

**Social-Economic and Cultural Status of Kumal Community  
(A Case Study of Darlamachaur VDC, Gulmi)**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to**

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## **RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

It is hereby, recommended for the approval of this thesis entitled '**Socio-economic and Cultural Status of Kumal Community; A Case Study of Darlamchaur VDC Mr Rabi Chandra Bista**' has prepared this thesis under my guidance and supervision as a partial fulfilment of the requirement for Master of Arts In Rural development. Therefore this thesis has recommended for its evaluation.

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## **APPROVAL LETTER**

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by Rabi Chandra Bista entitled **Socio-economic and Cultural Status of Kumal Community: A Case Study of Darlamchaur VDC Gulmi**, has been approved by this department in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and social sciences. This thesis is forwarded for the evaluation.

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**Rabi Chandra Bista**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Nepal is a nation of various tribes, castes and clans differing in language, religion, customs and culture. Nepali culture is mixed culture where bending of various national culture representing in three ecological regions, the Mountain, the Hill and the Terai. The Kumals are the Mongoloid in appearance and inhabit the Terai, Inner Terai and close to the river valley of mid hills of Nepal. Gulmi district is inhabited by various ethnic groups. The Kumals is one of them and indigenous group of this area and has its own type of traditional ethnic culture. This community, when studied historically seems to have adopted traditional profession. In addition to various other systems and ways of working this community has a lot of originality.

The study "**Socio-economic and Cultural Status of Kumal Community: A Case Study of Darlamchaur VDC**" with general objective to analyze the socio-economic and cultural status of Kumal in Drlamchaur VDC of Gulmi district. The specific objectives of the study are to provide a short description on socio-economic status of Kumal community of Darlamchaur VDC of Gulmi district and to provide analysis of socio-cultural status in Kumal community. Primary and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaire, interview schedule, key informant interview, and observation and secondary data were collected through previous studies, published and unpublished documents. From related literature and from government documents, CBS, newspaper, leaflet and NGOs and INGOs working in Gulmi district. Thirty-nine households were selected following random sampling method and descriptive and exploratory research design had been applied in this study.

The present study focuses the changing socio-economic and cultural condition of Kumal and factors responsible for it. The Kumal or ethnic group is least studied group by native and foreign sociologists. The way of worshipping their village deities, believe in spirits, typical dress pattern and cluster type of settlement pattern distinctly differ from other ethnic groups. In one hand due to the domination of 'High Castes' Kumals are loosing their native culture, philosophy of life style, self confidence about their own traditions, language and beliefs. But on the other hand, due to the domination of 'High Casts' some significant changes are seen in education, health sector, sanitation, economic activities and way of life style of Kumal community of Darlamchaur VDC.

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## GLOSSARY

Akshata	=	Rice put on forehead as 'Tika'
Bhabi	=	Fortune determine
Bhailo Nanch	=	A kind of group dance common it Tihar festival
Chelibeti	=	Females
Bhoto	=	A kind of coat of males
Chhaiti	=	A rite observed in the sixth day after the child's birth
Dakshina	=	Money given to recipients of Tika in Dashian or other any festival
Dhoghbet Phukaune	=	Start of the greetings between the families of the bride and the grooms
Diyo	=	A kind of lamp
Dohori	=	A duet song
Gaunt	=	Urine of cow
Ghalek	=	A traditional dress for women
Gunyu	=	A kind of sari
Hyampai	=	A kind of Kumal dance
Jaad	=	A kind of drink made of cooked rice
Jhamre	=	A choral songs familiar with youths
Kot	=	A Hindu Tample
Kulain Pooja	=	Worshipping of the family God
Kutumba	=	Relative
Manas And Paathi	=	Measuring units used by Kumals
Marule	=	A leading dancer in Bhailo nanch
Pasni	=	A rite observed in the sixth month after the child's birth
Tapari	=	A plate made up of leaves of tree