradication of malaria, people from the hill region used to migrate to the terai. Most of the Tharus were uneducated, innocent, and easy to make believable. With taking the benefit of their innocence, migrated people made them slaved and ruled over them. The conspiracy of money lenders, they would become easily victimize and owning the debt and after getting the debt, they are forced to play, which they never could pay. Accordingly Tharus debt becomes deeper and they became bounded laborer. Kamaiya system arises from debt relationship. Poverty is the main reason of indebt. Kamaiya worked per day for their food grains, cash, or kind on yearly oral contract basis under Kamaiya system. They worked until that time when debt or 'Saunki' is not paid. Because of Kamaiya system, their condition was worsening.

BASE (Backward Society Education) started the bonded labors (or Kamaiya as they are known is Nepali) programme in 1991 AD. The goal of bonded labor programme is to make them more self sufficient and so that they can free themselves from slavery. To accomplish this, BASE has implemented comprehensive, long-term education, income generating and legal advocacy programmes for the bonded labors (Cox, 1994). The movement started from May 1, 2000 on the occasion of International Labor Day. After many efforts of the Kamaiya movement, the government abolished the Kamaiya system on 17 July 2000. About 2 lakhs bonded labors become free at that time (Kantipur).

The act against Kamaiya labor 2058 BS specifies that after its declaration, nobody can keep Kamaiyas and it stresses on the resettlement of the Kamaiyas after their freedom. It assumes an automatic emancipation of whoever is Kamaiyas after its effectiveness (HMG, 2058).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Bonded labor system is one of the worst forms of abuse of human right. Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Dang and Surkhet are the districts where the Kamaiya system was a burning problem. In the form of bonded labor, Kamaiyas were surviving in the vicious cycle of poverty. Debt was inherited from the previous generation and transferred to the next. Thus many children were bonded even before they have born under Kamaiya system. Any form of slavery is social evil. All people have own rights to survival freely, which is the human right. After Kamaiya movement, the bonded labor or in any form of slavery under Kamaiya system is freed on 17 July 2000 by the government.

After freedom, they faced many problems. Previously, they lived in the house of landlord and work for them and something of livelihood received from landlord but after freedom, they became homeless. Many problems have seen such as income, education, health, resettlement, and rehabilitation. Freed Kamaiyas are displaced. They had no place to stay, no food to eat, and no money to manage their new life. Now, they are in difficulty due to lack of other type of skill or training. In the report of Bhusal and White (2001), the government has announced to provide the Freed Kamaiyas piece of land so that they can be settled but this process is not fulfilled. Some Freed Kamaiya is staying in the camp and unregistered land. Therefore, their social economic condition is very poor. This study has concerned with their present socio-economic status after freedom.

Some issues are related with the socio-economic status of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas of Dhangadhi municipality of Kailali district is dealt in this study. What is the educational level? What is the level of income? Can their income fulfill for livelihood? Is their resettlement process fulfilling? What is the condition of health?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study is to analyze the socio-economic condition of Tharu Freed Kamaiya in Dhangadhi municipality and identify their problems. Moreover, the specific objectives are as the following.

1. To find out the educational status of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.
2. To examine the level of income of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.
3. To analyze the resettlement patterns after Kamaiya movement.
4. To assess the health status of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.

1.4 Significance of the study

The Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are socio-economically more disadvantaged group than other group in society. They are socially excluded group. Everybody needs to know about the condition of excluded people of the country. It is necessary to understand about their socio-economic status for their progress. As such for the improvement of Freed Kamaiyas, it is necessary to know about problem or situation of Freed Kamaiya. So, the study is important to know about the Freed Kamaiyas situation of education, level of income, health condition, housing condition, and resettlement pattern etc.

This study will serve further planning and implementation of prospective programme and improving the existing programme for rehabilitation of the Freed Kamaiya. It is hoped that the study might pave-a-way for further steps to be taken as well as basis for further study. Therefore, this is study on Tharu Freed Kamaiya bears importance.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The Freed Kamaiya resettlements are situated in the terai region. Especially in five district as Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dang. But Dhangadhi municipality of Kailali is taken for the study. This study cannot carry the whole picture of Freed Kamaiyas of Nepal. Some constraints are the lack of time, budget and other facilities. The study is basically focused on socio-economic aspect of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas of Dhangadhi municipality.

About 11 years have passed of the emancipation of Kamaiyas. It is long time to evaluate and examine the problem; nevertheless the study of present situation provides the insight into the problems, prospects and constraints of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas socio-economic condition. Besides these the study has the following limitation also.

The study basically concerns to a particular area. Therefore, the generalization of the result may or may not be equally relevant to the other Freed Kamaiya area of Nepal. The study is conducted with the given time frame and financial limitations. Socio-economic variables such as income, education, health and resettlement etc. are analyzed as the case of Tharu Freed Kamaiya where as socio-cultural variables as caste, political power etc. are ignored. Simple statistical tools are used to analyze the data obtained.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Background

Tharu is one of the ethnic groups of Nepal. "Ethnicity is viewed both as a behavioral variable as well as a social structural or contextual variable. Ethnicity when viewed as a behavioral variable denotes the degree, to which there is a sense of belonging to a particular group, symbols of the shared heritage and awareness of the similar historical experiences. As a social structural variable, ethnic groups are characteristic of most societies. The Tharu ethnic group is one of many ethnic groups in Nepal" (Pyakuryal, 1982).

The forest people came from many regions at different time to seek the place and shelter of jungle, the environment then moulded them over a very long period of time, into group of special people all of them called "Tharu" (Neyer, 1995).

According to Bista, the Tharu people have been living in the region of terai since primitive time therefore they are people of terai.

The Tharus live in terai region "Physically and especially in facial features, the Tharu look like they stem from Mongolic stock. They speak an Aryan language. In an ancient time, the Tharu may have accepted Buddhism and then later they were influenced by Hinduism" (Pyakuryal, 1982). The Tharu language has been greatly influenced by various north Indian languages found nearby: Urdu, Hindi, Bhojpuri, Maithali and Bengali (Bista, 1972).

The Tharus have their own tradition and culture. The Tharus are animist by tradition, believing on ghost, spirit worship and own culture. Tharus have own god, 'Bhutuwa'. Every Tharu house has a separate place for 'Bhutuwa'. They have own priest, called 'Guruwa'.

When they fall ill, they did not go directly to hospital. At first, they worship 'Bhutuwa' through 'Guruwa' and if their condition does not improve, then they go to health post or hospital. But nowadays superstitions are being lost (Cox, 1994).

Tharu have their different kinds of festivals. At the festival, they engaged in are dancing, singing, and drinking. 'Maghi' is the one of the most important festival of Tharus. 'Maghi' is New Year festival and celebration period may take two to four days. The greatest festival of Tharu is 'Maghisakranti' called 'Maghi'. At Maghi, the Tharu worship their 'Kuldevata' or 'Bhutuwa'. Tharu spend two days of 'Maghi', eating, drinking Jand (home-made beer) and Raksi (home-made liquor) and performing a variety of traditional songs and dance. 'Dasya' is another festival of Tharus. 'Dasya' is the Tharus version of 'Dashain', during the 'Dasya', the Tharus worship ancestor spirits, and 'Dasya' is celebrated for nine days. They spend much of this time feasting and performing traditional song and dance. On the final day of 'Dasya' all household heads receive a blessing and 'Tika' from the 'Mahaton' (Village head man). Similarly, other festivals are Hori month of Falgun, 'Astimi' the Tharus version of 'Krishna-Astami'. It is women's festival. The women spend the whole night singing songs about Krishna (I bid, 1994).

2.2 Bonded Labor, Kamaiya System and Movement

The institution of slavery was one of the social evils in Nepal as elsewhere in world. Chhetri (1991) carried out the study on slavery in Nepal. "The slavery system is found to have come into existence in the history of human society since the domination of the strong and capable person over the weak and helpless ones.

As time went on, the system was deeply rooted all over the world. Slavery were maltreated and condemned like cattle. They had neither any social prestige nor value in the society. They could be purchased and sold like cattle and commodities by the rich. They had no rights and were completely in the mercy of the will of their masters.

