

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Nepal is developing country so poverty is one of the burning and perplexing issues in the current arena. Sociologist gives more attention about the poverty of the rural areas. Poverty is the major enemy of our nation. Poverty in Nepal can be viewed from two angles micro and macro. In micro level it identifies in terms of low caloric intake, lack of basic health facilities, illiteracy, high infant mortality, inadequate shelter, low purchasing power and high rural to urban migration. In macro level it can be expressed in term of high rate of growth of population, lack of marketing facilities, unemployment, technology less activities and administrative inefficiencies.

Poverty is particularly rampant in the rural areas. Poor communities generally exist among people with marginal land holding, occupational casts, dalits, tribes and matriarchal households. Targeted efforts are also required to provide basic needs as well as minimum social services and assurance of required to the backward rural and destitute group through the creation and expansion of opportunities for income generation and employment. If the employment opportunities created by investment are not well managed and necessary arrangements to increase productivity are not made, capital will gradually replace labor. Similarly, if the rights and interests of the labor are not protected and due remuneration is not provided, it deteriorates the management labor relations. Such situation can displace labor and adversely affect investment, leading to decrease in employment opportunities. Institutional development is essential to protect labor's right and interest as well as to create harmonious relationship with the management.

Poverty is mostly concentrated in the rural areas of under developed countries like Nepal. Poverty in rural areas is basically caused by low productivity of agriculture. The limited base and inadequate growth rate of non-agricultural sector in the economy. Similarly the lack of exploitable mineral resources, poor agricultural policy and topographical disadvantages are also responsible for its economic backwardness and poverty. Poverty primarily is a rural phenomenon. It is also primarily an agriculture phenomenon. A related characteristic of the poor is that they lack assets.

They either have very small amounts of unproductive land or no land at all they lack of human largely in an agriculture setting (HDR and WB, 1990). Economists have defined poverty in different ways and expressed there in different criteria in general term poverty can be defined as "The inability to attain minimal standard of living or situation where some one is not possible to meet the assumed as the cause of poverty (WDR, P-26).

Absolute poverty occurs when people fail to receive sufficient resources to support a minimum of physical health and efficiently often expressed in terms calories or nutritional levels. Relative poverty is defined by the general standard of living in different societies and what is culturally defines as being poor rather than some absolute level of deprivation (Dictionary of Sociology).

1.2 Statement of The Problem

The first target of the Millennium Development Goals is to decrease the extent of extreme poverty by one-half by the year 2015. Poverty remains a predominantly rural problem, with a majority of the world's poor located in rural areas. It is estimated that 76 percent of the developing world's poor live in rural areas. Disparities between rural and urban areas is on the rise, particularly in many developing and transitional countries. Globally, rural people and rural places tend to be disadvantaged relative to their urban counterparts and poverty rates increase as rural areas become more remote (UNDP 2006).

The economic development of any country depends upon not only on the availability of natural resources but also on the extent of its rational utilization. Poverty in Nepal is widespread, deep and severe and is identified as the most important factor leading to the unsustainable use of natural resources (Smith et al. 2003). For all round development of the country, careful utilization of the natural resources is necessary. Participation of all stakeholders in the utilization of resources has been identified as one of the suitable means for sustainable use of natural resources.

The problem of poverty is especially in the rural areas of the countries like Nepal. The problems of poverty is more intense in local development committees in rural location i.e. 744 Village Development Committees where 83% people are living (Census 2011). Rural areas based on agricultural activities play vital role to uplift the economy of nation. In case of Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee , there are the means of

transportation, electricity, communications, water supply, basic health facilities, high schools level but the standard of people is not improving in expected way.

But such poverty alleviation efforts and programmes have not fulfilled the expectations of the people. Likewise due to inability to identify the poor, a large share of the development benefits goes to the non-poor. As a result, rural poverty in Nepal has reached at alarming state. The government has repeatedly promised and committed to the people to abolish the massive poverty. This is still only a mere dream.

Present research try to answer the following research questions:

-) What is the state of poverty condition of Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee , Ilam?
-) What are the causes of poverty in the study area?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Objective of this study, in general, is to explore overall situation of rural poverty of the village based upon the facts examined by tools and methodologies. In particular the following specific objectives are set:

- 1 To examine the state of poverty of Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee , Ilam.
- 2 To find out the causes of poverty in the study area.

