

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Constitutionally, Nepal has been accepted as multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-racial, democratic and independent country. Nepali society presents a composite picture of national cultures representing all three geographical regions. Social structure of Nepal is very complex, which has been highlighted by various foreign and Nepalese scholars in their writings. Unity in diversity is the major characteristic of Nepalese national culture. To explain its diversity, Professor Tony Hagen has rightly said that the Nepal is one of the ethnic turntables of Asia. The way of life, costume, language, socio-economic and cultural identities of the people are apparently different followed by geographical variation. Therefore, each group of people has their own identities, own cultural practices and other numerous unique characteristics including occupations.

Nepal is one of the least developed countries with high dependency on agriculture sector. Due to the use of traditional technology, agriculture sector is very backward and the growth rate is below average. To increase the pace of growth rate, modernization of agricultural sector is very important. So the establishment and upliftment of cottage and agriculture allied industries are very important.

The art of Pottery has had a very close relationship with the mankind from the very early civilization. Clay was one of the earliest materials used by the man. It is used in various forms since the beginning of human history and its importance is great even today. As available in plenty of quality and moldable in shape, clay has been used largely throughout the world from generations.

What may be origin of Pottery or say the period of invention of Pottery, but there is an interesting thing about the origin of Pottery that in every civilization, of which we have any record of the religious beliefs, human puts the credit to the god. It may be due to that many Potteries might have been cracked or damaged during firing because of their ignorance of ingredients to be added with the clay and appropriate heat needed to fire the Pottery. Since

they had no any idea of the phenomenon, they simply put the responsibility to the super natural power. So there are many rituals and customs we see in the Potters' community observing to pay homage to the super power (God). In India too, it is believed that Brahma (the creator of all living beings according to Hindu mythology) created man out of clay as a Potter creates so many things out of clay. Hence the name Prajapati was given to Potter in India. That's why the Potter or Kumhale or called even Kumale in local term are often called Prajapati in many Potters' communities in India (Singh, 1979). In Nepal too the Potters belonging to the Newar caste group are called Prajapati.

The art of Pottery is very old in Nepal. From the pre-historic studies, it is found that Nepal valley (Kathmandu valley) was a large lake. Manjushree (a Buddhist monk) made an outlet to flow the water in to outside and established Kantipur city. The history of Pottery is considered as old as history of the Kathmandu valley. There were many potsherds unearthed during excavation in different places in the valley, which supported the idea to be true. During an excavation at Handigaon in Kathmandu from 1984 to 1989 AD many such things have been found which support the idea that Nepal was familiar with the art of ceramics and art of Pottery a long ago. At Handigaon a burnt brick wall enclosure with potholes has been unearthed which is dated to 200 BC to 250 AD. This indicates that the Potters of Nepal were familiar with the art of brick making even about two thousands years ago.

There are lots of temples made of bricks, statues and other things still today to convey the development of Pottery in Nepal from very early time. The bricks and statues of Chatur Maharaja made of terra-cotta in the famous Mahabouddha temple shows the talent of Nepali arts in terra-cotta. It is supposed to be more than hundred years old. There are so many *Ankhihyals* (Pigeon window, called Windowket also) seen in the houses of the Potters in Bhaktapur. Those artistic clay products are supposed to be two hundred to four hundred years old. This implies that art of Pottery is also one of the main elements of our rich and prosperous cultural heritage. Potters are the preserver and carrier of the culture of Pottery. Though there are many Potters belonging to different caste group and residing in the different parts of kingdom, the Tharus of inner Terai and the Newars of Kathmandu valley are very famous for their art in Pottery making.

The Newars though is a caste group of entire Nepali society; it is injustice to describe them only as a caste group. The Newars are the old inhabitants of the Kathmandu valley. They have been living in the valley since the prehistoric time (Heimendorf, cited in Bista, 1987). Unlike in other caste groups the Newars are further divided into many sub-caste groups and are assigned typical occupations which are more or less still found to be followed. In the urban and educated societies, however they may be followed strictly adopting one's own traditional hereditary occupation. For example, the *Napits* are for barbering, the *Kapalis* for gardening, the *Sayamis* are the oil extractors, the *Puns* are the painters and the *Kumas* are the Potters.

The Kuma are the Potters' class in the Newar caste group. The Kuma or the Potters are given surname Prajapati. Most of the people in the Potters' class call themselves Prajapati; however a few may be found having their surname *Kuma* or *Kumale* too. The Prajapatis make clay products as their traditional occupation.

In the modern societies, however all the Prajapatis are not necessarily the Potters. Culture is determined by the relation of environment and technology. Environment and technology are the major factor for the change of society, culture and occupations. Economic activities, population structure, social organization, marriage and kinship system, occupation history and so many other social activities are continue changing in the time process on the basis of modernization and environment. Occupation is major strategy of people to adopt in the society. Traditionally, each and every caste and ethnic group have their own specific occupation for the betterment of human life. Classification of people on the basis of occupation has become illegal that is why most people had left their occupation and followed alternatively strategies for surviving which has more benefits than the old one.

Even today, Nepal's ceramic work has been eclipsed by products from India and China, both of which can mass-produce more durable stoneware. Kathmandu Valley potters have until now been limited to the brittle red terracotta clay locally available and found under the topsoil of rice fields. But members of the collective are developing ways to introduce stoneware clay to pottery workshops here.

Prajapatis are also one of the typical occupational caste groups, which are also changed from their ancient structure as the way of time. The Prajapatis are mainly found in the Kathmandu valley. The main dwelling places of the Prajapatis in the valley are Sankhu in Kathmandu district, *Lubhu* in Lalitpur district and Thimi, *Bolanchhe*, *Toulanchhe*, and *Choulanchhe* in Bhaktapur district. Among them, Madhyapur Thimi municipality of Bhaktapur district is very famous for Pottery making. The selected study area, Chapachon (Ward no. 8 and 10 of Municipality) is one of the highest Potters dwelling area in the Madhyapur Thimi Municipality. There are still about one hundred and fifty families of the Potters having adopting Pottery as their inherited occupation.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Some Potters produce heavy and bulky earthenware vessels especially red or brown in color with a taste of rustic simplicity and easy portability. In ancient times, the market of Pottery was rural areas and even at present the market has not so expanded, nor there any significant change in technology and traditional patterns. Moreover, the art are not so much enterprising and the finishing is also not good. They are reluctant to introduce new techniques because they do not want to take risk of new patterns.

In spite of the popularity and the supplies of domestic utensils and tourist oriented goods, the Potters of Thimi are hard hit, for they are no more prized for their labor and effort. The Potters of Chapachon though live in the valley and in spite of being rich in art, culture, traditions, rituals, are completely isolated, i.e. their exposure and cultural contact with other communities is comparatively low. They are not recognized even in their territory.

The Potters are one of the occupational caste groups of the Newar caste culture. In spite of belonging to Newars, they are not in position that the average Newars are entertaining in the society. They are culturally rich and servicing the society and the economy even though in small scale from generations through their occupation. They are considered as the bottom level Newars. Division of labor in the Newar caste structure is so scientific and amazing that many scholars from Nepal and foreign nationals have been made several studies on them. But, Potter though belongs to Newar themselves are undermine in such studies.

In spite of the inflationary spiral in price level, the position of Potters has not changed much. This shows that Pottery making is not a lucrative job. They are sticking to this old job just because of their traditional occupation. Besides, they have no immediate alternative job which gives them high profit. The Potters hold an important role in preserving and flourishing Nepali art and culture. They not only make Potteries of various domestic purposes but do produce various types of decorative articles viz. toys, masks, statues, candle etc which resembles traditional Nepali handicrafts and cultures. They have to undergo bottleneck competition with modern utensils in the market.

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to trace out the challenges related to pottery products. The specific objectives are:

- ) To find out the role of Pottery in the economy of Potters
- ) To assess the marketing problems of Pottery products
- ) To find out the problems of potters regarding pottery occupation and thereby to suggest recommendations for improvements

### **1.4. Significance of the Study**

Although there are many small and cottage industry in Nepal, Pottery making is one of the prominent industries in Kathmandu valley. Bhaktapur district is very specialized in Pottery making. They are engaged in this job from generations as an integral part of their culture. They are creating self employment for them and in other hand serving the nation by preserving the culture of the country.

In developing countries like Nepal, the pre-requisite for development is protection and development of existing skills of the country. So it is also a moral duty of state and citizens to act toward the conservation of these Potters. The Potters of this study area are decreasing and those engaged in this occupation, which is strongly mingled with their culture and traditions, are not satisfied. New generations are not positive toward this occupation. They have to face lots of problems regarding their occupation, such as with the raw materials, unhealthy competition with the modern utensils made up of plastic and metals, low profit etc. It is

assumed that the lack of systematic market and trainings are also a significant problem that have led Potters into a declining economic status and has forced many Potters to divert themselves from their traditional hereditary occupation.

### **1.5. Limitations of the Study**

Every social science research is not beyond the limitations and it is not the exception of that. This study was conducted at Chapachon of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur district, so the findings of the study may not be generalized in the exact condition of other occupational caste in the other area of the country.

The other limitations are as follows:

- ) Simple statistical tools such as ratio, percentage will be used to analyze the data obtained.
- ) Resource constraints may affect to generalize the conclusion.

### **1.6. Organization of the Study**

This study has been organized into six chapters.

Chapter one deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter two deals with the literature reviews which consists conceptual review, review of literatures available internationally, review of journals and articles and review of thesis.

Chapter three consists the research methodology including rationale of the selection of the study area, research design, nature and sources of data, sampling procedure, techniques of data collection and presentation and analysis of data.

