

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal is pre-dominantly an agriculture country and about 65.6 percent of the people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. However, agriculture is primitive with traditional ways of farming. The land distribution is skewed in favour of few landowners and vast majority of actual tillers of the land are landless. Six percent landowners control 46 percent of prime land and 40 percent of tillers control only 11 percent of the cultivable land (Sharma, 2003). There are many forms of interrelationship of land management viz. owner tillers, sharecropping, wage labours and *kamaiya* system. "*Kamaiya* system" a form of bonded was in practice in five western terai districts of Nepal, namely Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur. An indigenous group called *Tharu* traditionally inhabits these areas. Their simplicity, native and innocence characterize this ethnic group. Exploiting such behaviour, newly emerged landlords migrated from the neighbouring hill districts disposed them from their land. These people who are largely illiterate and possess very few non-agricultural skills were forced to enter into bondage with the new landlords for payment of the debt incurred.

There are roughly a million landless waged labourers in Nepal. Most prevalent bondage labour systems were the *Haliya /Haruwa* system and the *Kamaiya* system. The *Kamaiya* system was a bonded labour system in western terai of Nepal. 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 *Kamaiya* are expected to stay with their parents, children in small home as *Bukrahi*. Thus, *Kamaiya* represents whole family. The Children work as cattle herder known as *Gaiwar*. If the children involved in buffalo herding, they are known as *Bhaisawar*. Similarly children involve in goat herd management know as *Chhegrahwa*. The girls involve in domestic work of landlord is called as *Kamlahari*. The landlord used to make an agreement with the labourer (*Kamaiya*) to work for the year to meet the obligation or compensation of the debt that s/he provided. It was traditionally done on a popular *Maghi* festival (during mid of January) of each year.

Tharu are the landlord and pioneer of agriculture and fishing in the terai (*Bhumiputra*). The word *Tharu* is come from the Buddhist religion “*Sthabir*” and transformed into *Tharu*. The origin place of *Tharu* is terai of Nepal. Kapilvastu district of Nepal is the prime origin of *Tharu*. King Suddhodhan was the *Tharu* King in which family Siddhartha Gautam (Buddha) was born (Chaudhary, 2005). Presently, *Tharu* pre-dominantly inhabit in 23 terai districts (plain areas) of Nepal from the eastern (Jhapa) to the western Kanchanpur (CBS, 2001).

In 2021, BS the Land Reform Act 2021 was enforced in the country. The program was run by the interest of the government and the elite people from governmental officials and their close relatives and the previous new recipients were strongly supported and captured the land of the *Tharu* people. Those poor *Tharu* people could not receive formal land right on their real land. In the mean time initiation of malaria eradication campaign and opening up of the East–West high way accelerated the migration in those areas. The *Tharu* lost the land-resources and they had to nurture to the migrants who used to maintain a close tie with the power centre of the state. The *Tharu* had no records of the land which they were cultivating. Using the political power, the newcomers registered the land-the land of *Tharu*-in their name forcing the original masters to work for their newly captured land (Chaudhary, 2008).

With the great social, political and international pressure; government of Nepal announced the freedom for the *Kamaiya* on July 17, 2000. Along with the announcement, the government gave assurance that the freed *Kamaiya* would be rehabilitated by the end of mid January, 2001. There is a great debate on the number of freed *Kamaiya*. However, almost all are agreed 100,000 in number. Out of total population (about 23 million) of Nepal, freed *Kamaiya* comprises 101,522 residing in 18,400 household (Ministry of Land-reform and Management, 2003). The freed *Kamaiya* are almost solely from *Tharu* ethnic group of Nepal. The freed *Kamaiya* are in Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur terai districts of mid and far-west region of Nepal. The highest number of freed *Kamaiya* families is in Bardiya whereas the least in Dang.

Government of Nepal categorized freed *Kamaiya* in four classes/groups, Class A represents totally landless family (8022), Class B for having hut/house in the unregistered land (5428), Class C for hut/house in registered land but less than two

kattha of land (1877) and class D represents those having hut/house in own land and land size more than 2 kattha (3073) [Ministry of Land-reform and Management, 2003)

In the past eight years various rehabilitation efforts were made. Government has distributed land to the first two classes A & B (landless households). Government has distributed 89 percent landless families (class A and B) with average of 4 kattha of land, 35 cubic feet timber and NRs 10,000. Apart from these various development organizations (I/NGOs) have launched several short and long term projects and programmes. On the pretext of providing benefits to the target group, some persons who are in the senior positions of NGOs have been deriving personal benefits, by converting the problems into projects and receiving grants by convincing the donors. Ban (2002) stressed if one has a look at the grant assistance provided by donor agencies from the beginning of the *Kamaiya* movement till now, one finds that the total amount of assistance received very high. But the *Kamaiya*, in fact, have received from the NGOs nothing more than what can be said to be their cooperation during the movement.

Since 99 percent freed *Kamaiya* are from *Tharu* community, their traditional occupation and skill is in farming. Being limited land various types of pilot interventions have been tested in freed *Kamaiya* by different sectors. These sorts of interventions are not so pronouncing to improved the livelihood of freed *Kamaiya* thereby again enforced to other forms of bonded labour like as restarted working as *Kamaiya*, forced child labour in hotel, restaurant, tea shop and domestic work

1.2 Statement of the problem

Landlessness, having land ownership certificate but no land in reality, infertile and flood affected land, illiteracy, food insecurity, poor health, lack of resources are common characteristics of the freed *Kamaiya*. Freed *Kamaiya* are considered as most vulnerable community and their status is deteriorating day by day. They were solely dependent in agricultural labour before they were freed as bondage labour. However, these days with no land or very limited land (2-4 katthas) their normal life is greatly hindered. Still significant number of freed *Kamaiya* is not recognized by government. According to local human rights activists, only 16,000 out of 36,000 freed '*Kamaiya*'

families have received land, while the rest live like nomads in makeshift huts wherever they find an empty space, in unsanitary conditions (IRIN, 2007).

So, there is urgent need to change their occupation from agriculture to non-farming income, employment and enterprising. Ministry of Land-reform and Management (2003) delivered 44 percent training in agriculture, 52 percent training in non-agriculture and 3 percent training in other sector in Dang of which only 47 percent participants utilized skill. It implicates that changing traditional occupations/practices may take long time.

In one hand freed *Kamaiya* are living in big camp with infertile, unproductive, river bank with small piece of land, on the other hand, most of camps are away from market centres, highway or motorable road with limited opportunities of employment, enterprise development and even daily wages labour. These factors lead to search the new options of livelihood. Some *ex-kamaiyas* are working as rickshaw-puller or cart-pusher but these occupations do not provide them a regular income. Additionally, with large settlements in a camp, they are forced to work with minimum wage. Almost 50 percent of the total number of children of the freed *Kamaiya* is forced to do one or another type of forced labour or work as the bonded labourer for their survival (Ban, 2002). It is irony that the freed *Kamaiya* and their children are again turning into the bondage in other forms.

Most of the researchers, inside and outside of the country have conducted researches related to other ethnicity and issues of terai, hill and mountain. Only few researches related to *Tharu* and very few researches on issues of freed *kamaiya* have been done. The issue of freed *kamaiya* have been concern of government, many political parties and I/NGOS. Some issues related with socio-economic status of *Tharu kamaiya* of Suryapatuwa VDC of Bardiya district are dealt in this study. What is the educational level of freed *kamaiya*? What is the level of income? Can their income fulfil for livelihood? What is the status of livelihood? So, this study would be meaningful for the policy maker I/NGOS working in the field of freed *kamaiya*.

1.3 Objectives of the study

This study has been the following objectives:

- 1 To assess the socio-economic status of the freed *Kamaiya* Bardiya district of Nepal.
- 2 To assess the livelihood options of freed *Kamaiya*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Various developmental interventions have been tested and tried for the betterment of ex-*Kamaiya* in the past eight years. In this sector huge amount of cash has been expended by government and I/NGOs. However, condition of ex-*Kamaiya* is not improved so far. Almost 99 percent of the *Kamaiya being Tharu*, freed *Kamaiya* also have cultural and spiritual value of land, river, forest and other natural resources. They were solely involved in agriculture, livestock farming and fishing. It means they have deep and indispensable relation with agriculture. After the declaration of freedom they have no option to change traditional occupations or mode of farming system. This study attempted to identify the best options for their new livelihood.

