

**A Study of the Death Rituals of Rupakot VDC (Kaski District)
Migrated Gurung Community in Pokhara**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social
Sciences Department of Sociology/ Anthropology for the
Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree
in *Anthropology***

By

Kanchan Gurung

Roll No: 02/2063

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**Tribhuvan University
Prithvi Narayan Campus
Pokhara**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mrs. Kanchan Gurung has completed this dissertation entitled, **“A Study of The Death Rituals of Rupakot VDC (Kaski District) Migrated Gurung Community in Pokhara** under my supervision. This is an original work. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

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Department of Sociology/Anthropology

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RECOMMENDATION BY LANGUAGE EDITOR

This is to certify that I have gone through the draft of dissertation entitled "**A Study of The Death Rituals of Migrated Gurung in Pokhara From Rupakot VDC, Kaski**" prepared by Mrs. Kanchan Gurung as a language editor and made necessary correction and improvements therein. I have been impressed by her intelligible presentation of facts through the medium of plain and correct English.

(Bishwo Raj Adhikari)

Reader

Department of English Education

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Date:

LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis entitled "**A Study of The Death Rituals of Rupakot VDC (Kaski District) Migrated Gurung Community**" submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology; Prithvi Narayan Campus by **Mrs. Kanchan Gurung** has been approved by the undersigned members of the Dissertation Evaluation Committee.

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Kanchan Gurung
December, 2012

ABSTRACT

Gurungs have their unique cultures and custom. They celebrate many customs and rituals. This study is concentrated on Death Ritual of Gurungs. It is attempted to describe multi aspects of Gurungs Death ritual i.e. economic, religious, social, cultural, importance of kinships. Gurung rituals are becoming expensive day by day in expenditure of pae (Arghun) and going to be deformed of cultures and customs. This study has described influences of Modernization, Urbanization, Migration, Hinduization, etc. in death ritual

The broad objectives of this study has been to explore about Gurungs death ritual and specific objectives which are as below.

-) To find out the cultural, economic and social aspects of death ritual in Gurung culture.*
-) To explore the importance of social relations in Gurungs death ritual*
-) To trace the changing process out and to describe the general role (son and daughter) in death ritual in Gurung society.*

This study is framed theoretical with in the concept of structural functionalism, symbolic interpretation and diffusions. This research study is designed with exploratory, descriptive and used from primary and interview, observation, schedule etc. This study is concentrated with 'Rupa Samaj' who are migrated Gurungs in Pokhara from Rupakot VDC and the research sampling has been taken on the basis of census with selection of all 60 households.

Gurungs are followers of 'Bonism'. They practice their cultures and customs according to Bon. Their priests are Pachyu, Ghepren, Bon Lama and Painsi. They are influenced by Mahayani Lamas who are Tibetan Buddhist. In the death ritual, there are innovative changes in many parts i.e. process of doing Syaisyai, rules to manage death ceremony etc. The priests do not have also plenty of knowledge about meaning of their death ritual. There is lack of knowledge with new generation about cultures and rituals. There are developments of some deformed usages and ostentations. But there is very important element of unity, cooperation, sympathy and we feeling. Death rituals have been a means of co-ordination for Gurungs, creating solidarity although the ritual of Syaisyai is similar to an institution same to that as referred by Malinowski in his study on Trobrianders.