Chapter four presents profile of the study area and socio-economic and demographic status of respondents of the study area. This chapter also discusses caste/ethnic composition, age and sex structure, educational attainment, land size, annual income.

Chapter five presents the summary, conclusions and suggestions of the study.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1. Conceptual Review

There is no formal record of history of Pottery in Nepal. However, we find the history of Nepalese Pottery divided as:

- a. Ancient period: In this period, no substitute of vessel and comparatively soil vessel production was flourished.
- b. Medieval period: In this period metallic vessels were made but the importance of soil vessels was not decreased. This period was from 9<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. This was Malla period.
- c. Rana period: This period was not good for Pottery industry. Ranas started to import foreign good and many cottage industries were left. This period was 1846 to 1950.
- d. Present period: (1951 up to now) this is shiny period of cottage industries. No more was done for people up to 1982. After 1982, various measures are taken to develop Pottery industry and few institutions are also active in this field.

The word “Prajapati” is composed of two words, *Praja* and *Pati* meaning respectively people and lord. So in this way, Prajapati literally means the land of the people but the Prajapatis don’t have concepts of their surname associated with Lord Brahma and Bishwokarma (the creators of all living beings and that of all the non-living things respectively according to the Hindu Mythology). It is said that Lord Brahma created all the living beings out of clay and lord Bishwokarma created all the necessary things for the living beings out of clay. So Brahma and Bishwokarma are called Prajapati. Hence, one of the Potters is given surname Prajapati and later they accepted their surname Prajapati. Even to date there are many Potters communities in India who call themselves Prajapati (Singh, 1979).

But surprisingly the Potters belonging to the Tharu caste groups of the inner Terai and other Potters group too in Nepal do not call them Prajapati. What ever other caste may call themselves but the Tharu Potters should have their surname Prajapati because they are comparatively in close contact with the Indians due to geographical nearness as they live in the southern Terai and the Tharus have lot of cultural similarities with the Indians.

In Nepal, too the Potters belonging to the Newar caste group are surnamed as Prajapati. For the reason the Potters of Nepal are supposed to have relationship with the Potters of India. The hypothesis has sufficient points to proven it. The Newars are also supposed to have migrated from India long time ago. They are even linked to the Nayars of south India (Nepali, 1965).

There is a controversy about the period of divisions of the Newar caste group into various sub-caste groups. Some scholars believe that the Newars were divided into Sixty-four sub-caste groups including the Prajapati in the reign of King Jayasthiti Malla in Nepal Sambat 515. But, many scholars are of the opinion that the caste system was privileged in Nepal even before king Jayasthiti Malla. So, Jayasthiti Malla is responsible only for codifying them upon systematic manner, which was greatly influenced by the high caste Hindu system of then India. In Bhasa Vamshavali, part II, Pandit (Pandit, 2023 BS) writes, in the reign of king Jayasthiti Malla the Potters were assigned to make earthen pots and sell them paying tax to the government.

At the time when Newars immigrated to the valley is even immemorial to the Newars themselves. The Newars are supposed to have been settled in the valley since the pre-historic time. There have been found many evidences to support the fact also. As the Prajapatis belong to the Newar themselves, they are also supposed to be in existence in the valley since the pre-historic time. Some of the scholars have the concept that the Potters were migrated from India as the Potters as they were there. But many of them are against it. According to them, the Potters were certainly migrated from India, but they were not classified as Potters when they approached to valley. A great historian late Babu Ram Acharya (cited by Manandhar) opines that the Potters of valley have migrated to the valley from the Terai in order to make cooking vessels. Since then, they have inhabited in Bhaktapur making Potteries for their livelihood. But Dr. Chudamani Bandlua (cited in Manandhar) denies him with the antagonistic view that the Newar Potters of the valley are totally different from the Tharu Potters of the Terai in all aspects. He argues, if both (Newar and Tharu) Potters had been from the same origins at least they should have had dialects, which does not resemble that of the Tharu language in any respect. Newari language comes under *Tibeto-Burman* family while that of Tharu relates with *Indo-European* family.



Regmi in his book 'Ancient Nepal and Medieval Nepal' has classified the Potters into two types namely the *Dha-dampu Kumha and Hakumila Prajapati* (Regmi, cited in Sakha). But the classification of the Potters in the above mentioned two groups are not defined in his book. The Potters are classified in the basis of their specialty in Pottery making. For instance, Potters making black vessels are termed *Hakuja Kumha* and red vessel making Potters are termed *Hyanjya Kumha*. The Potters may also be classified into two categories-the early settlers and the newcomers on the basis of their origin. The Potters who are supposed to come from Simaraunagarh with the followers of Taleju Bhawani are supposed to be the newcomers.

From the period of Prithvi Narayan Shah, or mostly after the period of Jaysthiti Malla, the Potters have been perceived as the lower caste people among the Newars in the valley. Moreover, the Potters of Pottery square Bhaktapur are dominated than of other than where in Bhaktapur are. As these Potters production are generally black in colours, they are called black Potters (Haku Kumah) in local language. All the sub-division of Jyapoo intermarries and interdines with one another, subject to earlier remarks in respect of the Bhadgaon Jyapoos. Further, it may be noted that on enquiry several Jyapoos of Bhaktapur that they do not intermarry or interdines with the Kumahal (Potters section which make black earthen wares and are regarded as inferior), whereas the Potters section which makes red earthenware are not regarded as inferior (Sapkota , 1998).

As the Newars may be a Hindu or Buddhist or even both, the Prajapatis too may be followers of Hinduism or Buddhism or both. Some Prajapatis call themselves Hindu and some Buddhist and many of them are even failing to identify their religion because they are commonly adopting both religious cultures and practices. Though the Potters are classified into many sub-groups on the basis of their variations in works, their origin, and even for no reasons, there is absence of caste hierarchy among them. All the Prajapatis are accepted for nuptial relationship and other religious and ceremonial purposes as well. Being the absence of caste hierarchy, all the Prajapatis enjoy equal societal status in the Potter community.

## **2.2. Review of Literatures Available Internationally:**

The first fired Pottery dates on 6500 BC and is linked with early horticulture and agriculture. By that time the Sumerians in the Eupharates Valley had made pots and other objects of Sun baked clay. Egyptian Pottery began from 4500-2457 BC which consisted of bottles and bowels, with well-developed glazing techniques and ovens. Greek Pottery advanced from the Neolithic period and was found at Cnossus. The Egyptian Pottery was carried by the Phoenician merchants. The Athenian vase was the major piece of Greek Pottery. Plants and animals figures are found in early vases from 2500-600 BC and legendary subjects are on the black figured vases of 600-500BC. The red figured vases of 480-450 are commonly regarded as representing the best. The Romans are also famous for Pottery making. Chinese Pottery has been called the worlds best (Dictionary of Anthropology, cited by Regmi).

The culture of Pottery is so ancient that its origin is still unknown. However the technique of Pottery is believed to be developed first by the Potters of ancient Sumeria. It is believed to be invented first in the Neolithic period (New Stone Age). So the Neolithic period was originally signified the cultural stage in which human invented stone tools and Pottery. However, later it has been known that the Potteries including the ground stone tools were present in the world even prior to the Neolithic period. So it can be concluded that Pottery was originated in the world prior to the Neolithic period (Ember and Ember, 1994).

As the other socio-economic sector, art of Pottery development is also associated with Greek and Egypt. The fragments of Pottery in Egypt are estimated to be more than 13,000 years before. Potteries are very important tools to study the societies from the archaeological point of view. No other art traces the story of mankind on the earth as clearly as the Pottery. Though the clay Potteries seem fragile, they are considered as one of the least perishable of all things of all ages. Firing of Pottery is a chemical change i.e. the fired Potteries never change into clay again. The fired Pottery has a great resistance to atmospheric influence so they remain on the earth for thousands of years to tell the story of mankind and its civilization on the earth. The Potters convey so many things about the contemporary culture and nature through their Potteries. We find many evidences to support that the Potteries have been an important tool to study the civilization of Mesopotamia, Sindhu, Harappa, etc. are some of the examples, which were carried out studying the potsherds (Herskovits, 1996).

### 2.3. Review of Journals and Articles:

In the context of Nepali language, the first book about ceramics was “Mritika Uddyog Ko Ruparekha” written by Karunakar Vaidya. This work was published by Madan Puraskar Guthi in 2015 B.S. This book has explained the history and importance of ceramics. Another book written in Nepali on Pottery is “Mritika Kala” by Sudhir Khatri, which was published by CDC Kirtipur in 2034 B.S. and related with ceramic chemistry and had expressed fact that the importance of Pottery was higher in Nepal.

In an article “The Glazed Pottery of France” in [www.oldandsold.com/articles05/pottery13.shtml](http://www.oldandsold.com/articles05/pottery13.shtml) discussions was made on pottery products. In England during the Tudor period, 1485-1603, drinking vessels, especially jugs, were made of buff-colored clay, fairly hard, covered nearly all over with a green glaze. These wares may be regarded as types of the glazed pieces, potteries vernisseees, which were also manufactured in Western Europe about the close of the middle Ages. Instead of an opaque coat, composed of elements in which tin held an important place, they received a glassy, transparent coating, in which the chief ingredient was lead. This glaze may be green or brown, it may be colored with various metallic oxides; but, being transparent, the body of the ware beneath it can be seen, whilst its luster often communicates to pieces to which it has been applied a charming softness, a striking effect which is seldom obtained from the enameled pottery to which the name faience has been given. Perhaps the best definition of faience is that it is earthenware which is not white, like English earthenware now is, but which has a paste finer than ordinary pottery. The difference between the fine glazed pottery of France and its faience is exceedingly slight, when the pastes or clays are compared, so that the lead glaze of one distinguishes it from the tin glaze of the other. Recognizing the extreme difficulty of making sharp differences between the fine and the coarse glazed pottery, we may assume that skilful decoration is the essential. Without that, the wares which the factories throughout Europe produced for domestic purposes would be valued perhaps for their age, and for their place in a historical series, but for little else, unless the shapes were especially good or unusually quaint, or the glazes mottled or lustred with uncommon effect.