Such as the general condition of slaves of the whole world, Nepal also was no exception in it, like other slaves different countries of the world, the Nepalese slaves also had to no rights and was absolutely in the mercy and will of their masters." Though Chandra Shamsher had abolished slavery, still there was a form of slavery as Kamaiya in the western terai region.

According to INSEC, "Slavery was officially abolished from the Nepal in 1924. The constitution and laws have restricted exploitation of human beings by practices like slavery trafficking serfdom and forced labor in any form. But the reality is completely different. A system known a "Kamaiya" a form of bonded labor system prevails in western Nepal. These Kamaiyas are subjected to different degree of exploitation, deprivation, disadvantage, and loss of freedom." (INSEC, 1994-95).

Bonded labor system is one of the worst forms of abuse of human rights. Bonded laborers are those persons who are bound to perform certain services. A bond is forged between two persons, one bond-master and another bondman; the system of bonded laborers is the system of exploitation of weak by the powerful. This bond is a force which may be of various types via (a) Physical (b) Economic (c) Social and (d) Psychological. Physical force arises due to terror of bond-master, economic force arises due to pitiable condition of bonded social force arises due to caste structure in the society and psychological force arises due to brainwashing of this bondman. Bonded labor system as defined today generally covers only those bound labors that made so by the landlord-cum-moneylenders with the help of institution of debt bondage contact (Singh, 1994).

Nepali dictionary (Nepali Brihat Shabdakosh) defines the word 'Kamaiya' as "whose all family work in the land borrowing cash or kind from landowner."

"A Kamaiya is a person who has a one year verbal contract with an employer, usually a landowner under certain conditions. Usually the conditions are very unfavorable for the employee and for his family.

The characteristics of the contract are: a fixed amount of food, land, cash or other goods to be paid to the Kamaiya by the employer or master" (INSEC, 1994-95).

'Halia' word came from 'Halo' (Plough). Its etymological meaning is land tiller but in reality, it is an agriculture labor that work in other land. In different region, 'Hali' or 'Harua' knows it. In the district of far-western, Kamaiya word denotes instead of 'Halia'. In the community of Tharu Kamaiya understood the debt bonded labor or "badhua" labor (Upadhaya, 1997).

According to Regmi (1998), the Nepali term for bondsman is 'Badha' with literacy means a person taken up on mortgage; he must work for his creditor during his bondage in lieu of payment of interest.

The Tharus are ethnic group indigenous to the terai region of southern Nepal. After the eradication of malaria, a new frontier was opened for shelters from the hill people. The result was a marginalization of the Tharu people. Unscrupulous moneylenders systematically squeezed many of them of their land and landlords from the hill region. Threats or actual acts of violence, to force the Tharus to sign over their land were used. In other cases the new shelters would just take over cultivated land, for which the Tharus did not have ownership paper and register it in own name. In still other causes the Brahman and Chhetri shelters would take advantage of Tharus illiteracy. They would draw up complicated loan forms. So, the Tharu debtor would be compelled to pay the debt to landlords (BASE, 2001).

Then, the whole property and there cultivated crops would be paid as the money. As a result majority of the Tharu gradually became landless and they were forced to work for landowners.

They did not get fair wages and became poorer and also treated them as bonded labor. They were unable to pay back their loan to the landlords. And generation after generation they worked to the landlords without getting a proper salary (Ibid, 2001).

Similarly, after the loss of land, by 1980 over 80 of Dang's Tharu inhabitants and been forced to leave the valley and look for land elsewhere. Most of these Tharu went to the Deukharia of Kailali and were eventually able to legally settle on land there. Most of Tharu who remained in Dang were impoverished by the loss of majority of their land. As a result many of them were forced to work as tenant farmers worked the landlord's field in return for a percentage of crops. Bonded labors are forced by an unjust legal system out right oppression and fraud to work for landlord to pay off debt that was taken by their forefather generation gap. This debt bondage is reinforced by Nepal's legal cone, which stipulated that if a man is unable to pay off debt, it is automatically passed on his son. Landlords who need labor often pay off the debt of some Tharu bounded labors who working for another landlord (Cox, 1994).

Those Tharus must then go work for him to pay off the transferred debt. Every year thousand of Tharus were bought and sold in this way in Dang-Deukhuri, Bardiya, Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of western Nepal (Thomas, 1994).

In the case of Chitwan district, the Tharu peasant, who lives in the primitive type of society, subsistence farming was their way of lives. Tharu and their own tribal society, which was free from any kind of state intervention but process of landlessness, viewed in term of two specific periods namely pre-resettlement and post-resettlement programme. In the time of Ran regime or pre-resettlement, Tharu has been continuously controlled by the State for agriculture tax revenue.

The tax collection system operated in responsibility of village-based functionaries introduced in the terai region 1861 was known as 'Jimidari System'. Tharus farming was life subsistence, non-trading and isolated economy, peculiar nature of Tharus, not going outside from their territory in search of income earning jobs, occasional crop failure, and destruction of crops wild animals and birds were factors that made them unable to pay land tax and fulfill the imposed obligations of several kinds of Jimidar¹ (CEDECON, 2000).

In such circumstances, majority of the Tharu peasant lost their access to land. Another cause was, after eradication of malaria, a large number of people from hills migrated in terai region. Rapti Valley Multipurpose Development Project implemented in Chitwan district in the late 1950s was the first planned resettlement programme of Nepal (Ibid, 2001).

Formulation as well as implementation of resettlement programme showed that the socio-economic condition of Tharu was not considered. Majority of beneficiaries were the clever well to do people. Other causes were social interaction, as a consequence of social interaction; there existed significant changes in socio-economic activities of Tharus. Due to the pressure of additional population, use of natural resources, such as land, forest, the traditional subsistence economy gradually transformed toward a mixed one where population is only not for the self-consumption but also to sell in the market. The commercialization and monetization of indigenous economy accelerated the flow of manufactured goods in rural areas. Selling of land so far was rare became frequently saleable asset (Ibid, 2001).

Next, population growth rate was high but limit of land. Therefore growing Tharu population lost its access to additional land. At last, the families of peasants, which were evicted from land, had to work as bonded labor for their survival (Ibid, 2001).

¹ In the Chitwan valley, the Jimidars were from the Tharu race residing in the village unlike the absentee non Tharus Jimidars of Dang valley (Rajaure, 1977).

Tharu caste is one of the most exploited under privileged in Tharu community and backward ethnic group of Nepal. Thus they are either landless or do not have enough land for their living. As a result, they had to be Kamaiya to earn their living.

"If the Tharu borrowed money from a person, (and usually the lender was a non Tharu) the borrower had to work on the lender's farm until the money was not paid back, not only the man but his entire family member were obliged to serve the master. Since the loan could not be paid back, it would continuously increase due to compounded interest; it was customary that if a Tharu borrower wanted to change his master, he had to find someone else who would be willing to pay his debt. After the debt was paid to the first master, the Tharu then belong to the second.

As a Tharu family changed from one master to another, the loan also went on increasing and his invariable led to permanent indebtedness and in effect economic bondage and virtual slavery" (Pyakuryal, 1982).

According to the INSEC, The most deadly feature of the system is 'Saunki' or loan. Since a Kamaiya earns less than his expenses, sooner or later he will have to borrow, the Kamaiya must work for his master until his 'Saunki' is not paid. Kamiya can only change master if they find on 'Maghi' a new master who is willing to pay off their 'Saunki', this is of course more difficult for the higher the 'Saunki', sometime Kamiya with 'Saunki' and their family are effectively sold to a new master without their consent. The system effectively bonds the Kamaiya indefinitely (INSEC, 1992).

Bonded labor system was one of the social evils. It is necessary to declare the Kamaiya system. On the 1st May 2000, the International Labor Day, BASE organized a meeting with Kamaiya in Geta VDC of Kailali. The first Kamaiya liberation movement started from Kailali on 1st May 2000. In the meeting of Geta VDC, they discussed and debated about action to get to register a case asking minimum wages. The VDC did not success securing the Kamaiyas' request. The VDC did not success securing the Kamaiyas' request.

The Kamaiya went to register the case asking freedom, security, and minimum wages to pay their debt back to their landlord in the Chief District Officer (CDO), but CDO refused to register it. The CDO threatened the Kamaiya badly and threatened them and their supporters. From this point, other NGO people joined to support the Kamaiyas. Then, the movement started to register the case and very big demonstrations were held in Dhangadhi. These demonstrations continued until freedom.

