

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Despite some progress in poverty reduction in recent years Nepal ranks among the poorest countries in the world and about 25.16 percent of Nepalese live below the poverty line of US\$12 per person/per month. (UNDP/ 2012) Poverty in Nepal is a deeply entrenched and complex phenomenon. Notwithstanding declining rates of urban poverty, the problem remains widespread with indicators suggesting a rise in rural poverty.

About 80% of Nepal's population live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming for their livelihoods contributing only 36 percent in GDP of the country with a per capita GDP US\$741. (CBS, 2012) Household food security and poor nutrition are still major concerns in rural areas. Most households have little or no access to basic social services such as primary health care, education, clean drinking water and sanitation services. Rural poor people generally have large families, are landless or have very small landholdings, with high rates of illiteracy and are also concentrated in specific ethnic, caste and minority groups, particularly those of the lowest caste (dalits) and indigenous peoples (janajatis). Small, fragmented subsistence farming is a characteristic of Nepalese agriculture, and the average landholding is only 0.8 hectares. Life is a constant struggle for survival. The most vulnerable and marginalized groups are the lowest social castes, indigenous peoples and women.

As mentioned in history, slavery emerged in Nepal from the caste system of Hinduism and the feudal structure in agriculture. The slavery in Nepal began with the reign of Lichhavi dynasty (100-880AD). The Hindu religious book Manusmriti also mentions about this practice. Slavery remained in the practice during the Malla period (1380-1395AD). During the reign of Jayasthiti Malla, caste system was introduced and the same became part of the Nepalese Hindu society. In Hindu society slavery was practiced in many forms arising out of caste system and poverty. Slaves were bought and sold just like animals. Chandra Shamsheer, the then prime minister had abolished the slavery by repaying the amount of Rs 3,670,000 to slave's masters as compensation for releasing their slaves. The amount was borrowed from the Pashupati

trust in 1925AD. The remnant of this inhuman system continued as bonded labor system (Kamaiya-system) until the present day in Nepal (INSEC, 1992). Where as, Tharu bonded labors are more than 98 percent of the total bonded laborers (INSEC, 1996).

Jung Bahadur Rana, the first Rana prime minister of Nepal, developed the Mulki Ain, a codification of Nepal's indigenous legal system, which divided society into a system of castes. The Tharus were placed at next to the bottom (lowest touchable, above untouchables) of the social hierarchy. Their land was taken away, disrupting their community and displacing the people. The eradication of malaria in the Terai region resulted immigration of people from other areas to claim the fertile land, making many Tharus virtual slaves of the new landowners and developing the Kamaiya system of bonding generations of Tharus families to labour.

Likewise, another factor relevant to the emerge of slavery in Nepal is the feudal structure of agriculture. Before 2007 BS, Nepal was a feudalistic society where landlords held a huge amount of land through the existing land tenure system of Birta, Jagir, Jamindari and so on. An estate was given as reward by the Royal family to those person who Follow and support them **blindly**. The recipient then had the authority to collect revenue from the public in that area. They enjoyed a number of privileges and benefites. They fixed their share of crop (Kut) on their own, and collected it from tenants. They forced people to pay unpaid labour and other services using their power by deciding cases, administering people in their jurisdiction, punishing criminals and so on. They gradually made the tenants their permanent slaves.

Later, in 2007B.S, after the establishment of democracy, these kinds of land owning systems were abolished. In 2019B.S, an agriculture act was enacted to abolish that system. Then since 2021B.S, the Land Reform Programme was lunched and converted all kinds of land into Raikar except Guthi Land and made all the tenants free from landlords and money-lender. But remnants of the old system still remain. A form of feudal structure is still dominant in the plains, and the caste system still prevails in the hill of Nepal. Both these systems have led to a division in society between landlords and serfs, high-caste and low-caste, exploiters and exploited and dominating and dominated. As a result of these social stratifications the practice of

bonded labor survives and rooted as a name of Haliya Partha in hill and mountain region and Kamaiya Partha in terai region. Whereas Kamaiya partha is mostly related to indigenous tharu.

The tharu ethnic group is one of the earliest groups of Nepal which is still socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged and it survives on agricultural labourer. Their share in the country's total population is 6.60 percent while the share of those speaking tharu languages is 5.8 percent (Census,2011).

Thus prevalence of wider spread poverty and absence of alternative means of livelihood the poor tharus fully depend upon their bare hands as farmlabours . Farm workers are popularly known as Haliya, Haruwa, charuwas, kamaiya, Gothala, Bhaisarwa, Gayarawa and Chhegrawa. The practice of Kamaiya system is residue of former slavery, which became a burning issue in the field of human rights. Although it was abolished but still in exists especially in the mid and far western terai districts of Nepal. The Government of Nepal outlawed the practice of bonded labour prevalent under the Kamaiya system on July 17, 2000. Which prohibits anyone from employing any person as a bonded labourer, and declared that the act of making one work as a bonded labourer is illegal. Though democracy has been reinstated in the country, the Tharu community has called for a more inclusive democracy as they are fearful of remaining a backward, underprivileged people.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The issues of Ex-Kamaiya can be considered as one of the colossal phenomenon for rehabilitation in the mid and far western region of Nepal covering Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur as well as even in practice in some pocket areas of Surkhet, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi where tharu kamaiya people are in large number.

As Ex-Kamaiya system was an issue that could have tarnished the image of Nepal amidst the worldwide cry for human rights movements. So BASE started awareness programme with support of other I/NGOs, Educationists, Humanists and some government officials which initiated movement against Ex-Kamaiya system. Finally on 17th July 2000 government declared abolition of kamaiya system. The act against Kamaiya labor 2058 BS specifies that after its declaration, nobody can keep

Kamaiya that policy of government stress on the resettlement, rehabilitation and freedom of Ex-Kamaiya. That made provision for automatic emancipation of all Ex-Kamaiya after the effectiveness of the policy. After the declaration of automatic emancipation policy of the government to the Kamaiya, Landlords forced them to leave immediately from their houses. This created another problem for newly freed Kamaiya to hand to mouth. However different I/NGOs and government sides came forward to support and distribute food and other basic needs to manage the situation but there is burning problem in existence of Ex-Kamaiya. So after abolition of this system, there have been efforts to rehabilitate the Ex-kamaiya. Government declared allocation of parcel of land (2-5kattha per household). 35Cft (cubic feet) timber and Rs 10,000 grant for houses building for the rehabilitation of landless and homeless Ex-kamaiya. NGOS/INGOS also lunched training, skill development, education and co-operative programmers to empowered the identified Ex-kamaiyas families. But it is not properly managed and also not enough solution to their livelihood . Distribution of land is not proportion according to their family size. Most of them are uneducated, unskilled so the chances of getting work is less. Since they are landless, uneducated and unemployed, no doubt their income is fairly low to mention their consumption.

Till the time in Nepal the poor endogenous groups are deprived of their rights. About one decade passed, the government announced kamaiya were freed from their masters but still they are in the state of difficult condition. They still do not have the opportunities of good job and education. The government could not able to stabilize them by providing basic requirements. Even now some kamaiyas are forced to send their children in the landlord's houses to work as kamalaries. After the re-unification of Naya-Muluk i.e. Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur the tharus living there were made permanent slaves of the people of Kathmandu. From the time onwards the people of those areas were made Kamlari, Organya, Kamaiya, Bukrahai, Bhaiswar, Ladaka Khelauwa etc as per their physical status.

In the some sense they are also self responsible for their un-improvable situation. They do not value their own property rather they misused it. They work hard at the field during whole day and in evening straight up to pub. They enjoyed much more by 'feast and 'famine' saying that future is unknown and uncertain, who knows what happens tomorrow.

So lack of effective rehabilitation programme to uplift the Ex-Kamaiya's living standard, they are still struggling for the basic necessities. Most of them are jobless. Even some having job are paid low. Children are deprived of education. Women and children are suffering malnutrition. The situation is still not encouraging and there are miles to go. Though the successes are many, we can see the vast difference between their lifestyle before and after of abolization, but the tasks to be done are much more. The road to ensuring life with dignity for these Ex-Kamaiyas is long one. In short, there is struggle essentially over resources, jobs, income and welfare. Therefore, this research has dealt the following question related with the resettlement and rehabilitation process of freed kamaiya.

1. What is the socio-economic condition of freed-kamaiya?
2. What are the effort made by government and other supporting group to rehabilitate and resettle them?
3. What attempts are made by them for themselves?
4. How do they perceive to their resettlement and rehabilitation?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study aims to assess the impact of various government programs and policies on the resettlement and rehabilitation of freed Kamaiya in Nepal during the last 10 years. The specific objectives are enumerated as follows:

- i. To analyze the socio-economic status of the free Kamaiya.
- ii. To examine the income and expenditure of the Ex-Kamaiya's in the village
- iii. To analyze Ex-Kamaiya's occupational structure and resettlement process after freedom.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Kamaiya system was the defamation in the name of country. Thirty-seven years after the commitment to international anti-slavery treaty, Government of Nepal declared an illegal work to Kamaiya system. About ten years passed since the government announced the abolization of kamaiya and they are made free from the chain of exploitations but in practice enough care was not taken regarding their welfare issues. They are forced to settle in several camps where they are living a

difficult life. Government, NGOS/INGOS have been launching different resettlement and rehabilitation programme for freed Ex-kamaiyas in different places but output of such programme in real sense are few. Thus an assessment of effectiveness of resettlement and rehabilitation process of freed kamaiya has great significant to understand nature of the process as well to evaluate effectiveness of programme launched by different sector of country. Finding of the study will also serve further planning and implementation of prospective programmed and improving the effectiveness of the existing programme of freed kamaiya rehabilitation.

This study is also be useful for the policy makers, researchers, planners and social workers to know about their socio-economic condition such as education, level of income, health condition, expenditure capacity etc. It also Sketched a clear picture of present situation and problems of Ex-kamaiya's which helps local administration or government and donor to formulate further plans and project accordingly.

In general this study of tharu Ex-kamaiya bears importance because the frustrated poor and illiterate kamaiyas can be easily mislead and can create various social and economic problems. There is need of solving the freed kamaiya issue and for this their current status is necessary to be studied.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study was an attempt to analyze the income and expenditure of Ex-Kamaiya in Nepal. There are varieties of economic variables for the measurement of the economic condition but with budget and time constraints as well as other difficulties, this study does not carry out over all economic pictures. This study covers only some economic variables such as income, expenditure, occupation, education, housing pattern etc and ignores cultural and political variables. Here expenditure comprises all spends by the households incurred exclusively on domestic account including only consumption out off home grown product.

As the study is basically concerned with a particular area of Badalpur V.D.C in Bardiya district, this study maynot carry out the whole picture of freed kamaiya of all over Nepal. Therefore the generalization of the result may or may not be equally relevant.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is about introduction which includes background of the study. Likewise statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study are the main body of first chapter. The second chapter includes the conceptual framework, brief review of studies related to tharu kamaiya, its system related history and international practice of slavery and their socio-economic condition before and after abolization. The third chapter is about research methodology which includes selection of the study area, nature and source of data, sample size, data collection tools and techniques, sample size and data processing and analysis. The fourth chapter deals about the introduction of the study area and Ex-kamaiya 'Shivir'. The fifth chapter deals about the socio- economic condition of the Ex-Kamaiya and in the sixth chapter income and expenditure pattern are illustrated which are the major part of the whole study for that all collected relevent data are analyzed and interpreted by the help of different tools. In this chapter, there is explanation of the major findings of the study. The seventh chapter contains the summary, conclusion and recommendation on the basis of the study. Appendix and bibliography are presented as reference materials of the study report.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Literature Review

2.1.1 Studies Related to Slavery

Slavery system is a remnant of the caste system of Hinduism. Ancient slavery, poverty and backwardness are the main causes for the emergence of bonded labor i.e. Kamaiya system in western Terai of Nepal.