Similarly, Alexandra Alter in an article “Kathmandu Valley’s famous pottery has to change with the times” originally published in the Nepali Times focused on problems and marketing challenges of potters. He writes; in addition to providing the chemicals and minerals necessary for glaze, the collective offers workshops for potters who want to learn new techniques. Three months ago, a Swiss expert came to teach a new glaze method at the collective. Though Nepal's ceramics are still fathoms behind the rest of the world in most respects, the glazed pottery produced here is technically superior to ceramics in Europe, China, India, and America - it is lead-free and non-toxic.

During an excavation of Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, in 1971, three brick pond and a terra-cotta plaque depicting Siddhartha and his wife in their bedroom were found. At Sisahania, near Lumbini some potsherds and clay model of some animals were found. In 1964-65 AD during an excavation near Lumbini a woman head made of clay had been found which resembles an imaginary rural art from the artistic point of view. The clay model of horse unearthed at Tilaurakot is considered that of first or second century BC. At Toulhawa some bricks modeled with autistics designs and prints have been found. From the facts it can be stated that Nepal has the culture of Pottery for more than two thousand of years (Mishra, 1996).

In an article “Ceramic Industry in Nepal” published by Gopal Kala Premi in [www.fineartnepal.com](http://www.fineartnepal.com), the author discussed about problems and prospects in pottery occupation. As per him, on the basis of market information on ceramic we are sure about the future prospect of ceramic sector in Nepal. However, modern ceramic is skill in infant stage of development and ceramic sector on the whole is under transition period i.e. abandoning or improving traditional skills & adopting modern once with slow rate. There is no vocational school or technical college on ceramic in Nepal. All the trainers and technicians of the project have been trained by the project itself. Though ceramic training could product tangible results to some extent but not to such extent as expected. Technical or formal education on ceramic is required for the entrepreneurs & trainees involving in this sector. Modification in traditional ceramic production to capture foreign market is under going in small scale. Likewise, modern ceramic industries are operating in small scale of economy and suffering from inferior quality products. So the cost efficiency and quality control seem essential in this sector.

Mr. Premi further writes, R&D on round kiln for traditional pottery has compared to traditional firing the advantage of less breakage and better firing control. This results in a 50% fuel saving if the saving because of less breakage is considered. This technology can be transferred to other countries of the region. Likewise, on the basis of Nepalese experience some other equipment adopted or developed like burner, potters wheel, vibrating screen etc. can be built in other countries without problems.

However, in the ethnographic research Nepali (G.S. Nepali, 1965) has provided a detail ethnographic setting of the Newar especially that of the Kathmandu valley. He writes that Prajapati is one of the occupational caste groups of the Newar caste structure. He writes that the Prajapatis belong to the Kuma caste and are given Prajapati as their surname. Obviously, most of them keep their surname Prajapati. However, there may be found some of the Potters too who keep their surname Kumhale. His study is an account of various ethnic groups of Nepal. So even the Newars are too short to be described and the Prajapatis far away.

Karki (1979) gives an account of the processes of Pottery making, statues making, toys and dolls making etc. in Nepali in detail but the Potters are out of the scope of the book. However, that book was useful in some extent to know the historical development of Pottery arts in the global as well as national context in general.

In a book written by the Vaidya and Gajurel (1979) there one finds a short description about Pottery making techniques. The book has focused more about the techniques employed by the Potters in Pottery making. As the book is concerned more on the Pottery making procedures, there is nothing mentioned on the ethnographic setting of the Potters. Bista (1987) has mentioned the Prajapati as one of the occupational caste group of the Newar caste structure. He writes that Prajapati belongs to the Kuma caste and are given Prajapati as their surname. Since his study is an account of various ethnic groups of Nepal. So even the description about Newars is too short and the Prajapatis are far away.

#### **2.4. Thesis Review:**

The study “Pottery making industry in Bhaktapur” done by Natimaiya Manandhar and Jamal Devi Manandhar in 1981, has mainly focused on employment, marketing and technology.

They have explained the present situation of Pottery and structure of this industry. But the work is not analytic only explanatory. They have found some common problems and made recommendations to expand the market, to maintain quality, and increase the knowledge of produces and support producer economically. Their study was a way forward in undertaking further studies in an around potters and pottery industry.

Likewise in another dissertation by Sakha (1983) on “Pottery Industry; A Case Study of Bhaktapur Town Panchayat” has focused mainly on the history of the Pottery production, existing situation, marketing and problems of Pottery industry. She has pointed that the Pottery production is decreasing and the younger generation’s interest is decreasing and leaving of Pottery occupation. She has recommended taking institutional arrangement, to provide credit facilities and as well as government’s step toward solution of problems like that of raw materials, technology, and marketing.

Another study “Market Survey of Ceramic Products in Kathmandu” done by Mahendra Raj Sapkota on July 1994 has classified ceramic products into 5 categories, viz., electrical goods, tiles and sanitary wares, crockery, table ware, and water filter candles. Demand and supply of these products are analyzed in this work. The study has pointed out the small share of local ceramic goods in the market and found that there is domination of imported goods. This work has suggested producing such goods which are able to compete such as table wares. The survey work about Dhanusha district named “District Survey of Traditional Potters” by J. Danish done in 1990. This work has examined the number of Potters and their condition and involvement of Tharus in Pottery industry. The study found that the Pottery industry is competing with cheaper Indian goods. A base study regarding Pottery production in Surkhet district by Shivahari Maharjan has done in 1990. He found that the cost of production is high because of high demand and low supply. He suggested to provide health education and to assist local Tharus.

Similarly, the study has been done by Sapkota (1998) from Ethno-Sociological point of view. But the study in concentrated more on the socio-cultural setting of Bolanchhe Tole of Bhaktapur. He also pointed out some lacking associated with pottery industry such as

traditional technology, lack of raw materials, marketing problems and suggested to overcome these in order to flourish pottery industry and ultimately socio-economic status of potters.

Ganesh Khanal (1999) has studied on “Pottery Industry in Nepal; A Case Study of Bhaktapur District, Nepal” with an objective to analyze marketing area of Pottery produced in Bhaktapur and to analyze the problems of Potters. He found that the production technology is old and modernizing is required. He pointed out the less interest of new generation toward Pottery, however he is positive toward the future of Pottery industry. He has made few recommendations, such as, to increase production area, to provide credit, technology, raw materials by the government, and also marketing as well as tax-free facility should be provided.

The study “Impact of Modernization on Occupational Caste Group; A Case Study of the Prajapatis (The Potters) of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, Bhaktapur, has done by Mithu Regmi (2000). She found that the Potters of study area are not profit oriented. They are facing problem of modernization and shortage and irregular supply of raw materials and the decreasing market. They are suffering from the provision of double tax. Aluminium as well as plastic goods are replacing clay products. She has made few recommendations, like technological intervention, marketing facilities, and training and upgrading of the technology.

Similarly, another noble study “Problems and Prospects of Occupational Caste Groups; A case Study of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, has undertaken by Mr. Rabi Shah (2005). He analysed the current problems and prospectus associated with pottery industry and listed out problems such as Raw materials, limited market, bottle neck competition with modern utensils, transportation problems, lack of interest of modern generation, traditional technology and made few suggestions like expanding market, modernization of technology, credit facility to potters and supply of raw materials.

From the study of above mentioned literature on Potters and Pottery, we find that all the literatures are more or less focused on Pottery and less on Potters. The available literatures are not sufficient to give an account of the Potters if they are seen from the view of ethnographic or socio-economic pattern. Though some of the authors have mentioned about the Potters of

Kathmandu valley vis-à-vis that of Bhaktapur but they are not sufficient because they all have generally described about the culture of Pottery not the culture of the Potters and the problems and prospects of Potters regarding.

So we find that the available literatures are very much concentrated on production and marketing of Potteries and the culture of Potters in detail. There is a lack of literatures on the related subject on which the present research is intended to focus about.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. Rationale of Selection of the Study Area**

From the very beginning Bhaktapur has been very famous for Pottery industry. The art of Pottery making is so admirable and skillful that any one can get attracted by it. The proposed study was carried out in Chapachon, ward no. 8 and 10 of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur district. In this proposed study area, both group of Prajapati community who left the Pottery occupation and the Pottery occupation following are residing. There are about 150 families of Potters at present involving in day to day preparation of Potteries and also few families who gave up their tradition of Pottery making. So this area was taken for the purpose of the study.

#### **3.2. Research Design**

The study was especially designed to assess the problems and prospects of Potters regarding Pottery occupation. Exploratory and analytic research design has been followed in the present study.

#### **3.3. Nature and Sources of Data**

In this study, both Primary and secondary data based on quantitative as well as qualitative data have been considered. The primary data were collected from field survey through structured questionnaire and key informants interview. The secondary data were obtained from the records and reports of municipality, various published and unpublished documents, journals, books, articles, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and so on.

#### **3.4. Sampling Procedure**

The study was conducted in the purposively selected ward no. 8 and 10 of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality. There are about 150 households of Potters and among them 30 households (20 percent) were selected for the study. Selection of the informants for the study was done by following simple random sampling procedure.

### **3.5. Data Collection Techniques**

#### **3.5.1. Household Survey**

Household survey was conducted to gather more information about the population characteristics such as family size, population size, educational status, occupational backgrounds, landholding size and various aspects of Pottery occupation. Semi-structured questionnaire was used for this purpose.