Sometimes hunger, strikes were held and many press conferences were organized at the local level and at central level in Kathmandu. The media continuously covered the news and the issue was internationalized. More than five hundred Kamaiyas and NGOs workers went Kathmandu and did sit in protest programme in front of the parliament. The government was forced by international governments and organizations to declare the bonded labors free on 17th July 2000 (BASE, 2001).

2.3 Recent Study on Socio-economic Status

Upadhyaya (1989) studied the socio-economic condition of Tharu Kamaiya in terms of their demographic characteristics, literacy rate, education level, housing and resettlement pattern based on exploratory research design and descriptive approach. He derived the conclusion that the literacy rate of the Kamaiyas is very low; in observation Tharu Kamaiyas were unable to send their children to school owing to their low interest and ignorance in education and poor economic condition. The Kamaiya did not have their land and house. All of them lived in 'Bukra'². All most Kamaiyas depend on agriculture wage labor.

A study conducted by the INSEC (1992), to identify the existence of bonded labor under Kamaiya system in Nepal and socio-economic condition of Kamaiyas based on sample study of three districts i.e. Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur. It studied that there may be as many as 25,000 families of bonded labors or approximately 100,000 population.

² A kind of house, which is made by Kisan for Kamaiyas, there is only one room without water and toilet facilities and space for cooking.

This study shows that the majority of them are homeless; illiteracy rate among them 95.5 percentages and the Kamaiya had been working for about 18 hours a day and receiving extremely low remuneration for their works.

'A Revisit to the Kamaiya System of Nepal' was conducted in early 1998 by INSEC for Danida. The study covers a numbers of characteristics associated with the Kamaiya, such as population and age structure, family size, ethnicity, literacy, skills, health working houses, wages and relationship with the landlords. The findings were that the Kamaiya system is a social evil; Kamaiyas' all conditions were down.

Subedi (1999) studied the socio-economic condition of Kamaiyas of the study area with special reference to their education, health poverty, wealth, income, occupation, from field survey; the Kamaiyas' families were very poor. The females of the Kamaiyas were very unaware of the socio-economic situation of the country. Only some families kept small livestock like hens, pigs, boars, goats and sheep. Kamaiya children from the age 7 – 8 years start to work as cowherd, shepherds.

Upreti (2000) studied the socio-economic characteristic and Kamaiya system in relation to socio-economic condition of the Tharu using interview observation, case study. He found that the socio-economic condition of Kamaiya is very poor and the Kamaiya system is very bad.

After freedom of Kamaiyas, the government has announced to provide the Kamaiya piece of land so that they can get settled. But a study made by in 2001 by S.L. Bhusal and Tim Whyte shows that many Freed Kamaiyas have received "Lal Purja"³ without being shown any real plots of land. From this study, found that the schooling, food security and their health condition were bad.

³ Land ownership certificate provided by government.

A study made in 2002 by Keshab Paudel, show that the governments' Resettlement and Rehabilitation Programmme began with the registration of Freed Kamaiyas and providing identity card with different category. However they may genuinely Freed Kamaiyas did not get any identity card therefore they are landless and out of facilities. Now they live in the camp, many were illiterate, unhealthy. He analyzed the cornea's Impoverishment, Risks, and Reconstruction (IRR) model. The risk components as landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, increased mortality, and community disarticulation were also found important in the process of Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Freed Kamaiyas.

The procedure, which is exploratory and descriptive research design survey by Ojha (2059 BS), data collection has been done on the basis of questionnaire, observation and discussion. He found that in the past time all Freed Kamaiyas were in better condition than now a day in the context free from bonded labor. When they were Freed from masters' houses, the government was unable to provide the job therefore they are compelled to work in other peoples' house. In the district temporary camp, many Freed Kamaiyas were illiterate. They were incapable to read because of economic, social, and family background. They work in land although 35 percent Kamaiyas desire to read.

This, many studies were found before freedom of the Kamaiyas on the socio-economic aspect, their background, and problems. Their all conditions were had due to the Kamaiya system. So, there is very limited study dealing after the emancipation of the Kamaiyas. The present research is conducted on the socio-economic status including education, income, health and resettlement after the Kamaiya system was abolished. And the study area is Dhangadhi municipality.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Nature and Source of Data Collection

The study is based on qualitative and quantitative information were collected through field survey. The sources of data collection of this study are both primary and secondary. Primary data were collected during field visit with the help of in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, observations, and general information. The fieldwork was done in August to September 2011. Some photographs were taken (APPENEX-IV). Published and unpublished theses, books, research reports etc. were used as secondary sources.

3.2 Method of Data Collection

The quantitative data were collected from household questionnaire and qualitative data, fact and information has collected through in-depth interview, focus group discussions, observations, and general information.

3.2.1 Household Survey

A household survey method was used to collect necessary information for the study. For the fulfillment of objectives, a structured household questionnaire was prepared to interview 60 households' survey and interview schedule sheet were formulated and fill out. Household data were collected including family size, education, and landholding size, level of income, indebtedness and other socio-economic condition. The household survey has been conducted in the field during August to September 2011.

3.2.2 Observation

The qualitative information was collected through direct and non-participant observation. For this, a field diary were also maintain observing during fieldwork of two months is resettlement area of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. Their housing condition settlement pattern, living environment, their food habit health and sanitation status, children's educational attainment, facilities of the area and other necessary information were observe.

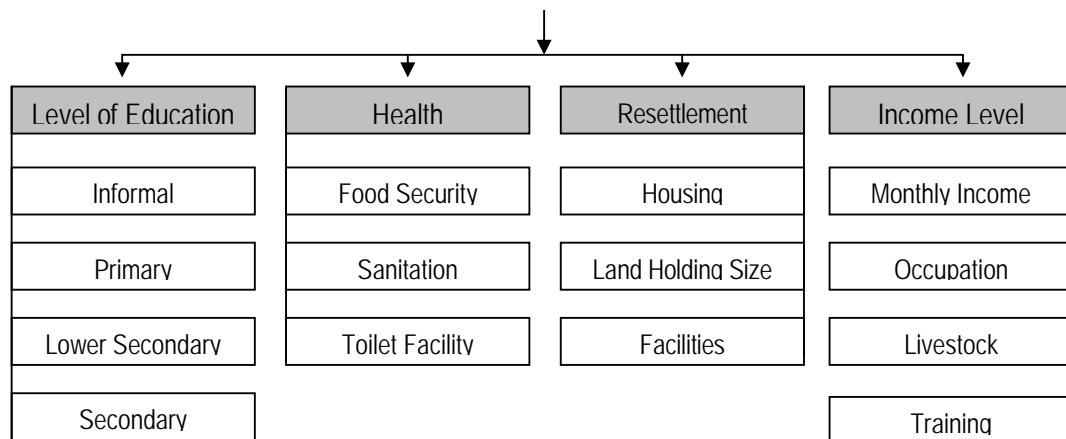
3.2.3 Group Discussion

For the general information, group discussion was conducted between the elder Freed Kamaiya and others. Community members, social worker and leader of Freed Kamaiyas were seemed focused on their effect of bonded labor and present problems faced by them. In addition, by the group discussion, it has carried the socio-economic condition.

3.3 Identification of Variables

Overall identification of the variables was designed as following. They correspond to define objectives.

Chart 1 : Identification of the Variable



The identification of the variables was shown in the different level. In the educational level, it was explained about informal, primary, and lower secondary and secondary with age and sex-wise. Similarly, in the resettlement, it was shown about housing condition, landholding size, and facilities and likewise in the income and health.

3.4 Selection of the Study Area

Especially, most of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas settlement is in the mid-western and far-western Terai regions. These are Dang, Bardiya, Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. Other districts could not be select due to the limitation. The first Kamaiyas liberation movements started from Kailali on first May 2000. In the Kailali district, Dhangadhi Municipality area was selected because the entire concerning problems can be seen in the area of municipality. Reliable information can be found from this study area.

3.5 Sampling Design

According to the District Land Reform Office, there were total 438 HHs of Tharu Feed Kamaiyas in Dhangadhi Municipality and out of them 273 red cards holder HHs were resettled and 86 HHs were unsettled. The sample has been taken from the resettled red cards holder HHs of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. Out of them 61 HHs were selected as samples by the simple random sampling method without replacement and with lottery method.