In 'Kautily's Arthashastra' it is stated that a person could be a slave by birth, by voluntarily selling himself, by defeat in war and by judicial punishment.

According to 'Manusmriti', god created the shudra group as das/dasi and they could be sold or bought like animals or commodities. Even if their master freed them from slavery, the shudra remained servile and continued to serve thinking it as their natural duty. Which also proved that the slavery system was also deep rooted in India since early stage of human evolution.

Eugen and Genovese (1976), 'The world the slaves made' views that cruel, unjust, exploitative, offensive slavery bound two people together in bitter antagonism while creating an organic relationship so complex and ambivalent that neither could express the simplest human feelings without references to the other. Slavery rested on the principle of property in man of one man's appropriations of another's person as well as of the fruits of his labors. By definition and in essence, it was a system of class rule in which some people lived of the labor of the other.

Bhagwati (1983), Slaves live a life worse than that of animals. Their freedoms are robbed of and they have either to live in hovels or under the open sky. They have to be satisfied with whatever little unwholesome food they can manage for their hungry stomach. They are derived by poverty, without any choice into bonded life without any hope to be rescued.

Chhetri (1992), Carried out the study on the slavery in Nepal by historical perspectives. He analyzed historically the nature of slaves, their origin, causes and condition of slaves in Nepal and in the world. He also described the abolition of

slavery by Chandra Shamsheer and rehabilitation of these emancipated slaves. He found that work was well planned and organized but the emancipated slaves were not granted that much lands as was fixed i.e. four ropanis in Hill and one bigha in Terai

Kamaiya were a kind of slaves. They were bonded as agricultural laborers who were being forced to provide hard physical labor without receiving wage for his/her contribution in order to repay debt taken by him/her or by family members at present or in past.

Slavery in Nepal is believed to have begin with the reign of Lichhavi Dynasty. In the malla periods, especially during the period of Jayasthiti malla, the slavery system was spread out in large dimension with the introduction of caste system in the society. Land reform programme in 1964 AD converted all kind of land; except Guthi land, in to Raikar (state ownership). The tenants were free from the land lords and the money lender but the system of slavery continued. This system led to the division of the society into two groups namely the land lord and serfs, high and low cast, exploiters and exploited, dominant and dominated. It paved the way for social stratification and prevalence of the practice of bonded labors under the kamaiya system. Bonded labor system is inhuman and inherently oppressive. Bonded labor lacks freedom of mobility, control over an access to fund, independence of choices about what and how they work. The condition of kamaiya was no different than before. They suffered physical and verbal abuse as well as sexual abuse in common.

Slavery and bonded labor were prevalent in all over the world. A slave is an individual who is the property of other persons either legally or by customary laws.

Slavery and bonded labor were also prevalent in the western society. A slave is an individual who is the property or is at the disposal of the other who has the right to employ him as he/she pleases. Slavery and bondage system were much in debate in America since its independent where about one fifth of black men and women of Africa decent were slaves. Thousands of people from Spain, Portugal and other parts of Europe went to America in search of gold. Colonial government needed more laborers for plantation, mining, industries and other sectors. So, they had passed laws in the 10th century that blacks were to remain slaves for life in America (Singh, 1994). Abraham Lincoln was the first person to raise voice against the system of

slavery and considered it a bolt on the face of democracy. He abolished slavery in America.

The state law and order council is systematically using forced labor in Myanmar since 1988AD. This form of forced labor is used in construction project road repairing and in states owned by the army. The country has used such unpaid labor and forced labor in developmental and infrastructural projects. However this act is hid under the disguise of terms as 'voluntary labor' and public domations in cash, kind and services. Villages in the designated area must be provided with a set of workers each day on rotation basis making shifts regardless of age or the health. Such laborers die due to over load and fever or overwork. They are even killed while trying to escape; they may be shot, fined or given rigorous physical punishment (Asian Labor Update, 1997)

Pakistan's rulers claim that there is a free and democratic society based on justice and equality. But the existence of bonded laborers in Pakistan has revealed a much different picture. Millions of worker in Pakistan are bought and sold as slaves and are forced to work for paying off their debt to landlords. The root of this bondage is wider spread poverty and remnant feudalism in the country. Approximately fifty percent of the population of Pakistan is living below the poverty line and half of it is hardly able to maintain its daily subsistence.

Bonded agricultural workers in Pakistan are called Haris. Landlords take full advantage of their illiteracy and their desperate condition. The vicious circle of debt quickly came into operation. So Haris are obliged to work for the landlords until they have paid off their debt. There is another kind of bonded labor system being practiced in Pakistan. It exists in brick kilns, Carpet industry, fishing industry, agriculture, power looms, shoe making, cottage industries, hotel and construction work. The vicious circle of the debt has been transformed the workers into bonded laborers and has affected their family and children for generations. No limit of working hours, paltry wages, high amount of interest on the debt and expensive social rituals are some of the characteristics of the system. Most children of the bonded laborers have no birth certificates as they are born in slavery and remain as slaves throughout their life

In Indian subcontinent too, there has always been exploitation of the weak, poor and lower castes by the powerful, wise, wealthy and higher castes. It is the form of the variegated abuse, which existed in Indian society in the form of serfdom, debt bondage, contract bondage, peonage force labor etc. Domestic slaves were usually fed, clothed and housed by their masters, while agrestic slaves mainly lived in separate huts with their families. These slaves were brought to Bengal so as to export them to Sumatra, Sirlanka, S.t Helema, Pondicherry, Myanmar, Australia and other places by the Portuguese, Dutch, French, Swiss, Danes, and Arabs. A good number of people were engaged in this organized traffic. Sale and purchase of slaves was permitted everywhere in British, India as a profitable business (Asain Labor Update, 1997).

2.1.2 Studies Related to Kamaiyas

Kamaiya comes from a Tharu word “Kamkaruiya” that means who works. Thus the literary meaning of the term kamaiya in Tharu language is the hard working man. Another general meaning of the word kamaiya is a person who cultivates the land of others (GEFONT, 2001).

Nepal dictionary defines the word “Kamaiya” as follows: “a hard tiller of land, earner; manly an obedient person; one who earns along with his family in other’s land by borrowing in cash or kind from the land owner or a peasant equivalent to him” (2040BS). This definition does not precisely reflect the meaning of the kamaiya in the contemporary context, though it does refer to the fact that kamaiyas are put to hard labor. The kamaiya is in fact, a worker but unlike a general worker, he is a bonded one- a slavery system prohibited all over the world including Nepal (INSEC, 1992).

“A person working in the fields for a land owner, looking after his animals and doing other agricultural works along with household members incessantly either taking or not taking loan from the land owner can be considered a kamaiya”(HMG,1995).

In general, Kamaiya means a person, employed for farming land. A Kamaiya is generally regarded as a person who has taken a loan from somebody and works for him (money lender) as interest on the loan until the loan is repaid. When the labour is unable to pay off his loan, another person pays off his loan to the first master and buys

him to work (INSEC, 1991). In this sense kamaiya is also a person bought to work in the field and he is a bonded labour because of the loan from his master. He cannot move elsewhere without paying off the loan. Kamaiya means a hard worker in their native language who sustains his life with full of his physical strength and self commitment for his own family and his society. However, over the years it has been variously implied, misinterpreted and extremely exploited during the course of history by any feudal groups of society. Tharu people are majority dwellers, are very simple and depend on manual strength for work for serving them. That is why Tharus are mostly kamaiya in Nepal (INSEC, 2001).

2.1.3 Studies Related to Kamaiya System & Its Rehabilitation

After the eradication of malaria, terai became a new frontier for hill people. Those hill people displaced Tharu people from their land using violence and threat. In some cases they took benefit of illiterate Tharu while registering the land. Whereas in some cases they produced complicated loan forms and later captured the land and compelled Tharus to be Kamaiya.

So the Kamaiya system was limited among the Tharu caste group of mid and far western Terai. Tharu is one of the most numerous ethnic minorities in the country. They are indigenous to terai and are one of the very few ethnic groups who are living there from the ancient age. Although these Tharus are scattered throughout the terai region but are inhabiting highly in Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dang.

It is found in several books that an epidemic of malaria prevailed in Terai region of Nepal. This terai region was mostly occupied with a dense forest. Except indigenous Tharus, no one would like to live in these places. People used to term the places Kailali, Bardiya and Kanchanpur as 'Kalapani' which indicates death from black water. Those who live in terai did not survive. The revenue for the governments from this area was low. Those government service holders who received 'birta' brought the local indigenous people, Tharu as farm labor to cultivate barren land. Tharus did the hard work to cultivate the land, made it fertile and increase the production and productivity. After eradication of malaria, people from other areas especially from hills, migrated to this area. The result was the marginalization of the Tharu people. The relatively clever people from hills squeezed the Tharu from their

land. In some cases the new migrants took advantage from land reforms act 1964 as most of the lands were not registered. Finally the tharu were turned into the Kamaiyas of land owners.

The Kamaiya system is a long term farm labor relationship between the Kamaiya (Labor) and employer. The Kamaiya system arises from debt relationship. At least there are three types of labor relations related to Kamaiya system, which helps to bind the Kamaiyas with the system. The system can also be understood by 3L- Labor, Loan and Land (GEFONT, 2001).

In this system several forms of wages payment were in practice. The three most prevalent methods are:

Annual payment in kind, which is popularly known as 'Masura' or 'Jiwaki'. The level of payment ranges from eight quintals to twelve quintals of paddy and about 10 to 15 percent of this weight is paid as lentils and other edible items.

Output share; in which the Kamaiya is allocated land, say one to two bighas and the entire responsibility of labor supply rests on the Kamaiya. The Kamaiya's output share is in range of one-fourth to one-third. Payment in cash which is very limited and very low.

Under this system, Kamaiyas were not entitled to enjoy any type of leave or public or weekend holidays. They received no compensation for any accident while working for their masters but more over they would be penalized for being absent even during sickness.

Most of the Kamaiya work approximately 18 hours per day for their landlords in substitute of insufficient amount of food grain, cash or kind on yearly oral contract basis under this system. However the payment is very low compare to labor wage market.

On the average, a Kamaiya works about 11-12 hours a day. He gets only around 11 rupees at the maximum. Using the legal minimum wage of 60 rupees (US\$0.80) for eight hour work per day, instead he loses around 90 rupees a day to his master. Annually a master makes a surplus of 32500 rupees (US\$450) per kamaiya.

This amount is multiplied of members of the kamaiya family engaged in the work (Mr Kattle, 2001).

Thus on the one hand the very low wage rate compared to the market rate and the insufficient amount of food grains received by the family from his master is too low to sustain the family for the whole year. On the other hand, it is to be noted that who enter into the system are not allowed to work outside to earn more for their family and consequently they are compelled to borrow more money or food grains from their master for hand to mouth and other necessary expenses for social events like marriage, medical, festival and so on.