#### **3.5.2. Key Informant's Survey**

Key informant's survey was conducted to gather more information about the attitude of younger generations toward Pottery, history of Pottery and the current problems and prospects of Pottery in the concerned area. The key informants were very useful in providing data and information which couldn't be gathered from structured methods. In this study, two old Potters, one former Potter, one young local club member and a teacher were the key informants.

#### **3.5.3. Observation**

Observation was conducted to find out the information regarding the methods of production. Simple non-participant observation was conducted to document the problems, prospects and other aspects of Potters and Pottery making occupation.

#### **3.5.4. Data Presentation and Analysis**

All the data have been processed and analyzed to fulfill the objectives of the study. To illustrate the research work, tables and figures have been used for data presentation. For the purpose of this study, the different data obtained by using different sources that are scanned and tabulated under different headings. Data collected from both primary and secondary sources were coded, edited in appropriate formats.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA**

#### **4.1. District Overview**

Bhaktapur is one of the three districts of the Kathmandu valley lies in Bagmati zone of central development region. It is the smallest district of Nepal. It has an area of 119 sq. km. It lies on an average elevation of about 1,331m from the sea level. It is surrounded by three districts, Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Kavrepalanchok. Administrately, Bhaktapur is divided into sixteen VDCs and two Municipalities. Total population according to the census 2001 is 225,461, out of which male and female populations are respectively 114,798 and 110,663.

#### **4.2. General Characteristics of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality**

##### **4.2.1. Profile of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality**

Madhyapur Thimi municipality is one of the five municipal cities of the Kathmandu valley. Roughly it lies in the centre of Kathmandu valley. His majesty government formally declared Thimi as Madhyapur Thimi Municipality in 14<sup>th</sup> Chaitra, 2053 B.S. It covers 11.47 square km area. It lies to the western part of Bhaktapur district. There lies Manahara River to the west and Hanumante River to the east of this Municipality. Similarly, Duwakot VDC to the northern side and Balkot and some part of Lalitpur district to the southern part of this municipality. This municipality is divided into 17 wards. This Municipality lies at 8 km. east from Kathmandu.

##### **4.2.2. The Climate**

Climatic condition of this region is predominantly cold temperate and sub-temperate. The average temperature in the hottest months of the year, July and August, is 35<sup>o</sup> and in the coldest months, December and January, 10<sup>o</sup>. The annual mean temperature is 19<sup>o</sup>c. The district gets 123.1 ml annual rainfall in average (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004).

### **4.2.3. Demographic Feature**

According to the Municipality Report 2004, total household is listed as 9551, total population 47,751 of which males are 24,747 and females are 23, 004 (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004).

### **4.2.4. Language, Caste and Religion**

The long and complex cultural history of Thimi encompasses an extraordinary natural heritage. There are many traditional fairs (Jatras) and festivals continue to be observed. There are so many temples, shrines in Thimi. Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is known for its diverse art, culture, festivals, dance, traditional music and life style. Most of the people of this area are Hindus, while some are Buddhist and few people are both, Buddhist and Hindu.

### **4.2.5. Natural Resources**

#### **4.2.5.1.Land**

Land is most exploited and utilized natural resources in the study area. Most of the people are involved in agriculture. On the basis of availability of irrigation facilities, land is classified as Bari (dry cultivated land) and Khet (paddy cultivated land). The distribution of land area is 15,416 (77%) ropanies occupied by farming, 1,615 (12.6%) by residential area, roads, rivers and guthi land covers 3,377 (10%) ropanies. About 47% of people are still following farming profession (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Report 2004).

#### **4.2.5.2.Water**

The main sources of water are rivers and ponds. The main rivers are Manahara River and Hanumante River to fulfil the water supply to the people for their livelihood. There are about 2,565 private, 15 public water taps, 48 water wells and 107 deep water well for supply of water needs (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004).

### **4.2.6. Infrastructure Development**

Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is linked with black top road to Bhaktapur municipality. Frequent bus services are available making easy access to the people for marketing and for

educational purposes. Exam Controller Office, High School Education Development Project, Distance Learning Centre, Janak Sikchhya Bikas Kendra, SOS Balgram, each Cinema Hall and Children Park are situated in this Municipality.

Similarly, 108 NGOs including UNESCO are providing social and educational services to local people. The main large scale industries of Municipality are Hukum Pharmaceuticals, Pashupati Spinning Mills, Him Electronics, Simca laboratories and other small industries include matches factory, furniture Udyog etc. Government organizations and offices include two sections each of Agriculture Development Banks and Nepal bank, three of Rastriya Banijya bank, and each of Nepal Telecom, Nepal Electricity Corporation, Water Supply Corporation, and District Forest Office (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004).

#### **4.2.7. Health Services**

Being Municipality, there is good access of different types of health facilities to its inhabitants. The number of health institution within this municipality up to 2004 has been listed below.

**Table 1: Status of Health Facilities**

S.N	Types of Service	No. of Services
1.	Health Post	5
2.	Private Clinic	12
3.	Hospital	1
4.	Polyclinic	1

Source: Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004.

#### **4.2.8. Educational Status**

There are good provisions for the purpose of education to the inhabitants of Municipality. The number of educational institution within this municipality up to 2004 has been listed below.

**Table 2: Status of Educational Institution**

S.N	Name of Educational Institutions	Private	Government	Total
1	Primary School	35	6	41
2	Lower Secondary School	-	2	2
3	Secondary School	8	7	15
4	Higher Secondary School	3	1	4
5	Technical School	-	1	1
6	Campuses	2	1	3
	Total	48	18	56

Source: Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

### 4.3. Social Profile

#### 4.3.1. Age and Sex Structure

The population plays important role in the social structure of the society. Joint family system was popular in the past but now nuclear family system is in existence. However, in the study area, both types of family system are in existence. The age and sex structure of the respondents are presented in the table below.

**Table 3: Age and Sex Structure of the Sampled Households**

S.N	Age Group (in years)	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
1	Below 15	25	19.68	32	27.12	57	23.27
2	15-60	84	66.14	64	54.24	148	60.40
3	60 above	18	14.18	22	18.64	40	16.33
	Total	127	100.00	118	100.00	245	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It reveals from the above table that the majority of population (60.40%) of the study area is comprised of the population of age group of 15-60 categories, which is supposed to be an active population. The percent of 15-60 years age group male is 66.14 percent and that of female is 54.24 percent. Table also reveals that the percent below 15 years age group is 23.27 percent, out of which the percent of male is 19.68 and that of female is 27.12. Similarly the

percent above 60 years age group is 16.33, out of which the percent of male and female is 14.18 and 18.64 respectively.

The number of male population is slightly high than that of female. Male population occupies 51.9 percent of the total population and that of female occupies 48.1 percent. It shows that the ratio of male and female population is 52:48 in the study area. The average family size of the sampled households is 8.17 in the study area, whereas the average family size of the Nepal is 5.45, which is comparatively smaller than the study area (CBS 2004).

#### 4.3.2. Educational Attainment

In this study area because of the access of schools and other educational programs, and also being the municipality, there is good condition of literacy rate. Furthermore, due to the presence of essential educational infrastructure and easy access to the capital city for the purpose of education, the literacy rate is further enhanced. Educational status is found out from the three groups consisting, illiterate, under matriculation and higher education.

**Table 4: Educational Attainment of the Sampled Households**

S.N	Level	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
1	Illiterate	23	18.11	32	27.12	55	22.45
2	Under Matriculation	78	61.41	69	58.47	148	60.40
3	Higher Education	26	20.48	17	14.41	42	17.15
	Total	127	100.00	118	100.00	245	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

Table reveals that the majority of population falls under category of under matriculation, i.e. neither highly educated nor illiterate. According to the above table, among the sampled households, 60.40 percent are under category of under matriculation, out of which male and female percent are respectively 61.41 and 58.47 percent. Another 22.25 percent are illiterate, out of which male and female percent are respectively 18.11 and 27.12. Similarly, 17.15 percent received higher education, out of which male and female percent are respectively 20.48 and 14.41.

It is found that in the study area male literacy rate is 81.89 percent, i.e. 104 male of 30 sampled households are literate and rest 23 male or 18.11 percent male are illiterate. Female literacy rate is 72.89 percent or 86 females are literate and 27.11 percent or 32 females are illiterate in the study area.

The overall literacy rate (consisting of under matriculation and higher education) is 77.55 percent in this area, which is higher than the national literacy rate, i.e. 53.7 percent (CBS 2004).

### 4.3.3. Occupational Structure

Occupation determines the social position of a person. Occupation is regarded as an important determining factor of the social and economic status. Nepal is one of the agricultural country therefore obviously the most of the population are engaged in agriculture. But in terms of Potters of the study area, it is different. They are not engaged in agricultural occupation to earn their livelihood in general. The Potters of Thimi are engaged in Pottery making occupation as their main occupation to meet their daily requirements.