3.6 Data Analysis

A preliminary data sheet was made with the help of filled-up questionnaires. The collected data were classified and tabulated to make them clear. Simple statistical tolls and techniques have been used such as calculation of percentage, average with the help of calculator. The analyses of the qualitative data were taken up the textual discussion. This study follows exploratory and descriptive method of analysis.

CHAPTER IV

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Introduction to Kailali District

Kailali district lies in the Far-western Terai region on Nepal. It is located between 25° 22' north to 29° 0' north latitudes, 80° 30' east to 81° 18' east longitudes. The district covers an area of 3235 square kilometer. The district is bounded in the west with Kanchanpur and Dadeldhura, Bardia and Surkhet in the east. Doti and Dadeldhura are in north and Uttaranchal state of India in the south. The Mohana River forms the border with Kanchanpur and Karnali River with Surkhet and Bardia. There are 42 VDCs and 2 municipalites i.e.- Dhangadhi and Tikapur.

According to the 2001 Census, the total population of the district is 6, 16,697. The number of HHs is 94,430. The population growth rate is 3.9 percent. Kailali has experienced heterogeneity ethnic/ caste composition. Altogether 43.7 percent Tharus live in Kailali district out of total population of Kailali. The largest number of Tharus lives in Kailali district of Nepal. The terai region has become a major resettlement area of the country after the eradication of malaria in early 1960's and increasing population pressure on the land in the hill and mountains peoples started to south low-lying area of terai by clearing the forest for cultivation. Total 68.25 percent population depends on agriculture and 31. 75 percentages population depends on non-agriculture.

This district has sub-tropical and warm-temperate climate. The average temperature is 18° to 35° centigrade. The maximum temperature is around 43° C in March to July and minimum occurs between March to July the westerly hot wind called 'Loo'. The rainfall in this district is 1860 mm.

Agriculture is one of the major economic activities of this district. Tharus are the main cultivator of the district. The major crops of this district are paddy, maize, wheat, and sugarcane, vegetable as well as fruits like mango, banana etc. agriculture production is depend on nature of monsoon rain. Because of the agriculture and forestry based industries like rice mill, oil mill, rosin and turpentine factory, sugar mill, brick factory, wood mill etc.

4.2 Introduction to Dhangadhi Municipality

Dhangadhi Municipality is the head quarter of Kailali district. The Dhangadhi Municipality bounded in the east with Urma and Phulbari VDC, Kanchanpur and Mohana River in the west. Beladevipur and Geta VDC are in the north and Uttaranchal state of India in the south. The total area of municipality is 3904.4 ha. The municipality is divided into 14 wards. The Himmatpur or Manahera Resettlement Camp lays in wards no 12 and this camp of freed Kamaiya is rural nature settlement and situated in the eastern part of municipality. The Manahera Camp settlement is about three kilometer far from core region of Dhangadhi Market.

According to the 2001 census, the total population of municipality is 67,447 and annual population growth rate of 4.1 percent in 2001. Within Dhangadhi municipality, there are 25 public and 24 private schools, 6 public and 6 private higher secondary schools, 4 campus and collages, 1 zonal hospital and 2 private hospitals. There is also one lower secondary school that is established for Freed Kamaiyas children in resettlement area of Freed Kamaiyas. Below table shows the caste and ethnic distribution of Dhangadhi municipality.

Table 1 : Caste/Ethnic Group in Dhagadhi Municipality

Caste/Ethnic	Percentage	Caste/Ethnic	Percentage
Tharu	31.4	Kami	2.3
Chhetri	19.6	Newar	2.0
Brahman	19.0	Muslim	1.6
Unidentified Dalit	5.3	Magar	1.4
Thakuri	5.1	Others	12.2

Source: CSB, 2001

There are 67,447 total populations live in Dhangadhi municipality. Above table 1 indicates that the most of the Tharu about 31.4 percent live in municipality area.

Table 2 : Religion and Mother Tongue

Religion	Percentage	Mother Tongue	Percentage
Hindu	96.1	Nepali	61.0
Islam	1.6	Tharu	28.8
Bauddha	1.5	Maithali	2.3
Christian	0.4	Hindi	2.0
Other	0.3	Magar	1.0
		Tamang	0.8
		Newar	0.7
		Other	3.5

Source: CSB, 2001

Table 2 shows the religion and mother tongue distribution of population at Dhangadhi municipality. Most of the Hindus are in municipality, which is 96.1 percent of the total. Tharus are also Hindu. Various types of native languages speak in Dhangadhi municipality.

Altogether 28.8 percent out of the total Tharu have their own native Tharu language. However, there are majority of the people of Nepali mother tongue.

There were many types of Kamaiyas before the abolished the Kamaiyas system. The government divided them into different categories. The Kamaiyas were given the different identity cards by the government. Then the process was started to resettlement.

Red Identity Card : Who have not home and land those Kamaiyas received the red card. They lived in house of landlord or master.

Blue Identity Card : A small hut in public land.

Yellow Identity Card : Two 'Katta' land with small shelter.

White Identity Card : More than two 'Katta' or better than other.

Table 3 : Number of Households of Freed Kamaiyas

Area	Red Card HHs		Blue Card HHs		Others	Total HHs
	Settled	Unsettled	Settled	Unsettled		
Kailai District	2488	1270	1800	3190	1014	9762
Dhangadhi Municipality	273	86	6	68	5	438

Source: District Land Reform Office, Kaiali

Note:

- 1) Sample is taken from resettled (273 red cards) Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.
- 2) Other; yellow cards, white cards and received land from 'Sukumbasi Samasya Samadhan Aayog'.

According to the Land Reform Office, total 9,762 HHs of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas were in 35 VDCs and two municipalities. Among them total 438 HHs are resettled in Dhangadhi municipality and out of them 273 red cards holder HHs are resettled and 86 HHs unsettled, 6 blue cards HHs are resettled and 68 HHs unsettled, 5 HHs are yellow and white cards holding. The sample has been taken from the resettled red cards holder 273 HHs of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. Out of them 61 HHs were selected as samples by the simple random sampling method without replacement and with lottery method.

Thus, many caste/ethnic groups live in Dhangadhi municipality of Kailali district. Among them Tharus are in large number. Tharus have their own culture. The largest number of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas lives in Kailali district. After the Kamaiya system was abolished, different efforts were made for their resettlement.

CHAPTER V

PRESENT STATUS OF THE THARU FREED KAMAIYA HOUSEHOLDS

5.1 Age and Sex-wise Population Distribution

The age and sex-wise population distribution of sixty-one sample households of Freed Kamaiyas are presented in the following table.

Table 4 : Age and Sex-wise Population

AGE	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	14	4.36	12	3.74	26	8.10
5 to 12	39	12.15	29	9.03	68	21.18
13-19	31	9.66	16	4.98	47	14.64
20-30	46	14.33	52	16.20	98	30.53
31-45	26	8.10	19	5.92	45	14.02
46-59	7	2.18	8	2.49	15	4.67
60 and +	12	3.74	10	3.12	22	6.85
Total	175	54.52	146	45.48	321	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The above table 4 shows that the total population of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas of sixty-one households in Dhangadhi municipality, Manahera is 321. The table shows that there male population is 54.52 percent and female population is 45.48 percent. In the survey, large population falls in the age group among twenty to thirty, which is 30.53 percent of the total. The second large population is between ages of five to twelve, which is 21.18 percent. Similarly in age of thirteen to nineteen is 14.64 percent, in the age of thirty-one to forty-five are 14.2, in the age of zero to four are 8.10, in above sixty-one years is 6.85 percent and lowest population falls in the age group between forty-six to fifty-nine, which is 4.67 percent of the total.

The above table shows that the population belongs to age group of zero to twelve (29.28 percent), thirteen to nineteen (14.64) and sixty above (6.85), which is economically inactive. The table shows that majority of population belongs to twenty to thirty (30.53) and thirty-one to fifty-nine (18.69), which is economically somehow active. The population of different age groups, which is 50.78 percent, depends upon 49.22 percent of economically active population. The Freed Kamaiyas working age is counted from thirteen to fifty-nine. From the discussion and questionnaire, the Freed Kamaiyas is those females generally marry at the age of thirteen to eighteen. In indicates a possibility of high fertility. The member of family is in the average of 5.4.

