

**Tribhuvan University**  
**LABOUR MIGRATION TO INDIA AS A LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY**  
**A Case Study of Gwadi Village Development Committee, Gulmi**

**A Dissertation**  
**Submitted to Central Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities**  
**and Social Science in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the**  
**Master's Degree in Geography**

**by**  
**Nim Bahadur Thapa 'Regami'**  
**Central Department of Geography**  
**Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal**  
**July, 2006**

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Central Department of Geography**

**LABOUR MIGRATION TO INDIA AS A LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY**  
**A Case Study of Gwadi Village Development Committee, Gulmi**

**Approved By**

Lecturer Dharanidhar Sharma  
(External Examiner)

Pro.Dr. Pushkar Kumar Pradhan  
(Act. Head of Department)

Pro. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi  
(Supervisor)

**Dissertation Committee**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Research is a collective work, without help of other people a researcher can not complete his work. In this respect, first of all, I would like to express my profound appreciation to my respected supervisor Professor Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi (Head of the Central Department of Geography, TU) for his invaluable suggestions and encouragement to complete this dissertation and my studies as well. I am immeasurably indebted to Kanaiya Sapkota (Lector of CDG) for providing me valuable guidance at different stages of this study. His guidance was a source of inspiration for me. So, I would like to give many many thanks to him.

Likewise, I would like to express my respect and sincere thanks to Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Gurung-executive Chairperson and Usha Shrestha- accountant of the Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS) for contribution connected in this field. Similarly, the sincere gratitude goes to National Center of Competence in Research, North-South (NCCR) for providing financial support to accelerate the span of this research towards success. Equally, I would like to express profound gratitude to Prof. Dr . Puskar Kumar Pradhan (Executive Head of Central Department of Geography) for his marvelous and auspicious assistances. I would like to heartily thanks to my external teacher Mr. Dharanidhar Sharma for his valuable suggestion. I would also like to thank to all teachers and officials of Central Department of Geography, T.U. for encouraging me to grasp an opportunity to prepare this dissertation.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Gwadi VDC (Gulmi) and my informants for their patience and for allowing me to get an insight in their life and work. Special thanks go to my former teacher Lil Bahadur Malla, Mr. Om Prakash Shah, Mr. Jawaharlal Gyawali, Mr. Ghanashyam Aryal and Mr. Dhirta Nath Gyawali for their heartily supported and helped on my field. Similarly, I would like to express sincere thanks to Mr. Jagannath Tiwari and Basant Bahadur Regami for their unforgettable help during the field work.

Sincere thanks go to my colleagues Narayan Pokhrel, Arbind Thapa, Amar Bahadur Singh and Gita Tiwari for providing me invaluable assistance during this study.

At this moment, I would like to express my deep respect to my parents and other family members who continued to provide help and encouragement in numerous ways.

Last but not least, I would like to thank to all who have directly or indirectly assisted me to make this success.

 **Nim Bahadur Thapa''Regami''**

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page No.</b>
APPROVAL PAGE	I
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	II
LIST OF TABLES	VII
LIST OF FIGURES	VIII
LIST OF MAPS	IX
ACRONYMS	X

### **CHAPTER - ONE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problems	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.4 Signification of the Study	6
1.5 Limitation of the Study	7
1.6 Operational Definition	7

### **CHAPTER - TWO**

#### **REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE**

2.1 Theoretical Literature	8
2.2 Literature Related to Labour Migration and Livelihood	10

### **CHAPTER – THREE**

#### **RESEARCH STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Selection the Research Site	15
3.2 Before Entry into the Field	15
3.3 Entry into the Field	15
3.4 Entry into the Main Data Collection and Procedures	17
3.4.1 Semi-Structure Questionnaire	17

3.4.2 Key-Informant Interviews	17
3.4.3 Focus Group Discussion	18
3.4.4 Observation	18
3.4.5 Field Note-taking	19
3.4.6 Secondary Data	19
3.4 Conceptual Frame Work	19
3.5 Method of Data Analysis	21

## **CHAPTER - FOUR**

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

4.1 Geographical Location	23
4.2 Natural Resources	23
4.3 Infrastructural	24
4.4 Occupational Structure	28
4.5 Population Setting	28
4.6 History & Pattern of International Labour Migration	31

## **CHAPTER – FIVE**

### **DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY HOUSEHOLDS**

5.1 Population by Clans of the Households	34
5.2 Population Composition by Age & Sex	34
5.3 Marital Status	36
5.4 Education Attainment	37
5.5 Family Size	38
5.6 Landholding Patterns	39
5.7 Subsistence Farming and Food Security	40
5.8 Diversification of Household Income	43
5.9 Livestock	44