**Table 5: Occupation of the Respondents**

S.N	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agro-farm	2	6.66
2	Pottery	20	66.67
3	Services( Public and Private)	5	16.67
4	Others	3	10.00
	Total	30	100.00

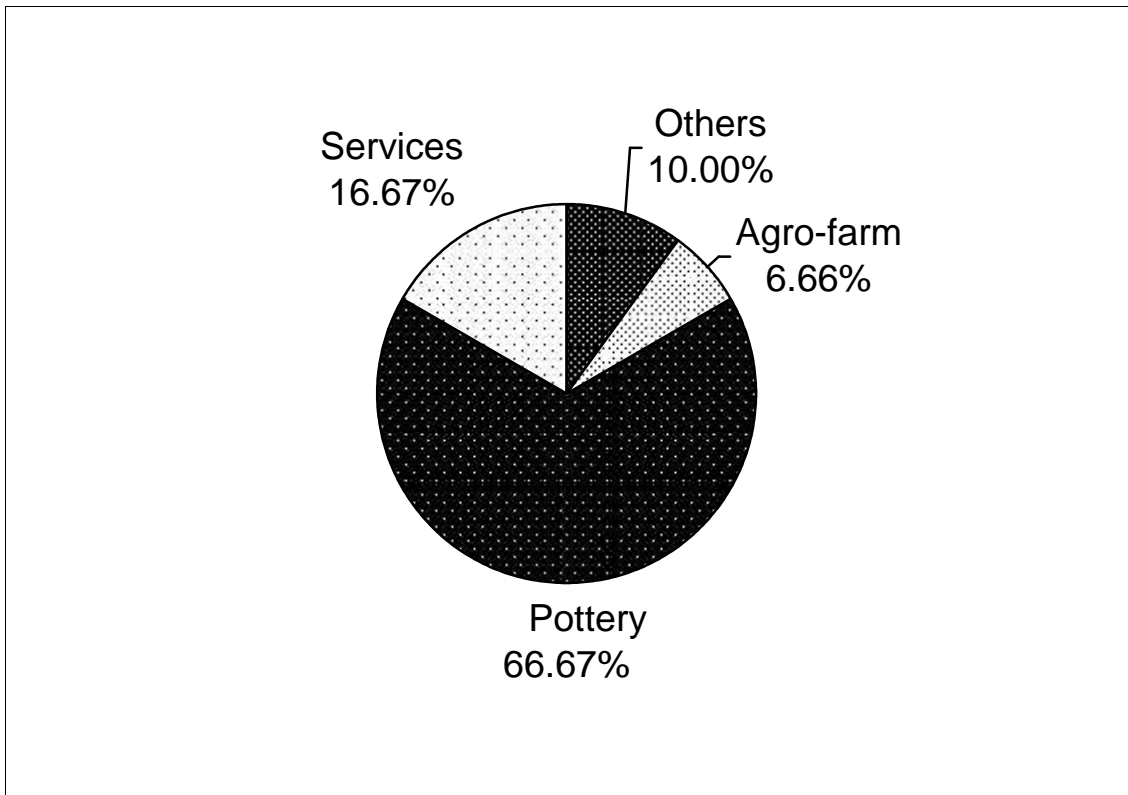
Field Survey: 2009

Above table represents the occupational structure of the sampled household of the study area. It has been found that the majority of respondents are engaged in Pottery occupation.

The highest percent of population (66.67%) is engaged in Pottery occupation, i.e. most of the respondents are following Pottery occupation as their family occupation. From the above table, services are also income sources of the people of the study area which occupies 16.67 percent. The people of this area are also engaged in agro-farm and others (rented labor) occupation which covers 6.66 and 10 percent respectively.



**Figure 1: Occupation of the Respondents**



#### **4.4.Economic Profile**

Economically, the population of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality can be placed in the middle position. They are neither in too well condition nor in very poor condition. Some households have two means of subsistence (Agriculture and Pottery). But a large number of populations depend only upon Pottery to meet their daily requirement. They only possess very small landholdings in general. So, agriculture production seems not sufficient for fulfilling their food requirement and more or less totally dependent upon Pottery for their livelihood.

The role of Pottery is very important to meet daily requirement and for their livelihood. It plays vital role in overall economy of Potters. Many household are completely dependent on Pottery for their income, i.e. most of the households have single means of income, which is from Pottery. Agriculture is only sufficient to meet their food requirement for few months.

The Potters of Thimi have placed Pottery as their primary occupation. Agriculture is an allied occupation for most of them. The reason may be that agricultural land they possess are relatively small in size and are carried out in specified seasons as according to the crops but Pottery making does not require any specific time and seasons except rainy season.

#### 4.4.1. Land Holding Size

Land is one of the main indicators of wealth of rural people. Land determines the level of family status, if family has many land is known as higher class family and so on. The fertile and unfertile land also determines the class of the family. However for the Potters of Thimi, agriculture is their secondary means of subsistence, so obviously have small land holdings. They are not engaged in agriculture for their livelihood rather they earn their livelihood from Pottery. But they are also involved in agriculture as an allied occupation from thousands of years.

**Table 6: Land Holding Size of the Respondents**

S.N	Land ( in Ropani)	Agricultural land of Respondents	Percentage	Barren land of Respondents	Percentage
1	Landless	4	13.33	24	80.00
2	1-5	16	53.33	4	13.33
3	5-10	6	20.00	2	6.67
4	10 and above	4	13.34	0	0
	Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

According to the field survey, it is found that most of the respondents have less than 5 Ropani agricultural lands. It is found that 53.33 percent households have 1-5 Ropani agricultural land and 20 percent have 5-10 Ropani land. Similarly, 13.33 percent households are landless in terms of agricultural land. Only 13.34 percent households have more than 10 Ropani agricultural lands.

It is also found from the field survey that most of the respondents do not possess Barren land. It is found that 80 percent households are landless, 13.33 percent have 1-5 Ropani barren land and 6.67 percent have 5-10 Ropani barren land. Not any household possess more than 10 Ropani of barren lands.

#### 4.4.2. Livestock Size

In the past livestock was the economic indicator. People having more number of livestock were known to be the rich person. But now days, livestock is not only an economic indicator. Because of agricultural country, most of the Nepalese people in rural areas have some cattle for their agricultural purpose. However, it is exception in terms of people of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality. Only a few numbers of households have livestock.

**Table 7: Livestock Size of the Respondents**

S.N	Livestock	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Livestock less	16	53.33
2	1-2	8	26.67
3	3-4	4	13.34
4	5 and above	2	6.66
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It is found from the field survey that majority of the respondents (53.33%) are livestock less. Similarly, 26.67 percent of households have 1 to 2 livestock, 13.34 percent have 3 to 4 livestock and only 6.66 percent of households have more than 5 livestock.

#### 4.4.3. Role of Agriculture in Potters Economy

For almost all the Potters of Thimi, agriculture is their secondary source of income. However food requirement is not sufficient from their agriculture production. The Potters depend on agriculture for rice straw and wheat straw to fire the pots. So even in small scale agriculture is supporting their Pottery industry. Due to the small land holding and a great number of people dependent on it, it is almost unable to fulfill the food requirement for the whole year.

**Table 8: Role of Agriculture in Potters Economy**

S.N.	Main means of subsistence	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Pottery	24	80.00
2	Agriculture	2	6.67
3	Others	4	13.33
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

From the table it is found that the main means of subsistence among the Potters is Pottery occupation. Agriculture is only second means and allied occupation. However, agriculture is providing them some sort of raw materials like rice straw and wheat straw needed to run the Pottery industry.

Majority of households i.e. 80 percent are following Pottery occupation as their main means of subsistence. Only, 6.67 percent households are dependent on agriculture for their subsistence. Remaining, 13.33 households are dependent on others category, which comprised of services, labor work and services.

#### **4.4.4. Sufficiency of Agriculture Production for Potters**

Since the Potters have very limited size of land holdings, agricultural production is not sufficient to meet their annual food requirement in general. They are following agricultural occupation just as a secondary means of subsistence.

**Table 9: Sufficiency of Agricultural Production for Households**

S.N	Agricultural production sufficient for	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	0-3 months	15	50.00
2	3-6 months	8	26.67
3	6-9 months	5	16.67
4	9-12 months	2	6.66
5	Surplus	0	0
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

From the field survey, it is found that the agricultural production is unable to meet their annual food requirement in general. Agricultural production is able to meet the annual food requirement of only 6.66 percent household. It is sufficient for less than 3 months to highest proportion or 50 percent households. Similarly, it is sufficient for 3-6 months to 26.67 percent, 6-9 months to 16.67 percent and 9-12 months to 6.66 percent households. Not any household answered about the surplus agriculture production.

#### 4.4.5. Type of Pottery Industry

The Pottery production also depends upon the type of Pottery industry. For instance, it is said that individual type of Pottery industry is able to produce more products than that of partnership and in cooperation type they would have access to certain kind of technical and other assistance.

**Table10: Respondent's Type of Pottery Industry**

S.N.	Type of Pottery industry	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Individual	30	100.00
2	Partnership	0	0
3	Cooperation	0	0
4	Others	0	0
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It is found from the field survey that, all of the respondents have individual type of Pottery industry. No one has industry in partnership or cooperation.

#### 4.4.6. Main Source(s) of Cash Income

For the smooth running of livelihood there must be a proper source of cash income. In the context of Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, the main source of cash income is from Pottery occupation. They lack sufficient land holdings, so only a negligible number of Potters are dependent on agriculture as their major source of cash income.

**Table 11: Respondent's Main Source of Cash Income**

S.N	Sources of income	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Pottery	26	86.67
2	Agriculture	1	3.33
3	Service (Public +Private)	1	3.33
4	Livestock	0	0
5	Others	2	6.67
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It reveals from the table that the most of the respondents of Thimi are still following their traditional occupation of Pottery making as their main source of income.

It is found from the field survey that most of the respondents (86.67%) have followed Pottery occupation as their main source of cash income. Similarly, 3.33 percent depends on agriculture for their major source of cash income. Another 3.33 percent depends on service and remaining 6.67 percent depends on others.

#### **4.4.7. Annual Income( in general)**

Annual income determines the standard of family. If annual income is high, the family is known as rich family and so on. In the study area majority of population have very limited land holdings and depends on Pottery occupation for their livelihood from generations, so the major source of cash income for them is from Pottery.