5.2 Household Types

Family is one of the important units of social structure. There are two types of family in our society. The first is nuclear family, where there are parent and their children or it is a mall unit of family. The second is joint family; there are parents, uncles and aunts, married sons and their children living together. Nowadays joint type of family structure is being lost and converting to nuclear family. There are both types of family found in Tharu Freed Kamaiyas of Dhangadhi municipality, which is presented accordingly in the following table.

Table 5 : Types of Households / Families

Family Type	No. of HHs	Percentage
Nuclear	47	77.05
Joint	14	22.95
Total	61	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table shows that very high percent of Freed Tharu Kamaiya live in nuclear family. Only 22.95 percent family lives in joint family. After the emancipation of Kamaiyas, the government announced to give the land to Freed Kamaiyas HHs. The Freed Kamaiyas started converting into nuclear family so as to receive more and more land.

5.3 Level of Education

Education or literacy is the bulwark of the nation. It provides formal and informal knowledge. It also helps us to be socialized by learning. It leads us from darkness to brightness.

Before freedom, Tharu Kamaiyas lived in the house of landlord. Due to the debt, they were not free from landlord. Poverty forced most of the children of Freed Kamaiyas to start working at very early age to support themselves and their parent. Many children were unable to attend school because their parents could not afford the monthly fees, uniform, stationary and textbook cost. Therefore, the children were far from light of education. There was no school for Kamaiyas. But after freedom, many changed have come in the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. "Muktinath Lower Secondary School" has established for the Freed Kamaiyas in 2058 BS at Himmatpur⁴ ward no. 12 in Dhangadhi municipality.

⁴ The freed Kamaiyas are living in Himmatpur locality. There is a very interesting anecdote regarding the name of this area. The Kamaiyas people say that when the government made them free from a kind of bounded labor system, they started to live nearby the community forest. For that they had to deforestation there as they were homeless and were not cared by the government. The jungle was the community forest that's why they had to fight on the one side with the member of community forest and on the other side with the administration because of the illegal act of deforestation. In this critical situation, they did lots of struggles and finally they achieved that. Their efforts and struggles for that land inspired them to keep the name of the locality or place 'Himmatpur'. (CASE STUDY)

This school is made by the help of Building with Books (BWB) in the camp of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. This camp has been recognized as 'Manahera Camp'. There are only seven teachers and till the class eight or lower secondary level. The total students are 405 and 90 percent students are daily present in class or school as found in the school record. Now, they are interested to send their children to school.

In the field survey, the literacy status of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas indicates that illiteracy is in great number i.e. 50 percent. Only one student is found attending diploma level and five students are found attending higher secondary level.

23 children of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas i.e. 8.1 percent are in class six to eight. Figure shows the literacy status of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas of sixty-one households in the age of five to sixty. Under age five and above sixty are not literate. There is 32.7 percent population in the primary level, only 1.7 percent population each in the secondary and plus-two level. There is 5.2 percent population are found literate by formal and informal education.

Table 6 : Literacy Rate in Age Group (5-60 Yrs.)

Education	No. of Literate	Percentage
Illiterate	142	50.0
Literate	15	5.2
Primary	93	32.7
Lower Secondary	23	8.1
Secondary	5	1.7
10+2	5	1.7
Diploma	1	0.3
Total	284	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Note: Literate means formal and informal education or simple read and write.

They are poor people and lower secondary and secondary school is far from their inhabited area. It takes about half hour to reach school. Most of them are also ignorant about education. Many respondents are illiterate. Their level of income is very low therefore; they are forced to work from early age. Thus, they are unable to send their children to school.

Table 7 : Age (5-60) and Sex-wise Education Distribution

Age Group	Male	Female	Total M+F	Educated (%)	Total population
5 to 19	68	39	107	93.04	115
20-30	12	10	22	22.45	98
31-45	5	2	7	15.56	45
46-60	1	0	1	3.85	26
Total	86	51	137	48.24	284

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 7 shows the age and sex-wise educational status of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. Altogether 93.04 percent that is the number of 107 are literate out of total 115 population of the age in between five to nineteen. Similarly, 22.45 percent in age of twenty to thirty, 15.56 percent in age of thirty-one to forty-five and 3.85 percent in the age of forty-six to sixty are literate out of total age group. From the table, the condition of female is worse than male population. No educated female is found in age of above forty-six.

Poor economic condition and ignorance about education is main cause of illiteracy among the elder Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. Many females are illiterate due to early age marriage and household works. They are dominated by culture. Now, the ignorance is being lost. After freedom, one school is established and the government and other NGOs/INGOs to improve their educational status carry out informal education. Many children of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are going to school. The table shows that the most of the percent of population are literate in the age of five to nineteen.

Table 8 : Age, Sex and Educational Status of Respondents

Age Group	Male	Female	No. of Educated	Educated (%)	Total population
16-19	0	0	0	0.00	3
20-30	3	0	3	11.54	26
31-45	1	0	1	5.26	19
46-59	0	0	0	0.00	5
60 +	0	0	0	0.00	8
Total	4	0	4	16.80	61

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The literacy rate of respondent of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas is very low. Only 16.80 percent respondents are literate out of total sixty-one household. The table 8 shows that all the respondents are age of 16 and above. All literate respondents are from male group. Total 11.54 percent are literate in age of twenty-two to thirty and only 5.26 percent in age of thirty-one to forty-five. Nobody respondent found literate in age groups of sixteen to nineteen, forty-six to fifty-nine and 60 above.

Total 24 female respondents are found in field survey. Out of them twenty (83.33 percent) are laborer, three (12.5 percent) are retailer, and only one (4.17 percent) respondent is found school going student.

There was very difficult to get female respondents in the past because they worked in the house and were not free and frank with outsider. At present, total 24 (39.34 percent) female respondents are found out of 61 respondents in the field survey. This figure shows that the female participation has been increased gradually within the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas family.

5.4 Resettlement and Housing Pattern

Housing is a basic need of human being. It should be able to provide protection from rain, storm, and winter air. Before freedom, the Freed Kamaiyas had not their own houses and lands. They lived in 'Bukra' a kind of House, which was made by 'Kisan' or landlord for Kamaiyas. There was only one or two room without toilet facility and space for cooking. All houses were 'Kachha' which was made of mud and bamboo. Their settlement was in either a corner of land or uncultivated.

But after freedom, government announced to give the land certificate to Freed Kamaiyas so that they can be settled as of their wish.

After the Kamaiya system was abolished, there were different kinds of Kamaiyas. The government has given different kinds of identity card. The process was: Red identity cards are given who have not home and land. Similarly, blue identity cards, which are given to them who have small hut in public land. Yellow identity card is given to them who have two Katta and small shelter. White identity cards in given who has more than two Katta land is in a condition or better than other.

The resettlement process was done. At first, the identity card was given and then the process was centered to manage their facilities and to improve their socio-economic condition. However this process is not effective. Many Freed Kamaiyas are unsettled and some do not have identity card.

Table 9 : Number of Unidentified and Temporary Kamaiyas

Kamaiyas	No. of HHs
Unidentified	21
Temporary	60

Source: Field Survey, 2011

There are 21 HHs living in 'Ailani' land with one or two 'Katta' in Dhangadhi. They have no ID card and without facilities of Freed Kamaiyas. Their condition is more miserable than other resettled Freed Kamaiyas. Temporary 60 HHs live in old airport in Dhangadhi who are migrating from other places. They were provided land certificated by government but without plot and side of river, they could not live there. Other 68 Blue cards, 86 Red cards holding Freed Kamaiyas are also unsettled. According to data of Land Reform Office, Kailali unsettled Red card holding Freed Kamaiyas live as tenant and their relatives' houses. It indicated that the process of resettlement is not effectively implemented.

The settlement of Freed Kamaiyas in Dhangadhi Municipality is in side of the jungle and all houses are made of soil and roof of teen. There is neither piped drinking water nor electricity. The road is graveled and under their construction. They have to use kerosene for light. From field survey, it is found that the settlement of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas in registered and unregistered land.