Freed *Kamaiya* were the major force for agriculture farming. The landlords were just for monitoring their crops and livestock in terms of volume and income. The freed *Kamaiya* were previously settled in different locations i.e. village and Village Development Committees (VDCs). Presently, they are living independent life and are free to choose their interest of works. Thus, diversion and accumulation of agricultural force as freed *Kamaiya* in particular camp certainly may affect the farm management, production and productivity of major agricultural commodities and overall influence the food security situation of district and/or nation. Additionally, freed *Kamaiya* would not like to work in the previous landlords (masters) even in attractive wages due to some prejudice and has bringing the fraction between them.

As a result, the landlord starts to adopt some new technologies and machineries in farming system. This information will help to identify existing labour gaps, production scenario & technologies, utilization and management of natural resources like land (*khet, bari land*), fish pond and irrigation system.

The children and young people are the building block of any nations. Due to the deprived economic condition of freed *Kamaiya* most of children are being forced to child laborer in different sectors. This study tried to measure the intensity and severity of child laboring in different forms and outcomes would be useful for planner and development workers to design better strategies for the improvement in the livelihood of ex-*Kamaiya*.

Study of indigenous people is also an important aspect for sustainable development of the country. Unless these people are brought under the mainstream of development, development efforts cannot be sustainable. Few socio-economic studies have been done in *Tharu* community. This study has tried to document the socio-cultural systems of *Tharu* community like *Badhghar/Gardhuriya*, *Khyal/Jutela*, *Chiraki*, *Guruwa*, *Kesauka* etc. for its further implication in the changing *Tharu* community.

1.5 Limitations of the study

The freed *Kamaiyas* resettlements are situated in western terai region especially in five districts namely Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dang. But Suryapatuwa VDC of Bardiya district was taken as a study site. So, this study can't depict the whole picture of freed *Kamaiya* of Nepal. Some constraints are the lack of time and resources. The present study is limited to some of the socio-economic status, demographic characteristics and livelihood options. So, the findings of the study might not be generalized for the whole *Kamaiya* of five districts.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter includes the review of research works done on various aspects of *Kamaiya* viz., origin of *Kamaiya* system, *Kamaiya*'s movement for freedom, status of freed *Kamaiya*, livelihood of freed *Kamaiya*.

2.1 The Origin of *Kamaiya* System

Available evidences suggest that the *Kamaiya* system originated among the Dangaura *Tharu* community as a measure to ensure regular supply of labour for farming. One plausible explanation relates it to the lack of male labour in the family. In pre 1951 period when a working male of a family dies, hiring a male worker from another family compensated. The hired man would barter his labour with the landlord in lieu of food, housing and agreed payment in cash or kind for his own family.

Due to traditional practices of ownership and community trust, *Tharu* never kept records of their land but the hill migrants did. Consequently, the *Tharu* were gradually displaced from their own land. They even started to take *Tharu* as *Kamaiya* taking advantage of the *Tharu* social customs and traditions

The bonded labourer system developed as the traditional practice of a “helping hand for family business” was replaced by “patron client relationship”. A patron is the *Jamindar* or landowner (in local parlance, landowners or *Kisan*) and the *Kamaiya* is a bonded labourer, bonded by both his indebtedness to the landlords and bonded by the social relations to sell his labour in lieu of the loan taken.

At times when they need to fulfil social obligations, medical expenses and other contingencies are quite large while the annual contractual amount is inadequate. Thus, they are forced to ask for additional loans from landlords. Such loans are widely known as “*SAUKP*”. The creditors maintain a crude record of amount. The borrowed amount is neither paid nor can be paid back by a *Kamaiya* from his wage and saving unless any fortune arises. According to INSEC (1993) about 33 percent of the *Kamaiya* were from four generations, 21 percent three generations and 28 percent two generations. For this reason the word *Kamaiya* has become synonym for the bonded labour (Holm and Rasmussen, 1999).

2.2 *Kamaiya's* movements for freedom

In 1969, the *Tharu* of Bardiya district realized to launch a collective campaign to obtain land. But, the government wisely decided to distribute few pieces of lands only to the aggressive leaders to settle the issue (Chaudhary, 2002). **The Kandra Movement** on 1990 was another significant movement in which about 18,336 landless people of 4,939 families from different parts of the Bardiya district settled upon 900 Bighas of land and started collective farming (Chaudhary, 2002). The Government forcefully tried to destroy the settlement by using different means like drunken elephant, bulldozers, forest security guards and even the army. This suppression added fuel to the *Kamaiya's* movement.

The government intentionally tried to neglect their movement, and sometimes calm down the movement by creating conflict among the active groups and sometimes by providing few pieces of lands to the aggressive leaders only. Later, the *Kamaiya* united into some political party to address their problem in the "House of representatives" the lower assembly and in the upper assembly. Mr. Kashi Ram Chaudhary a squatter-leader won the MP election under the banner of CPN (UML) in the parliamentary election of 1991. Though his party could not form the government to do some concrete work, about 4,000 squatters were supplied land during that period.

After the restoration of democracy in 1990 *Kamaiya* system became a subject of public concern. A study conducted by Informal Sector Education Center (INSEC) about two years after the restoration of democracy revealed the existence of bonded labour in the name of *Kamaiya* system. Only then did the *Kamaiya* system become subject of public discussion within the country and abroad. Later, INSEC lodged a writ petition in the Supreme Court demanding a mandamus to put an end of the *Kamaiya* system but the court handed out a verdict stating that there was no need to issue the writ of the mandamus in this case. Then the matter was left as it was (Ban, 2002).

The *Kamaiya* movement was initiated mostly by NGOs including trade unions (BASE, INSEC, RRN, GEFONT, CCS, SPACE, SAP/Nepal etc. and supported by INGOs and bilateral organizations (Action Aid Nepal, Plan International, Save the

Children US, DANIDA etc. In addition UN agencies such as UNICEF, ILO were involved in addressing the issues of bonded labour (KSA/NLA, 2000).

With a pressure from different groups like; human right activists, *Kamaiya* groups, the opposition party, fear of an increasing support to the Maoists Guerrilla in the *Kamaiya* districts, the government finally abolished the *Kamaiya* system on July, 17, 2000 and nullified all the standing debts owed to landlords.

2.3 Status of freed *Kamaiya*

Various studies and organization present different number of freed *Kamaiya*. Government of Nepal recognized 14,800 families of which 52 percent (9,547) families have no hut/house, 63 percent (9,449) have *Saunki* of NRs. 5,145. Till 2059 B.S. (2002) government has distributed 89 percent (12,019) households with average 4 kattha of land (Ministry of Land-reform and Management, 2003).

Barai (2004) reported that freed *Kamaiya* has average landholding of 2-4 Katthas from which cereal grains could be produced for two months of a year. That's why they are compelled to go for share-cropping from which they get food for additional two months of a year and for remaining months they have to depend mostly on agriculture labouring 58 percent. He further added, only 21 percent HHs have accessibility to public service due to the severe poverty, and low literacy.

Due to poor economic condition and lack of any other opportunities the poor *Tharu* people (*Kamaiya*) were helpless to take loan for different purposes such as for food 60 percent, medicine 24 percent, others 16 percent (Upreti, 2000). Similarly, a report by Nepal Labour Academy showed that the proportion of the loan goes to food, healthcare; livestock and others are 35.2 percent 32.9 percent 19.1 percent and 12.8 percent, respectively. They once took loan could not repay easily. Rather it multiplied year by year. To repay that debt or loan they used to add the members of their family or extend the agreement for next year. Upon a period of time all the members of the family went on as a bonded labourer or *Kamaiya* to the landlords.

The freed *Kamaiya* and small farmers have no option rather than working as tenant. In this system, the tenant farmer gets half of the production from the land under the condition that he works throughout the year for the landlord for no wages. On the one

hand the present law allows no one to work as a *Kamaiya*, while on the other hand other jobs are not easily available. So, the freed *Kamaiya* and the small farmers, who hold only a little land, are compelled to work under the “*Adhiya*” (share cropping) system. Thus, they become bonded labourers who work for the landowner for no wages (Chaudhary, 2002).