1.4 Significance of The Study

Poverty is one of the burning and perplexing issues in the current arena. Its impact on the population is on of the significant in the academic field. What measures can be undertaken to manage it? What is the poverty state of Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee ? How particular ways will work effectively in the reduction of poverty in Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee, Ilam?

The significance of this study is primarily concerned with the above raised questions. Besides, this study will help to understand the poverty and poverty related constraints rampant in the village. It will predominantly help to concretize the poverty nature of the same village. This gives more effective poverty reduction ideas.

On the other side, this research has academic value. It would be a useful reference for the students of Sociology, libraries, organizations including NGOs and INGO and others interested to introduce development activities. It is also useful for further studies related to poverty and it would be beneficial to get deep into the problem.

It will help to explore the current situation of poverty in the study area which is significant to the local leaders, teachers and farmers as well as to the local and district level planners and administrators. Similarly it is useful for local organizations, NGOs and INGOs, educational institutions, health workers and the social mobilizes.

1.5 Organization of the Study.

The research of the study will be organized in to three main chapters. The first chapter highlights of introductory part of causes of rural poverty. This chapter includes background of the study, problems of statement, objectives of the study, significance of the study, organization of the study. The second chapter will be literature review. The third chapter will be research methodology research design selection of the study area, universe and sampling procedure, social indicators for study, nature of data, tools and its validation, data collection technique and data analysis and interpretation which further will include the research design, nature and sources of data. At the end questionnaire, will be attached in appendix.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Review

Nepal's poverty is mostly concentrated in the rural areas where 85 percent of its total population lives (NPC: 2008). Although, Nepal's economy is basically based on agriculture, its productivity has been declining continuously. The reasons for poor performance in the agricultural sector are due to lack of well fertile land, lack of irrigation, implementation of traditional methods, small and fragmented land holding and lack of improved and credit facilities.

Poverty, once thought to be the natural condition of a class of people, has metamorphosed into something of a problem with the maturity of the development discourse. From disease to terrorism, poverty is blamed for many things (Adhikari 2011). Poverty is having very little money; not having enough money for basic needs (Oxford 2005).

"Putting the Last First" writes rural development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and need. It involves helping the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. The group includes small scale farmers, tenants and the landless. (Chambers: 2005).

The Dictionary of Sociology distinguishes the difference between relative poverty and absolute poverty. Absolute poverty occurs when people fail to receive sufficient resources to support a minimum level of physical health and efficiency that often expressed in terms of calories or nutrition levels. Relative poverty is defined as the general standard of living in different societies and what is culturally stated as being poor and ultra poverty line is below the absolute poverty line its half by the gestation as a rule of thumb. The most commonly used way to measure poverty is based on income or consumption level. A person is considered poor if his or her consumption or income level falls below some minimum level necessary to meet basic needs. This minimum level is usually called the "Poverty line". What is necessary to satisfy basic needs varies across time and societies. Therefore, poverty lines vary in time and place,

and each country uses lines, which are appropriate to its level of development, social norms and values (WB: 99).

The definition of poverty varies from region to region depending upon their economic status. The characteristics of poor people in rural area can be identified as landlessness, too little land, large family malnutrition, ill health, illiteracy, high infant mortality, low life expectancy, low income, irregular income, weak position, isolation due to poor communication focus on survive and indebtedness (Dixon 1990). The rural people under poverty have their economy below subsistence level. They have little access to political power and little say in decision making. The five major characteristics of poor people can be identified as powerlessness, isolation, poverty, physical weakness and vulnerability (Chamber 1983). The explanation of rural poverty can be made with the help of socio-cultural factor, economic factor, political factor and environmental factor.