Table 10 : Land Registration Status of Freed Kamaiyas

Land Registered	No. of HHs	Percentage (%)	Remark
In own name	56	91.80	
Not in own name	5	8.20	-

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 11 : Landholding Size of Freed Kamaiyas

Land	No. of HHs	Percentage (%)	Remark
Three Katta	23	37.70	
One or two Katta	38	62.30	Mortgage ⁵

Source: Field Survey, 2011

⁵ After their emancipation, the Kamaiyas have been living their own community and the tradition of drinking wine is still there in their society. In the process of field reporting, one day one Kamaiya quarreled and made another Kamaiya injured and he was admitted in the hospital. The Kamaiya had no money to cure the person that's why he had to mortgage the land for the money. It is not allowed to buy and transfer land up to ten years. According to the government rules he did it in their compromise and supports his treatment through that money. (Case Study)

The table 10 shows the landholding size of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. It shows that 23 households, which are around thirty-eight percent, have lived in registered land with three 'Katta'. Sixty-two percent have settled in land with one or two 'Katta'. But the government has given equal land to them. 62.30 percent households have kept in mortgage one or two 'Katta' land for money. The land holding size is very small. It isn't enough to live and to get food. It indicates the announcement to give the land certificate is not effectively implemented.

Table 12 : Condition of Indebtedness

Causes	No. of HHs
Livestock	0
Food Security	0
Marriage and Customs	0
Medical Care	4
Retail Shop	1
Other Things	56

Source: Field Survey, 2011

There is altogether 61 households are found that they again are trapped in indebtedness even after their liberation.

Table 13 : Housing Condition

Housing Condition	No. of HHs.	Percent (%)
Pakka	0	0
Kachcha	4	6.56
Dayaniya	57	93.44
Total	61	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The housing condition of Freed Tharu Kamaiya is in very miserable condition. The table 13 shows that nobody live in 'Pakka' house.

All houses are made by mud, bamboo and roof of teen and grass. Table shows that 6.56 percent houses are 'Kachcha' with two or three room without toilet and space for cooking facilities where as 93.44 percent houses are in 'Dayaniya' (Deplorable) or in a condition worse than 'Kachcha' without windows and ventilation to pass air, there is not sufficient space for all member of family. It shows that they have lived in very bad condition. It has shown that they are unable to live in simple life.

5.5 Level of Income

The Kamaiyas were bonded before 17 July, 2000. They received unjustified return provided by landlord. Normally, the landlords paid a fixed amount of food or land to them for their hard labor in cultivation, which was too little for Kamaiyas and his family to survive for one year. Agriculture was the main source of income and agricultural labor was the main occupational basis of survival for them. Some of them had goats and fowls, which they used to sell. They had to work almost whole day for landlord.

After freedom, they have not got except three 'Katta' land. They are facing problems to earn income occupying that land. They have only skill in agriculture but the land is not enough given by government. The following table gives their occupational structure.

Table 14 : Occupational Structures of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas

Occupation	No. of HHs.	Percent (%)
Agriculture labor	11	18.03
Rickshaw Pulling	10	16.39
Business	4	6.56
Others	36	59.02

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table shows that 18.03 percent Tharu Freed Kamaiyas work in the land. They have not enough land for easy living. Therefore they work for other's land to get income. 59.02 'Others' Kamaiyas have different type of other sources of wages; it seems that they have no any fixed occupation. They do any work for whatever they can get: wages labor while constructing buildings. Constructing roads, canals, gutter, carpenter and some time they also work in the field. Total 16.39 percent Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are rickshaw puller. They pull rickshaw in Dhangadhi market. Market is five kilometers far from settlement area of Freed Kamaiyas. Rickshaw is not their own. Some of the rickshaws are provided by BASE and FAYA Nepal and some are taken in rent. And 6.56 percent Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are involved in retail business. Their business is to repair cycle and rickshaw, small shops, and to serve in hotels of tea and breakfast. But Tharu Freed Kamaiyas do not get daily work. From the questionnaire, they work above eight hour in a day and monthly working day is twenty-two in average.

Table 15 : Number of Domestic Child Labor

⁶ Domestic child labor out of 61 HHS (Age group 7 to 14 total children)	No. of children	Percent (%)
64	1	1.56

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table shows that about 1.56 percent or only one child of sixty-one households of the age group between from seven to fourteen working as domestic labor under the basic salary. Poor economic condition is main cause of domestic labor.

⁶It is really difficult to find out the exact data of child labor's to work in the house of others from the Kamaiyas family because they tried to keep that matter secret. Kamaiyas families are still sending their children in some city areas get chance to read and write that they could earn some money. But BASE, one non-government organization is trying to prevent the children of Kamaiyas by doing so. The organization is supporting the kids of Kamaiyas by sending them school and providing them some good opportunities. Once, the people of this organization brought back one of the children from the Bhimduttanagar Municipality and kept him in his own house. They made aware to the family that they will never repeat this act again. That's why Kamaiyas are keeping this matter very secret and it is really difficult to bring out the real data of the children who work in the others houses. If it is informed to BASE, the action will be taken by that organization. (CASE STUDY)

The wages pattern of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas; the maximum per day wage is rupees three hundred. The minimum wage rate found in 'agriculture' wage labor which is rupees one hundred-fifty and 'skilled' wage labors wage rate is rupees three hundred to five hundred. The wage rate of rickshaw puller is also two hundred and above.

It is found that the local peoples are discriminates between male and female labor. They bargains to provide daily wages rupees hundred to hundred-ten instead of rupees one hundred-fifty to female wage labor.

Tharu Freed Kamaiyas can bargain from minimum wage only harvesting and plantation. At this time, they receive above the minimum wage, in other seasons they have to compromise, sometime even taking Rs. 100 because there are limited jobs available. Due to the lack of stability in jobs nature, the issues minimum wage is not raised effectively. The wage labor is main occupation of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.

The table 16 shows that the monthly income level of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas is as under:

Table 16 : Level of Monthly Income of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas

Daily Income	Monthly Average Working Days	Monthly Income	No. of HHs	Percent (%)
150	22	3300	1	1.64
200	22	4400	26	42.62
250	22	5500	12	19.67
300	22	6600	22	36.07

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Note: It is difficult to find the clear information about income from land, value of settled house and livestock, therefore in income level, involved money wage receive countable money from work only.

Above table 16 indicates that the monthly income of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas is less than Rs. 3300 to Rs. 6600. Table shows that 1.64 percent households of Freed Kamaiyas are surviving in less than Rs. 3300. These houses are up to Rs. 4400 that is 42.62 percent of the total. They are also in poor condition. 19.67 percent are in Rs. 5500. Likewise, 36.07 percent HHs income is between Rs. 6600 but these types of households are joint family or large group member. All Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are near the poverty line whose daily earning is around two dollars⁷. All respondents said that the income is not sufficient for living to them.

Table 17 : Livestock Status of Freed Kamaiyas

No of HHs	Ox	Cow	Goat	Chicken	Pig
7					1
1		1		6	1
1		1	5		
3			1		
2			1		1
1			1		2
1				2	1
1				4	1
1			2		3
1				2	
5	2				
1				2	
1	2	1			
1	2		2		
1	2		2		1
1					2
1				5	2
1				4	2
1			3		
1				3	
1				4	
1		1			6
26	0	0	0	0	0
61	8	4	17	32	23

Source: Field Survey, 2011

⁷ World Bank (2005), it is stated that the absolute poverty is defined as earnings below two dollars a day in World Development Index Report 2005.

The table 17 shows that nineteen families, which are 31.15 percent of the total, found having only pig, eleven families (18.03 percent) are found having goat, nine families (14.75) are found having chicken, eight families (13.15 percent) are found having oxen.

The above table indicates that twenty-six households, which are 42.62 percent of the total, do not have any kind of livestock. The poverty of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas is not reflected only in landlessness. They are also poor in terms of livestock holding.

Most of the households are having oxen, cow, goat and pig reported that they bought these cattle by taking loan or expenditure amount provided by government to build house. Oxen have been used in tilling land and pulling cart. The earning from livestock selling is negligible among Tharu Freed Kamaiyas. Many chickens are used in worship of God; eating in fasting and rest are sold. Similarly, cows are meant for milk, pigs and goats for eating meat. They are dominated by tradition and cultures. Other families whose have not chicken for worshipping God, they buy chicken. It is necessary to sacrifice chickens to worship God.

