# SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CHANGES OF TAMANG:

A Sociological Case Study of Lamatole and Panighat Community of Thankot VDC of Kathmandu District, Nepal

# A Thesis Submitted To Central Department of Sociology/ Anthropology In Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements of M.A. Degree in Sociology

### **Submitted By:**

Damodar Adhikari

T.U. Regd. No.: 6-1-290-5-97

Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

September, 2012

#### **Letter of Recommendation**

It is certified that Mr. Damodar Adhikari has completed this dissertation entitled "Socio- Economic and Cultural Changes of Tamang: A Sociological Case Study of Lamatole and Panighat Community of Thankot VDC of Kathmandu District, Nepal" under my guidance and supervision. I recommended this dissertation for viva approval and acceptance.

.....

Ms. Anju Khadka

**Central Department of Sociology/ Anthropology** 

Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

#### **Letter of Approval**

The Evaluation committee has approved this dissertation entitled "Socio- Economic and Cultural Changes of Tamang: A Sociological Case Study of Lamatole and Panighat Community of Thankot VDC of Kathmandu District, Nepal" submitted by Mr. Damodar Adhikari as a partial fulfillment for the requirements of the Degree of Master in Sociology.

<b>Evaluation Committ</b>	ee:-	
Ms. Anju Khadka	Ms. Milly Joshi	Prof. Dr. OM Gurung
Supervisor	External Examiner	Head of the Department

September, 2012

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my respected supervisor **Ms. Anju Khadka**, Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology Kirtipur, for her constant encouragement, guidance and valuable supervision at every stage of my research endeavour. This study would not have been materialized in the present form without her incisive observation and intellectual direction in the course of this thesis work.

I must also thank Ms. Milly Joshi, the external supervisor who have been so much supportive and instrumental in the completion of this dissertation.

I am also grateful to **Mr. Om Gurung**, Head of Central Department of Sociology/ Anthropology, for his continued suggestions in this regard.

Similarly, I am very much thankful to my respected to Mr. Umesh Dongol, friends Tirendra Bdr. Basnet, Bhakta Raj Rai, Sudhir Bashyal and Jyoti Adhikari. It would be have been injustice if I don't remember the VDC Secretary Mr. Lok Nath Tiwari, School Headmaster Mr. Ghan Shyam Giri and my friend Ishwor Lama for their invaluable contribution throughout the field work period.

I am also thankful to the people of Panighat and Lamatole community, staff of Tamang Ghedung, key persons of the study area. Likewise, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the VDC members, all the staff of Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, all the staff of Shanker Dev Campus Library and T.U. Central Library, staff of CBS and Thankot VDC for their continued support.

It is inevitable to give thanks to my wife Mrs. Tulsa Gaihre, son Aliz Adhikari, my brother and sister in laws for their moral support.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and love to my father Kosh Raj Adhikari and mother Bishnu Maya Adhikari for their valuable suggestions, continued encouragement and help throughout my research work.

Damodar Adhikari

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Recommendation	
Letter of Approval	
Acknowledgement	
List of Tables	
List of Maps	
Abbreviations	
	Page No.
CHAPTER- I INTRODUCTION	1-7
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	5
1.4 Significance of the Study	5
1.5 Organization of the Study	6
CHAPTER- II LITERATURE REVIEW	8-14
2.1 Theoretical Review on Socio-Economy	8
2.2 Theoretical Framework of the Study	11
2.3. Analysis of the Empirical Studies on Tamang	12
2.4 Practices on Socio-Economic Changes in Nepal	14
CHAPTER- III RESEARCH METHODOLOG	GY 15-18
3.1 Rational of the Research Site Selection	15
3.2 Research Design	15
3.3 Universe and Sampling	15
3.4 Nature and Sources of Data	16
3.5 Data Collection Tools and Technique	16
3.5.1 Field Observation	16
3.5.2 Informal Interview	17
3.5.3 Key Informants Interview	17
3.5.4 Household Survey	17

