

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD STATUS
OF FREED KAMAIYA**

(A Case Study of Suryapatuwa VDC, Bardiya District)

**A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO
THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION STUDIES (CDPS),
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY (TU)
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN POPULATION STUDIES**

**BY
SAHADEV CHAUDHARY**

**Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS)
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Tribhuvan University (TU)
Kathmandu**

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Kathmandu**

February, 2012

DECLARATION

Except where otherwise acknowledged in the text, the analysis in this thesis represents my own original research.

Sahadev Chaudhary
February, 2012

RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the thesis

Submitted by

Sahadev Chaudhary

Entitled

Socio-economic and Livelihood Status of Freed Kamaiya

(A Case Study of Suryapatuwa VDC, Bardiya District)

is Recommended for External Examination.

Dr. Bhim Raj Suwal

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Thesis Supervisor

Date: February, 2012

VIVA-VOCE SHEET

We have conducted the viva-voce examination of the thesis

Submitted by

Sahadev Chaudhary

Entitled

Socio-economic and Livelihood Status of Freed Kamaiya

(A Case Study of Suryapatuwa VDC, Bardiya District)

and find that the thesis is an independent work of the student written according to the prescribed format. We accept the thesis as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Population Studies.

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Sahadev Chaudhary

February, 2012

ABSTRACT

The study on "Socio-economic and Livelihood Status of Freed Kamaiya in Suryapatuwa VDC of Bardiya District" is carried out with the objective of assessing the socio-economic status and livelihood options of freed Kamaiya. The Kamaiya system was in practice in five western terai districts of Nepal namely Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur. The word *Kamaiya* is derived from *Tharu* word 'Kam' that refers to 'work'. In a *Tharu* parlance, the term is used as a synonym for hardworking hired farm labour. The study is based on both descriptive and exploratory method. Both primary and secondary data has been used in the study. Primary data are collected using household survey, interview and observation. The study site is selected purposively and out of nine wards of the selected VDC five wards are selected using simple random sampling method In total 70 households of freed *Kamaiyas*' are selected. The collected data are compiled and analyzed by using statistical package SPPS Version 12.0. The highest proportion of population is found in the age group 25-30 years while the lowest is in the age group 50-55 years. The total dependency is 45.7 (young dependency-45.7 and old dependency-10.6). The illiteracy is prominent in the community. Moreover, about 91 percent of the literate people are below SLC level of education. The main occupation of the people is daily wages plus agriculture. The highest proportion of total population aged 10 years and above are found married. Females get marriage at younger age than the males. Most of the households 93 percent are found to be involved in share cropping. The crop productivity is not so much gorgeous. The source of irrigation is channel. The total annual income of the households from selling crop products ranged from NRs. 1500.00 to 15000.00. The major livestock reared by freed *Kamaiyas* are cow, ox, buffalo, goat and sheep. Most of the households 73 percent do not have enough food grain production to feed their family round the year i.e., the production lasts for less than 3 months. The average annual income per household is NRs. 38,650.00. People used to go for seasonal migration in the cities for work and the average duration of migration is 4.5 months. Most of the households are found to take loan to manage their livelihood and the source of loan is mostly Mahajan. The interest rate is quite high up to 20 percent. The findings of the study reveals that early marriage, low level of literacy, high dependency ratio are major demographic factors influencing the

socio-economic status of the people. The low land holding size, lack of crop diversification, low crop productivity and production, lack of attractive and reliable source of income, low total annual income, outstanding amount of credit, low number of livestock, poor livestock management, lack of profitable enterprises, lack of skills and knowledge and high vulnerability to crises are the important factors hindering the livelihood of the freed *Kamaiyas*.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
DECLARATION	<i>ii</i>
RECOMMENDATION	<i>iii</i>
VIVA-VOCE SHEET	<i>iv</i>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	<i>v</i>
ABSTRACT	<i>vi</i>
TABLE OF CONTENTS	<i>vii</i>
LIST OF APPENDICES	<i>x</i>
LIST OF TABLES	<i>xi</i>
LIST OF FIGURES	<i>xiii</i>
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	<i>xiv</i>
CHAPTER ONE	
INTRODUCTION	1-6
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the study	5
1.4 Significant of the study	5
1.5 Limitations of the study	6
CHAPTER TWO	
LITERATURE REVIEW	7-12
2.1 The Origin of <i>Kamaiya</i> System	7
2.2 <i>Kamaiya</i> 's movements for freedom	8
2.3 Status of freed <i>Kamaiya</i>	9
2.4 Livelihood options	10
CHAPTER THREE	
METHODOLOGY	13-15
3.1 Selection of study site	13
3.2 Sample size and selection method	13
3.3 Methods of data collection	14
3.4 Data processing and analysis	15