5.6 Training and Skills of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas

Though they had good skill in agriculture, they did not have good skill in other fields for their livelihood. They had not received any training in past time. They lived and worked in others' land and received insufficient food. After freedom, they became homeless and workless. Government, NGOs and INGOs are conduction many efforts to solve the problem of livelihood. Some training is provided for earning income. The table below shows the trained population of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.

Table 18 : Trained population of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas

S. N.	Types of Training	Male	Female	Institution
1	Early Childhood Development, Mushroom Farming	0	3	District Education Office, Land Reform Office
2	Cycle Repairing	5	5	Unit Nepal (NGO) Land Reform Office
3	Hair Cutting	2	2	Land Reform Office
4	Juice Making, Electricity Wiring	1	1	Land Reform Office, Electricity Authority
5	Kitchen Gardening	1	1	Kamaiya Society
6	Marvel Fitting	3	3	Land Reform Office Electricity Authority
7	Pig Raising	0	1	Kamaiya Society
8	Cutting & Stitching	1	7	Elam Plus (NGO) Land Reform Office
9	Tapari Making	0	3	Land Reform Office

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 17 shows that skill development training is given by Land Reform Office, Electricity Authority, District Education Office, Kamaiya Society and some local non-government organizations (NGOs). Total 39 (13 male and 26 female) Tharu Freed Kamaiyas have got training and nobody has obtained employment. The above table indicates that twenty-six female participants, which are sixty-seven percent of the totals, have participated different types of skill development training. Other Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are involved in agriculture and other wage labor. They have small land holding size for vegetable cultivation. Sanitation is inevitable for our health but nobody has got health and sanitation related trainings.

5.7 Condition of Health

Man's health is always affected by many factors such as water, population, poor sanitation condition, food insecurity, as well as socio-economic condition. Healthy person must be physically fit, mentally alert and socially adaptable help to maintain the quality of life in the society. For the good health, enough income of the family, nutritious food security and sanitation are essential things. A healthy body enables children to cope with studies and other activities and adults with work and pressures of life.

Before freedom, they did not have sufficient food and cloths. Due to lack of nutritious food, many types of diseases often attached them. And now a day the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas again have been getting same problems. Most of the Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are reported that the production of their land and wage is not sufficient for them. After the emancipation, the government started to give the land but that land is not sufficient. The table below shows that the level of food security among Tharu Freed Kamaiyas from their land.

Table 19 : Food Security Period

Food Sufficiency Months	No. of HHs.	Percent (%)
Less than three	61	100
Three to six	0	0
Above six	0	0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The production form their land is not adequate for more than three months. Altogether or hundred percent HHs is able to feed their family for less than three month from the production of the land. It clearly indicates that size of the land plot given by government is not sufficient. Inadequate production of the land and low level of wages makes them to takes loan forcedly.

Table 20 : Availability of Toilet Facility

Toilet Availability	No. of HHs	Percent (%)
No Toilet	3	4.92
Temporary Toilet	58	95.08
Total	61	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

From the questionnaire, fifty-eight households (95.08 percent) have toilet and three households (4.92 percent) haven't toilet. Those who have not toilet, they use bushes in the jungle and land or open near houses for the toilet. It is the cause of air and water pollution. All toilets are bad condition. Hand pumps are being used for the drinking water. That water is not purified water, most of the members are not aware about the sources of transferable diseases.

Sanitation is most important for healthy life. During the field observation, many children are found bare footed, careless to wash their limbs before eating meals and are not regular in brushing their teeth. They are not well trained in management of garbage and filths. They wear dirty cloths and do not wash their cloths even for two or three weeks.

The resettlement of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas is in side of jungle. There is under construction graveled road. The zone hospital is far and about five kilometers away. Their housing condition is bad. That's why; many chances of attacking mosquito are found. Due to lack of good toilet and toilet facilities, of safe drinking water supply, of food security, as well as of the adequate cloth and healthy condition of houses, they are being affected by diseased usually carried by mosquitoes and flies.

CHAPTER VI

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Findings

Nepal is a landlocked and an agricultural country. Nepalese society is diverse and heterogeneous. Many caste live in Nepal, among them Tharu caste is one. Tharus caste is one of the most exploited, under privileged and backward ethnic groups of Nepal. Largest numbers of Tharus are concerned in the mid and far-western development region, particularly in the district of Dang, Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Kanchanpur. They are hardworking people and their immense contribution is in agriculture. Physically and especially in facial feature, the Tharu looks like they stem from Mongolic stock. The language has been greatly influenced by various north Indian languages found nearby: Urdu, Hindi, Bhojpuri, Maithili and Bengali. Most of the Tharus were uneducated and innocent with taking the benefit of their innocence; clever people made them bounded labor or Kamaiya.

Kamaiya system started in terai region after the eradication of malaria. A Kamaiya is a person who has worked in others' land with contract of; a fixed amount of food, land, cash or other goods to be paid to the Kamaiya by the employer or master. They worked until that time when debt wasn't paid. They lived in others' house. Because of Kamaiya System, their condition was worsening. After the many efforts of movement, the Kamaiya system has been abolished on 17 July 2000 by the government. But after freedom, they became homeless, landless, and workless. Their socio-economic condition is not improved.

This study was conducted in Dhangadhi Municipality Ward No. 12, Himmatpur of Kailali district. A total of 273 HHs were resettled by the government in survey area who has not a house and land. Sixty-one samples HHs were taken for the research from the simple random sampling method in the resettlement area.

The main objective was: to find out the education, income, resettlement, and health condition. The data for the present study were collected through the both primary and secondary. The primary data were collected through the use of interview schedule, observation, discussion and some fact and information were collected. The secondary data were from published and unpublished theses, books, journals, reports, and newspapers.

The age and sex-wise population distribution of sixty-one sample HHs of Tharu Freed Kamaiya in Dhangadhi municipality is 321. The Male population is 54.52 percent and female population is 45.48 percent. The average size of households is 5.4. Majority of population belongs to age group of zero to twelve and minority of population of age sixty-one to above which is economically inactive population. Working age of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas in counted from thirteen to fifty-nine. The high percent (91.67) of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas live in nuclear family.

It is found that the literacy rate of these Freed Kamaiyas is very low i.e. 57.6 percent, only one student is found attending secondary level. Almost all the respondents are found illiterate and all are from male population. The educational condition of female is found poor than male. All respondents are from age 22 and above. The settlement of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas in Dhangadhi municipality is side of the jungle and all houses are made of soil or bricks and roof of teen or grass. Every family have gotten three 'Katta' land from government but 51 HHs are utilizing three 'Katta' land and other 15 HHs have kept in mortgage one or two 'Katta' land for money. Total 31.67 percent houses are found in deplorable condition. They are unable to live easily in their own home. Due to the small land holding size and lack of opportunity in earning income again they are trapping in indebtedness. Three 'Katta' land is not enough for them. Total 18.03 percent Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are working in others' land in the form of wage labor. Total 59.02 percent Tharu Freed Kamaiyas do any work whatever they can or get: like wage labor while constructing building, constructing roads, cannel, gutter, and carpenter. Total 16.39 percent are rickshaw puller. Only 6.56 percent are involved in business sector.

The minimum wage is Rs. 150 and maximum Rs. 300. Working hour in a day is eight hour. Total 44.26 percent HHs are surviving in less than Rs. 4400 in monthly income. All Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are under the poverty line whose daily income is just about two dollar. The income from livestock selling is negligible. Total 39 people have got training but nobody have utilized. Total 1.56 percent children are working as domestic labor under the salary basis aged from seven to fourteen. The poor economic condition is main cause of domestic child labor.

The production from their land and income from wage isn't sufficient for them. The health and sanitation isn't found satisfactory. The level of food production from their land is not adequate more than three months. Total 4.92 percent HHs have not toilet. The water is not purified. Many children are found bare footed, careless to wash their teeth and with dirty cloths. They are not aware about the sources of communicable disease.

The socio-economic condition of Tharu Freed Kamaiya is poor. Illiteracy rate is high due to poor economic condition and ignorance about education. Low level of income, insufficient land holding size, lack of good skill except agriculture and other opportunities in earning income are main causes of poor economic condition. Lack of trade union, instability nature of job and seasonal unemployment are the causes of the low level of income.