**CHAPTER – SIX**  
**EMIGRANTS AND THEIR PERCEPTION TOWARDS LABOUR**  
**MIGRATION**

6.1 Emigrants' Population and Educational Status by Age & Sex	46
6.2 Destinations and Employment Access	47
6.3 Perception and Attitude towards Labour Migration	50
6.4 Causes of Emigration	52
6.4.1 Factors Associated with Origin	52
6.4.2 Factors Associated with Destination	53
6.5 Means of Family Contacts	54

**CHAPTER - SEVEN**  
**LABOUR MIGRATION AND LIVELIHOOD**

7.1 Remittances and its Use	55
7.1.1 Remittances – How much?	55
7.1.2 Form of Remittances	56
7.1.3 Channels for Sending Money	56
7.1.4 Use of Remittances	57
7.2 Changing Role of Women in Decision Making at Home and Society	59
7.3 Impact of Migration on the Assets of the Household	62

**CHAPTER - EIGHT**  
**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

8.1 Summary	65
8.2 Conclusion	68
REFERENCES	69
APPENDICES	

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Content</b>	<b>Pages</b>
Table - 1: Caste and Ward wise Population Distribution of Gwadi VDC	28
Table - 2: Population by Caste and Ethnic of Gwadi VDC	30
Table - 3: Pattern of Labour Migration from Gwadi VDC	32
Table - 4: Population by Clans of the Sample Households	34
Table - 5: Population Composition by Age & Sex of Sample Households	35
Table - 6: Marital Status of Sample Households (in Percentage)	36
Table - 7: Educational Attainment of Sample Households (in Percentage)	38
Table - 8: Family Size of the Sample Households	39
Table - 9: Land Holding Pattern of Sample Households	40
Table - 10: Agriculture Production in Magar Community	41
Table - 11: Agriculture Production in Non-Magar Community	42
Table - 12: Food Sufficiency (in relation to agricultural production) of the Study households	43
Table - 13: Diversification of the Household Income, 2005 (in yearly)	44
Table - 14: Livestock of Study Households	45
Table - 15: Educational Status of Emigrants by their age group	47
Table - 16: Major Works of migrants in India	50
Table - 17: Yearly Amount of Remittance of the Study Households	56
Table - 18: Household Expenditure, 2005	59

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Content</b>	<b>Pages</b>
Figure -1 : Conceptual Frame Work of the Study	20
Figure -2 : Research Strategies and Field Survey Schedule	22
Figure -3 : Population by Caste and Ethnic of Gwadi VDC	30
Figure -4 : Population by Sub-caste wise of the Households	34
Figure -5 : Population Composition by Age & Sex	36
Figure -6 : Marital Status of Study Households (in Percentage)	37
Figure -7 : Educational Attainment of Study Households (in Percentage)	38
Figure -8 : Family Size of the Study Households	39
Figure -9 : Land holding pattern of Study Households	40
Figure -10 : Agriculture Production in Magar Community	42
Figure -11 : Agriculture Production in Non-Magar Community	42
Figure -12 : Major Works of migrants in India	50
Figure -13 : Channels for Sending Remittances	58
Figure -14 : Remittances and their investment	60
Figure -15 : Changing Role of Women in Decision Making at Home and Society	61

## LIST OF MAPS

<b>Content</b>	<b>Pages</b>
Map - 1: Location Map of the Study Area	25
Map - 2: Natural Resources of the Study Area	26
Map - 3: Infrastructure of the Study Area	27
Map - 4: Caste and Ward wise Population Distribution of Gwadi VDC	29
Map - 5: International Labour Migration from Gwadi VDC (2005)	33
Map - 6: Destination Places of Emigrant in India from Gwadi VDC (2005)	49

## ACRONYMS

CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	-	Central Department of Population Studies
CEDA	-	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
DDC	-	District Development Committee
e.g.	-	For Example
et.al.	-	And other
GDP	-	Gross Development Product
hhs	-	Households
i.e.	-	that is
ICIMOD	-	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ILO	-	International Labour Organization
Ltd.	-	Limited
NCCR	-	National Centre of Competence in Research
NIDS	-	Nepal Institute of Development Studies
NLSS	-	Nepal Living Standard Survey
No.	-	Number
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
NRS	-	Nepalese Rupees
M. A.	-	Master of Arts
PCO	-	Public Cass Office
Ph.D.	-	Doctor of Philosophy
Pvt.	-	Private
SDC	-	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SLC	-	School Leaving Certificate
SNF	-	Swiss National Science Foundation
Sq.km.	-	Square Kilometer
T.U.	-	Tribhuvan University
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
VDC	-	Village Development Committee
Vol.	-	Volume