CHAPTER FOUR	
DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	16-21
4.1 Age-sex structure and sex ratio	16
4.2 Dependency ratio	17
4.3 Educational status	18
4.4 Occupational status	19
4.5 Marital status	20
CHPATER FIVE	
LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS	22-35
5.1 Land holding size (own land)	22
5.2 Land holding size (share cropping)	22
5.3 Type of crops grown and area	23
5.4 Crop production	24
5.5 Irrigation facility	24
5.6 Income from crop produce	25
5.7 Food security	26
5.8 Source of income	27
5.9 Total annual income	28
5.10 Seasonal migration	28
5.11 Livestock	30
5.12 Livelihood management option	31
5.13 Loan and its source, duration and interest rate	31
5.14 Enterprises	32
5.15 Status of child labour	33
5.16 Status of training received by people	33
5.17 Source of fuel	34
5.18 Crisis faced during 12 months	34
CHAPTER SIX	
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	36-39
6.1 Summary	36
6.2 Conclusion	38
6.3 Recommendations	39
REFERENCES	40-41
APPENDICES	42-48

LIST OF APPENDICES

	Page
Appendix 1 Household Survey Questionnaire	42

LIST OF TABLES

	Page	
Table 4.1	Distribution of households population by sex, age group and sex ratio	17
Table 4.2	Dependency ratio	18
Table 4.3	Percentage distribution of study population aged six years and above by sex and educational status	19
Table 4.4	Percentage distribution of study population by sex and occupation above 5 years	20
Table 4.5	Distribution of study population aged 10 years and above by their marital status	21
Table 5.1.	Distribution of the households by land holding size (own land)	22
Table 5.2	Distribution of households by land size and their ownership (share cropping)	23
Table 5.3	Distribution of households by land size and type of crops grown	23
Table 5.4	Distribution of households involved in cultivation by crop production	24
Table 5.5	Distribution of household involved in cultivation by availability of irrigation facility and area under irrigation	25
Table 5.6	Distribution of households involved in cultivation by crop produce sold	25
Table 5.7	Distribution of households by quantity of crops sold	26
Table 5.8	Distribution of households by income from crop sold	26
Table 5.9	Distribution of households by food security	27
Table 5.10	Distribution of households by source of income	27
Table 5.11	Distribution of households by total annual income	28
Table 5.12	Distribution of household by places of migration	29
Table 5.13	Number of persons migrated by types of works	29
Table 5.14	Number of persons migrated by duration of migration	29
Table 5.15	Number of persons migrated by salary/month	30

Table 5.16	Distribution of households by type and number of livestock	30
Table 5.17	Distribution of households by sources of credit	31
Table 5.18	Distribution of households by loan used	32
Table 5.19	Proportion of households by duration and interest rate of loan	32
Table 5.20	Proportion of households involved in different type of enterprises	33
Table 5.21	Number of households who's any members of family received training	34
Table 5.22	Distribution of households by faced crisis during 12 months	35

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1 Is your production enough to feed your family round the year	26

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BASE	: Backward Society Education
BS	: Bikram Sambat
CBS	: Central Bureau of Statistics
CCS	: Creation of Co-operative Society
CPN (UML)	: Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxism and Leninist)
DANIDA	: Danish International Development Agency
GEFONT	: General Federation of Nepal Trade Union
GRINSO	: Group of International Solidarity
HH	: Household
ILO	: International Labour Organization
INGO	: International Non-Governmental Organization
MP	: Member of Parliament
NRs	: Nepalese Rupees
RRN	: Rural Reconstruction Nepal
SAP	: South Asian Partnership
SPSS	: Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UN	: United Nations
UNICEF	: United Nation International Children Emergency Fund
US	: United States
VDC	: Village Development Committee