The family of freed *Kamaiya* including children are changing the new forms of bonded labourers. The *Gorkahapatra* daily in its editorial (2059/2002) says that there are about 2,000 children in 3,000 families of the freed *Kamaiya* in Kanchanpur district and more than half of those children are bound to do labour in different places. It is estimated that 50 percent of the total number of children of the freed *Kamaiya* are forced to do one or the other type of forced labour or works as the bonded labourer for their survival. According to BASE (NGO) around 25,000 children of freed *Kamaiya* are working in hotels, restaurants and households in main cities and towns to support their families (IRIN, 2007). Freed *Kamaiya* family, children are also changing the form of bonded labour. Children of freed *kamaiya* are forced to do one or the other type of forced labour or works as the bonded labourer for their survival. According to BASE (NGO) around 25,000 children of freed *kamaiya* are working in hotel, restaurants and households in main cities and towns to support their families (IRIN, 2007). Freed *kamaiya* family, children are also changing the form of bonded labour.

2.4 Livelihood options

Subedi (1999) studied the socio-economic status of *kamaiyas* with special reference to their education, poverty, wealth, income, occupation and concluded that livelihood status of *kamaiya's* families were very poor. Only some families kept small livestock like hens, goats, pigs and sheep.

A study conducted by INSEC (1998), the *kamaiya* had to work in very low wages or remuneration for employer. The employer required the *kamaiya* to bring along other family member, notably wife to work for the employer. The female labour accompanying a *kamaiya* was known as Bukrahi. The spouse of *kamaiya* worked in the house as domestic chores and also in farm activities. Such labour was paid meagre annually wage, usually one-tenth of the wage for *kamaiya*, typically *kamaiya* was paid about 9-12 sacksof paddy. Bukrahi got 2-4 sacks of paddy. The wage was less when

not accompanied by Bukrahi.

Often children of a *kamaiya* were also required to work with same employer. *Kamaiyas* were generally worked as animal herder known as Gaiwar (cow/ox herder) Bhainswar (buffalo herder) and Chhegrahawa (goat herder). Those children labours were worked for their two square meals and were not paid for such work. Female children were worked as domestic servants known as Kamalahari. Their major jobs were washing and cleaning home/clothes and other domestic works.

The wage system was more or less the same in all *kamaiya* concentrated districts with slight differences on the age and physical fitness of person. Bigha was another form of wage payment. In some places entitled to take tikur, chaukur. This wage fixed at a higher if his wife and children also worked for landlord. It was however, never adequate to meet the basic needs of the family. Consequently the *kamaiya* were forced to incur debt from landlord to meet other expenses for living, medical and other family expenses. As a result, debt of *kamaiya* increased annually and the loan passes from one generation to another. When a *kamaiya* falls ill, he might be charged a compensation for the sickness in the form of high interest rate to the loans or an additional work assignment. The member of a *kamaiya* family could not seek job at other places without permission from master (INSEC, 1998).

After the liberation, the relation between *ex-kamaiya* and landlords turned antagonistic. Following the declaration immediately pushed the *kamaiya* out from their Bukuras within the landlord compound. Beside land the government also provided Rs 10,000 and 35 cubic feet timber for construction of house to those who were homeless (HMG, ministry of Land Reform, 2003). After liberation of *kamaiya* system, they are free to go for work anywhere. Most of the *ex-kamaiya* family members are working as agricultural daily wage labour, rickshaw puller, poultry farm, sharecropping, business, tailoring, and carpenters according to their skill for their livelihood. About 57 percent *kamaiya* family member work in agriculture on daily wage basis and 23.3 percent long term basis. Similarly, 20.3 percent of the family member work in non agriculture sector (GEFONT, 2004)

In Tikapur of Kailali district 479 freed *kamaiyas* have opened agriculture based co-operative and doing commercial farming in 12 Bigha. The annual income from it is

more than one lakh rupees. *Kamaiyas* have invested the income in different sectors like education, business and health for their members. Similarly more than 15 thousands of freed *kamaiya* in 5 districts Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Kailali are managing and conserving more than 250 community forest and investing the income for community development, economic development programme, awareness raising programme and has established a school for their children. The freed *kamaiya* are being supported by government and many I/NGOS with some skill training, microcredit as well as other programme to improve their economic status (Action Aid, 2008).

Based on review of past studies and literatures it can be concluded that *Kamaiya* is a kind of bonded labourer, bonded by both his indebtedness to the landlords and bonded by the social relations to sell his/her labour in lieu of the loan taken. In 1990, The *Tharu* started movement for freedom, called Kandra Movement but the government intentionally tried to neglect their movement. Later on, the *Kamaiya* united into some political party to address their problem in the "House of representative" both in the upper and lower assembly. Thereafter, various movements were organized with the initiation of various NGOs. Various studies and organization present different number of freed *Kamaiya*. Government of Nepal recognized 14,800 families and distributed 4 kattha of land to each household. Various studies showed that livelihood status of *kamaiya's* families were very poor. Only some families kept small livestock like hens, goats, pigs and sheep. After liberation of *kamaiya* system, they are free to go for work anywhere and most of the ex- *kamaiya* family members are working as agricultural daily wage labour, rickshaw puller, poultry farm, sharecropping, business, tailoring, and carpenters.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter focuses on the overall methodology adopted to conduct this study. It includes selection of study site, sample size and selection method, methods of data collection and data processing and analysis.

3.1 Selection of study site

Suryapatuwa VDC of Bardiya district was selected purposively for the study site. The VDC is mostly dominated by *Tharu* community. The VDC is located 25 kilometres far from the district headquarters in the north-west direction. There is no motorable road and is very backward in compared to other VDCs of this district. According to census (CBS, 2001) the total number of household is 1234 of this VDC with total population of 9191. Out of total population males and females are 4649 and 4542 respectively. Out of total household the number of freed *Kamaiyas'* household is 280. For latest data regarding the total number of freed *kamaiya* households, list of freed *kamaiya* households obtained from Suryapatuwa VDC, Bardiya has been used.

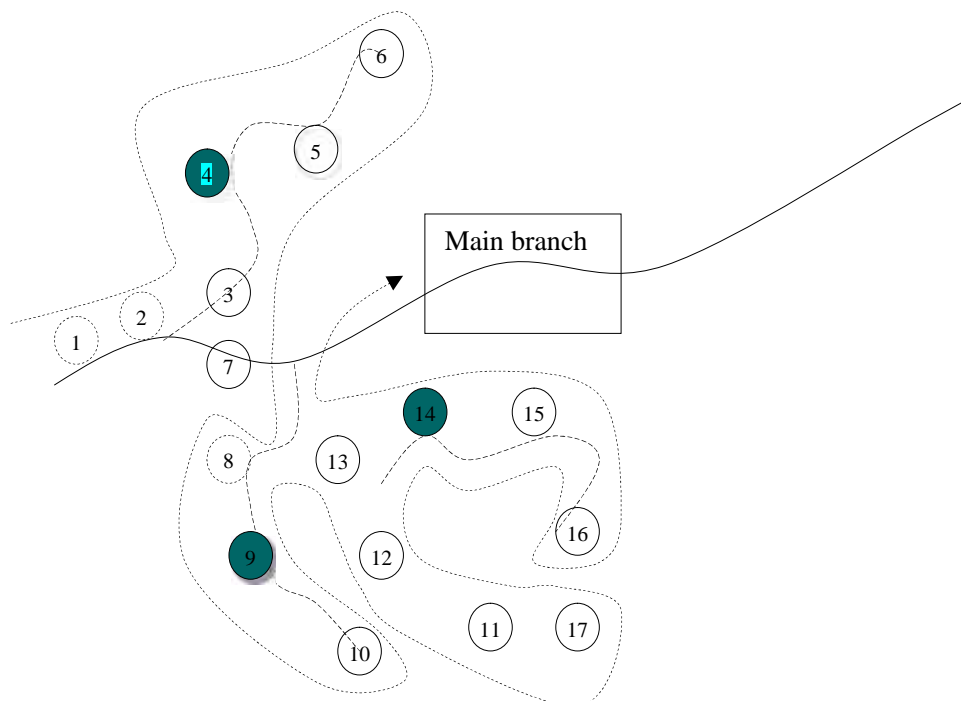
3.2 Sample size and selection method

For the fulfilment of the objectives of the study individual household questionnaires (semi-structured) were prepared to interview randomly selected household. Out of nine wards of the selected VDC five wards were selected using simple random sampling method (lottery method). The lottery method was used because it ensures the following things:

- 1 Sample is free from the personal bias.
- 2 Sample is drawn in such a way that the every member of the population has an equal chance of being included in the sample.
- 3 Sample obtained is referred to as the Random Sample.
- 4 Very suitable, if the population is small or if the list of the elements in the population can be made.