The term 'Saunki' is used for this type of loan which is borrowed by Kamaiya from his master. The penalty for absent on works even due to any reason also added in the Saunki. The Kamaiyas burdened without loan are doomed with their fate to remain lifelong kamaiya. The Kamaiyas with Saunki can by no means change their master even if they want to do so unless they pay off the amount of Saunki. Once a Kamaiya enters contract, he is bound to serve his master for the whole year and can not violate it no matter he has or has not Saunki. Though Kamaiya without Saunki has freedom to change master or to be freed in the next Maghi, (the first day of Magh) but the kamaiyas with Saunki too cannot change their masters on maghi even if they do not like to serve there still another master paid the amount. Thus, the kamaiya with Saunki equal to Bonded labor. They can be bought and sold. Failure to pay the Saunki to their life time, the parents hand over the liabilities to their children. Consequently the child of Kamaiya found himself in the chain of bondage when he puts his leg in the earth he marries in the bondage and dies in the bondage. His wife and children inherit the loan and bequeath it to succeeding generations. This is the dynamics of the Kamaiya system, a remains as well as a new form of slavery. Such evil system (kamaiya system) was prolonged for century in the country.

Kamaiya system was mostly concentrated in Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur. This system is also believed to be in practice in some of the pockets of Kapilbastu, Rupandehi and Nawalparashi where tharu societies are predominant i.e. 98 percent of Kamaiya system was an oppressive one. They used to suffer Physical and verbal abuse, sexual abuse too was common. That was not tolerable behavior. So they started strike to get the human right through various ways.

On the occasion of international Labor Day i.e may1 of 2000, a movement for freedom of Kamaiyas was started. Petitions were filled in many VDCS. Various petitions, protests, demonstration were made in several parts of the nation. Backward Society Education (BASE) was the leading central committee. District committees were formed in each district. Boat for Community Development (BCD) was leading agency in Dang, Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) in Banke, Radhakrishana Tharu Janasewa Samaj (RKJS) in Bardiya, Creation of Creative Society (CCS) in Kailali, Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA) and General Federation of Nepal Trade Union (GEFONT) were the leading agencies in Kanchanpur(Shahi,2009).

After many efforts of various organizations-civil society, NGOS/INGOS. Government announced the abolishment of the Kamaiya system on 17th July, 2000 (2nd Sharawan, 2057 B.S).They were legally declared free by government of Nepal and made the Saunki illegal. Thus they are presently known as Ex- Kamaiya.

After the abolization of Kamaiya system incurred debt was also announced illegal and the victims were made free. The act against Kamaiya labor 2058 B.S specifies that after its declaration, nobody can keep kamaiya. It stresses on the resettlement of the kamaiya after their freedom. It made provision for automatic emancipation of each and every Kamaiya after its effectiveness.

After the emancipation government and other supporting groups are active in the resettlement and rehabilitation of freed Kamaiya with targeted programme. So at first, the ministry of land reform and management with co-ordinating to I/NGOs started providing emergency relief to expeled Kamaiya with a package of some food, drinking water and few tarpaulin, bamboo stick and medicine where as at the same time government established a National Commmittee heading by the deputy PM for determining all policy requirements for Ex-Kamaiya rehabilitation. In addition, Districts Committee, Kamaiya Rehabilitation and Registration Committees were formed in relevant district to identify Ex-kamaiya and land for distribution.

Under the identification depending on their physical assets, Kamaiya were categorized into four classes as A, B, C &D. The kamaiya who does not have anything were listed under categorize 'A', those having hut but not land in B, having houses to live and maximum 2 katta land in 'C' and finally having a piece of

cultivated land as well as houses to live in 'D' and distribute respectively Red card for categorized 'A', Blue card for 'B', Yellow card for 'C' and white card for 'D'. Then, after identifying the land for distribution, Government started providing land (max. 5-3 kattha) to each family with land ownership certificate prohibited to sell or mortgage. Land is distributed according to their condition at first Red card holder then Blue and Yellow and so on. The government has been also providing 10 thousands rupees (on the support of ILO) and 35 cubic feet timber per family in order to construct houses to Ex-Kamaiya receiving Red card.

The department of land reform have been launching Kamaiya livelihood programme to empowering, rehabilitating or to build and strengthen the capacity of Kamaiyas to improve their social, cultural & economic condition. Like wise skill development training, education, institution building and credit programme, co-operative programmers to empowered the identified Ex-Kamaiyas families. The government is also imitating food for work programme under the Freed Kamaiya Food Security Project.

Like wise since 2000 I/NGOs and other supporting groups are also involving this process of rehabilitation. For example they stall hand pump, boring and pit latrine in the different resettlement area. They also held different Income generation programme, Awareness and Literacy Community Building, Go To School Programme, Vegetable Production Training, Agriculture Kamaiya Special Programme, Saving Programme and so on.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

K.N. Pyakural (1982), has concentrated his Ph.D dissertation on the study of Tharu Kamaiya people. Assessing the general socio-economic situation of the Tharu kamaiya, he sums up "Indeed, they are one of the major ethnic groups in the terai region and of the more under developed groups in Nepal. Their history is a story of extreme deprivation, enormous hardship and blatant class exploitation. Because of physical and social isolation from development activities in the region and from cultural contacts with other people, their superstitions, backwardness and timidity were reinforced. AS a people they are generally illiterate and unschooled, they lack awareness about their rights and privileges. The gap between them and non-tharus is very wide.

INSEC (1992), A study was conducted by the INSEC in 1992 to identify the existence of bondage labor under kamaiya system in Nepal and socio-economic condition of Kamaiyas based in sample study of three districts viz Bardiya , Kailali and Kanchanpur. It stated that there may be as many as 2500 families of bondage labor or approximately 100000 populations. This study shows that the majority of them are homeless; literacy rate among them are 5.5 percentages and the Kamaiya had been working for about 18 hours a day and receiving extremely low remuneration for their works. In this way higher level of illiteracy, higher proportion of children and lower proportion of adults, higher dependency ratio, higher labor participation in agriculture, higher economic activity rates and extremely low participation rate in whitecolour activities are the disadvantage status of tharu Kamaiyas.

INSEC(1998), A revisit to the kamaiya system of Nepal was conducted in early 1998 AD by INSEC. The study covers a number of characteristics associated with the Kamaiya such as population and age structure, family size, ethnicity, literacy, skills, health, working hours, wage and relationship with landlords. The conclusions derived are based on both the analysis of the secondary information and the on field data analysis of the relevant area. The finding was that under the system, male farm labor is contracted on an annual basis and female and children of household are employed for farm and domestic workers and for animal herding. Generally the accompanying family labor is either not paid or paid minimally.

Among the 18000 Kamaiya household more than half of kamaiya household are landless and stay in homestead provided by the employers. In terms of livestock holdings and trees also these household are poor in resource. Debt is a binding element in the Kamaiya relationship. Almost half of the Kamaiya households are indebted to their employers with an average debt of about Rs5000. Insufficient wage, necessity of family members to work free for employer and lack of land and other income generating avenues keep escalating the debt.

Subedi (1999), studied the socio-economic condition of kamaiyas in Kanchanpur V.D.C of Bardiya district with special reference to their education, health and a kind of home which was made by their master for them. There is only one room without water and toilet facilities. From field survey he found that the kamaiya families were very poor. Only some of the families kept small livestock like

hen, pigs, birds, goats and sheep. Most of the children of the kamaiyas started to work as cowherds, shepherd etc from the age of 7-8 years.

Upreti (2000), studied the socio-economic aspects of Kamaiya system in Bela Devipur and Shreenagar V.D.C of Dhangadhi district by using interview method, observation, case study and focus group discussion he found that the socio-economic condition of Kamaiya is very poor and the Kamaiya system is very bad. Their life is tough, hard and tiring. The Kamaiyas of the study area were exploited by their masters in various aspects. The access of the Kamaiyas families to education were very poor. Only a handful of Kamaiyas children were receiving school education, enrollment of them in the higher classes was also negligible. Health and sanitation conditions among Kamaiya families were very weak.

SPACE (2000), in their research paper based on the study of socio-economic condition of tharu Kamaiya. According to the conclusion of this research the kamaiyas economic relation with the landlord often enforces them into becoming bonded laborers as they get into a vicious cycle of debt and poverty because of the staggering interest rates charged by the landlords. Normally, Credit is taken during the lean period when famine occurs because of shortage of food grains. For every one quintal of rice taken another one and a half quintal has to be returned within the next six months. If cash amounting to Rs4000 is taken during August-September, he needs to return one quintal of rice in another six months time, which will cost around Rs1000. Thus, interest is between 25 percent to more than 30 percent depending on the existing grain prices. Most of the borrowers are not able to repay their loans as a result of which they once again fall into debt (saunki) with the landlord which occurs to the next generation as a result of which they became kamaiya.

Government abolished the kamaiya system on 17th July 2000(2nd shrawan2057B.S). After freedom of kamaiya system, the government has announced to provide land to kamaiya so that they can settle. But the study made by S.L Bhusal and T.M Whyte shows that many freed kamaiya have received lalpurja(authentic land ownership certificate) without being shown any real plots of land. From this study it is found that their schooling, food securing and their health condition were bad.

GEFONT (2001), conducted a study for International Labor Origination (ILO) under the title 'Impact of Intervention on Kamaiya'. The objectives of the study

was to evaluate impact of a decade long intervention made by different sectors. The study found that more than 40 Percent families were benefited from relief programme. About 15 percent Kamaiya were benefited through skill training and education programme. It also found that 90 percent respondent were hopeful for improving their living standards in future and most of them were happy enjoying the change into citizens from semi slaves status.

Koirala (2001), in his article entitled “Kamaiya Partha Bhitraka Bal Sheramik” published by the Kantipur Publication Pvt. Ltd. In his survey of kamaiya children in Pratapur V.D.C of Kailali district reported that 225 Kamaiya children i.e. 96 boys and 129 girls have been working as child labor within the V.D.C and 59 children have been working in different cities. The wage rate for Bhainswar (Buffalo herders) and Ladaka Khelauna (domestic labor to care children) was found ranging from 150kg-300kg of paddy per annum with a couple of meals per day and a pair of cloth per annum. Other Kamaiya child laborers wage is found to be ranging from 300-600kg of paddy per annum with a pair of meals per day and a pair of cloth per annum. On an average the daily working period even after decrease was found to be 11 hours and 45 minutes. He concluded that though Kamaiya system was banned, more than 60 percent of Kamaiya children are even in the chain of bondage labor.

Aryal (2002), in his unpublished M.A thesis, conducted a study on “Extent of poverty among the Tharu community” a case study of Dubiya V.D.C of Kapilvastu. He found that dependency ratio is higher (56.01Percent) in the study area. Most people spend a large proportion of their income on liquor consumption, smoking, playing cards, watching cinema and enjoying traditional festivals. Food security is the major problem for the Tharu and most Tharu families face shortage of food for 3 to 6 months annually. Similarly he also found that subsidiary sources of income include firewood gathering in the forest, wage labor, goat raising and bamboo selling.

Sivakoti (2003), in his MA thesis conducted a study on “Socio-economic Impact of Kamaiya Development Programme” a case study of Rajena VDC Muktinagar Banke with a primary objective to describe the changing scenario of the Kamaiya livelihood after the liberation from the bonded labor. He found that some freed Kamaiya in the study area were able to transform them to skilled from non skilled labor. Basically the settling area of Kamaiya, which is nearby east-west

highway, provided them easy access to the market and welfare activities by different organization supported . Sivakoti further came to notice that major impact after liberation is that Ex-Kamaiya are recognized as a part of the society. Sivakoti suggested that there is need of better co-ordination among the group working at local level for the use of resource in better way.

Chaudhary (2005), in his unpublished M.A thesis conducted a study on “The Economic Status of Dangaura Tharu” in Ghorai Nagarpalika Dang with general objective to find out the economic status of the Dangaura Tharu in Ghorai Nagarpalika(Dang). He concluded that sixty seven and half percent of people are still engaged in traditionally dominated agriculture sector. The land holding size per household is 1.5 katta and productivity is too low i.e. is about 35 muri per bigha. The situation has been gradually improving over the period of time but however they are still facing social, economical and administrative problems.