3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation		18
3.7 Limitations of t	he Study	18
CHAPTER- IV	INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA	19-30
4.1 Geographical S	etting	19
4.1.1 Population		22
4.1.2 Size of Fam	ily	23
4.1.3 Language		24
4.1.4 Religion		25
4.1.5 Education		25
4.2 Economic Statu	ıs	26
4.3 Social Relation		27
4.4 Natural Resource	ces	27
4.4.1 Forest		28
4.4.2 Land		28
4.4.3 Water		28
4.4.4 Hilly Region	n	29
4.5 Capital Resourc	ees	29
4.5.1 Tribuvan Pa	nrk	29
4.5.2 Temples		29
4.5.3 Entrance of	the Valley	30
4.5.4 Factories		30
CHAPTER- V	CULTURAL STATUS AND CHANGING	
	PATTERN OF TAMANGS	31-42
5.1 Caste System		31
5.2 Social Organiza	ation	31
5.3 Material Culture	e	32
5.3.1 Food Habit		33
5.3.2 Clothing		33
5.3.3 Ornaments		34
5.3.4 Structure of	House	34
5.4 Non–Material C	Cultures	34

5.4.1 Birth Ritual	35
5.4.1.1 Nwaran (Naming)	
5.4.1.2 Pasni (Feeding)	35
5.4.2 Chhewar	36
5.4.3 Marriage	37
5.4.3.1 Arrange Marriage	37
5.4.3.2 Love Marriage	37
5.4.3.3 Cross Cousin Marriage	37
5.4.3.4 Inter-caste Marriage	37
5.4.4 Death Rituals	38
5.4.4.1 Cremation	39
5.4.4.2 Ghewa	39
5.4.5 Feast and Festivals	
5.4.5.1 Saune Sankranti	
5.4.5 2 Kul pooja	40
5.4.5.3 Dashain	
5.4.5.4 Tihar	
5.4.5.5 Bhumi Pooja	41
5.4.5.6 Maghe Sankranti	41
5.4.5.7 Loshar	41
5.4.6 Entertainment	42
CHAPTER- VI SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION AND	)
SOCIAL CHANGES IN TAMANGS	43-53
6.1 Social condition	43
6.1.1 Population Structure of the Respondents	43
6.2 Economic Condition of Tamang	43
6.2.1 Land Holding of Respondents	44
6.2.2 Food Sufficiency of Respondents	44
6.2.3 Occupation	45
6.2.3.1 Wages labor	
6.2.3.2 Agriculture/ Animal Husbandry	
6.2.3.3 Business	

6.2.3.4 Foreign Employment	46
6.2.3.5 Job	46
6.2.4 Occupation Changes through Third Generation	47
6.3 Views on Social Change	
6.4 Views on Economic Change	
6.5 Views on Economic Backwardness of Tamang	
6.6 Views on Tamang Settlement in Hilly Region	
6.7 Process on Socio-Economic Development from the Government	
6.7.1 Budget Distribution on the VDC	
6.8 General Outcomes of the Study	
CHAPTER- VII SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	54- 57
7.1 Summary	54
7.2 Conclusion	56
References	

Appendices

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	e No. Title	Page No.
4.1	Distribution of Population on the Basis of Wardwise and Sex	23
4.2	Family Structure of the Respondents	24
4.3	Population Distribution on the Basis of Language	24
4.4	Population Distribution on the Basis of Religion	25
4.5	Description of Population on the Basis of Education	25
4.6	Educational Status of Respondents	26
4.7	Occupational Distribution of the Population of Thankot VDC	27
5.1	Types of Marriage of the Respondents	38
6.1	Sex Ratio of the Respondents	43
6.2	Landholding Status of the Respondents	44
6.3	Food Sufficiency of the Respondents	45
6.4	Occupational Distribution of the Respondents	47
Map	No. LIST OF MAPS	
1.	Map of Kathmandu District	19
2.	Geographical Location of Thankot VDC	21
3.	Population Settlement of Thankot	22

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

% : Percent

& : And

A.D : After Death

B.S. : Bikram Sambat

CBS : Central Bureau of Statistics

DDC : District Development Committee

eg : For Example

etc : Etcetera

INGO : International Non Government Organization

NGO : Non Government Organization

NLS : National Living Standard Survey

SLC : School Living Certificate

USA : United States of America

USSR : Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

VDC : Village Development Committee

Viz. : Videlicet (Namely)