In total 70 households of freed *Kamaiyas'* were selected. In each ward the predefined number of interviews were carried out using systematic random sampling method by;

1. Defining the sample interval, i.e., in ward number 4 there are 70 households of freed *Kamaiyas* and 14 interviews to do; therefore the sample interval (I) size is 5. Selecting random integer from 1 to 5, 4 was selected.
2. Randomly selecting the start household (n) in each ward (5) e.g., in ward number - 4).
3. Adding the sample interval to the start household (n + I + I ...) until desired number of interviews is reached. Taking a systematic approach to the cluster as shown below, counting households from the first household reached on the main branch, then moving through each branch off the main branch and interviewing households corresponding to the numbers defined in step 3 above



3.3 Methods of data collection

Primary information is gathered from a set of questionnaires. The questionnaire is pretested and translated into Nepali for easy understanding. The questionnaire is divided into two sections, namely household and livelihood options. The household questionnaire incorporates the listing of family member along with socio-economic and demographic characteristics. The livelihood options related questionnaire deals with types of land ownership, sources of income, indebtedness, level of income, duration of stay for working. Direct observation during the study is done to assess the infrastructure like road, house management, irrigation, location and type of land distributed and the quality of standing crops in the *Kamaiyas'* settlement.

To supplement the primary information, secondary information is also collected from various published and unpublished sources like related literatures, journals, books, thesis, records, publications of relevant institutions and the Internet.

3.4 Data processing and Analysis

The data and information collected from primary and secondary sources are compiled, processed, analyzed and interpreted to prepare the study report. As the study deals mostly with quantitative information, a descriptive method is used for analysis of such information. Simple statistical tools such as mean and percentage are used for the analysis of quantitative data wherever required. SPSS (Version 12.0) was used for the data analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Demographic and socio-economic characteristics such as age, sex, sex ratio, marital status, educational and occupational status and access to resources and health services are the basic indicators which are sufficient to provide much more information about a population at a glance. This chapter attempts to deal with these demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the study population which may influence the livelihood of the people.

4.1 Age-sex structure and sex ratio

Age and sex are the basic characteristics or the biological attributes of any demographic group that effect not only it's demographic but also its social, economic and political backgrounds thereby affecting the livelihood. Age and sex structure not only reflects the present demographic situations of a population but also gives a basis for the study of past as well as future demographic situations of that population. So, it plays a very important role in the study of population dynamics.

The present study is based on 70 sampled households in total. The total sampling population is 294. Out of the total sampled population 55.1 and 44.9 percent are male and female, respectively. The data on distribution of study population by sex, age group and sex ratio with the interval of five years are given in Table 4.1.

The proportion of population is found highest (15%) in the age group of 25-29 years followed by the age group 10-14 years (12.6%) and 20-24 years (11.9%). The lowest proportion of population is found in the age group of 50-54 years (1.4%) followed by 55-59 years (2%) and 45-49 years (3.4%). The relatively lower proportion of population under 5 and over 60 is the same that is (6.8%). the relatively lower proportion of population in the early and old age group might be due to high infant mortality rate accompanied by more use of contraceptive devices and infestation of various diseases. i.e., higher old age mortality, respectively. The sex ratio of a population is usually expressed as the number of males per 100 females. According to

this definition, the sex ratio above 100 indicates a high sex ratio i.e., an excess of males and the ratio below 100 indicates a low sex ratio i.e., an excess of females.

Table 4.1 reflects the sex ratio of the study population by five years age group where the highest sex ratio is 184.6 in the age group of 10-14 years and the lowest is found in the age group 0-4 years (28.6). The sex ratio is high may be due to female gets married at low age in this community.

Table 4.1: Distribution of households population by sex, age group and sex ratio

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Sex Ratio
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
0-4	9	5.6	11	8.3	20	6.8	81.8
05-09	15	9.3	14	10.6	29	9.9	107.1
10-14	24	14.8	13	9.8	37	12.6	184.6
15-19	16	9.9	11	8.3	27	9.2	145.5
20-24	17	10.5	17	12.9	34	11.6	100
25-29	23	14.2	21	15.9	44	15.0	109.5
30-34	14	8.6	13	9.8	27	9.2	107.7
35-39	14	8.6	9	6.8	23	7.8	155.6
40-44	8	4.9	5	3.8	13	4.4	160
45-49	6	3.7	4	3.0	10	3.4	150
50-54	1	0.6	3	2.3	4	1.4	33.3
55-59	3	1.9	3	2.3	6	2.0	100
60+	12	7.4	8	6.1	20	6.8	150
Total	162	100.0	132	100.0	294	100.0	122.7

Source: Field survey, 2011.

4.2 Dependency ratio

This is another measure to study the structure of a population. This measure indicates the number of dependents per 100 economically active populations and may be computed on the basis of three broad age groups i.e., below 15 years, between 15-59 years and 60 years above. The population in the age group 15-59 years is considered to be the economically active population, below 15 years as the young dependents and population 60 years and above is considered to be old dependents. The ratio of the

young dependents to the working population multiplied by 100 gives the young dependency ratio and the ratio of the old dependents to the working population multiplied by 100 gives the old dependency whereas, the sum of these two ratios gives the overall dependency ratio. The young dependency ratio is 45.7 and the old dependency is 10.6. The overall dependency ratio is 56.3 (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Dependency ratio

Category	Dependency ratio
Young	45.7
Old	10.6
Overall	56.3

Source: Field survey, 2011.

4.3 Educational status

Education is one of the most important factors which play a vital role in the development of society and it may both directly or indirectly affect to variables like income, occupation, living standard and so many others. In fact, it is such as single most indicators which can depict the real images of various socio-economic status of a community.

Table 4.3 presents the educational status of the study population aged six years and above by sex. Among the total population of 271 aged six years and above 150 (55.4%) persons of both sexes are illiterate and remaining 121 (44.6%) are literate.

When the sex of population was taken into account, literacy rate is found substantially higher for males (51.0%) compared to females (36.7%) or more females (63.3%) are found illiterate than males (49.0%). Social discriminations against female education, low social status granted to females, the system of early marriage and low participation of females in formal education may be the root causes for such an obvious differences in the literacy rate between males and females in this community.

The highest proportion of literate is found in primary level with (57.9%) followed by secondary level (38.8%) and least proportion is found above SLC level (3.3%). The relatively higher proportion of literate in primary level may be because of increasing

enrolment of young boys and girls in schools, influenced by government policy, especially after re-establishment of democracy, for providing primary education along with distribution of free textbooks and other facilities. On the other hand, the sudden declining proportion of people in educational level thereafter, more pronouncedly for females, suggests a very high rate of dropouts from schools and higher educational institutions before they could attain a certain level. The most probable causes of such chronic dropout rates might be the poverty of families, parents' lack of educational background and importance of education, compulsion of children to assist families in household as well as earning activities after attaining to certain age and early marriage system.

Table 4.3: Percentage distribution of study population aged six years and above by sex and educational status

Literacy Status	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	74	49.0	76	63.3	150	55.4
Literate	77	51.0	44	36.7	121	44.6
Total	151	100.0	120	100.0	271	100.0
Schooling						
Primary	41	53.2	29	65.9	70	57.9
Secondary	33	42.9	14	31.8	47	38.8
Above S.L.C	3	3.9	1	2.3	4	3.3
Total	77	100.0	44	100.0	121	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

4.4 Occupational status

Like many other socio-economic characteristics, the occupational status of the people in a population may have impact on livelihood. Many studies have shown that persons involved in blue-collar jobs such as agriculture, wage earning have, in general, poor livelihood than those who are involved in white-collar jobs. Percentage distribution of the study population by their occupational status is presented in Table 4.4.

The higher proportion of people in the study area is found engaged daily wages (27.3%) and the lowest in both service and business (1.6%). Similarly, a considerable higher proportion 26.9 percent is found in house hold work and daily wages followed by agriculture 21.6 percent and student 20.8 percent. The higher percentage under the category daily wage and household might be due to many households earn their living from wage earning such as pulling Rickshaw and agriculture labour. The lower percentage in agriculture occupation might be due to lack of enough land.