Joshi (2006), in his MA thesis has analyzed the “Socio-economic Condition of Mukta Kamaiya” a case study of Dhangadi Municipality, Kailali having with a general objective to analyze the socio-economic condition and to identify the problem of freed kamaiya. His finding was that the Ex-Kamaiya are again being trapped in debt with small land holding size and lack of opportunity in income generating activities. He found that out of total 208 settled households in the study area; only 51 households are utilizing three kattha of land provided by the government. Rests have kept part of land on mortgage for money. Still 86 red card holding households have not received the land and are going through a miserable condition.

Khanal (2007), in his article “Changes in Tharu Society” published in a journal “Mukta Paila” focus on the change observed in Tharu society after abolition of Kamaiya system. He Views that these Tharus hesitant by nature, have now been quite open and outward looking. Even females are able to put their voice strongly. Leadership qualities are being developed in these people. Male were found expanding their linkages to different sectors. New technologies were found adopted in cultivating vegetables. People using ashes and mustard for bathing are using Shampoo and Soap. School enrollement of children is an rising trend. But along with the change occurred in desire of identification and development, the traditional culture of Tharu society is under threat.

GEFONT (2007), "Paying back in SWEET and TEAR". A consolidated report based on study of Kamaiya liberation, Brick Kiln workers and domestic labor in Nepal. The field survey indicates that all landless Kamaiya have land ownership houses with a toilet facilities and access to drinking water, children attend schools, at least one member of the household has got skill training. The household are the members in Saving and Credit Groups. Almost all workers have received at least a minimum wage. Children are increasing withdrawn from child labor. Trade unions have began their work to unionize Ex-Kamaiya along with other agricultural laborers in the districts. All this suggests that the interventions were brought positive result.

Awaz (2008), a publication of Sanchar Pratisthan Nepal, Kailali in its editorial focuses on sufferings of kamaiya after seven years of announcement of freedom. The kamaiyas are feeling deception in the early evening of 8th freedom day though freedom itself is a matter of pride. The editorial views that it is fair to think so because these kamaiya passed eight winter and rainy seasons in open sky with their children. Although law processes and demarcation were fix to implement commitment for the human re-establishment of kamaiyas but the state has always missed to do a fair trial. Though judiciary had made written commitment and ordered to implement the act. The government is showing fudal character by putting forward the problems of community forest and Sukumbasi people. These negligence has lead kamaiyas to feel suffering and deception. Now the government should go ahead and address to solve the problems of all freed Kamaiyas.

Chaudhary (2008), in his research article entitled "The pligent of Ex-Kamaiya" has mentioned that kamaiya got freedom only in principle but not their actual life situation. They are not able to stand on their own legs and has not become self reliant. They have to depend upon other even for hand to mouth problem. Their socio-economic condition is not found good. They donot have enough food for themselves and not have access to clean drinking water. Since they have no land, their main sources of income is daily wages. Their low economic condition has affected all parts of their life such as education, health status, social status and soon.

Ratgaiya (2009), in his M.A theses on the heading "Socio-economic condition of Ex-Kamaiya". A case study of Bagnaha VDC Bardiya Districts. By building the hypothesises and analyzing the data he concluded that the socio-economic condition of

Ex-Kamaiya is very poor. They don't have sufficient food and clothes so they have to pass very tough time during winter season. The socio-economic condition of Ex-Kamaiya is miserable. They face various types of problem in their life and to overcome these problems they should depend upon others. Illiteracy used to be factual high i.e 88 percent due to poor economic condition and ignorance about education. Low level of income, insufficient land holding size, lack of good skill except agriculture and opportunities in earnings income are main causes of poor economic condition. Lack of trade union, instable nature of job and seasonal unemployment are the causes of the low level of income. They are also facing social as well as various health related problem due to poor economic condition. So, for the economic upliftment of Ex-Kamaiyas, additional policy options must be formulated and implemented.

Sashi (2009), in his MA thesis entitled "Economic Status of Tharu Ex-Kamaiya" a case study of Tikapur municipality, Kailali have dealt about the economic condition of Ex-Kamaiya. He concluded that economic condition of Ex-Kamaiya is very poor. They have not been rehabilitated systematically and effectively. The programmes that have been conducted to reduce the poverty of Ex-Kamaiya are not systematically planned. Poverty, illiteracy and ignorance are behind the causes of bondage, exploitation and victimization of Tharu Kamaiya. By analyzing the data he found that the average income of the respondent was Rs 148 per day ranging Rs 35 to Rs 300. The monthly average income of the household is Rs 5884. The average expenditure on food items on an average is Rs 3317 per month and expenditure on non food items is Rs 4300. During the study period he has also found that nowadays Tharu freed people were found more health conscious and it also felt that people are happy from the government decision to abolish Kamaiya system.

Dhungana (2011), in his MA thesis entitled "Income and Consumption Structure of Ex-Kamaiya" a case study of Sanoshree VDC of Bardiya District focusing to find out income and consumption structure of Ex-Kamaiya of relevant VDC. The study found that rather some positive socio-economic indicator the Ex-Kamaiya have no fixed occupation and source of income. They are found involving agriculture, service, labor and small business. Low level of income, insufficient landholding size, lack of good skill except agriculture and other opportunities in earning are the main causes of poor economic condition. Lack of trade union, instable

nature of job, lack of better technical education and seasonal unemployment are the causes of low level of income. He categorized consumption mainly in food-item and non-food item and found that Ex-Kamaiya heavily spend their money on food-item which is 65 percent of the total expenditure. In the rest of non-food items, mostly spend their money in education and entertainment which shows that even they are struggling for bread and butter.

CHAPTER-III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is focused on income and expenditure behavior of Ex-Kamaiya in Badalpur VDC, Bardiya district at present as they have passed one decade of their rehabilitation. Since no single method is sufficient, the researcher has used the various methods to collect data. Both primary and secondary data have been taken into consideration. As a primary source of data, the researcher selected 60 household of Ex-Kamaiya. Secondary data of the study were different literature, Journals and previous published, unpublished thesis related to Ex-Kamaiya.

3.1 Selection of the Study Area

Most of the Tharu freed Kamaiya's settlement process is ongoing in mid-western and far-western terai region. The Kamaiya system was previously mainly found in these regions. Dang, Bardiya, Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur are the severely affected areas by kamaiya system and most of the resettlement camps are established in these districts. The current Ex-Kamaiya in those districts are 79,771 in figure. Where as 16262 the largest number of Ex-kamaiya are in Bardiya Districts. Bardiya is one of the districts of Bheri zone which lies in the mid-western development region of Nepal. Out of total area which is 2025 sq km, forest area covers 1250 sqkm and another 750 sq km comprises to the total cultivated area and 25 sq km is of river area. Its northern part is covered with forested ridges of chur, hills without fertile land. The rest is plain land, sandy as well as bhavar and panga. The sandy land is not fertile and is covered with forest. On the other hand, the panga land is leveled and fertile. Because of the fertile soil and high productivity of different food grains, Bardiya is called the store of food grain "Anna Ko Bhandar".

Badalpur VDC is one of the remote VDC of Bardiya districts which is situated about 40 km west from the district head quarter. According to census survey 2001, the total population of Badalpur VDC is 6738 where as 3408 are male and 3330 are female. The total number of household are 978. Similarly the population growth rate of this VDC has been found 2.81 and the literacy rate is 47.58 where as the male literacy rate is 61.39 and female literacy rate is only about 33.26.

In terms of land cover highly cultivated land is dominant in this VDC. Except more or less small public as well as private nursery there are no forest area within the boundary of this VDC. The settlement of tharu ethnic group is compact in nature, however settlement of other community are somehow dispersed pattern. People of this VDC mostly used mud, cow dung, bamboo, Galvanized sheet, timber, tile, Khar for the construction of their shelter. Some Jamindar's houses are found to be seen as cemented. Badalpur VDC is characterized by very poor condition in infrastructural development. There is one motorable road to link with the district headquarter is also only graveled. Except some squatter shops there is no single market area to exchange goods or services. People of this VDC uses Rajapur bazaar for selling, purchasing purpose and they also get health, banking, higher education, co-operatives and agriculture services facilities from the Rajapur bazaar of the same District . Except small rice, oil mill, there is not any small as well as cottage industry in the VDC. Thus the agriculture is only the main occupation of this VDC.

There are total 9 wards in Badalpur VDC among them the study has been focused only 2wards i.e. ward no.9 and ward no.4. The selection of ward no.9 and ward no.4 was done because of easy accessibility and convenience to get data. Since the researcher has sound access to reach in this village to perform different tasks.

3.2 Nature and Source of Data

The study is based on qualitative and quantitative data collected through field survey. Both primary as well as secondary sources were used to collect data. Primary data were collected during field visit with the help of questionnaire, observation and personal interview. To fill up the pre-tested structured questionnaire each sampling unit is selected by using judgement sampling method. Secondary source of data are the documents which are published by the different sources like Central Burean of Statistics (CBS), National Planning Commission (NPC), Base Bardiya, Camasu Digo Bikas Samaj Bardiya and various other organizations.

3.3 Sample Size

There are mainly four Mukta Kamaiya settlement area in ward no 9 and ward no.4 of Badalpur VDC which are supposed to be the total universe of the study as

there are 118 houses of Mukta Kamaiya altogether. Among them 60 household were selected for the purpose of the study. The sample size was determined before going to the study area and each sample units are selected by using judgement sampling method.

3.4 Data Collection Technique

The direct personal interview through questionnaire method was used for the collection of primary data. In questionnaire under income side various sources of income like income from agriculture, job/salary, wage/labor, income from small business, rikshaw/thela pulling ,animal husbandry etc are displayed. Similarly under expenditure side, the consumption on food iteams and non food iteams like expenses for education, clothing, medicine, social work, transportation/ communication, entertainment and personal habits are displayed.

3.5 Data Processing and Analysis

The filled up questionnaires were edited and the information gathered and systematized in different tables. Calculator and computer were used during computation of data . Data are adjusted in order to meet specific objectives. Likewise inorder to analysis the data different tables essential for the study has been presented with the assistance of filed questionnaire according to the characteristics of data.

3.6 Tools and Techniques of Data Analysis

The collected data has analyzed and presented through qualitative and quantitative methods. In order to support the study simple statistical tools and techniques have been used. Percentage and average were calculated with the help of the calculator and computer. Tables were also used for presentation of finding. The study follows exploratory and descriptive methods of analysis. The descriptive methods have been used for presenting the finding of the study.

CHAPTER-IV

SOCIO- ECONOMIC CONDITION OF EX-KAMAIYA

To reveals the Socio-economic condition of Ex-Kamaiya several characteristic such as demographic feature, educational status, occupational structure, working hours, Technical training, Livestocks holding size, household durables, debt situation, housing pattern, landholding size, health condition were taken in to consideration during field visit.

4.1 Demographic feature

For the study, demographic feature is consider to be very important because it shows economical, social, cultural and educational condition of the relevant society. Different types of population composition are age and sex. The age and sex wise population distribution of sixty sampled households of Ex-Kamaiyas are presented in the following table.

