

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Squatter as a Urban Poor in the valley

**A STUDY ON LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY OF THE
URBAN POOR IN RAMHITY, KATHMANDU, NEPAL**



**A DISSERTATION
SUBMITTED TO THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY,
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FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTERS' DEGREE IN
GEOGRAPHY**

By

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CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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Approved by:

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ABSTRACT

Migration from rural areas of Nepal has resulted in the formation of squatter settlements in the urban area of Kathmandu Valley. High unemployment and day-to-day struggles to survive have compelled people living in rural areas to leave their places of birth in search of a better life in the city. In addition to this, the poor families originating in the Kathmandu Valley have ended up being squatters mainly due to poor economic conditions. Because squatter settlements are communities where people have no legal right to the land they occupy, they are inherently insecure places to live.

A poor squatter's life is not easy. Squatters face a constant fear of eviction, have inadequate access to basic facilities like drinking water and toilets, and do the jobs that no one else wants to do. Above all, there is the squatter stigma like they are dirty and lazy, and squatter settlement is an eyesore. They are the people who sweep the streets and sell us meat and vegetables. They are a source of cheap labor for construction work and transporting goods. Squatters help keep the national economy going, and are as vital to it as any other person.

This paper tries to explore different livelihood strategies adopted by the poor residing as squatters in Ramhity squatter using DFID's livelihood framework. The aim of this paper is to provide a better picture of the state of affairs which has been used by the urban poor to support their urban livelihoods along with various coping strategies to deal with different kinds of risks and vulnerabilities in absence and presence of different kinds of capital asset.

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ABBREVIATION

AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BS:	Bikram Sambat (Nepali calendar year: about 57 Years older than AD)
CBS:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDR:	Central Development Region
CD-Video:	System of simultaneously producing high quality sound and video pictures from a compact disc
CEDA:	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
DFID:	Department for International Development
EDR:	Eastern Development Region
EDHAG:	Environment Health and Development Advisory Group
EMA:	Environmental Management Action Group
ENPHO:	Environment and Public Health and Organisation
FGD:	Focus Group Discussion
FWDR:	Far- Western Development Region
GIS:	Geographic Information System
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMG/N:	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
ISD:	International Subscriber Dialing
Kg:	Kilogram
KMC:	Kathmandu Metropolitan City
MWDR:	Mid – Western Development Region
NGO:	Non-Government Organisation
NRs:	Nepalese Rupees (equivalent to about 0.1 NOK at the date)
SL:	Sustainable Livelihood
SODIS:	Solar Water Disinfection
STD:	Subscriber Trunk Dialing
TB:	Tuberculosis
UNDP:	United Nation Development Programme
WDR:	Western Development Region