**Table 12: Annual Income of the Respondents (in general)**

S.N	Annual income ( in thousands)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 10	2	6.67
2	10-30	7	23.33
3	30-60	16	53.33
4	60-90	3	10.00
5	90 above	2	6.67
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It is found from the Field survey that most of the respondents (53.33%) have 30 to 60 thousand annual income and 23.33 percent have annual income of 10-30 thousand. Another 10 percent have annual income of 60 to 90 thousand. Similarly, 6.67 percent of respondents have annual income of less than 10 thousand and only 6.67 percent of respondents have more than 90 thousand annual income.

#### **4.4.8. Annual Income from Pottery Industry**

Pottery industry has been one of the major incomes generating occupation for the Potters of study area. Almost all of the respondent's major source of income is from Pottery and occupies the major percentage of cash income. Pottery industry has been major source of income for the Potters of Thimi for generations.

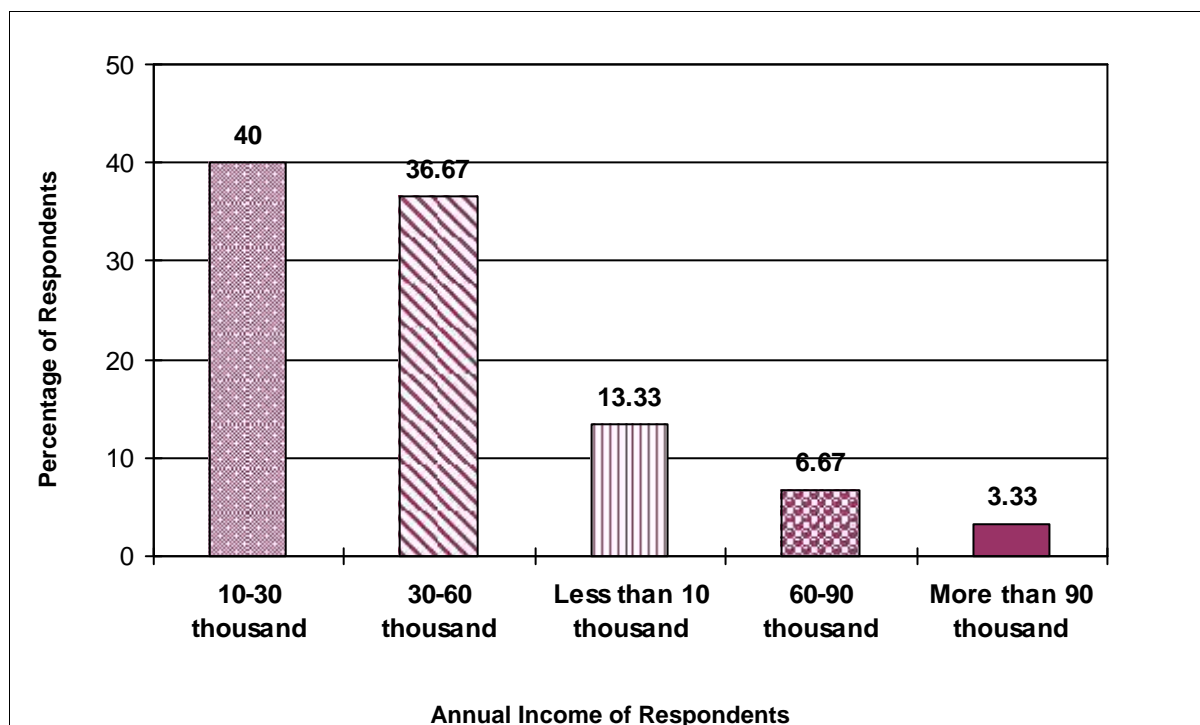
**Table 13: Annual Income of the Respondents from Pottery Industry**

S.N	Annual income from Pottery industry	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 10 thousand	4	13.33
2	10-30 thousand	12	40.00
3	30-60 thousand	11	36.67
4	60-90 thousand	2	6.67
5	More than 90 thousand	1	3.33
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

From the field survey it is found that the income level of respondents from Pottery occupation doesn't seem encouraging. Only a fewer respondents have good income from the occupation. It is found that most of the households have annual income of 10 to 30 thousand from Pottery industry i.e. 40 percent. 13.33 percent of households have less than 10 thousand annual incomes from Pottery, 36.67 have 30 to 60 thousand annual incomes, 6.67 percent have 60 to 90 thousand annual incomes from Pottery and only 3.33 percent households have more than 90 thousand annual incomes from Pottery occupation alone.

**Figure 2: Annual Income of the Respondents from Pottery Industry**



#### 4.4.9. Working Hours

As this Pottery industry is domestic in nature, any fix time has not allotted for making Pottery. The working hours are not even, they may start very early in morning to late night. For this they don't have to encounter any problem as the Pottery industry is basically under individual ownership and can work for any time they want. Sometimes they are found working in the odd hours as well.

**Table 14: Respondent's Working Hours**

S.N.	Duration of work ( in hours per day)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	5	1	3.33
2	6	3	10.00
3	7	7	23.33
4	8	10	33.34
5	9	3	10.00
6	Others	6	20.00
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It is found from the field survey that most of the respondents i.e. 33.34 respondents works for 8 hours a day. Similarly, 3.3 percent works for 5 hours a day, 10 percent works 7 hours a day, another 10 percent works 9 hours a day and 20 percent respondents have not any particular hours for work. They work any time cording to their will and required.

#### 4.4.10. Making of Different Kinds of Potteries

Potters make Pottery products by both means, according to own want and as per the customers and agents order.

**Table 15: Making of Pottery products**

S.N.	Preference of production	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	As per own wish	5	16.67
2	As per order	3	10.00
3	Both	22	73.33
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009



It is found from the field survey that majority of respondents i.e. 73.33 percent makes Pottery goods both as per own wish and as per order. However, 16.66 percent produce goods as per own wish and remaining 10 percent of respondents make goods order.

#### 4.4.11. Marketing of the Products

The good marketing and selling of products plays important role in increasing the production and market of the products. Marketing is one of the vital problems faced by the Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality.

**Table 16: Market of Pottery Products**

S.N.	Market of Pottery Products	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	In a local market near by	2	6.67
2	Bhaktapur	6	30.00
3	Kathmandu	14	46.67
4	Others	8	26.66
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It is found from the field survey that the main market of Pottery products of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is Kathmandu. About 46.67 percent of respondents have answered Kathmandu, 30 percent have answered Bhaktapur and 6.67 have answered the local market as their main market of Pottery products. Remaining 26.66 have answered others.

#### 4.4.12. Selling of Products

Selling of products manufactured by Potters themselves is of utmost importance in smooth running of Pottery industry. It is more crucial in the present time of bottle neck competition with Pottery as well as modern plastic and aluminum products.

**Table 17: Means of Selling of Products**

S.N.	Means of selling	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	By oneself	5	16.67
2	Through cooperatives	0	0
3	Through agents	23	76.66
4	Others	2	6.67
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It is found from the field survey that, the main means of selling Pottery products of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is through agent. The major portions (76.67%) of respondents have said that the agents approach them to buy the products. Similarly, 16.67 percent sell goods through themselves. There is not existence of cooperatives in terms of selling and buying of Pottery products. Remaining 6.67 have answered others; these respondents have opened shops to sell the goods.

#### **4.5. Challenges of Potters Regarding Pottery Industry**

Potters of Thimi have been engaged in Pottery making profession from generations. No doubt, this occupation is their traditional occupation which is strongly mingled with their culture and lifestyle. They have been continuing this occupation as their major source of income. The Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality are in the cross road when talking about their traditional occupation. At one side they want to continue the occupation as it is their traditional occupation in which they are expert, have their own identity, culturally bonded as well as main means of their income to meet their requirement. So they don't want to leave the occupation easily. But at the other side, they are less satisfied in comparison to their investment, effort and dedication. To some extent they are positive and hopeful to this occupation but because of the low margin, increasing competition and other problems related with marketing and good output, they are compelled to think to divert from this occupation which they think the occupation with their identity.

Many of the Potters who were engaged in this Pottery making occupation have left the occupation simply because of the above mentioned and other social and economic problems. They are not happy to leave the occupation in which they have spent their considerable time period. They expressed that they would not have left the occupation if there were some provision of good incentives. The trend of shifting of occupation is still going on. It's usual to leave the occupation which no more able to satisfy and improve livelihood in a sense when one is totally dedicated and dependent upon particular occupation as a main source of income.

#### 4.5.1. Problems of Potters

The Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality are still dependent upon traditional technology to produce Pottery goods. So at one side they are unable to compete with the cheap and good finished modern products and at another side the occupation has been more time consuming and less productive. They are encountering a number of problems regarding their occupation. They are unable to solve most of the problems themselves and needs interventions of government and other institutions.