Table 1: Age and Sex wise Population Distribution of Ex-Kamaiya IN Sampled HH

| Age Group (Years) | Male No. | % | Female No | % | Total | % |
|-------------------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 0-4 | 11 | 7.69 | 13 | 8.72 | 24 | 8.21 |
| 5-14 | 47 | 32.87 | 53 | 35.57 | 100 | 34.25 |
| 15-59 | 75 | 52.45 | 72 | 48.32 | 147 | 50.34 |
| above 60 | 10 | 6.99 | 11 | 7.38 | 21 | 7.19 |
| Total | 143 | 100% | 149 | 100% | 292 | 100% |
| % | 48.97% | | 51.02% | | | |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 1 indicated that the total population among sampled household of freed Kamaiya in Badalpur VDC is 292. The average member per household is 4.87 which is slightly less than the national average i.e. 4.88 which is recorded by census survey 2011. Similarly, the proportion of female population is higher i.e. 51.02 percent in comparison to the male population i.e. 48.97 percent where as the national sex ratio

is found 94.16. About 42.46 percent are below 15 years of age. Thus child dependency ratio among freed Kamaiya of study area is very high. The ageing population i.e above 60 is 7.19 percent which is low than the national average i.e 8.13 percentages but the economically active i.e 15 to 59 age group people stand for only 50.34 which is significantly low than the national average i.e 57 percent.

The data on marital status of freed kamaiya indicates that they generally married at the age of 13-20 on an average. Which indicates the possibility of high fertility. From the study, the Ex-Kamaiya family member starts to work from the early age.

In the past, during Kamaiya period they used to live in muscular family with on an average more than 20 members in a family. Fertility rate was also high in those days due to the traditional view of viewing children as an income earning assets by their parents and lack of education and awareness about small family. But by study it is found that nowadays most of the kamaiya family were enjoying with nuclear family. This is may be because of the government declaration to provide land on household/family basis. Moreover the rate of the fertility has been also lowered down due to awareness toward family planning and it also some how due to the high migration rate of male population away from home in search of work.

4.2 Educational Status

Education is one of the indicators of development of nation which is main basis of a conscious life. It develops perception power and increases the potentiality of a person. Education leads us from darkness to brightness.

In the past, during Kamaiya period only neglence number of Kamaiya children got opportunity to go to school which was possible only due to kind nature of the master. The then parents were not aware of the importance of education and they had no access to school as they were illetrate. Further most of the parents used to engaged their children in work as a form of Organiya/Organya, Ladaka Khelauwas, Chhegrahawa, Gaiwar/ Bhaniswar, Kamlahari from the early age.

But now freed Kamaiya are aware to send their children to school. Many informal education classes are also running by different supporting groups where a large number of adult male/female are found learning ka, kha, ga, gha and so one.

Table 2: Educational Status of Ex-Kamaiya in Sampled HH

| Educational Status | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No | % | No | % | No | % |
| Illiterate(above 5) | 22 | 16.67 | 36 | 26.47 | 58 | 21.64 |
| Informal Education | 25 | 18.94 | 38 | 27.94 | 63 | 23.51 |
| Primary | 57 | 43.18 | 49 | 36.03 | 106 | 39.55 |
| Lower Secondary(6,7,8) | 24 | 18.82 | 11 | 8.09 | 35 | 13.06 |
| Secondary(9,10) | 3 | 2.27 | 2 | 1.47 | 5 | 1.87 |
| Higher School(above 10) | 1 | 0.76 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 0.37 |
| Total | 132 | 100% | 136 | 100% | 268 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012

Table 2 predicts 21.64 percent Ex-Kamaiyas are illiterate in the study area in which 16.67 percent are male and 26.47 percent are female which is quite good than the national average i.e 34 percent. But high percent of literate population have not completed their school level education which is due to the early age of marriage and poor economic condition which compelled them to discontinue their education. About 1.87 percent population is pursuing secondary level education and only one student has passed S.L.C and is continuing higher education.

4.3 Occupational Structure

4.3.1 Occupation

Occupation is one of the major factors evaluating economic status of the people. Before the abolization of the Kamaiya system, Kamaiya did all sorts of work as directed by the landlord. Most of the works used to be routine work and others were occasional. However, the Kamaiya were mainly employed for cultivating land, cutting grass, cleaning animals and their shed, collecting firewood from forest and also doing domestic works like sweeping houses/garden, washing dishes/clothes, fetching vegetables, taking children to school and so one.

After the declaration of freedom by government, the occupational structural of freed Kamaiyas has been changing. Now a days they are found to involved in working of various sectors like agriculture, service, labor and small business etc.

Table 3:Occupational Structure of Ex-Kamaiya in Sampled HH

| Occupation (Work type) | No Of Person | Percentage |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Wage Labour (in Nepal) | 49 | 30.81 |
| Wage Labour (out side) | 55 | 34.59 |
| Agriculture | 23 | 14.47 |
| Rickshaw/Thela Pulling | 8 | 5.03 |
| Small Business | 7 | 4.40 |
| Salaried Job | 4 | 2.51 |
| Technical Works(Plumbing, Driving,Carpentry, Wiring, Handicrafts | 13 | 8.17 |
| Total | 159 | 100% |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The above table 3 shows that out of total 292 people of the Mukta Kamaiya resettlement area, 159 i.e 54.45 percent people were involved in different activities to earn for living. The above table reflects that most of the working population of sampled household are engaged on work wage labor work which is 65.4 percent of the total working population. Here, labor generally refers to the paid labor on various fields including construction, agriculture, digging cannel etc. Above table also reflected that the large number of population i.e. 34.59 percent working population are migerated to India in search of labor work as they said the daily wage rate is much better their than that of here. Agriculture stands on the second position in which only 14.47 percent of working population have engaged themselves in it which is far below than the national average i.e.67 percent. Similarly 5.03 percent people have been working as rickshaw and thela puller, about 4.40 percent people are involved in small business such as tea, samosa shop and also retail shop.Likewise 8.17 percent people are involved in technical works while only2.51 percent people are working on salary based job including including 2 percent office helper in school and other 2 are working in shops at Kohalpur.

From the study, it is also found that Kamaiya have not any fixed occupation. They have been involving in seasonal works such as general labor at construction, agricultural works because most of them had not got any chance of skilled training. It makes clear that the main sources of income of Ex-Kamaiya are Labor and agriculture. As they have not their own land for farming but 14.47 percentage Ex-Kamaiya depends on the agriculture by taking other's land on crop sharing basis i.e. 50 percent produced crops to each other(owner and worker).

4.3.2 Working Hours

In the past days, Kamaiya had to work from early in the morning to till late night. Working more than 12 hours a day was a general situation. There was no rest time for them besides meal time and few hours to sleep at night. They had not been given a single day leave even if they felt sick. They had to be replaced their son/daughter or other relatives for their substitute. However, after the abolition of Kamaiya system there has been drastic changes in the working situation.

Table 4:General Working Hours of Ex-Kamaiya in Sampled HH

| Working Hours (Daily) | No Of Individual | Percentage |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 8 hours | 5 | 3.14 |
| 8-9 hours | 76 | 47.8 |
| 9-10 hours | 34 | 21.38 |
| more than 10 hours | 6 | 3.77 |
| Not fixed | 38 | 23.90 |
| Total | 159 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

The above table 4 illustrate that about 47.80 percent people work 8-9 hours a day and about 21.38 percent people have to work 9-10 hours perday. However 3.77 percent people were found still working more than 10 hours in a day. While about 3.14 percent are enjoying working less than 8 hours a day. Where as 38 respondents i.e.23.90 percent were not clear about their working hours this is due to the nature of work they usually do i.e. small business, agricultural work, rickshaw and thela pulling etc.

4.3.3 Technical Training

From the past periods, tharu were involved basically at farm work so they had gain many skills in agricultural works by experience. All the time they used to be engaged for agricultural works. So they thought, they had no need of other extra skilled knowledge for their livelihood. But after the abolization of kamaiya system they had forced to leave their master's houses and their close relation to agriculture is separated because they had no their own land which made their livelihood difficult. They had no other skills except farming. So government and other supporting groups have been launching Kamaiya livelihood and income generating programme after abolization of Kamaiya system with an objectives of building the capacity of kamaiyas to improve their social, cultural and economic condition. The DLR in co-ordination with other line ministry and NGOs/INGOs are running skill development training for identified kamaiyas.

Table 5: Trainings Received by Ex-Kamaiyas in Sampled HH

| Types of Training | No of Individual | Supporting Group |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tailoring Training | 3 | Geruwa |
| Carpentry | 9 | Employer |
| Tube well Install | 3 | Government agency |
| Vegetable Farming | 14 | GEFONT |
| House Wring | 5 | RRN Bardiya |
| Handicraft | 6 | RRN Bardiya |
| Driving | 2 | Employer |
| Repairing cycle, Radio, T.V etc | 7 | GTZ |
| Total | 49 | |

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The above table 5 clearly shows that low number of people i.e. 49 people have only some sort of technical knowledge/skill but among those trained only few people were found employed in training related fields. The Ex-Kamaiya groups are not been able to transform these training as a means of their earnings.

4.4 Livestocks Holding Size

Animal husbandary is eessential and integral part of subsistence farming. Farmers keep livestock for different purpose eg milk, meat, egge and ploughing field. Some times they get cash income by selling them. In the past they were not allowed to kept livestock as they had given shelter by their master. Due to the congested area of housing it is also no possible to kept livestock with them. But after freedom all of them have more or less piece of their own land. They are freed to choose their way of living so nowadays most of the household were found to be kept at least one livestock in the study area. Which is also found a better complementary sources of income generation. Here, in the below table the number of livestock which are found in the sampled household of study area shown as they were even found poor in terms of livestock holding and ownership of other assets then other ethnic groups of the communities. But the situation is found much more satisfactory than past.

Table: 6 Livestock Holding Size of Ex-Kamaiya in Sampled HH

| Livestock | Household | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Buffalo/Cow | 17 | 28.33 |
| Goat/Sheep | 22 | 36.67 |
| Pig | 18 | 30.00 |
| Chicken/Duck | 28 | 46.67 |
| Total | | |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

Above table 6 shows that 17(28.33 percent) household out of total 60 have kept buffalo/cow in their houses.similarly 22 household i.e 36.67 percent have kept goat or sheep in their houses. about 18 household i.e.30 percent have pig in their houses and also 28 household i.e.46.67 percent have kept chicken/duck in their houses.

4.5 Ownership of Household Durables

Household durables are part of assets which is also one of the indicator of the economic conditions of relevant households. In the past before abolization of Kamaiya system; the Kamaiya did not have more than single set of ‘ wear and tear’

bedings, a few pair of pots, some dried mud pots called ‘Dehari’ for storing food grains. But now during the study period, Ex-Kamaiya were found intertaining by keeping different durables goods with them. Most of the people in study area were found taking mobile in their pockets during the research periods. Radio, F.M, Audio-Visual system, Television were also found to be seen which reflect the uplifting economic conditions of Ex-Kamaiya.

Table 7: Ownership of Household Durables in Sampled HH

| Asset | Household | Percentage |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Television | 8 | 13.33 |
| Mobile/CDMA | 51 | 85.00 |
| Radio | 20 | 33.33 |
| Audio,visual system | 10 | 16.67 |
| Cycle | 24 | 40.00 |
| Total | | |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

Above table 7 illustrate that 8 household i.e. 13.33 percent out of total sampled household have Tv in their home, most of the sampled household i.e.51 indicating 85 percent household have at least one or more than one mobile. Similarly 20 household i.e. 33.33 percent household have radio in their houses and 10 households i.e 16.67 percent household have kept CD or DVD player or sound box in their houses and 24 household i.e. 40 percent household of Ex-Kamaiya resettlement camp have kept cycle in their houses as it has taken a essential means of transportation.

