

**STATE AND CAUSES OF RURAL POVERTY:
A CASE OF THUMKI VDC KASKI**



A Thesis

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled **State and Causes of Rural Poverty: A Case of Thumki VDC Kaski** has been prepared by **Mr Prakash Ojha** under my supervision and guidance.

Therefore, I recommend this thesis to the evaluation committee for its final evaluation and approval.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This dissertation entitled "**State and Causes of Rural Poverty: A Case of Thumki VDC Kaski**" prepared and submitted by **Mr Prakash Ojha** with examination roll no 280183 has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree in Sociology.

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Amid the rural poverty based studies I have approached to dig out the real poverty state persisting in the Thumki VDC Kaski. I have tried to address as much as parameters related to the economic state of any area in one or another way. Basically, the unveiling of scenarios that have been overwhelming around the villages by means of first hand data is my specificity.

As the dissertation of my second degree in Master of Arts in Sociology, it put many challenges over me and the overcome is possible only with the direct and indirect help of many personalities. At first I take opportunity to express gratitude to my thesis supervisor Dr T R Pandey for his tireless support and directions. I would like to thank Prof Dr Chaitanya Mishra, Prof Dr Krishna Bhattachan, HoD Dr Om Gurung and other teachers for their contribution on imparting of sociological intuition on me. I express heartfelt gratitude to my thesis external Tikaram Gautam.

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I have tried to earn sociological intuition from the books related to sociological affairs and senior/junior students of Sociology. I am hopeful that the knowledge and skill gained from this discipline will be helpful for my further carrier development. I love to see things from the windows of sociological theories and practices.

Prakash Ojha

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DEFINITION OF RELATED TERMS

- Absolute Poverty - When the level of income is insufficient to purchase goods and services to maintain a minimum standard of living.
- Livelihood - A livelihood is a means of making a living. It encompasses people's capabilities, assets, income and activities.
- Poor - Disadvantaged, needy, impoverished, deprived, penniless, poverty-stricken, hard up run down.
- Per Capita Income - Average income of the people. It is obtained by dividing national income of a country by the total production.
- Poverty Line - The estimated minimum level of income needed to secure the necessities of life in the study area.
- Poverty Trap - Situation in which an increase in someone's income is offset consequent loss of state benefits, leaving them on better off.
- Relative Poverty - Income level higher than the minimum subsistence requirement but below the national average per capita income. Income is not sufficient to meet the whole total expenditure level.
- Scheduled Caste - Socio-economically backward communities of low caste like *Damai*, *Kami* who live in Thumki.
- Semi-employed - The state of being employed only for six months or less than nine month's work.
- Traditional Practitione - Witch doctor who treats the sick person through natural process.
- Wage Labour - Involving in earning activities for the means of livelihood.

ACRONYMS

ADB	- Asian Development Bank
ADBN	- Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal
AHW	- Assistant Health Worker
CBS	- Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	- District Development Committee
DFID	- Department for International Development, UK
FY	- Fiscal Year
GDP	- Gross Domestic Product
HDI	- Human Development Index
HHs	- Households Number
IRDP	- Integrated Rural Development Program
LDC	- Least Developed Country
LER	- Life Expectancy Rate
LR	- Literacy Rate
NLSS	- Nepal Living Standard Survey
NPC	- National Planning Commission
NRB	- Nepal Rastra Bank
NRs	- Nepalese Rupees
PS	- Primary School
PCI	- Per Capita Income
SAARC	- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SFDP	- Small Farmer Development Program
SHP	- Sub-Health Post
SLC	- School Leaving Certificate
TU	- Tribhuvan University
TYPP	- Three Year Periodic Plan
UNDP	- United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	- United Nations Fund for Population Activities
VDC	- Village Development Committee
WB	- World Bank
WDR	- World Development Report
WHDR	- World Human Development Report
WTO	- World Trade Organization