**Table 18: Problems of Respondents with Regard to Pottery Occupation:**

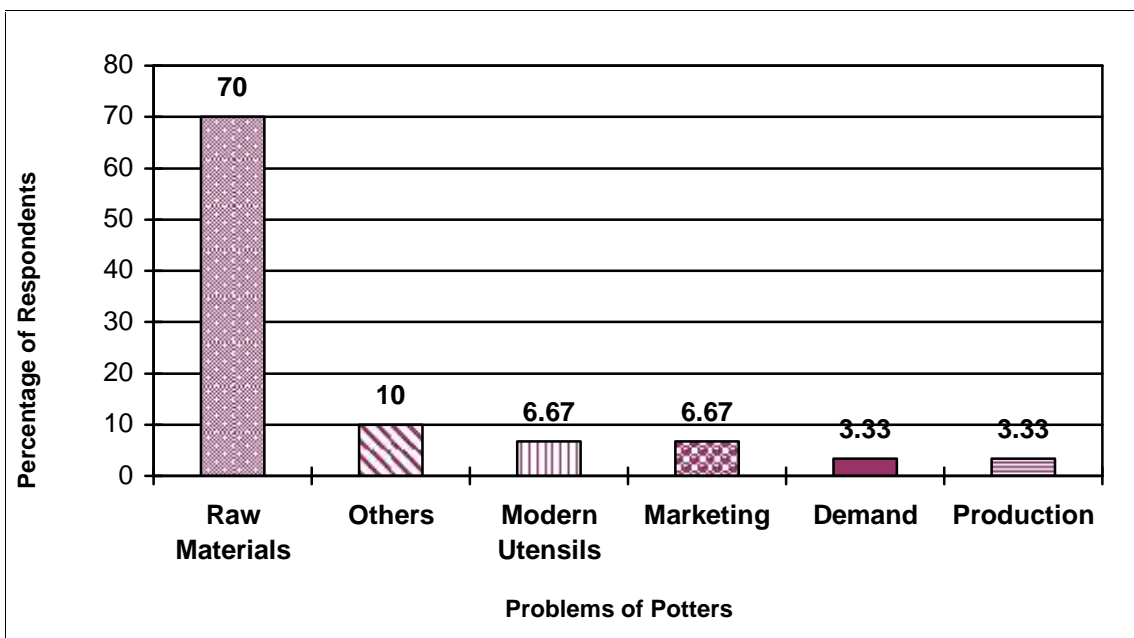
S.N.	Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Raw Materials	21	70.00
2	Production	1	3.33
3	Marketing	2	6.67
4	Credit	0	0.00
5	Modern Utensils	2	6.67
6	Demand	1	3.33
7	Others	3	10.00
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It is found from the field survey that, the main problem of Potters in their occupation is the problem of regular supply and transportation of raw materials. They have to face lot of problems due to the shortage of raw materials. These problems are mainly responsible for withering of occupation as well as for creating hindrance for smooth functioning of the occupation.

Majority of respondents i.e. 70 percent have answered raw materials as their main problem. Similarly, 6.67 percent of respondents have expressed marketing as their problem. Another 6.67 percent of respondents have answered competition with modern utensils, 3.33 percent have answered production and 3.33 percent of respondents have answered demand as their problem. Remaining 10 percent have answered others as their problem which mainly includes the problem with transportation and firing place for Potteries.

**Figure 3: Problems of Potters with Regard to Pottery Occupation**



The problems associated with the Pottery occupation can be described as follows:

#### **4.5.1.1. Raw Materials**

One of the most acute problems encountered by the Pottery industry is the regular and effective supply of raw materials. The problem is more acute as far as Pottery industry is concerned. In context of Pottery industry, clay is the basic raw material. It is more crucial to maintain the quality of clay as the quality of product directly related with clay. The Potters of Thimi have to cover the distance of more than 1 hour just to reach the clay mines (Barren lands usually under the ownership of the government). So they are relied upon tractor to supply the clay from the mine which charges them more than Rs.500 per tractor. This obviously increase their operation cost. Besides, the Potters do not have adequate knowledge of the clay. They often get troubled due to choosing right type of clay because of their ignorance. There was a provision of *Lalmohar System*, under which Potters had a right to any clay mine, which was abolished after the starting of planning era. Onwards that time, Potters have been facing some sorts of problems with regard to raw materials to properly run their Pottery industry.

#### **4.5.1.2.Production**

Potters have been using the same technology for generations which is responsible for low production, so eventually increases the operation cost. Most of the Potters are less educated and lack the technical know how knowledge. The low technology is also responsible for low income. Only a negligible number of Potters are using modern means of technology. No means of electrical firing are introduced.

#### **4.5.1.3.Firing Materials**

Firing materials are needed to dry the Potteries products. Mainly rice straw, wheat straw and other waste farm products are used for this. Wood firing is almost impossible due to its high cost. So they are compelled to use straw as main firing materials although they produce a low heat. Since the Potters own very limited land holdings, they are suffered more from the supply of these firing materials. Similarly, due to the low efficiency of firing materials, it produces lots of smoke and pollutes the surrounding area.

#### **4.5.1.4.Demand**

Demand is crucial in smooth operating of Pottery industry. The problem of demand is somewhat less than others. The demand of *Gamala* is more than that of supply. Potters expressed that they couldn't even able to produce to meet the demand. However, the demands of other Pottery products are decreasing.

#### **4.5.1.5.Storing**

The place for drying and storing is also another problem that Potters are facing. They dry the vessels in open public places which creates uneasiness to visitors and also chances of breaking of produced vessels. They lack sufficient private land for storing of vessels.

#### **4.5.1.6.Systematic Market**

Production of goods is greatly influenced by the market. The size of income and survival of the industry depends on the market. So there is utmost need of systematic market for smooth running of any industry. The Potters of Thimi are hard hit by the problem of systematic market, due to which they are compelled to sell their products to the agent on relatively

smaller amount. The foreign market of Pottery goods have not been much emphasized and explored even though there are high possibilities.

#### **4.5.1.7.Environment Pollution**

Firing of the products creates much pollution in the area. It is more when use of light firing products like straw and waste farm products. This problem is effecting the deteriorating the health of Potters as well as local people.

#### **4.5.1.8.Modernization**

Introduction of modern and plastic products are creating problem in the growth of Pottery industry. Those products are cheap and eye-catching. Pottery products can't stand in unhealthy competition with those products. Obviously, the uses of Pottery products are beneficial in long run but due to the good finishing and cheaper price, people are attracted toward modern products hence decreasing the use of pottery products.

#### **4.5.1.9.Problem of Space to Dry the Pottery Goods**

The Pottery goods need to be dried completely before sending to market. Potters do not have air blower or any kind of heater to dry the products they produce. So they have to dry their products their products in the direct sunlight at the open spaces around their houses. But Potters generally do not have sufficient open space to dry up all their products easily. This is more acute in rainy season as almost whole operation process of Pottery industry takes place under open sky.

#### **4.5.1.10. Transportation**

The Pottery goods are very sensitive and needs special care to protect it from breaking. It is more crucial when the case of transportation comes. The transportation of Pottery is very risky. There has not been any special provisions and management to transport the Pottery goods up to the market. They are using normal transport vehicle to take their products to the market. This increases the chances of breaking of Pottery products. Also there is no provision of insurance of these goods. These all increases the operation cost.

#### **4.5.1.11. Social Problem**

Pottery making is a long traditional craftsmanship. They want to continue their traditional occupation but along with others social problem such as lack of appreciation and respect is creating a problem for smooth running of industry. The Potters are taken as the lowest caste in their Newar caste culture. There is also not provision of appropriate incentives to them.

#### **4.5.1.12. Lack of Interest of New Generation**

It is assumed that moral duty of new generation is to continue their traditional occupation. But the new generation of Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is unwilling to continue the occupation. So the future of Pottery seems some what cloudy. The Potters are also unhappy with such decisions of their new generation.

### **4.6. Measures Needed to Improve the Pottery Industry**

The Pottery industry at present is suffering from various problems like shortage of raw materials, demand, market, transportation etc. So, necessary measures should be taken immediately for the smooth operating of Pottery industry.

**Table 19: Respondent's Suggestions to Improve the Pottery Industry**

S.N.	Suggestions	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Provision of Raw materials	20	66.67
2	Upgrading of technologies	3	10.00
3	Marketing facilities	2	6.66
4	Others	5	16.67
	Total	30	100.00

Field Survey: 2009

It has been found from the above table that the majority of respondents (66.67%) have suggested assisting Potters in terms of Raw materials. Similarly, 10 percent of respondents have suggested upgrading in the existing technologies and 6.66 percent suggested exploring and expanding markets and providing marketing facilities. Remaining 16.67 percent said others which include suggestions regarding solving of problem associated with transportation and firing.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1. Summary

Pottery has a very long history in the world as old as civilization. Pottery was in existence in the world before the inventions of other metals and even the invention of fire. Pottery exists in more or less in every society of the world; however the design and shape of the Potteries are different according to the local settings and environments. Though the modern development has brought many ups and downs in their life, and many other occupational groups have been born, the one and only profession to introduce Potters as the Potters, is Pottery and clay work.

This study has been conducted in Chapachon, ward no. 8 and 10 of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur district with a general objective to examine the problems and prospects of Potters regarding Pottery. Other objectives of the study were to find out the socio-economic status of Potters, to find out the attitudes of new generation toward Pottery industry and the role of Pottery on Potters economy. Descriptive and analytical research design has been adapted to describe and examine the findings of the study. Thirty household members of Potters were taken as sample and other key informants like Teacher, young family member of Potter, and people who gave up the occupation were visited. Primary and secondary data were used to collect the required data and tools like observations, formal and informal discussions, interviews were held to collect other necessary information.

The Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality are continuing the occupation of Pottery making from generations. Pottery making occupation has been their identity and specialized occupation. Pottery occupation has been their major source of income. But the study shows that the Potters of Thimi are facing lots of problem regarding their Pottery occupation. They are at the cross-road, at one hand they want to continue their traditional occupation with some good prospects which is strongly mingled with their culture and at other hand they are suffering from numbers of problems to continue the occupation. Their new generation is not positive toward the occupation. Lacks of raw materials, unsystematic market, transportation problem, firing problems are creating great challenges before Potters to continue the



occupation. Therefore, for the proper development of Pottery industry, there should be provision of regular supply of quality raw materials, provision of good incentives, provision of systematic market, and solution to other problems. If these steps are taken effectively, the prospects of Pottery industry is bright otherwise Potters no longer will be able to continue the occupation properly in the days to come.