4.6 Debt Situation

Debt had been the prominent factor of being Kamaiya in the past. Various studies indicates that 50 percent of the kamaiya were under debt bondage. Almost 10 percent of the kamaiya were bonded over generation by transferring the unpaid debted amount from one generation to another generation. So debt was the banding element in the Kamaiya relationship. In the past almost half of the kamaiya households were indebted to their employer with an average debt of Rs 5000 which is known as ‘Saunki’. However they were made freed from ‘Saunki’. But due to the lack of proper

alternative employment opportunities they are again forced to take loan for their livelihood. So debt situation of these Ex-Kamaiyas were taken into consideration in this study due to the relevancy of effective of debt on kamaiyas. From the collected data debt amount were categorized in four categorizes of small amount ranging from less than Rs 2000 to more than Rs 6000 debt.

Table 8: Debt Amount in Ex- Kamaiya Household

| Amount of Debt(in NRs) | No.Of Household | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 2000 | 11 | 34.37 |
| 2100-4000 | 16 | 50.00 |
| 4100-6000 | 3 | 9.37 |
| above6000 | 2 | 6.25 |
| Total | 32 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

The above table 8 shows that out of given 32 indebted household 16 household has taken loan of amount Rs2100-4000. Likewise,11household are under debt of amount less than Rs2000.Three household have found taking loan ranging between Rs 4100 to Rs 6000 while 2 household have more than Rs 6000 as debted amount.

These Ex-Kamaiya are landless and poor.They have no regular income,as they are unskilled the onlyone option of them are working as wage labor.But it is also not possible for them to find out work always as the periphery of study area is very remote.So they have to go far away that is from their house in search of work which is usually urban city of Nepal or Indian city.As most of the earning group of resettlement area were found working far away from their houses due to many difficulties they couldnot sent money in time. Therefore,the remaining household members often took loan to fulfill their need.

Table 9: Purpose of Debt in Ex- Kamaiya Household

| Causes(Purpose) | No.Of Household | Percentage |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|
| Fooding/Clothing | 11 | 34.37 |
| Health Treatment | 5 | 15.62 |
| Education | 3 | 9.37 |
| Social Event/Festibal | 2 | 6.25 |
| Personal Habit | 3 | 9.37 |
| Other (Buying oxen/bull cart, construction/ repairing houses | 8 | 25.00 |
| Total | 32 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

Above table 9 shows that among the debtors 34.37 percent i.e 11 household were found indebted during the study period for fooding and clothing purpose.15.62percent i.e five household were found taking loan for health treatment as the researcher visited this area during rainy season most of the children has been found suffering from different common diseases like fever,tiefied,dihariya soon. About 9.37 percent i.e 3 household has taken loan for educating their children.Similarly the same percent household were found indepted for personal habitual action like smoking,chewing Pan,Gutkha,Tabacoo etc.where as 6.25 percent i.e 2 households were found taking loan to meet economic crises for social events and the remaining 25 percent i.e.8 household have taken loan for buying oxen/bull cart(2household),for travelling expenses(3 household) generally to go for work in different city of India and Nepal also for buying fertilizer(1 house hold),construction and repairing houses(2 household).Thus from the study it is clear that most of the household took loan to fulfill their basic need.Some were also found taking loan for productive purpose such as buying oxen/cart,fertilizer.

Table 10: Sources of loan for Ex-Kamaiya

| Loan Donor | No.Of Household | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Money Lender | 1 | 3.12 |
| Employer | 3 | 9.37 |
| Friends/Relatives | 5 | 15.62 |
| Saving & Credit Groups | 16 | 50.00 |
| Shop/Medical(Credit) | 7 | 21.87 |
| Total | 32 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

The above table 10 clearly shows that most of the household i.e 50 percent(16 household) took loans form saving and credit groups. From there they are provided a limited loan without interest or nominal interest. Among the indebted household about 21.87 percent i.e 7 household have to pay credit amount for the shop and medical or clinic. Similarly 15.62 percent i.e 5 houeshold have taken loan from friends and relatives and 9.37 percent i.e 3 household have been provided loan from their employers where as only one household was found taking loan from money lender as the rate of interest charge by them is too high on the other hand most of the cases friends/relatives and employer provide loan without interest or nominal interest.

4.7 Resettlement and Housing Pattern

House is a fundamental necessity of an individual. The quality of the household may differ according to the socio economic condition of the people.Geographical factors also have impact on the types of houses. Before freedom, Tharu Ex-Kamaiya donot have their own houses.They used to live in thatched huts called 'Bukra' provided by the landlord(Kissan). Those Bukra were crude houses made of mud/cow dung, bamboo sticks, hay, straw & fire wood and were built either in uncultivated land or a corner of a land.The bukras of kamaiyas provided by their masters are used to be very small and congested so it is very difficult to manage the whole family for sleeping, cooking and eating food and also other purpose.There used to be only one or rarely two room without toilet facilitiy and a separate space for cooking.

After freedom government announced to give the land certificate to Ex-Kamaiyas so that they can be settled as of their wish. As kamaiya system was abolished their were different kind of Kamaiya so government has given four types of identity cards according to their current situation. Red identity cards were provided to those who did not have any land and home and blue cards to those households who have only small hut in public places. Similarly people having two kattha land and small shelter were given yellow identity card while white identity cards were distributed among Kamaiyas having more than two kattha land and were in better condition.

Then after the resettlement process was done, each freed Kamaiya family holding red-card were provided maximum 5 kattha land and for Ex-Kamaiya having blue card(occupying unregistered land or parti land) the government has made a provision to provide land owner certificate(maximum 4 kattha) of that land.The land ownership certificate either provided to red card or to blue card holder freed kamaiya, prohibited to sell, mortgage or transfer the land to another for a period of ten years of allotment.

At the same time on the support of ILO the government through its line agency i.e Land Reform Office has provided 10 thousands rupees and 35 cubic feet timber per family inorder to construct houses to red-card holding Ex-Kamaiya.

Through the resettlement process the freed kamaiyas of Badalpur V.D.C ward No.9 and 4 were resettled in along the bank of river named 'Mailakhola' by distributing 3 to 5 kattha land according to their family size.While blue card holders got 3 to 4 kattha land per family along the road sides of village. Like wise other Ex-Kamaiya which were left to be registered, yellow card holding, white card holding and other newly formed family were also settled in the forest land and in the land of 'Jamindar'(owner of big land holding) saying that they also have to right to get land from government as other resettled kamaiya. So they were found waiting eagerly for their planed resettlement. According to land reform office, the process of identifying real homeless and landless Ex-Kamaiyas are into consideration and as soon as possible they were resettled on their own land.

Through field visit it is found that the quality and the nature of the most of sample households were found more different than that of Bukra before freedom and

the types of family has also completely transformed from joint to nuclear. Although most of the houses are of Kachha type. They were made of mud, bamboo and mud brick but Galvanized sheet, tiles roofed. Most of these houses have two or more than two rooms some of them have also made separate kitchen.

Table 11:Types of Roof of Ex-Kamaiya Houses

| Type of Roof | No.Of Household | Percentage |
|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Thatched | 17 | 28.33% |
| Tiles | 8 | 13.33% |
| Galvanized sheet | 35 | 58.33% |
| Total | 60 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

Above table 11 shows that about 28.33 percent i.e 17 household's roof are thatched i.e covered by khar(Dry Grass) with bamboo support. About 13.33 percent households i.e 8 have covered the roof with cement tiles while 58.33 percent households i.e 35 have used Galvanized sheets for roof. In case of wall all houses have found to be made of mud with cowdung, bamboo stick and straw having at least one or more small windows for ventilation.

Similarly from the survey, the landholding size of sampled household were found as shown below.

Table 12:Landholding Size of Ex-Kamaiya Household

| Size of Land | No.Of Household |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Less than 2 katha | 12 |
| 2-4 kattha | 41 |
| 5 & more than | 7 |
| Total | 60 |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

The above table 12 illustrated that 12 household of study area own less than 2 kattha land and also among them most have no land registered certificate of this land.While 41 household have 2 to 4 kattha lands while 5 household were found

having 5 kattha land and 2 household have more than 5 kattha land. As most of them have no sufficient agricultural land so some were found cultivating food crops by taking other land on crop sharing basis.

4.8 Health Condition

Health is an important factor for every human beings as it affects his/her ability to work. Human health is affected by many factors such as water pollution, sanitation, level of diet and different socio-economic condition.

Water is most essential goods without which living creature cannot survive. All the Ex-Kamaiya households were found using tube well water for drinking and household uses.

From the field visit of sampled household showed that now the Ex-Kamaiya were quite aware towards their health and also most of the sampled household have some kind of toilet facility as red card had to be distributed Pakki toilet sheet by RRN Bardiya.

During the field visit it was found that some of them have to face food deficit mainly during rainy season. This is due to difficult to find work in rainy season as most of them are involved in wage based labor. So they have to subsist on minimum food.

The food usually taken was not balanced food. Through observation it was found that almost all family take rice and pulse or Kappuwa (one type of curry which is made by adding fried flour on hut water). Sometimes they consumed seasonal vegetables grown in their own kitchen garden but it is not sufficient because of unfertile types of land. 'Chattni' made of onion, chilly and salt is mostly used in food. Fishing is a part of their culture so during rainy period fish is the main component of their food. Nowadays Tharu people are found to take food only twice or thrice a day but earlier, they used to take meal four or five times a day. The overall health condition of Ex-Kamaiya is quite good then prior period.

4.9 Reaction after Emancipation and their Suggestion

Government of Nepal took the historical and bold decision by announcing a complete liberation of all bonded labors from their age old bondage on July

17th,2000. After the declaration of freedom, government as well as NGOs/INGOs and other organization have care forward with number of programmes to support the resettlement process of these freed kamaiyas. At first emergency relief package had been given to expel Kamaiyas by distributing few tarpaulin and bamboo stick, food and water. Then after under the resettlement programmes, they had been given four different types of identity card according to their current condition. Red card to homeless and landless, Blue card to landless but having home in public land, yellow card to maximum two kattha land and small shelter and lastly White card to more than two Kattha land and also in better condition. Then after government distributed land for red and blue card holder at maximum amount of 5 kattha according to their family size and also helped economically to made houses for red card holder. For housing programme government of Nepal distributed Rs10,000 and 34cubic feet timber for all red card holder family. Then the department of land reform have been lunching Kamaiya livelihoods programme since 2000 with an objective to build and strengthen the capacity of Kamaiyas to improve their social economic condition. For this government through its line agency with co-ordination to other NGOs/INGOs and other supporting groups lunched different programmes such as institution building and credit programme, skill development training for identified Kamaiyas. Similarly through ministry of local development, government imitated food for work programme to construct rural roads. Likewise other district level programme with co-ordination to supporting groups, such as hands pump installing, boring and pit latrine distributing programme in resettlement camp (red card holder). Under this programme one hand pump for five households, one boring for ten household and one pit latrine to each household have been distributed to the Ex-Kamaiya family.

More over the Kamaiya children literacy programme, different adult/female informal education programmes also lunched. Similarly other dozen of programmes such as awareness and literacy community building programme, food security project, awareness to health and sanitation programme, income generation programme, community building tranining orientation programme and so one have been launched by supporting groups for the purpose of sustainable rehabilitation of Ex-Kamaiya society. The major agencies assisting Kamaiya for relief are:

INGOs: Action Aid, CARE, DANIDA, Anti Slavery, Save the Children

NGOs: BASE, INSEC, RRN, GEFONT

Through field observation it was found that the overwhelming majority of Ex-Kamaiya family feels that the liberation has pushed up their moral, social as well as economic condition. They feel not only the liberation from loan and bondage but also feel physical and mental freedom. About 99.31 percent respondent preferred to present condition than back to the state of bondage. In terms of the land holding most of them found not satisfied with their present condition due to the less amount and site of resettlement area i.e. mostly along in the river side and road side which is congested, sandy, unproductive as well.