Table 4.4: Percentage distribution of study population by sex and occupation above 5 years

Occupations	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture	34	25.2	19	17.3	53	21.6
Service	3	2.2	1	0.9	4	1.6
Business	2	1.5	2	1.8	4	1.6
Household work + Daily wages	11	8.1	55	50.0	66	26.9
Daily wages	54	40.0	13	11.8	67	27.3
Student	31	23.0	20	18.2	51	2.8
Total	135	100.0		100.0	245	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

4.5 Marital status

Marriage is one of four main proximate determinants of fertility, the others being contraception, abortion and breast feeding. So, it plays a crucial role in determining the birth situations in a country like Nepal where birth outside wedlock is very rare.

Table 4.5 shows that the highest proportion (72.2%) of population aged 10 years and above are married and (22.4%) of them are unmarried. Ninety three (67.9%) out of the total males 137 aged 10 years and above are married against 26.3 percent unmarried males. Similarly, 84 (77.8%) out of 108 females aged 10 years and above are married against 17.6 percent unmarried females. The relatively higher proportions of married females than married males might be due to females get married relatively earlier than males. Similarly, relatively higher proportions of married than unmarried

in both the cases of males and females reveals that marriage is very common in this community. Data in Table 4.5 also reveals that widow and widower are (2.9%) and (1.9%), respectively. The status of divorced is similar to that of widow/er. The proportion of separated is very low and it was (0.4%) only in case of females while in case males it was nil.

Table 4.5: Distribution of study population aged 10 years and above by their marital status

Marital Status	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Married	93	67.9	84	77.8	177	72.2
Unmarried	36	26.3	19	17.6	55	22.4
Widow/er	4	2.9	2	1.9	6	2.4
Divorced	4	2.9	2	1.9	6	2.4
Separated	0	0.0	1	0.9	1	0.4
Total	137	100.0	108	100.0	245	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

CHAPTER FIVE

LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

5.1 Land holding size (own land)

The land holding status of a household also indicates the socio-economic status of the household. Out of total sampled households only 5 households (7.1%) are found landless. It means 92.9 percent households have their own land. It is found that 80.0 percent of total sampled households have less than 5 katthas of land. The data also reveals that 12.9 percent of total sampled households have 5-6 Katthas of land. It clearly depicts that only limited numbers of households 25.7 percent have their own land for cultivation while remaining did not have sufficient land for cultivation (Table 5.1). It means most of the households might be dependent on either share cropping or other occupations for managing food grains.

Table 5.1: Distribution of the households by land holding size (own land)

Land size (in kattha) (1 kattha =3,645 square feet)	Number of households	Percent
0	5	7.1
1-2	38	54.3
3-4	18	25.7
5-6	9	12.9
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.2 Land holding size (share cropping)

The data on share cropped land holding size is presented in Table 5.2. From the Table 5.2 it is apparent that 41.4 percent of the total sampled households have share cropping. It is found that 27 households (93.1%) of total households (29) involved in share cropping used to do share cropping between 10-20 katthas of land. It reflects most of the household are depend on others land for earning livelihood.

Table 5.2: Distribution of households by land size and their ownership (share cropping)

Land size (in Kattha)	Number of households	Percent
0	41	58.6
5	2	2.9
10	9	12.9
15	8	11.4
20	10	14.3
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.3 Type of crops grown and area

The data on type of crops grown and cropped area the household is given in Table 5.3. The major crops grown by the people are paddy, wheat, corn and vegetables. The data shows that 50 percent 38.5 percent 4.3 percent and 25.7 percent of total sampled households grew paddy, wheat, corn and vegetables, respectively. The area under paddy varied from 1 to 25 Katthas and about 18.6 percent of total sampled households are found to grow rice in 5-15 Katthas of land. Similarly wheat and vegetable area varied from 1 to 20 Kattha and corn area varied from 1-5 Kattha.

Table 5.3: Distribution of households by land size and type of crops grown

Area (Kattha)	Paddy		Wheat		Corn		Vegetables	
	Number of households	Percent	Number of households	Percent	Number of households	Percent	Number of households	Percent
0	35	50.0	43	61.5	67	95.7	52	74.3
1-5	6	8.6	5	7.1	1	1.4	16	22.9
5-15	13	18.6	21	30.0	2	2.9	1	1.4
15-20	8	11.4	1	1.4	-	-	1	1.4
20-25	8	11.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	70	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.4 Crop production

The data on distribution of households involved in cultivation by crop production is given in Table 5.4. The scrutiny of data shows that paddy, wheat, corn and vegetables production varied from 1 to 25, 1 to 15, 1 to 10 and 1 to 15 quintals, respectively. It is found that 42.9 percent of total households involved in cultivation produced 15-20 quintals of paddy while 74.1 percent of total wheat grower produced 5-10 quintals. Similarly 74.1 percent of total corn grower produced 5-10 quintals of corn. Out of total vegetable grower 88.9 percent growers produced 1-5 quintals of vegetables.

Table 5.4: Distribution of households involved in cultivation by crop production

Production (Quintals)	Paddy		Wheat		Corn		Vegetable	
	Number of households	Percent	Number of households	Percent	Number of households	Percent	Number of household	Percent
1-5	5	14.3	5	18.5	1	33.3	16	88.9
5-10	3	8.6	20	74.1	2	66.7	1	5.6
10-15	5	14.3	2	7.4	-	-	1	5.6
15-20	15	42.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	7	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	35	100.0	27	100.0	3	100.0	18	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.5 Irrigation facility

The data on households having irrigation facility and irrigated area is presented in Table 5.5. The data shows that all the households (100%) have irrigation facility. The source of irrigation is channel for all the households. The average irrigated land area per household (who are involved in farming) is 6.3 Kattha. The irrigated area varied from 1 to 25 Kattha and the highest proportion (51.4%) of total farming households have 1-5 Katthas of irrigated land while the least proportion (5.7%) of total farming households had 20-25 Katthas of irrigated land.

Table 5.5: Distribution of households involved in cultivation by availability of irrigation facility and area under irrigation

Irrigation facility	Number of household	Percent
Have	35	100.0
Don't have	-	-
Irrigated area (Kattha)		
1-5	18	51.43
5-10	7	20.00
10-15	5	14.29
15-20	3	8.57
20-25	2	5.71
Total	35	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.6 Income from crop produce

Farming is quite common in *Tharu* community and the major source of income but in case of freed *Kamaiyas*, they don't have sufficient land for cultivation. Mostly they are dependent on share cropping for food. The data on crop produce sold and total income from it is presented in Table 5.6. In total 35 households out of total sampled households (70) is found to grow crops and out of them only 45.7 percent households used to sell various crops like paddy, wheat and vegetables.

Table 5.6: Distribution of households involved in cultivation by crop produce sold

Crops	Number of households	Percent
None	19	54.3
Paddy	4	11.4
Corn	-	-
Wheat	2	5.7
Others	10	28.6
Total	35	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

A close perusal of the data Table 5.7 shows that 5-10, 1-5 and 1-5 quintals of paddy, wheat and others (vegetables) are sold by 11.4, 5.7 and 28.6 percent households.

Table 5.7: Distribution of households by quantity of crops sold.

Sold Quantity (quintal)	Crops	Number of households	Percent
-	None	19	54.3
5-10	Paddy	4	11.4
-	Corn	-	-
1-5	Wheat	2	5.7
1-5	Others	10	28.6
Total		35	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

The data in Table 5.8 reflects that the total annual incomes from paddy, corn, wheat and others were 7500-15000, 1500-7500 and 1500-7500 NRs, respectively.

Table 5.8: Distribution of households by income from crop sold

Crops	Annual income(NRs.)	Number of households	Percent
None	-	19	54.3
Paddy	7500-15000	4	11.4
Corn	-	-	-
Wheat	1500-7500	2	5.7
Others	1500-7500	10	28.6
Total		35	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.7 Food Security

Figure 1 clearly depicts that 73 percent of total sampled households do not have enough food grain production to feed their family. From Table 5.9 it is apparent that 61.7 percent of total sampled households have food security for less than 3 months. Only 27.1 percent of total sampled households have food security for 9-12 months. The higher proportion of households not having enough food grain production to feed their family round the year might be due lack of enough land to grow food crops.