## **5.2. Conclusion**

The Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality are one of the major occupational caste groups of Newar social structure. They have been inhabited at the place since the time immemorial to themselves. The Potters of Thimi are called by surname 'Prajapati' which is synonym to Potters. It is said that all the Prajapatis were the Potters in the beginning but in the course of time due to various reasons occupational shifting has taken place and now days only the surname has united them as a caste group. It is to be noted that all the Potters are Prajapati but all the Prajapati in the present context doesn't necessarily mean a Potter.

Pottery has tremendous importance not only to the Potters but to the nation too. The Potters make different types of decorative articles viz. statues, masks, candle stand, toys which represents the Nepali culture and also a means to earn foreign currency. In this way at one side Potters are creating self-employment and other serving the nation by preserving and flourishing Nepali arts and culture.

Main means of subsistence of Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is Pottery making, which also is a major source of their cash income. They only have small hand holdings and thus very few Potters are engaged in agriculture. Pottery making occupation is the backbone of their economy. They are following traditional technology in general and only negligible Potters are using electrical wheels to produce Pottery goods, so they not profit oriented. The Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality are not capable to produce modern skillful artistic ceramic goods in accordance with the preference of people, so the people are attracted toward the modern utensils as well as modern Indian and Chinese Potteries. There is no provision of organized training programme on Pottery.

The changing scenario of the development has led the youngsters towards the post modern world. They like to do something else instead of doing Pottery. They are of the opinion that the Pottery making occupation is not socially as well as economically sound. So majority of younger generations are not found positive toward their traditional occupation. In addition a majority of Potters are not in favor to put their children in their traditional occupation. The pattern of occupational shifting among the Potters has been increasing in the study area.

But despite of their cultural and historical importance, having somewhat good market, Pottery industry is facing numerous problems. Increasing pressure for raw materials, bottleneck competition with plastic goods, problem of transportation, problems associated with firings and other modern clay articles has made the local Potters hopeless. Because of urbanization, except *Gamala* (flower pot) demands of clay products are decreasing. So the Potters are in occupational crisis these days. Mostly illiterate person are involved in this occupation and lacks specialization. The finishing of goods is also not good. Educated people are not willing to continue as Pottery making is very difficult, laborious and margin of profit is also very low. They are not getting any training or financial assistances from any government of non-governmental institutions. If the Potters do not get them competitive against modern technology, highest financial input and a good market strategy, they will be unable to suffice in the time to come. Many of the Potters do not see future in Pottery occupation. So, many of the Potters have already left their occupation. In spite of these problems, the present Potters want to continue their traditional occupation. However, the Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality feel their future in Pottery occupation brighter if they get assistance in terms of raw materials, transportation, firing activities, from financial institutions and other non-governmental organisations. So the government, I/NGOs and other concerning organisations should work in the favor of Potters and Pottery industry to secure the future of both of them.

### **5.3. Suggestions**

Observing the findings of the study, some suggestions can be made to promote the entrepreneurship of Pottery. They are as follows:

- J Establishment of Raw materials supply center: Land owners are not agreed to provide clay and other materials to Potters. The production of Pottery on regular basis with quality

depends upon the regular supply of the raw materials. This is also one of the major problems faced by the Pottery of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality. So institutional arrangement should be made to guarantee the regular supply of raw materials.

- ) Establishment of Emporium: A Pottery emporium should be established in order to promote the sale of Nepalese Pottery products to visiting guests and tourist against the standard price. This emporium should be established in major tourist centers of the kingdom. Such emporium should prepare history of every product and its characteristics so as to attract the buyers. Mere presentation of the products without attracting background and packaging cannot attract the buyers.
- ) Exhibitions: Exhibitions of Pottery products should be organized in regular basis to increase the understandings of the Pottery products in national and international level as well as to encourage Potters.
- ) Firing Technology: This is one of the problems facing by Potters. Firing technology should be improved by applying new modern kiln according to the fuel available. For this there should have provision of credit facility at desirable interest rate. They are following traditional means of firing which requires more amounts of firing materials, takes long time and pollutes the environment.
- ) Government should provide support and protection to Potters and Pottery industry. They have to compete with Indian and Chinese Potteries which are technically superior in quality and cheaper in price. Therefore, government has to support and protect this industry taking various measures and policies.
- ) Pottery industry should be recognized as industry by government. So that Potters could take advantage like those of other industries such as tax, credits, technical assistance etc.
- ) Upgrading of Technology: Potters of Thimi are following traditional technology which is responsible for low product. So they should be encouraged to adopt the modern technology such as electrical wheel, so that they can increase their production as well as income. For this institutional arrangement should be managed.
- ) Transportation: They are dependent upon the normal transportation vehicles so that the Pottery products can be damaged. So special transportation vehicles should be arranged using the modern technology which ensures the safe delivery of their products.

- ) Storing Facilities: They are facing problem of storing their products. It increased the possibilities of damaging. So institutional arrangement should be made to store their products.
- ) Double Tax: At one hand they have to pay tax for clay and at other hand for their products. So government should provide support and protection to the Potters and Pottery industry. Their products should be made tax free so that they could compete with the modern products.
- ) Role of cooperatives should be explored, so that they can rely upon cooperatives for better management of their products.
- ) Advertising: Advertisement plays crucial role to develop the market for everything. So advertisement should be granted by any institution, INGOs or by government itself, because Potters are unable to offer money.
- ) Marketing facilities should be increased. The provision of systematic market should be introduced so that they would free from the agent and middle man and could directly sell their products.
- ) Public awareness program should be organized to create the positive attitude of people towards Potters and Pottery products so that Potters would be encouraged in their work.
- ) They should encourage using modern technology so that they will be able to improve quality and quantity of their products. Furthermore, they lack resources for modernization. So they should provide with credit for modernization.
- ) Appropriate measures and provision of good incentives should be introduced so that the uninterested new generation would continue their traditional occupation.

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## Appendix-1

### Questionnaire for Household Survey

District: \_\_Bhaktapur \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Caste: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

M/F: \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality: \_\_Madhyapur Thimi \_\_\_\_\_

Nagar: \_\_\_\_\_ Ward No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. Household Information

Name of Head	
Sex	
Age	
Religion	
Marital Status	

#### 2. Family Members

Male			Female		
0-15	15-59	60 above	0-15	15-59	60 above

#### 3. Educational background of the family members

Condition	No.
Illiterates	
Primary level	
Secondary level	
SLC and above	

#### 4. Family Occupation

Agriculture	
Livestock	
Government job	
Social service	
Trade/Business	
Pottery	
Others	

5. What is your main source of income?

- Pottery
- Agriculture
- Government job
- Trade/business
- Livestock
- Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

6. How much land do you have? (In ropanies)

- Agricultural Land \_\_\_\_\_
- Barren Land\_\_\_\_\_

7. How many live stocks do you have?

Types	Cattle	Buffaloes	Goats	Sheep	Others( specify)
Numbers					
Local/hybrid					

8. W  
h  
a

t is the annual income of your family? (In thousands)

- Less than 10 thousands
- 10-30 thousands



- 30-60 thousands
- 60-90 thousands
- More than 90 thousands

9. Is agriculture production sufficient for livelihood? Y/N

10. Agriculture production is sufficient for

- 0-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-9 months
- 9-12 months
- Surplus

11. Since how long you are in this occupation? (in years) \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is your initial investment? ( in thousands) \_\_\_\_\_

13. Have you taken any loan? Y/N

14. If yes what was the purpose of loan?

- To maintain day to day expenditure
- To cope with sudden expenditure
- To properly run pottery industry
- Upgrading of the technology
- Others (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

15. What is the type of your pottery industry?

- Individual
- Partnership
- Cooperation
- Others (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

16. How much amount of pottery do you produce a day? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How many hours a day altogether your family members engage in this job?  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. Where do you sell the products?

- In the local market near by

- In Bhaktapur
- Kathmandu
- Others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

19. How much do you earn from a pottery in a year?

- Less than 10 thousands
- 10-30 thousands
- 30-60 thousands
- 60-90 thousands
- More than 90 thousands

20. Income from pottery industry is

- Satisfactory
- Sufficient
- More than sufficient
- Extremely good
- Less

21. Where do you take clay from? Mention the Distance far from the production site.

- Less than 10 minutes
- 10-30 minutes
- 30 – 60 minutes
- More than an hour

22. Making of different kinds of potteries happens mainly

- As according to own want
- As per order
- Both

23. Do you think real value of your product is achieved? Y/N

24. Selling of products

- By yourself
- Through cooperatives
- Through agent
- Any others(specify)\_\_\_\_\_

25. In your opinion market of clay product is
- Increasing
  - Decreasing
26. Competition in pottery industry is
- Increasing
  - Decreasing
27. Have you received any kinds of training regarding Pottery occupation? Y/N
28. Do you think you need training for improvement in occupation? Y/N
29. What are the problems at present?
- Raw materials
  - Production
  - Marketing
  - Credit facilities
  - Modern utensils/products
  - Demand
  - Others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
30. To improve the pottery industry, what do you suggest?
- Credit facilities
  - Trainings/ I/NGOs help
  - Marketing facilities
  - Upgrading of technologies
  - Provision of raw materials
  - Government policy
  - Others (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix-II**

### **Key Informant's Survey**

1. How many potters here are involved in pottery occupation?
2. What is the overall situation of Pottery occupation at present?

3. What role Municipality and G/N are playing to uplift the standard of Potters?
4. How the Potters are taken in society?
5. Is their Pottery occupation is sufficient to run their livelihood?
6. Are they involving in any allied occupations other than Pottery?
7. How the Pottery occupation is contributing in livelihood of Potters?
8. What are the main problems of Potters regarding Pottery occupation?
9. Has any measures undertaken to cope with those problems?
10. Who do you think are responsible to solve these problems?
11. How do you see the prospects of Pottery industry?
12. What sorts of measures are required to secure the future of Potters and Pottery industry?