They also suggested that the ongoing rehabilitation programmes should be implementing, monitoring and managing properly to increase its effectiveness. Most of them also raise voice for the 'better opportunity of work' living their own locality or at least their own country.

CHAPTER-V

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF EX-KAMAIYA

5.1 Income

Before 17th July 2000, these Ex-Kamaiya were bonded. They have to work for their master. Agricultural labor was not only the main and only one occupation but also the main sources of income for the Kamaiya of the study area. No Kamaiya had any other primary income besides farming on the landlords land to get share of the production. They used to get one third proportion of the total food grain and either a pair of meal or 9 katta(750 kg) paddy for whole year which is called 'Maseura'. The quantity of 'maseura' was always fixed either Kamaiya had children or not. Before Sharing food crops landlord used to take a hug amount of each food grain for the compensation of cost of seeds, use of tractors, thresher, insecticide and fertilizer on their farms. So it is very difficult to face them hand to mouth problem. If they need money for any purpose they used to take 'Saunki' from their master to meet the financial crisis. So each and every the then kamaiya family had at least 5,000 Rs or more than 5,000 Rs loaned amount from their master.

After the freed of Kamaiya syatem, they were free to choose any kind of desired work. They were found mainly to be involved in wage work and rickshaw/thela pulling, some are involved in technical works such as handicraft, carpentry, tailoring while other are involved in small business as well as agricultural activities to earn.

5.1.1 Sources of Income of Ex-Kamaiya Household

Agriculture was the main source of income and agricultural labor was the main occupational basis for the Ex-Kamaiya before freedom. However the composition of the sources of income of the Ex-Kamaiya has gone through change after the emancipation. But Ex-Kamaiya have no fixed occupation. The main sources of income are generally wage laborer, agriculture and some how other few technical works. The detail sources of income are presented in the below table.

Table 13:Source of Income of Sampled HH

| Source | No Of Household | Percentage |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Agriculture | 7 | 11.67 |
| Small Business | 5 | 8.33 |
| Wage/Labour | 36 | 60.00 |
| Rickshaw/Thela | 8 | 13.33 |
| Salary/Pension | 4 | 6.67 |
| Total | 60 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

Though these Kamaiya were not doing any types of fixed work for their livelihood. They were involved in seasonal works such as general labor at construction, agricultural works, rickshaw/thela pulling activities and various other physical works but the main sources of income of sampled 60 household of Ex-Kamaiya have shown above table . The above table 13 shows that agriculture is the only sources of income of 7 household i.e. 11.67 percent out of total although agriculture is the part of tharu culture. This is because of the lack of their own land. The above mentained 7 household were also have been working on others land on crop sharing basis. Similarly only 8.33 percent household depends upon the income of the small business. About 13.33 percent family i.e. 8 household were using rickshaw/thela pulling activities to earn. Member of 4 household were working on salary basis. Where as a large number of household i.e. 60 percent household out of total were found involved in wage/labor work. So from the study, it was found that main sources of income of these Ex-Kamaiyas is wages which is earned by working at construction of houses and roads, canal works, carpentry etc.

5.1.2: Average Monthly Income of Ex-Kamaiya Household

Tharu Ex-Kamaiya have no fixed level of income because of seasonal nature and highly volatile nature of jobs. They were found to be involved in various works for their livelihood. They are mostly involved in wage works , rickshaw/thela pulling, farming and different other activities either regular or vocational basis. They do hard labor with in whole days and ‘spent all at night’ so they do not keep exact record of their monthly income so best effort were made during the collection of the

information to find the monthly average income in monetary terms of these Mukta-Kamaiya families.

Table 14: Average Monthly Income of Sampled HH

| Amount(in NRs) | No.of Household | Percentage |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 2000 | 2 | 3.33 |
| 2100-4000 | 6 | 10 |
| 4100-6000 | 21 | 35.00 |
| 6100-8000 | 27 | 45 |
| above8000 | 4 | 6.67 |
| Total | 60 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

The above table 14 shows that the monthly income of the Ex-Kamaiya household lies between below 2000 to above 8000. The above tables shows that most of the household i.e. 27 households (45 percent) lies in the category of earning Rs 6100 to Rs 8000 per months. About 21 household i.e. 35 percent were earning Rs 4100 to Rs 6000 permonth. Where 6 household i.e.10 percent are earning Rs 2100 to Rs 4000 permonth. Above table also indicates that 6.67 percent household i.e. 4 household were enjoying the monthly income of above Rs 8000 where as 3.33 percent i.e 2 household were found surviving in less than Rs 2000 per months. The average of the Tharu Ex-Kamaiya family were found Rs 6501.67 per month while lowest and highest monthly income were recorded Rs 1800 and Rs 15000 respectively.

5.2 Expenditure Size

Expenditure capacity is gives the picture of the economic condition of people whereas expenditure represent the total quantity of goods and services bought and consumed by the person during a time period. Expenditure pattern is influenced by various factors such as income status, family size, geographical sistuation, education, culture and tradition and so on. Here expenditure represents the total amount spent on goods and services bought and consumed by the sampled household during a time period.

Freed Kamaiya of study area were found involving in various activities to earn. In the past during bonded period, they used to work for their master(Malikwa).They were not given opportunity to participate in market activities. But now they were made freed and found involving in different market activies such as buying and selling goods. From the study it was found that all the selcted household were purchasing necessary goods to some extent from the market.

In the study area, income is spent on different iteams.Therefor,the expenditure on goods and services is mainly categorized into food iteams and non-food iteams. In food iteams it includes rice, wheat, maize, pulse, fast food, oil, salt, suger, vegetables, meat, eggs, milk and milk product. Similarly in non-food items we includes expenditure on education, clothes, medicine, fuel, persional habit, intertainment/communication.

From the study it was found that a large propotion of the household income is spent on food iteams as most of them have no more land to grow up food grain.

Table 15:Monthly Expenditure of Sampled HH on Food Items

| Amount(in NRs.) | No.Of Household | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| less than 2000 | 15 | 25.00 |
| 2001-4000 | 29 | 48.33 |
| 4001-6000 | 14 | 23.33 |
| above 6000 | 2 | 3.33 |
| Total | 60 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

Above table 15 shows that the monthly average amount spent on food iteams by sampled households. About 48.33 Percent household i.e.29 household were spending Rs 2100 to Rs 4000 on food consumption. Similarly by study it is found that 25percent (15 Household) were found spending less than 2000Rs for their consumption on food item and 23.33 percent i.e 14 household were spending Rs 4100 to 6000Rs on consumption of food item. Among 60 sampled household only 2 household were found spending more than Rs 6000 on food item which is somehow because of large family size.

Amount Allocated on Annually for Purchase of Clothes

Clothing is one of the basis needs for human beings. Therefor one most have to separate some amount from their income to purchase clothes. From the study it was found that food is more essential thus Ex-Kamaiya were spending less on clothes.

Table 16: Annual Amount Allocation of Sampled HH for Clothing

| Amount(in NRs.) | No.Of Household | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| less than 2000 | 6 | 10.00 |
| 2100-4000 | 31 | 51.66 |
| 4100-6000 | 18 | 30.00 |
| above 6000 | 5 | 8.33 |
| Total | 60 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

The above table 16 shows that 51.66 percent i.e 31 household were found spending annually Rs 2100 to Rs 4000 for clothing. Above 10 percent i.e. 6 household were allocating only Rs 2000 or fewer amounts for clothes. Similarly 30 percent i.e. 18 household were allocating Rs 4100 to Rs 6000 from their income for clothing where as 8.33 percent i.e.5 household were able to allocated more than 6000 Rs per year on clothing.

Annual Average Expenditure on Education

Nowadays the freed Kamaiyas family were found to be aware of importance of education so most of the children in resettlement area were found studying. The total average expenditure which is done by the sampled household for their children education is catorized as follows.

Table 17: Annual Expenditure Of Sampled HH On Education

| Amount(in NRs.) | No.Of Household | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| less than 1000 | 5 | 8.92 |
| 1001-2500 | 28 | 50.00 |
| 2501-4000 | 19 | 33.92 |
| above 4000 | 4 | 7.14 |
| Total | 56 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

Note: 4 household have no children to go to school

Above table 17 clearly shows that about 50 percent i.e 28 households sending their children to school were making expenses around Rs1000 to 2500 per year. Similarly 33.92 percent i.e 19 household were found spending annually Rs 2600 to Rs 4000 for education of their children. Similarly out of total 56 household only 7.14 percent i.e .4 household are spending more than Rs 4000 for their children education where as 8.92 percent i.e.5 household were found making expenses less than Rs1000. Here education expenses includes dress, books & stationary, tuition and admission fees.

Medical Expenses Done By The Freed Kamaiya

From the study the annual on an average expenditure done by the sampled household for their families medical treatment has been shown the table below.

Table 18: Annual Expenditure on Medical Treatment of sampled HH

| Amount(in NRs.) | No.Of Household | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| less than 1000 | 15 | 25.00 |
| 1001-2500 | 31 | 51.66 |
| 2501-4000 | 11 | 18.33 |
| above 4000 | 3 | 5.00 |
| Total | 60 | 100% |

Source:Field Survey, 2012.

The above table 18 shows that more than 50 percent i.e 31 household spent amount with in the range between Rs 1000 to 2500 for their health treatment on an average as for per annum. About 25 percent household spent less than Rs 1000 for their health treatment. Similarly 18.33 percent household were found spending Rs 2600 to Rs 4000 Per annum. And out of total household 5 percent i.e 3 household were found spending above Rs 4000 on treatment.

From the Field visit it was also found that around 96 percent household that each of them have at least one or more than one individual have habits of smoking, drinking alcohol or chewing tobacco, paan, gutkha and for these habits they made expenses of higher amount from their income. By study above 63 percent household were found spending Rs 250 to 450 per month. likewise most of the household in study area also had mobile and they were found spending on an average Rs 100 per month on mobile. Similarly they were also found keeping interest to expenses on intertaining goods such as T.V or some other kind of audio viedo systems etc.

CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter is the final chapter of the study and consist summary and conclusion of the study. Finally, some recommendations are made according to the result of the study.

6.1 Summary

The main objective of the study is to provide an account of present economic condition of Tharu Ex-Kamaiya in Bardiya district. Tharu are an ethnic group indigenous to the Terai region of Nepal. They are most exploited group under the name of Kamaiya system.

The Kamaiya farm labor management was mainly practiced in five mid and far western terai district of Nepal. With restoration of democracy Kamaiyas and other organization started movement demanding their freedom. As a result the government announced complete liberation to all Kamaiyas from their age-old bondage without doing any homework to immediate rehabilitation of Kamaiyas on 17th July 2000. So rehabilitation is still an issue of continuing importance.

Freed Kamaiyas are distributed in all 31 VDCs and one municipality of Bardiya district. All the resettlement areas are either planned or squatter of along the bank of river or roadside and also in the fringe of forest which are mostly in either non-arable, unproductive sandy area or in prone zone of flood area.

The total Ex-Kamaiya,s household of the study area are 118 among them only 60 households were selected from different resettlement zone of the study area. This study is mainly covered on primary information obtained from field study which is one of the main sources of primary data collection. The primary data have been collected during the field study by structured questionnaire, interview and field observation. The secondary information had been collected from the published and unpublished thesis, books, journals reports etc.

This study is mainly focused on the socio-economic status of sampled household through which the overall economic condition could be reflected. Social status is reflected through the age group, family size, educational status, health

sanitation condition and also communication patterns are included to find the living standard of the people. Similarly economic status are explained on the basis of income level, expenditure pattern and saving status. From this it is found that the overall economic condition of Ex-Kamaiya families is much better than before.