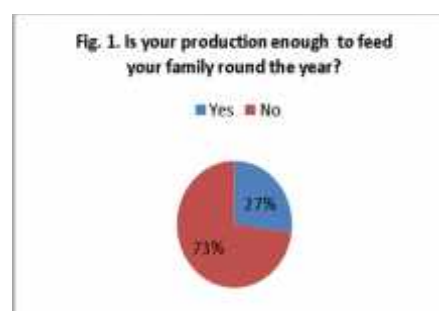


Table 5.9: Distribution of households by food security

Food security (months)	Number of households	Percent
Less than 3	43	61.4
3-6	4	5.7
6-9	4	5.7
9-12	19	27.1
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.8 Source of income

The data on source of income is presented in Table 5.10 and from the table it is apparent that the source of income for (31.4%) of total households is daily wages and the same proportion of households is found in daily wages + field crops as a source of income. Job and livestock are found as the sources of income for (1.4%) of total sampled households. The second major source of income is field crops + livestock and it is found as the source of income for (12.9%) of total sampled household.

Table 5.10: Distribution of households by source of income

Source of income	Number of households	Percent
Job	1	1.4
Daily wages	22	31.4
Rickshaw puller	5	7.1
Business	2	2.9
Livestock	1	1.4
Daily wages + Business	4	5.7
Field crops + Daily wages	22	31.4
Field crops + Livestock	9	12.9
Field crop + Business	2	2.9
Job + Daily wages + Livestock	2	2.9
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.9 Total annual income

The data on distribution of households by total annual income is presented in Table 5.11. The data shows that there is huge variation in annual income per household and it ranged from 10000 to more than 100000 NRs. The average total annual income per household is 38650.0 NRs. It is found that 80 percent of total sampled households earned less than 50000.0 NRs annually. One household of total sampled households (70) is found that earned more than 100000.0 NRs annually. These figures indicate that it is very difficult for the people to manage the livelihood of their family with this much of total annual income.

Table 5.11: Distribution of households by total annual income

Total Annual income (NRs.)	Number of households	Percent
10000-20000	10	14.29
20000-30000	17	24.29
30000-40000	18	25.71
40000-50000	11	15.71
50000-60000	3	4.29
70000-80000	4	5.71
60000-70000	3	4.29
80000-90000	1	1.43
90000-100000	2	2.86
More than100000	1	1.43
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.10 Seasonal migration

It is found that one member from each 33 households (48%) of total sampled households migrated seasonally for work. It is found that 33 persons out of total sampled households to migrate seasonally for work (Table 5.12). The data shows that 66.6 percent of total migration migrated to nearby cities like Nepalgunj (54.5%) and Gularia (12.1%) and others migrated to Kathmandu (9.0%) and India (24.2%)

Table 5.12: Distribution of households by places of migration

Places	Number of Persons	Percent
India	8	24.2
Nepalgunj	18	54.5
Gularia	4	12.1
Kathmandu	3	9.09
Total	33	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

The data in Table 5.13 shows that migrated people used to work as rickshaw puller and as a labour in poultry farm, auto workshop, hotel and daily wages. Six percent of total migrated people are found to work as a carpenter. Similarly, 30.3 percent of total migrated people is found as to work as Rickshaw puller.

Table 5.13: Number of persons migrated by type of work

Type of work	Number of Persons	Percent
Rickshaw puller	10	30.3
Poultry farm	2	6.1
Auto workshop	1	3.0
Hotel	3	9.1
Daily wages	15	45.5
Carpentering	2	6.0
Total	33	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

The data in Table 5.14 shows that the average duration of migration is 4.5 months. It is found that 66.7 percent of total migrated people migrated for 3 to 6 months and others either for 1 to 3 months (6.0%) or 6-12 months (27.3%).

Table 5.14: Number of persons migrated by duration of migration

Duration of migration (months)	Number of Persons	Percent
1 to 3	2	6.0
3 to 6	22	66.7
6 to 12	9	27.3
Total	33	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

On an average the salary per month is 3500 NRs/month. 97 percent of total migrated people is found to earn 3000-7000 NRs/month (Table 5.15).

Table 5.15: Number of persons migrated by salary/month

Salary/Month (NRs.)	Number of Persons	Percent
1500-2000	-	-
2000-3000	1	3.0
3000-7000	32	97.0
Total	33	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.11 Livestock

The data on distribution of livestock is presented in Table 5.16. The major livestock reared by the freed *Kamaiyas* are cow, ox, buffalo, goat and sheep. The data reveals that 48.8, 4.3 and 25.6 percent of total sampled households reared cow/oxen, buffalo and goat/sheep, respectively. The herd size of cow/oxen, buffalo and goat/sheep are 1-2, 1 and 1-4, respectively.

Table 5.16: Distribution of households by type and number of livestock

Number of Cow/oxen	Number of household	Percent	Number of Buffalo	Number of household	Percent	Number of Goat/sheep	Number of household	Percent
0	36	51.4	0	67	95.7	0	46	65.7
1	1	1.7	1	3	4.3	1	1	1.4
2	33	47.1				2	8	11.4
						3	3	4.3
						4	6	8.6
						5	-	-
						6	3	4.3
						7	3	4.3
Total	70	100.0		70	100.0		70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.12 Livelihood management options

It is found that out of total households 41 households (58.6%) have enough income to manage their livelihood and 29 households (41.4%) do not have enough income to manage livelihood. Out of total households who do not have enough family income, 22 households (75.9%) managed their livelihood by taking loan and remaining household 7 (24.1%) managed their livelihood by other ways like lending money from relatives or neighbours.

5.13 Loan and its source, duration and interest rate

The Table 5.17 below shows that the 52 households (74.3%) do not take the loan during the last 12 months. It means 18 households (25.7%) have taken the loan during the last 12 months. The highest proportion of household have taken loan from Mahajan (55.6%) followed by from relatives (27.8%) and bank/co-operatives (16.7%).

Table 5.17: Distribution of households by sources of credit

Have loan or not	Number of households	Percent
Yes	18	25.7
No	52	74.3
Total	70	100.0
Sources of loan		
Mahajan	10	55.6
Bank/co-operative	3	16.7
Relatives	5	27.8
Total	18	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

The data in Table 5.18 shows that 7 household (38.9%) used the loan in health followed by in loan repayment (33.6%). The proportion of household used loan in farming and food is the same i.e., 11.1 percent and the least proportion of household used the loan in marriage (5.6%)

Table 5.18: Distribution of households by loan used

Loan used	Number of households	Percent
Health	7	38.9
Food	2	11.1
Loan repayment	6	33.6
Farming	2	11.1
Total	18	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

The table below 5.19 presents data on duration and interest rate of loan. On an average people would take loan for the months of 4-6 months. The highest proportion of households (38.9%) have taken loan for 3-6 and 6-9 months while for less than 3 and more than months the percentage of household is 11.1 percent. The interest rate is varied from 12 to 20 percent and 55.6 percent of total households taken loan is found to bear interest rate of 18percent. Thereafter, 33.3 percent households are found to pay 15 percent of interest rate followed by 12 and 20 percent by 10.6 percent households.

Table 5.19: Proportion of households by duration and interest rate of loan

Duration of loan (months)		Number of households	Percent
	Less than 3		2
3-6		7	38.9
6-9		7	38.9
More than 9		2	11.1
Total		18	100.0
Interest rate (%)	12	1	5.6
	15	6	33.3
	18	10	55.6
	20	1	5.6
Total		18	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.14 Enterprises

The major enterprises in the study area are tailoring and poultry farming. The data in Table 5.20 reflects that 92.9 percent of total sampled households do not have any

enterprises. Only 7.2 percent of total households are found having enterprises. Out of which 4.3 percent households have tailoring and 2.9 percent have poultry farm as enterprises.

The higher proportion of households not having enterprises might be due to lack of investment and low risk bearing capacity of the people.

Table 5.20: Proportion of households involved in different type of enterprises

Type of enterprises	Number of households	Percent
None	65	92.9
Tailoring	3	4.3
Poultry Farm	2	2.9
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.15 Status of child labour

The status of child labour exists in the study population. It is found that there are 5 child labours out of total households (70). The quite low number of child labour from *Kamaiyas'* household might be due to awareness campaigns and other such interventions conducted by various I/NGOs.

5.16 Status of trainings received by people

The table below 5.21 reveals that only 10 persons from freed *Kamaiyas* have received the different type of trainings. Trainings on repairing motor/cycle, carpenter and vegetable cultivation were received by 5, 2, 2 and 1 people, respectively. Out of 10 trained persons only 2 persons have obtained employment.