Due to lack of good toilet and toilet facilities, of safe drinking water supply, of food security as well as of adequate cloth and healthy condition of houses, they are being affected by many kind of disease usually carried by mosquito and flies. Thus the socio-economic condition is not satisfactory.

For the economic improvement of Tharu Freed Kamaiya HHs, additional policy options must be formulated and implemented. In this regard, the present study provides following recommendations.

6.2 Recommendations

- 6.2.1 There are some unidentified households and most of the households live in temporary land or they are unsettled. The action should be taken to identify the real Freed Kamaiyas and the identity card, land and other facilities should be provided to the unidentified Kamaiyas, and unsettled Freed Kamaiyas should be settled.
- 6.2.2 The land holding size is very small. The production from their 3 'Katta' land is not adequate for more than three months; it should be increased up to minimum 10 'Katta'.
- 6.2.3 The minimum day wage rate fixed Rs. 150 in Kailali district but minimum wage rate found Rs. 110 a day to female wage labor. Almost Tharu Freed Kamaiyas are under the absolute poverty line whose daily earning is less than two dollars. All respondent said that the income is not sufficient for living, it should be increased more than daily two dollars, and condition of salary basis should be checked.
- 6.2.4 Many Tharu Freed Kamaiyas have been employed as agriculture and construction labor; they should be encouraged to be unionized in the trade union, so that the individual labor would be safe from exploitation of employer.
- 6.2.5 Purified water, food health programs should be given to cover immediate needs.
- 6.2.6 The children should be given the opportunity to get quality education and informal education for adult. The training, in different practical fields given to Tharu Freed Kamaiyas is insufficient and even if they are trained, due to the lack of opportunity, they remain jobless. Thus they should be trained and given provided with loans with lower interest so that they can run their own business and become independent economically.

- 6.2.7 Husbandry training should be given to them so that they can earn more income to support their families.
- 6.2.8 The Tharu Freed Kamaiya also must be united and organized in order to move forward. They must internalize and accommodate the positive help given and efforts made by others. That will be important for the achievement of social solidarity. There is a need for one committee of the Tharu CA members to benefits Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.
- 6.2.9 The special legislative protection should be given to Tharu Freed Kamaiyas against any criminal offences towards them, as a form of positive discriminations.
- 6.2.10 Despite the efforts of various NGOs, INGOs, political parties and the government as well, Tharu Freed Kamaiya people have not been able to raise their livelihood. Therefore, it is recommended that they should have right to the natural resources, economic developments and also right to land to be included in the new constitution.

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APPENDIX I

THE STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THARU FREED KAMAIYA

A Case study of Dhangadhi Municipality,
Kailali District, Nepal

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSE HOLD SURVEY

Questionnaire No:

Date:

1. Personal Details:

(i) Name of Respondent:.....

(ii) Age:..... (iii) Sex: (iv) Address:

(v) Family Type: Nuclear Joint (vi) Occupation:

(vii) Per day working hour is (viii) Monthly working days are

2. Family Details:

1. Details of family members:

Sr.#	Name	Sex	Age	Educational Qualification	Profession	Marital Status

2. How much is your landholding size? Katta: Dhur:

3. How much is your own utilized land? Katta: Dhur:

4. How many months do your food security long from your land?

Less than 3 months 3 to 6 Months 6 Month and above

5. Did you get LALPURJA of your own utilized land? Yes No

6. What are the sources of income in your family?

<u>Sources:</u>	<u>Per day income in Rs:</u>
(i)
(ii)
(iii)
(iv)

7. Is your family income enough to manage your livelihood? Yes No

8. If not, how to manage?

Debt Other

9. What are the causes of debt?

To buy livestock Health Children's Education Other

.....

10. Do you have livestock?

<u>Name:</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>No.</u>
(1)	(4)
(2).....	(5).....
(3).....	(6).....

11. How many members of your family are in domestic child labor?

a. No. of Children: Boy: Girl:

12. Reason of school dropout, if school not going.

.....

13. Where are you sending your children for reading?

.....

14. Where are you going for health check-up or treatment?

.....

15. Housing Condition is: Pakka Kachha Deplorable

16. Do you have toilet? Yes No Condition is: Pakka Kachha

17. How do you use the drinking water?

Pipe Well Hand Pump Other

18. How many members have taken the skill development training in your family?

No. of Person	Type of Training	Provider Institution	Obtained any Job
Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

19. If not received, what types of trainings you feel essential?

20. Did you get any support from Govt. or local organizations yet? What kind of support did your family got?

APPENDIX II

THE STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THARU FREED KAMAIYA

A Case study of Dhangadhi Municipality,
Kailali District, Nepal

TOPIC GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD)

6 Introduction/Warm-up

(Spend 5-10 minutes for warming-up the group. Putting them at ease)

1.1. Moderator's Opening:

Describe what a focus group is: an opportunity to get together and discuss your thoughts and feelings about some particular topics.

- Explain the purpose of the group: we will be discussing on some aspects of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas.
- Assure the group that this session is only for research purpose and all comments will be kept confidential and used for research purpose only.
- Explain that it is an opportunity to share ideas, it is not a test, and therefore there is no right or wrong answer. All comments are valuable- both negative and positive.
- Create trust and security among the participants- we are like brothers and sisters.

1.2. Warm-up:

- Introduce yourself (researcher)
- Ask the participants to introduce themselves (collect basic demographic and other information of the participants name, age, cast, education, occupation, home address etc).

7 Discussion:

- In your opinion who are the Freed Kamaiyas?
- From when how many families of Freed Kamaiyas are staying in this area?

- What kind of supports or benefits did you get from the Govt. or other organizations? (e.g. – land, or support for building construction, employment, drinking water, school, health facilities etc.)
- What are you doing for livelihood?
- Do you think the Govt. or local organizations have generated employment opportunities in your camp? If yes, how and for whom?
- Has there significant changes in food quality, quantity, housing, clothing, health and education after resettlement in this camp?
- Where are you going for health check up or treatment?
- Where are you sending your child for reading?
- Where are you complaining your problems or demands?
- Have you associated with any presser group or network to address your issues or problems?
- Is there any organizations working for issues of Freed Kamaiyas? If yes, mentioned organization's name and its activities?
- Is there any support provided by Government to Freed Kamaiyas? If yes, what kind of support provided?
- What are the main issues or problems of the Tharus Freed Kamaiyas?
- Is there any role of local government institutions and NGOs/CBOs regarding welfare of Freed Kamaiyas?
- Have you participated in any capacity enhancement training? If yes, in what kind of training and by whom?
- What kind of training you preferred for capacity enhancement of Freed Kamaiyas?

APPENDIX III

THE STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THARU FREED KAMAIYA

A Case study of Dhangadhi Municipality,
Kailali District, Nepal

KEY INFORMANTS INTERVIEW (KII) GUIDE

1. Introduction/Warm-up

- Name of respondent:
- Designation:
- Address/Institution:
- Age: Education:

2. Discussion:

- 2.1. How do you define 'Freed Kamaiya'? Is there any controversy in its definition? If yes how?
- 2.2. Is there any organizations working for issues of Freed Kamaiyas? If yes, mentioned organization's name and its activities?
- 2.3. Is there any support provided by the Government to welfare of Freed Kamaiyas? If yes, what kind of support provided?
- 2.4. What is the relation between previous Landowner and Freed Kamaiyas?
- 2.5. What are the main issues or problems of the Tharus Freed Kamaiyas?
- 2.6. Is there any role of local government institutions and NGOs/CBOs regarding welfare of Freed Kamaiyas?

APPENDIX IV

THE STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THARU FREED KAMAIYA

A Case study of Dhangadhi Municipality,
Kailali District, Nepal

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SURVEY AREA



Photo 1 : Mass meeting of Tharu Freed Kamaiyas



Photo 2 : Tharu Freed Kamaiya Family using Hand Pump



Photo 3 : Freed Kamaiya Children Doing their Home Work



Photo 4 : Freed Kamaya Lady Making Dhakiya (Basket)



Photo 5 : Smiling of freedom and hopeful for bright future...