The suffering of the poor are, indeed, less observed than their misdeeds :not from any want of compassion but because they are less known : and this is true reason why we so often hear them mentioned with abhorrence, and so seldom with pity . . . They starve and freeze and not among themselves , but they beg , and steal and rob among their betters. (Fielding :1753 opp. cit. Golding and Middleton: 1982)

An effort was made to avoid cross-classifications and to eliminate conditions not usually productive of dependence. The discussion at this time turned largely upon the difference between a "condition" and a "cause." The following classification was adopted: (I) Causes within the family: disregard of family ties; intemperance; licentiousness, dishonesty or other moral defects; lack of thrift, industry or judgment; physical or mental defects; sickness, accident or death. (2) Causes outside the family: lack of employment not due to employee; defective sanitation; degrading surroundings; unwise philanthropy; public calamity; and other unclassified causes (Lilian :1908).

the commonest cause of the poverty that approaches pauperism is incapacity, resulting in most chronic cases from sickness or other degenerate and degenerating conditions. Weakness of some sort is the most typical characteristic of the destitute classes. Manifestly, our analysis of causes is only preliminary. It has hardly more value than that of a physician who should try to determine the causes of disease by examining

carefully the persons of a large number of patients ; by recording temperatures and respirations and pulsations, and by studying the other characteristics of those who were sick. To get at the remote causes of illness he would have to inquire, first, regarding the habits and heredity of the individuals, and, second, ing the climatic, sanitary, and other conditions of their and work. So also the remote causes of the weakness that begets poverty must be learned by wider investigations than any here attempted (Amos: 1894)

2.2 Review of Empirical Studies

Nepal was one of the poorest countries in the world with a per capita income 210\$ in 1997 (WBR 1999). It was 340\$ in 2008 (WBR 2009) positioning Nepal in the fourteenth poorer state. Regarding human development Nepal was in the 142th position in 2008 whereas it was 138 in last year (UNDP 2009). Corresponding low level of consumption i.e. 51 percent of the total income of household is spent on food. Nepal is the poorest country from Asia (WBR 2008/09). Most of the poor live in the rural areas of Nepal. During the fiscal year, 1995/96, 44 percent of the rural people and 23 percent of the urban people were under the poverty line (NLS Survey 1996). 31% of the total population of Nepal was below poverty line at the end of Tenth Plan (NPC 2009).

Rowntree's book "Poverty: A Study of Townline (1901)" was based investigation in Newyork. For Rowntree, poverty was a condition in which earning was insufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a healthy and productive life. Rowntree (1941) published a secured study 40 years after the first. He felt that a single and invariant definition of poverty would not be justice to the social reality, which varies across time and space.

The first attempt to define and quantify the level of poverty in Nepal was made by NPC in 1976/77 through a survey on employment, income distribution and consumption patterns. The minimum subsistence level of income and expenditure was used for derivation of the poverty line. An income level of Rs. 2 per capita per day at 1976/77 prices was taken as the minimum substance level. This out of level was based on the expenditure required to buy food, giving average daily intake of 2256 calories and value of the lowest actual daily consumption of other basic necessities this gave a poverty estimated of 40.30 percent (NPC. Vol IV, 1978 P-32).

The World Bank study in 1990 showed that there is 74 percent of rural population below poverty line. According to this report, there is the existence of severe poverty in Nepal i.e. 71 percent of total population live in poverty especially in rural areas. The study has used various socio-economic indicators to show the exact situation of poverty i.e. health, education, basic service etc. (WDR 1991, P-67).

A case study of Purna Jhanga Jholi VDC of Sindhuli district by J. P. Aryal (1993) has analyzed the nature of poverty and he has concluded that 41.42 percent of households and 16.91 percent of people are relative poor. A research carried out on 'rural Poverty in Nepal' has used secondary data and descriptive method to highlight the dimension of poverty. It has applied data on land owners, tenure income, food production, consumption, employment, literacy, health and other demographic measures. Rural poverty in Nepal is associated with various economic factors such as population growth, minimal land holding, per capita low productivity of land, lack of marketing facilities, food, educational attainment and overall socio-economic structure that favors the rich over the poor (Dahal, 1978).

"Poverty to prosperity in Nepal" written by S.C. Jain focuses on the various poverty problems in Nepal and recommends some long terms policies to reduce it. His study is based on the sample survey done by National Planning Commission. He categorizes the poor people into two groups poorest of poor and the poor about poverty line. In the former case he takes the people who have income less than NRS 2 per day in 1977 prices and he calculated that 36.2% of the total population falls in this group. In the latter case, there falls the people whose per capita daily income ranges from NRS 2.00 to 2.68 and he estimated that 18.8% the total population lies in this group. Thus 55% of total population is poor in Nepal. According to him, 87 percent of the total poor live in rural areas of Nepal. He recommends some policies for additional income generation in order to raise the living standard of the poor people of Nepal (Jain, 1981).