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GLOSSARY OF GURUNG WORDS

Amashyo	-	Princess
Angi	-	maternal aunt
Astu	-	remains
Asyon	-	maternal uncle (mawali)
Chadu	-	eat
Chahmerime	-	daughters
Chhon	-	lake
Chhonj	-	meeting
Chhya	-	Ritual
Chon	-	daughter-in- law
Chyu	-	rat
Chyu	-	grain
Dheen	-	house
Faki	-	the cloth wear at west by round and round
Fol	-	round rice
Ghalek	-	a cloth
Ghepren	-	a priest of Gurung
Ghya	-	Lamp
Hui	-	Bhanja Bhanji
Kainya koi	-	cloth which put on Ghepren
Kainya koi	-	dress of Ghepren
Kerlo	-	Book of origin (utpati shastra)
Khe	-	father (male)
Khegi	-	priests
Khema	-	offer foods for death ancestors
Klehe	-	Leader
Kleshondi Prehesodi	-	Sky and earth
Ko	-	Blood
Kohoimbo	-	the temple of Gurung priests
Koi	-	cloth
Ku	-	nine
kya chhayaba	-	clearing way
Kyankoi	-	white cloth for showing path in funeral
Kyu chhaba	-	grazing sheep

Laba	-	do
Lama	-	a priest of Gurung
Lha	-	flag
Lho	-	Year
Lhu	-	Culture
Ma	-	mother (female)
Mhasyan	-	lost
Mhi	-	Human (identify)
Mhigrachons	-	gentles
Mhinakujo	-	a kind of Gurung clan
Mi	-	fire
Mi	-	name
Name	-	bird
Nasa	-	village
Nemme	-	sons
Nge Tuhu	-	Samdi
Ngha	-	drum
Ngi	-	seven
Ngome	-	Medical holy book (aushadhi shastra)
Pachyu	-	a priest of Gurung
Pahainlu bujhepa	-	subscription
Paindi	-	a priest/astrologer
Pamashyo	-	Servant
Pina	-	give
Pla	-	Image/poppet
Plaha	-	spirit
Pleheme	-	a clan group
Pro	-	Steep slope
Proho waba	-	Through ill-luck
Pye	-	Holy book (Dharma Shastra)
Pye-Tan-Lhu-Tan	-	A holy book of Gurung
Rho	-	Death body
Rihi	-	remains of death body
Rupa/Ripa	-	yellow thread which put on neck while Syaisyai
Sa	-	Soil
Sa-Fu- Ti Kyahasa	-	earth

Sike	-	doing work after death
Silchyon	-	Jhyalee
Soke	-	doing work (Treatment) for living people
Sonapa	-	The gift for death spirit by mawali
Sya	-	meat
Syarko	-	melodious chanting
Syon	-	bell
Taha Vai	-	same clan group but not need to be mourner
Tahalu	-	a stone which is worshiped as a belief of death person.
Tar Lhiba	-	opening door for death soul by breaking wooden plank
Tehen	-	Oblation
Thaso prahangi kon prib-		oblation for purification
Theba	-	keep
Tho	-	animal for sacrifice
Thoba	-	cut
Tohonsy laba	-	welcome
Tohonte	-	village protection
Tusimhru	-	prickle of porcupine
Tuhanglu	-	foods/ Prasad
Tusyu prib	-	enclose for work

NEPALI WORDS USED IN THE STUDY

Antesty	-	Funeral Rite
Bali	-	Animal for sacrifice
Bhanyar pooja	-	worship of wild animal on the wishes of protection of domestic animals.
Chauthi	-	Quater
Dan Dakshina	-	subscription
Dharma Guru	-	Structor
Dhuparo	-	Vessel to carry burning coal son which ghee or in cense is brunt
Gaunt	-	urine of cow
Gharbar	-	house protection by priest
Ghok firnu	-	announced information
Harelo	-	a kind of worship
Jhankribad	-	Shamanism
Jib badi	-	animism
Jiubar	-	body protection by priest
Karma kanda	-	rite
Katus	-	Chestnut
Kriya	-	sorrow
kiriya putries	-	person of mourn
kul pooja	-	Worship of ancestor
Luto	-	piece of burning wood which through in sawanesakranti
Mala	-	bead, necklace
Mawali	-	maternal relatives
Nark	-	hell
Pandhera	-	watering place
Pooja	-	worship
Prakritibad	-	naturalism
Prakritic pooja	-	worship of nature
Sato Jane	-	loss
Tantra mantra	-	enchantment
Vut prêt	-	negative spirit