After freedom, Government and I/NGOS have been conducting various training programs to enhance the knowledge and skills of freed *Kamaiyas* so that they can improve their livelihoods. But the aforementioned figures clearly indicate that most of *Kamaiyas* people yet have not got the benefit of various programs conducted by government and I/NGOs.

Table 5.21: Number of households who's any members of family received training

Type of training	No. of persons received training	Training provider	Job obtained or not
Carpenter	2	Tharu Mahila Utthan Kendra, Bardiya	2
Electricity Wiring	1	People Centred Development Forum, Bardiya	-
Repairing motor/cycle	5	Tharu Community Development Forum, Bardiya	-
Sewing	-	-	-
Others	2	Plan International, Nepal	-
Total	10		2

Source: Field survey, 2011.

5.17 Source of fuel

It is found that the all the sampled households used the fuel wood as the sources of food fuel. It is because of access to the community forest by *Kamaiya* too.

5.18 Crisis faced during 12 months

The Table below 5.22 reveals that the people faced different type of crisis during the last 12 months. Out of total sampled households 48 households (69.6%) faced different types of crisis. Among 48 households, the highest proportion of household (38.6%) faced problem of flood because they have got land near to the river. Similarly other crises faced by them are loss of live stock/poultry (24.3%), river bank/land cutting (2.9%), drought (1.4%) and food shortage (1.4%).

Table 5.22: Distribution of households by faced crisis during 12 months

Type of crisis	Number of households	Percent
None	22	31.4
Flood	27	38.6
Drought	1	1.4
River bank	2	2.9
Food shortage	1	1.4
Loss of livestock/poultry	17	24.3
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter includes the summary of findings of the study on "Socio-economic and livelihood status of freed *Kamaiya*: A case study of Suryapatuwa VDC". Besides, this chapter attempts to draw conclusion and some recommendations.

6.1 Summary

This study is based upon the 70 households (25%) out of total households (280) belonging to freed *kamaiya* scattered within different wards of Suryapatuwa VDC. The total sample population is 294 (162 males and 132 females), thus, making the overall sex ratio of 122.7. The objective of this study is to find out the socio-economic and livelihood options of freed *kamaiya*. For the fulfilment of the objectives of this study the questionnaire is divided into two sections, namely household and livelihood options. The former section is used for the purpose of gathering demographic and socio-economic characteristics and the later for the purpose of finding the livelihood options of sample population.

The main findings of the study can be summarized as under:

The proportion of population is found highest (15.0%) in the age group 25-30 and the lowest (1.4%) is found in the age group 50-55 years. The sex ratio is found lowest (33.3) in the age group 55-60 years and the highest (184.6) in age group 10-15 years. The total dependency ratio is found 56.3 and the young dependency is 45.7 while the old dependency is 10.6. Among the total population of 151 aged 6 years and above, 51.0 percent of males are literate while the female literacy is 36 percent (44 females of out of 120 females). Among the literate population, the highest proportion (57.9%) of people are found in primary level of education, while 0.8 percent of people without a single female has Bachelor level of education. More than 91.0 percent of the literate people are below SLC level of education. Among the total population of 245 aged 10 years and above, the highest proportion (27.3%) is found engaged in daily wages while 26.9 percent, 21.6 percent and 20.8 percent reported their occupations as daily wages plus household work, agriculture and student, respectively. The lowest proportion is found in business and service. Out of the total population of 245 aged 10 years and above, the highest proportions (72.2%) of people are found married and

22.4 percent are unmarried while 2.4 percent are widow/er and divorced. The proportion of separated is only 0.4 percent. Among females, the highest proportion (77.8%) is married. Similarly, among males, 67.9 percent is married.

Among the total sampled households, about 41.4 percent have land and the land area varied from 1-6 Kattha. Similarly, 93.1 percent of total households used to do share cropping and the area of share cropping ranged from 10-20 Katthas of land. Among the total sampled households, 50 percent, 38.5 percent, 4.3 percent and 25.7 percent households are found to grow paddy, wheat, corn and vegetables, respectively. The area under paddy varied from 1 to 25 Katthas and about 18.6 percent of total sampled households are found to grow rice in 5-15 Katthas of land. Similarly wheat and vegetable area varied from 1 to 20 Kattha and corn area varied from 1-5 Kattha. The production of paddy, wheat, corn and vegetables varied from 1-12, 1-15, 1-10 and 1-15 quintals, respectively. 42.9 percent of total households involved in cultivation produced 15-20 quintals of paddy, while 74.1 percent of total wheat grower produced 5-10 quintals. Similarly, 74.1 percent of total corn grower produced 5-10 quintals of corn. Out of total vegetable growers 88.9 percent growers produced 1-5 quintals of vegetables.

All the households involved in farming have irrigation facility and the source of irrigation is channel. The irrigated areas varied from 1 to 25 Kattha and the highest proportion (51.4%) of total farming households had 1 to 5 Katthas of irrigated land. In total 35 households out of total sampled households (70) is found to grow crops and out of them only 45.7 percent households used to sell various crops. 5-10, 1-5 and 1-5 quintals of paddy, wheat and vegetables are sold by 11.4, 5.7 and 28.6 percent households and the total incomes from selling those produce are 7500-15000, 1500-7500 and 1500-7500, respectively.

Among the total sampled household 73 percent households do not have enough food grain production to feed their family round the year. About 62 percent of total sampled households have food security for less than 3 months. Only 27 percent of total sampled households have food security for 9-12 months. The source of income for 31.4 percent of total households is daily wages and the same proportion of households is found in daily wages + field crops as a source of income. The second major source of income is field crops + livestock and it was found as the source of income for 12.9 percent of total sampled household. The total annual income per

household ranged from 10000 to more than 100000 NRs. The average annual income per household is 38650.0 NRs. About 80 percent of total sampled households earned less than 50000.0 NRs annually.

In total 33 persons out of total sampled households are found to migrate seasonally for work. About 67 percent of total migration migrated to Nepalgunj and Gularia and others migrated to Kathmandu and India. The migrated people is found to work as rickshaw puller and labour work in hotels, poultry farm and auto workshop. The major livestock reared by freed *Kamaiyas* are cow, ox, buffalo, goat and sheep. The percentage of households reared cow/oxen, buffalo and goat/sheep are 48.8 percent, 4.3 percent and 25.6 percent respectively. The herd size of cow/oxen, buffalo and goat/sheep are 1-2, 1 and 1-4, respectively. Out of total sampled households 58.6 percent households have enough family income to manage their livelihood. Among the total sampled households 25.7 percent households have taken the loan during the last 12 months. The highest proportions of household (55.6%) have taken loan from Mahajan followed by from relative 27.8 percent and bank/cooperatives 16.7 percent. Health, loan repayment and farming were the major categories for which the people would take loan. The interest rate is varied from 12 to 20 percent.

The major enterprises in the study area are tailoring and poultry farming. About 93 percent of total sampled households do not have any enterprises. There are five child labour from five household out of total sampled households. Only 10 persons out of total sampled population have received training. Trainings on repairing motor/cycle, carpenter, vegetable production and electricity wiring are received by 5, 2, 2 and 1 people, respectively. Only 2 persons had got job after receiving training. The entire sampled household is found to use the fuel wood as the source of cooking fuel. Out of total sampled households 48 households (69.6%) have faced different types of crisis during the last 12 months. The highest proportion of household (38.6%) faced problem of flood. Similarly, other crises faced by them are loss of livestock/poultry (24.3%), river bank/land cutting (2.9%), drought (1.4%) and food shortage (1.4%)

6.2 Conclusion

From the study it can be concluded that early marriage, low level of literacy, high dependency ratio etc are found as the 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 found as the important factors hindering the livelihood of the freed *Kamaiyas*.

6.3 Recommendations

Based on findings following recommendations can be made:

The landholding size of freed *kamaiyas*' is very small and the production from their own land (3 kattha) is not adequate to maintain food security round the year. So, it should be increased up to minimum 10 kattha. Many freed *kamaiyas* have been employed as agriculture and construction labour. They should be encouraged to be affiliated in trade union so that the individual labour would be safe from exploitation by employer.

The literacy rate is low. So, awareness programmes and free education should be implemented to improve the educational status of freed *kamaiya*.

Since the occupational status of both men and women are important in order to improve the socio-economic condition of the people, the policy of the government should be directed towards creating such opportunities that will make possible for people like in this community to shift their occupation from farming to non-farming and other productive occupations.