Efforts to measure the extent of poverty has also been done by Shrestha (1994) in 'Rural Poverty in Nepal' and introduced the notion of absolute poverty and established poverty line based on minimum required calories per person per day. The author analyses the extent and level of poverty lacking primary data from Markhu VCD of Makawanpur district. The study concludes that 59.7 percent people and 60 percent households are absolute poor in the study area.

The Living Standard Survey of Nepal (CBS: 1996) had covered 3,373 households from 730 districts while estimating the size of living below the poverty line. Per capita consumption level had been treated as the criterion. The living standard survey determined 2124 calories necessary for per capita per day. The per capita annual expense to purchase that calorie equivalent of food is to be Rs. 2637. If expenditure on non-food item is added, the per capita annual expenditure is estimated to start at Rs 4404. Based on this, the size of population living below the poverty line has been found 42 percent. Out of this, 24.9 percent is poor and 17.10 percent is estimated to be ultra poor. Population under poverty line has been described according their geographical condition. Geographic region-wise, 41 percent and 42 percent of the total population is below the poverty line in the mountain. Similarly, 23 percent in the urban area and 44percent people in rural area live below t he poverty line. The study included that higher poverty concentration prevails in the rural area then the urban area (CBS, 1996).

Anil Prasad Gautam, in this study has examined the cause of poverty in Nepal. According to him low national consumption/expenditure, heavy unemployment along with misemployment, explosive growth rate of population, inadequacies of anti poverty planning and actions. Rising inequalities of income, regional disparities, inappropriate technology, capital deficiency, selection of wrong investment strategies, lack of education, lack of skill development program and a number of social factors are also responsible (Gautam, 1996).

Regarding the cause of poverty, Mr Byrn and Stone concludes that "The cause of poverty are many and varied; poor families have little education, few earners and more children than to middle or upper class families. The characteristics of the poor are not necessarily the cause of poverty. Discrimination may be one of the important cause of poverty (Shrestha 1997). According to Ghai et al, "The problem of mass poverty in the third world is primarily one of the rural poverty". APROSE (1998) conducted a field survey to assess the poverty situation in 255 VDCs of 15 districts of Nepal. This study concluded that more than two-third population of the country was living in a critical poverty.

A study of poverty at Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City (Srivastav 1998) has categorized the poor households into two groups, that is (a) very poor and (b) poor on the basis of total consumption criterion. To identify as very poor and poor households, various

indicators have been used like total consumption expenditure, composition of consumption expenditure, saving and social indicators like housing, clothing, education, health etc. With regard to the composition of consumption expenditure 67.40 percent families seen to be very poor and remaining 32.60 percent as poor. Regarding housing 26.30 percent families have been found as very poor and remaining 73.70 percent as poor. This study concludes that 4.20 percent of total active members are fully employed and remaining 95.80 percent as partially employed.

Eliminating poverty by accelerating the rate of growth of family income will depend on the ability of the economy to accelerate the growth of productivity and to utilize fully the available labor and capital resources. This is true for both Negroes and whites. After full employment is reached, an accelerated growth of productivity will not eliminate the gap between white and Negro incomes

(though it will make training programs and the elimination of discrimination easier and more effective), but this fact would seem to be no reason for sacrificing the large (and equal) gains that would accrue to both whites and Negroes from a faster rate of growth (Lester : 1967).

The underdevelopment of the periphery must be traced back to their relations with and dependence on the centre. In other words, one can understand what is happening in the underdeveloped countries only when one sees that they develop within the framework of a process of dependent production and reproduction. This system is a dependent one because it reproduces a productive system whose development is limited by those world relations which necessarily lead to the development of only certain economic sectors, to trade under unequal conditions, to domestic competition with international capital under unequal conditions, and to an industrial structure that can only lead to perverse growth. This theoretical step, needless to mention, transcends the theory of development now fashionable in the metropole, which seeks to explain the situation of the underdeveloped countries as a product of the slowness or failure to adopt the patterns of efficiency characteristic of developed countries (Justinian :1971).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study is based on fieldwork. The research design will be descriptive and exploratory. It is descriptive in the sense that this study has sought to describe the situation of rural poverty of Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee . It is exploratory in the sense that it has tried to explore the underlying factors of poverty and furthermore it will try to explore the reasons as well. In fact, this research design is directed to achieve the particular goals of the research target.

