

**STUDENTS SELECTED TO US UNIVERSITIES: A SOCIOLOGICAL  
STUDY OF THEIR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS**

**A Dissertation submitted to  
The faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for Degree of Master of Arts  
In Sociology**

**Submitted by  
Arjun Pandey  
Regd. No. 7-2-241-552-96**

**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY  
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY  
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU  
2014**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This is to certify that **Mr. Arjun Pandey** has completed this dissertation entitled “**Students Selected to US Universities: A Sociological Study of Their Hopes and Aspirations**” under my guidance and supervision as the partial fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology. Therefore, I recommend this dissertation for final evaluation and approval.

.....

Dr. Shambu Kattel

Dissertation Supervisor

Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE**

The Dissertation entitled “**Students Selected to US Universities: A Sociological Study of Their Hopes and Aspirations**” submitted by Arjun Pandey in partial fulfillment of requirements for Master Degree in Sociology has been accepted.

**DISSERTATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Department Head  
Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

.....  
Professor Om Gurung

External  
Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

.....  
Lecturer. Jiban Mani poudel

Dissertation Supervisor  
Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

.....  
Dr. Shambhu Kattel

Viva Date: 2069-12-30

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Sambhu Kattel, Professor of Sociology, Tribhuvan University for his supervision, guidance and invaluable suggestions. . I would also like to thank Mr. Om Gurung Head of Department of Sociology/Anthropology for his encouragement to complete my dissertation.

I am also grateful to my friend TekBahadur Ale and Sharat Paudel for his constant help in collecting data and providing useful materials.

I would also like to thank my wife Diksha Pandey who helped me a lot in writing this research and helping me in making necessary improvements in the process of research.

Thanks goes to all the respondents for their valuable information and experiences without which this research work would not have been possible in its current form.

I am also indebted to my family and all other colleagues for their continuous support during my Master's Degree.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

ABBREVIATIONS

## **CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

1.1	Background of the study	1
1.2	Significance of the study	2
1.3	Statement of the problem	3
1.4	Objectives of the study	4
1.5	Rationale of the study	5
1.6	Organization of the study	6

## **CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

2.1	Theoretical Review	8
2.1.1	Mobility of International Students	10
2.1.2	Movement for Study	15
2.2	Conceptual Framework	16

## **CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1	Study Area and Reasons for Selection	18
3.2	Nature and Sources of Data	18
3.2.1	The Universe and the Sample	19
3.2.2	Data Collection Technique	19
3.2.2.1	Interview	19
3.2.2.2	Case Study	20
3.2.3	Reliability and Validity of Data	20
3.2.4	Data Analysis and Presentations	20
3.2.5	Limitations and Constrains of the Study	20

## **CHAPTER IV: SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY POPULATION**

4.1	Caste/Ethnicity Composition	22
4.2	Age Composition	23
4.3	Regional Distribution of the Respondents	24
4.4	Family type of Students	25
4.5	Educational Status of Students	26
4.6	Sex Wise Representation of the Students	27
4.7	Total Family Income per Month	28
4.8	Earning Members	29
4.9	Occupation of Family Members	30

## **CHAPTER V: INTERESTED FIELDS OF STUDY AND LEVELS OF EDUCATION THAT THE STUDENTS INTEND TO STUDY IN US**

5.1	Level of Education That the Students are going to Pursue	32
5.2	Type of Subject Chosen as a Major	33
5.3	Total Cost of Colleges and Universities in the US	35
5.4	Scholarship Awarded to the Students	36
5.5	Distribution of Students on the Basis of Sponsors	38

## **CHAPTER VI: MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THE STUDENTS TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES**

6.1	Quality of Education in the US	40
6.2	Influence from Friends	41
6.3	Influence from Relatives	42
6.4	Political instability of Nepal	42
6.5	Information Provided by USEF-Nepal	44
6.6	Information Provided by Consultancies	45
6.7	Choice of College, University and Subjects	45
6.8	Recognition of the US Degree	46
6.9	Prospects of Settling in the US	47
6.10	Facilities Provided in the US Colleges and Universities	48
6.11	Opportunity to Learn From Highly Qualified Professors	48
6.12	Opportunity to Interact with Diverse Group	49

## **CHAPTER VII:SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

6.1	Summary	51
6.2	Conclusion	52

<i>REFERENCE CITED</i>	53
------------------------	----

### **APPENDICES**

#### **Appendix I**

Case Study I

Case Study II

Case Study III

#### **Appendix II: Questionnaire**

# LIST OF TABLES

- 4.1 Distribution of the Student Selection by Caste/Ethnicity
- 4.2 Age Composition
- 4.3 Regional Distribution of the Respondents
- 4.4 Family Type of the Students
- 4.5 Educational Status of the Students
- 4.6 Sex wise Representation of the Students
- 4.7 Total Family Income per Month
- 4.8 Earning Members
- 4.9 Occupation of Family Members
- 5.1 Levels of Education That the Students are going to Pursue
- 5.2 Type of Subject chosen as Major
- 5.3 Total Cost of Colleges and Universities in the US
- 5.4 Scholarship Awarded to the Student Migrants
- 5.5 Distribution of Students on the Basis of Sponsors
- 5.6 Colleges/Universities Chosen by the Students
- 6.1 Quality Education in the US
- 6.2 Influence from Friends
- 6.3 Influence from Relatives
- 6.4 Political Instability in Nepal
- 6.5 Information Provided by USEF
- 6.6 Information Provided by Consultancies
- 6.7 Choice of College, University and Subjects
- 6.8 Recognition of US Degree
- 6.9 Prospects of Settling in the US
- 6.10 Facilities Provided in US Colleges and Universities
- 6.11 Opportunity to Learn from Highly Qualified Professors
- 6.12 Opportunity to Interact with Diverse Group



## ABBREVIATIONS

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRE	Graduate Record Examination
IIE	Institute of International Education
MNP	Movement of Natural Persons
MoE	Ministry of Education
NRs	Nepali Rupees
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
RBS	RatoBangala School
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language
UK	United Kingdom
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
US	United States of America
USEF-Nepal	United States Educational Foundation, Nepal