Mostly the *kamaiyas* are dependent on Mahajan for loan with high interest rate. Thus, the government should make provision of banking and cooperatives for them so that they could get easily loan with low interest rate.

The technical know-how of the *kamaiyas*' is very poor regarding income generating activities (IGA). So, trainings on IGA should be provided to them to broaden their knowledge and open eyes to improve the livelihood status.

REFERENCECES

- Action-Aid. (2008). Socio-economic status of freed kamaiya. *Mukta paila*, Vol. 6, pp. 6-8.
- Barai, V. K. (2004). *Socio-economic stability of the freed bonded labourer*. Kathmandu: (M.A. Thesis). Patan Multiple Campus, Department of Sociology, T.U.
- Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). (2001). Central Statistics Department, Kathmandu: CBS.
- Chaudhari, S. (2000). *The present situation of freed Kamaiya*. Kathmandu: Srijana Bikash Kendra Balaju, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Chaudhary, E. (2002). Bardia district an overview. *Ekchhin*, Vol. 8(2), pp. 10-11.
- Chaudhary, M. (2008). *The terai of Nepal and its landowner*. Dang: Mahila Vikash Sanstha.
- Chaudhary, P. (2005). *A sociological thought to the origin history of Tharu*. Kathmandu: Nepal Gramin Vikash Samaj.
- GEFONT. (2004). *Kamaiya and interventions*. Report on analysis of the effectiveness of intervention for the release and rehabilitation of bonded labour in Nepal, Kathmandu: GEFONT.
- Holm J. and M. L. Rasmussen. (1999). *Kamaiya between patronage and human rights ideology*. International Development Studies, Denmark: Reskilde University.
- INSEC. (1992). *Bonded Labour in Nepal*. Retrieved from <http://www.wri.ca/partners/insec/yb1992>.
- Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN). (2007). *Ex-Kamaiya freed but displaced by failed rehabilitation*. Retrieved from [http://www.internaldisplacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/\(httpEnvelopes\)/F069B2207EFB7E53802570B8005AAFA?OpenDocument](http://www.internaldisplacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/(httpEnvelopes)/F069B2207EFB7E53802570B8005AAFA?OpenDocument).

- Ministry of Land-reform and Management (MoLRM). (2003). *Report on Kamaiya freedom and rehabilitation programme*. Kathmandu: MoLRM.
- National Labour Academy (NLA), (2001). *Kamaiya situation analysis report*. Kathmandu: NLA.
- OMCT's Nepal Case Study. (2008). *The Kamaiya system of bonded labour in Nepal*. Retrieved from <http://www.omct.org/pdf/ESCR/2006/intlconference2005/IIBCcaseStudy.pdf>.
- Sharma, S. Thakurathi, M. (1998). *A revisit to Kamaiya system of Nepal*. Kathmandu: Informal Sector of Service Centre.
- Subedi, T. P. (1999). *Bonded labour in Nepal*. Kathmandu: (M.A. Thesis). Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, T.U.
- Upreti, B. P. (2000). *Socio-economic aspect of kamaiya system*. Kathmandu: (M.A. Thesis). Submitted to the Central Department of Sociolog, T.U.

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of population studies
Socio-economic and livelihood status of freed kamaiya
(A case study of suyapatuwa VDC of Bardia)

(a) Household Questionnaire

Household no.....

Date.....

Name of locality.....

Name of Respondent....

Ward no.....

S.N	Name	Relationship to head of household	Sex	Age	Marital status	Literacy	Education	Occupation
		Head of HH 1	Male 1		Married 1	Literate 1	Primary 1	Agriculture 1
		Husband /wife 2			Unmarried 2		Lower	Service 2
		Son/ Daughter 3	Female		Widow/er 3	Illiterate 2	Secondary 2	Business 3
		Grandchild 4	2		Divorce 4		Secondary 3	HH work 4
		Brother/Sister 5			Separated 5		H.S 4	Daily wage 5
		Mother/Father 6					Bachelor 5	
		Nephew 7						
		Son/ Daughter in-law 8						
		Others 9						

(b) Livelihood Options Questionnaire

S.N	Questions	Code
1	Does your family have own land?	Yes....1 No.....2
2a	What is your total land size? (kathha)	Bigha/Kattha

2 b. If no, what type of ownership and land size?

Type of ownership	Land size(kattha)
Share cropping	Bigha/Kattha

3. What crops do you grow (please mention are and type of crops)

crops	Area	Production(in quintal)
3a	3b	3c

Code3a:	3b	3c
P addy-1	1-5 kattha-1	1-5 quintal -1
Wheat-2	5-15 katha-2	5-10 - 2
Corn-3	15-20 -3	10-15 - 3
Vegetabes-4	20-25 -4	15-20 - 4
Others- 5		20-25 - 5

4. What is the condition of irrigation facility?

Source of irrigation	Code	Area (kathha)
Irrigation canal	1	
Water pump	2	
Hand pump	3	
Treadle pump	4	
others	5	

5. What kind of crops and how much (in quintal) do you sell annually?

crops	Quantity(in quintal)	Annual income(in thousands)
5a	5b	5c

Code for 5a

Paddy.....1

Corn.....2

Wheat.....3

Others...4

Code for 5b

1-5 quintal....1..

5-15.....2

15-20.....3

Code for 5c

1000-3000...1

3000-7000...2

7000-15000....3

6. Is your own production is enough to feed your family round the year?

a) Yes.....1

b) no.....2

7. How many months do your food security lasts from your land (production)

Number of months	Code
Less than 3 months	1
3- 6 months	2
6- 9 months	3
9-12months	4

8. What are the sources of income?

Source of income	Code	Total income	Code
Job	1		1
Field crops(own +lease)	2		2
Share crops	3		3
Daily wages	4		4
Rickshaw puller	5		5
Fishing	6		6
House helper/maid	7		7
Business	8		8
Cart puller	9		9
livestock	10		10
Others	11		

9. Does any of the household members seasonally migrate to earn income?

- a) Yes.....1 b) no....2

10. If yes, please mention the following

How many members of your family are currently out of home for work?	Where do they go?	What type of work for they do?	Duration of stay	Working hours per day	Salary/income Per months(Rs)
10a	10b	10c	10d	10e	10f

Code for 10b	Code for 10c	Code for 10d	Code for 10e	Code 10f
India 1	Rickshaw puller 1	1-3months 1	8 hours 1	1500-2000 1
Nepalgunj 2	poultry form 2	3-6months 2	8- 10 hours 2	2000-300....2
Gularia.....3	house made 3	6- 9 month 3		3000-7000...3
Taratal.....4	Hotel 4	9-1year		
Kathmandu...5	Garage 5			

11. Do you have livestock?

Type of animals	Code	Number
Cow/oxen	1/2	
Buffalo	1/2	
Goat/ sheep	1/2	

1-Yes, 2-No

12. Is your family income is enough to manage your livelihood?

a) Yes....1 b) no....2

13. if not, how do you manage?

a) Debt....1 b) others.....2

14. Do you have any loan or have you borrowed money in 12 months?

a) Yes.....1 b) no.....2

15. What are the sources of credit?

Mahajan	1
NGOS/INGOS	2
Bank	3
Relatives	4
Others	5

16. Where have you used the loan?

	Code
Farming	1
Health	2
Consumption	3
Marriage	5
Loan repayment	6
Livestock/poultry	7
Others	8

17. What was the duration of the loan and what was the interest rate?

Duration		Interest rate		

18. Do you have your own enterprises?

Enterprises	Code
Handicraft	1
Tailoring	2
Furniture factory	3
Poultry farm	4
others	5

19. Do any member of your family in domestic child labor?

- a) Yes.....1 b) no.....2

20. Have any member of your family taken training?

- a) Yes.....1 b) no.....2

21. If yes, mention the following

Type of training	Provider institution	Obtained job Yes/NO
21a	21b	21c

Code for 21a

Code for 21b

Code for 21c

Carpenter-1

Govt-1

Yes-1

Wiring-2

I/NGOs-2

No-2

Repairing/motors-3

Sewing-4

22. What are the sources of fuel?

	Code
Cow dung	1
Fuel wood	2
Electricity	3
Rice chaff	4
Others	5

23. What kind of crisis you have experienced in 12 months?

	Code
Flood	1
Drought	2
River bank	3
Erosion	
Food shortage	4
Loss of livestock/poultry	5
Loss of job	6
others	7