3.2 Selection of Study Area

The study area will be in Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee of Ilam district which lies on the Eastern Development Region of Nepal. This village is located at the centre part of Ilam district connecting to Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee . The geographical location of this village lies between 28° 7' N to 28° 13' N latitude and 84° 7' E to 84° 12' east longitude.

This Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee is the birth place of the researcher and hence it is believed that the data collection and analysis will be more effective. The key persons provided the data in an intensive way and exchanged the feelings about the village and its poverty condition.

3.3 Universe and Sampling Procedure

The Sandakpur Village Municipal Committee of Ilam consists of 853 households which is the universe of this study. The total population in the sampled village is 3700. Out of 853 households from the sample area, 50 households will be taken as a sample unit for the study. These wards are purposively selected to collect data. The systematic survey will adopted to determine the household to be surveyed. Thus 14.28 % of the total numbers of households are included as sampling unit for the collection of relevant information.

3.4 Social Indicators for Study

The social indicators of the rural poverty are food, shelter, land holding, education, occupation, assets, health and other services. These indicators are the indexes of poverty.

3.5 Nature of Data

This study will be based on primary as well as secondary data from the prospective of data collection procedure. On other side, both qualitative and quantitative data are used. This all aims to fulfill the targeted objectives. Primary data are collected by using structured questionnaire, direct observation, interview and field survey. Secondary data, as the supplement, are collected from the published reports of different organizations and articles in different journals. Especially the publications of Central Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Commission, Nepal Rastra Bank, Agricultural Development Bank, District office of Ilam are taken as source of data.

3.6 Tools and its Validation

Structured Questionnaire, Key-informant Interview Outline, Direct Observation, Note System are the tools and techniques to gather data. The questionnaire and interview outline will be developed taking the reference of previous study on rural poverty and also taken into discussion with supervisor before administrating it. For the purpose of validation of questionnaire, a pilot study will be done in five random households.

3.7 Data Collection Technique

To collect necessary data the following methods of data collection are used.

3.7.1 Structured Questionnaire

The nature of questionnaire is structured in type. Structured questionnaire will primarily quantitative and a bit qualitative in nature. The questionnaire consisting questions pertaining to the inquiry were prepared. The blank had been filled by taking interview with the hand of sample household's respondent. The researcher himself visited door to door to the sample household to collect relevant data.

3.7.2 Key-informant Interview

Unstructured interview will be conducted with key-informant to collect supplementary information about situations of rural poverty in the study area. Five local leaders from five wards, two teachers from village school, one from each NGO workers, development activist, political leaders, leader of women group will be taken as key-informant interview to collect appropriate information for the study. Information obtained from unstructured interview will be recorded in a personal diary to collect data.

3.7.3 Direct Observation

It is possible to get all necessary information neither from structured questionnaire nor from interview. Therefore qualitative information will be collected through direct observation. Researcher himself is well known to the village and observed the study area during the study time as well to understand its physical and socio-economic setting from the research eye. Observation included livelihood pattern and overall socio-cultural activities.

3.8 Data Analysis and Interpretation

After collecting the responses through the various tools and techniques, the researcher made a fair form of data to accommodate in electronic media. Then the data will properly tabulated, analyzed and interpreted keeping in mind the objectives of the study. The report exposes the rural poverty situation in reference to the social variables like food, shelter, occupation, income, land holding, and education of the study area. For this purpose, the Word Processing Software is used wisely. The standard format for the research report is followed.

While presenting the data, simple statistical tools like frequency and percentage will be used. Likewise, tabulation and graphical representation have also been used. In order to present some quantitative data figures, chart, diagram will be used too. Most serious efforts have been made to interpret data to get the reality as far as possible.

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