The Major Findings of the Study are as Follows:

In the study area among the 292 total population of sample household, 48.97 percent were male and 51.02 percent were female (national average 48.5 and 51.5 percent respectively). The average family size was found to be 4.87 almost equal to national average 4.88 and most of the freed kamaiya families were found living in nuclear family. About 42.46 percent population remains below 14 years of age. Similarly, about 50.34 percent of population remains 15-59 years of age less than national average 57 percent that means economically active population indicating high children dependency ratio which is burden to productive population. And about 7.19 percent are also found above 60 years of age.

About 21.64 percent Tharu Kamaiya were found to be illiterate better than national average 34.1. School enrollment of child at primary level was better. But only 1.87 percent have complete their school level education and only one student gained the higher education.

Tharu freed Kamaiya are involved in different activities to earn. Main activities is wage work(65.40 percent), in agriculture 14.47 percent, rickshaw and thela pulling 5.03 percent, small business 4.40 percent, salary basis 2.51 percent and 8.17 percent are engaged in technical work such as carpentry, handicrafts, driving, plumbing, wiring. Among the wage worker 34.59 percent are working outside Nepal, mainly in India during study period. Similarly, the working condition was found much better off. More than 70 percent were found working between 8 hours to 10 hours per day. Only 3.77 percent were found working more than 10 hours per day. But only 49 people have got chance to take part in some sort of skill training programmes which is seems to be not sufficient.

Among 60 sample households 56 household were found keeping some sort of livestock with them which is a complementary source of income for Ex-Kamaiya family. Similarly in terms of household durables, out of total about 85 percent

household have atleast one or more mobile. About 13.33 percent households have television on their houses. About 33.34 percent have radio. About 16.67 percent household have sound system and 40 percent people have found keeping cycle in their home which reflect the uplifting economic condition of Ex-Kamaiya families.

From the study, 32 household i.e 53.33 percent household were found under debt situation. The amount of debt ranges from few rupees to 12000 rupees. Most of the household i.e.84.37 percent were found taking loan few rupees to 4000 rupees. Only 3 household i.e. 9.37 percent took loan ranging from Rs.4001 to Rs.6000 and about 6.25 percent i.e. 2 household found taking loan above Rs.6000. The purpose of taking loan of sample household were found mainly to meet the financial lack for fooding /clothing (34.37 percent), health treatment i.e.15.62 percent, education i.e.9.37 percent, social event i.e.6.25 percent, personal habit i.e.9.37 percent and other purpose like buying oxen, bulcart, construction/repairing of home, starting small business i.e. 25 percent. The loaned amounts were found mostly taken from saving and credit group i.e. 50 percent. Local shop, medical on credit form (21.87 percent), friend and relatives i.e. 15.62 percent, employer i.e. 9.37 percent and money lender 3.12 percent or only one household.

The on an average expenditure on food by the Tharu freed Kamaiya household was found to be Rs 3641.67 Per month. The spending on food ranges from Rs 1800 to 8000 per month. Similarly these people were found spending Rs 3876.67 per year on clothes. The range of expenditure on clothes was found from Rs 800 to Rs10000 per year. More than 50 percent household were found spending between Rs 2100 to Rs4000 yearly on clothes. Similarly the average spending on education of these freed kamaiya were found Rs 2726.79 Since four household have no member to go to school. Similarly by field visit it was found that, about 75 percent household spends Rs 1000 to Rs 2500 for the medical purpose annually. Most of the Kamaiya families were also found to be inhabited in smoking, drinking alcohol and chewing tobacco, gutkha, paan for this purpose they were found spending Rs 280 per month on an average, ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 600 per month.

The houses of Ex-Kamaiya family were found made of mud, bamboo and straw. About 58.33 percent households are roofed by Galvanized sheet and 13.33 percent are roofed by tile. Only about 28.33 percent household have thatched roof.

These Tharu Ex-Kamaiya were found to be more health conscious. All people were found using hand pump water and toilets were found to be constructed in most of the household. Every individual was found using soap to wash their hand after toileting.

During the study it was found that these people are happy from the government decision to abolished Kamaiya system. But they were found in need of better opportunity of work for uplifting their livelihood. For that they are demanding for more land and vocational training.

6.2 Conclusion

Tharu are one of the poorest groups among the indigeneous people of Nepal. Prevalence of widespread poverty and absence of alternative means of livelihood the poor, innocent Tharu fully depends upon their bare hands as farm labor. In this way long-term farm labor relationship between laborer and employer were established which formulate the Kamaiya system later.

Kamaiya system was the defemination in the name of country. So, government of Nepal declaired an illegal work to domestic Kamaiya. In this way the deep rooted permanent labor relationship was abolished on 17th July 2000. Then after under the resettlement and rehabilitation programme with co-ordination to NGOs/INGOs, government of Nepal lunched different livelihood programme for their upliftment and distributed maximum 5 kattha land according to their family size and also gave economic support for housing.

Since the day after abolishment vast changes were seen in Kamaiya community. They have their own houses on their own land having T.V antina on ceiling and mobiles on pockets. A person who even worn more than a half pant (kattu) or never worn even a single pair of silper up to the age of 48 have started wearing jeans pant, jacket and sport shoes. Expect negligible child most of them are receiving school education. Tharu to whom had to be brought forcibly for vaccination even in freely distributed programme and other medical treatment too, nowadays started willing for medical treatment. Similarly in each and every Ex-Kamaiya society there are at least one or more 'Saving and Credit Group'. Through

such organization they are inhabited for saving less or more. Even though some Kamaiya of resettlement area were found buying land from their own income.

But the situation is still not optimal and there are miles to go for ensuring their life with dignity as other cast group of the community. Rehabilitation was not systematic or effective for identifying Ex-Kamaiya. Supporting groups have extreme focus on red-card holders. The identification of new Ex-Kamaiya and unsatisfied other card holder free Kamaiya can worsen the problem more.

The trend of nuclear family size, the aged group people without any social security programme or work that they can do the hand to mouth problem of them becoming tiring or tough. They do not have sufficient food and clothes. Though all of the children have started to go school but enrolment of them in higher classes was also negligible. Most of them get married in the early age of 14th to 15th.

Similarly income generating programmes were not effective and were also scattered or not systematically planned. Instable nature of job and seasonal unemployment became the major issue for Ex-Kamaiya community.

Lastly the analysis of findings shows that the livelihood of freed Kamaiya is in improving trend. This is due to development work initiated by government and NGOs/INGOs and somehow their personal effort. The rising awareness level has been tremendously encouraging. Now they were found participative and able to raise their voice to get their rights. Thought of optimism towards future life was found increasing in Ex-Kamaiya society.

6.3 Recommendation

The Kamaiya system with element of slavery has undermine the basic freedom and human rights of a significant proportion of the population. However the practice of this inhuman Kamaiya system which symbolizes the practices of bonded labor was abolished since 2000AD. Now they are made free so their issue is related to rehabilitation livelihood and sustainability. On the basic of the study, few recommendation are made here for the upliftment of their livelihood.

-) There is increasing a trend of system of unpaid labor for share cropping, such exploitation of labor should be checked.

-) Training and skill enhancement programs should be provided in a systematic, planned and long term basis. This would create better opportunity for all of farm labor.
-) Trade unions should work towards unionizing the Kamaiyas, motivate and train them to seek their labor rights.
-) People donot know even their own account due to the illiteracy and unawareness. During the collection of data the illiteracy and unawareness were found as main problems to obtain reliable data. It is essential to bring the programs to enhance literacy and awareness though it is much more satisfactory than before.
-) Government expenditure is highly required in the field of education, health and skill training for human resource development. The healthy and efficient manpower are crucial to bring remittance which ultimately helps to eradicate rampant poverty.
-) The skill development and income generation training should be provided on the basis of demand of market and capacity of Ex-Kamaiya.
-) Government should establish small and cottage industries so that employment opportunities can be formed which is crucial for sustainable economic developments of freed Kamaiya society.
-) Integrated mechanism or co-ordination should be maintained among NGOs/INGOs and other supporting groups sothat programmes can be lunched effectively. Duplication of programmes should be avoided.

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APPENDIX-I
QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name of the respondent:-.....

Age.....Gander/Sex.....Occupation.....religion.....

2. Family Description

| S.N | Name | Sex | Age | Education | Occupation | Marital status |
|-----|------|-----|-----|-----------|------------|----------------|
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3. Did you work as a kamaiy/ kamalahari? Before

If yes how long did you work.

a. 0-3 year

b. 3-6 years

c. 6-9 years

d. 9-12 years

e. more than 12 years

4. Did you have any land when you were Kamaiya? Circle

a. Yes

b. No

If yes, how much land did you have?

Bigha.....Kattha.....Dhur.....

5. How much land has the government provided after freedom?

Bigha.....Kattha.....Dhur.....

6. Do you have land registered certificate? Circle

a. Yes

b. No

7. What are the sources of income of your family? Circle all possible answer

a. Agriculture

b. Labor/wage

c. Salary (Gov./Non Gov.)

d. Small business

e. Rickshaw/Thela pulling

f. Remittance

g. Pension

h. Other (specify).....

8. Have you got any vocational training?

If yes, how many members in your family have got chance for taking training?

Ans:

9. Generally how many hours do you work per day?

Ans:.....

10. How much do you earn per day?

Ans.....

11. Account of the on an average monthly income and expenditure.

| S.No. | Source of Income(Monthly) | NC | Monthly Expenses | NC | Remark |
|-------|---------------------------|----|------------------|----|--------|
| | Agricultural income | | Food items | | |
| | Job/Service | | Education | | |
| | Wage/Labor | | Clothes | | |
| | Small business | | Medicine | | |
| | Rickshaws/Thela pulling | | Social events | | |
| | Sale Livestock | | Transportation | | |
| | other (specify) | | Communication | | |
| | | | entertainment | | |
| | | | Personal habits | | |
| | | | others..... | | |
| | | | | | |

12. Do you have problem to manage your family expenditure properly with your income especially for last 4 years?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes how do you manage it?

- a. Loan
- b. borrow
- c. credit

13. Do you mention that from where you have got loaned amount?

- a. money lender
- b. co-operatives
- c. friends & relatives
- d. other(specify).....

14. What is the main purpose of taking loan?

- a. food scarcity
- b. health treatment
- c. social events
- d. education
- d. housing & clothing
- e. other(specify).....

15. Do you have any domestic animals in your home?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes, how much are the followings?

Buffalo.....Oxen.....Cow.....Bull.....Hen.....Pig.....
Duck.....Sheep.....Goat.....other.....

16. Housing condition of the respondent (self observation)

- a. About roof:
- b. About wall:

17. What is your main source of drinking water? (self observation by interviewer)

- a. Hand pump
- b. well
- c. River
- c. Other.....

18. Do you have toilet facility?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes what type (self observation by interviewer)

- a. Only dug
- b. Dug with toilet sheet (kacchi)
- c. Dug with toilet sheet with flush pan (pakki)

19. How many times do you have food generally?

- a. less than 2 times
- b. 2-3 times
- c. 3-4 times.
- d. more than 4 times

20. What modern amenities are available at your home?

- a. Electricity
- b. Radio
- c. Telephone (mobile)
- c. Bicycle
- e. Motorbike
- f. Music system
- g. Television
- h. Other (specify).....

21. Do any member of your family have any types of saving accounts?

- a. Banking accounts
- b. Co-operatives account
- c. Local organizations

22. What is the situation after emancipation?

- a. Worse
- b. Better
- c. Same as before

23. Are you satisfied from government & other NGOs/INGOs efforts for your rehabilitation?

Ans.....

24. Any suggestion for government and all other supporting group?

Ans.....

