

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Nepal is one of the least developed landlocked countries of the world. It has 157<sup>th</sup> position along with per capita income 642\$ (HDR 2011). Among 23.1 million people of the country as per the census of 2001, 85.80 percent of people live in the rural areas. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy accounting for one third of GDP. The economic growth of the country measured by GDP stands about 3 percent in average for a decade. About 25.4% percent of the population still lives below poverty line (TYPP 2067 BS). Literacy rate has reached to 65.9 (Census 2068 BS).

Human Development Report- 2010 released by UNDP, conducted by Oxford University Britain, claimed that 65 % Nepali are poor. It unveils that there are 18.3 million poor citizen in Nepal. About 15.5 million people earn daily less than 94 rupees. 2.18 million people survive daily life only in one hundred and fifty rupees. At the mean time the economic survey 2067/68 BS by the government of Nepal released that the poverty has decreased to 24 % from 31 %. This indicates that measuring and broadcasting the level of poverty is a very complex matter. There is a saying, "in Nepal the poverty is not dying but the poor people are dying".

We can consider the per capita income, literacy rate and the life expectancy rate as the poverty indexes. These are the development indexes. Development is uplifting of peoples' life standard whereas poverty is the existence of many more shortcomings in the life standard (Subedi 2007). This concludes development and poverty are concepts like two sides of a coin.

Poverty is that condition in which a person either because of inadequate income or unwished expenditure does not maintain a scale of living high enough to provide his physical and mental efficiency and to enable him and his natural dependents of function usefully according to the standards of the society of which he is a member. The World Book Encyclopedia defines poverty as the state or fact of being in want. People are poor if they lack enough income and resource to be adequately by the accepted living standards of their community (Gillin and Gillin 2003).

As poverty is a complex concept, it has different natures. In fact, it is a relative thing too. It directly concerns with the living standard of people. Poverty is somehow the negative of development. Nothing certifies development better than eliminating poverty (Adhikari 2011). The state of unavailability of resources to fulfill the needs of people is poverty. The poverty for Tokyo and Geneva may not be the poverty for Kathmandu, Pokhara and the Thumki village of Nepal. Thus poverty has different meanings in different stages of development. However, the systematic analysis of poverty of some particular place gives us the idea for the comparative study of poverty. Poverty in underdeveloped countries is conceived as an absolute phenomenon present in the rural society (Ghai et al, 1979: 3). Having insufficient income to meet the subsistence need (Ghose and Griffin, 1980: 545).

Despite the presence of many types of poverties, rural poverty is the major issue of Nepal. It is because of the several rural areas all over the country and still around 80 percent population based on rural area is depending on subsistence agriculture. Rural poverty in Nepal is a widespread, complex and multidimensional phenomenon. Poverty is deeper, more intense and more severe in rural areas as compared to urban areas; and even more so in the hills and mountains and in the Western and far Western Regions. Women and ethnic groups by and large are left out of the mainstream of development because they lack voice, empowerment, representation and access to economic opportunities and resources. They are seriously included in vicious circle of rural poverty (NPC, 2003).

The rural poor include chronically hungry people who are most often malnourished and frequently diseased. The poor are usually illiterate or insufficiently educated. They are badly clothed and living in ramshackle housing under unsanitary conditions. Almost by definition the poor lack sufficient resources to purchase food and other necessities of life as well as to enjoy the living conditions, which are customary in the societies. The purchasing power of the poor is so low that they are excluded from ordinary living patterns, customs and activities (Aryal, 1993).

In particular income, literacy rate and life expectancy rate are the major pillars for poverty analysis. In general the hunger, malnutrition, ill health, illiteracy, poor clothing, less income, less consumption, early death, lack of resources, unavailability of road, telecommunications, electricity, water all indicates the rampant poverty. Furthermore the backward, traditions, customs, beliefs, norms and values and the superstitious rituals also let poverty to prevail. In developed countries, poverty can be defined as the failure to

maintain the desired level of living, whereas in developing countries, it reflects the picture of hunger, malnourishment, illiteracy, high infant mortality, inadequate shelter, rapid growth rate of population and unemployment (Todaro 1981).

Regarding the measurement of the extent of the poverty, the people and households, who are not able to fulfill their essential basic requirements like food, cloth, shelter health, education etc. due to their low income can be categorized as those who fall below the poverty line in term of absolute poverty. Those who have low income in comparison to the estimated average income can be categorized as those who fall below the poverty line in term of relative poverty.

Observation of the structure of GDP shows among the production sector of the economy, agriculture occupies 32.4 percent, followed by wholesale and retail trade 13.7 percent, transport, communication, and warehousing 10.5 percent. Among other remaining sub-sectors, real estate and professional services 8.3 percent, manufacturing industry 6.8 percent, and construction 6.4 percent. Likewise, education, financial intermediation, and electricity, gas and water have their respective 6.0 percent, 4.8 percent, 1.7 percent shares to GDP. Of the remaining portion, education, public administration, and defense shared 2.0 percent, hotel and restaurant 1.5 percent, and health and social works contributed 1.3 percent to GDP (Economic Survey 2008/9).

Poverty in Nepal can be viewed from two angles micro and macro. In micro level it identifies in terms of low caloric intake, lack of basic health facilities, illiteracy, high infant mortality, inadequate shelter, low purchasing power and high rural to urban migration. In macro level it can be expressed in term of high rate of growth of population, lack of marketing facilities, unemployment, technology less activities and administrative inefficiencies (Upadhya 2007).

Poverty is particularly rampant in the rural areas. Poor communities generally exist among people with marginal land holding, occupational casts, *dalits*, tribes and matriarchal households. Targeted efforts are also required to provide basic needs as well as minimum social services and assurance of required to the backward rural and destitute group through the creation and expansion of opportunities for income generation and employment. If the employment opportunities created by investment are not well managed and necessary arrangements to increase productivity are not made, capital will

gradually replace labor. Similarly, if the rights and interests of the labor are not protected and due remuneration is not provided, it deteriorates the management labor relations. Such situation can displace labor and adversely affect investment, leading to decrease in employment opportunities. Institutional development is essential to protect labor's right and interest as well as to create harmonious relationship with the management.

Poverty is mostly concentrated in the rural areas of under developed countries like Nepal. Poverty in rural areas is basically caused by low productivity of agriculture. The limited base and inadequate growth rate of non-agricultural sector in the economy. Similarly the lack of exploitable mineral resources, poor agricultural policy and topographical disadvantages are also responsible for its economic backwardness and poverty. Poverty primarily is a rural phenomenon. It is also primarily an agriculture phenomenon. A related characteristic of the poor is that they lack assets. They either have very small amounts of unproductive land or no land at all they lack of human largely in an agriculture setting (HDR and WB, 1990). Economists have defined poverty in different ways and expressed there in different criteria in general term poverty can be defined as "The inability to attain minimal standard of living or situation where some one is not possible to meet the assumed as the cause of poverty (WDR, P-26).

Poverty is multi dimensional concept, comprising the nation of lack of access to resources and opportunities, illiteracy, poor health, lack of sanitation, deprivation of basic right and security and powerlessness. Poverty is defined as the ability to consume minimum amount of food and non-food item (CBS, 1999).

Prof. A.K. Sen has defined poverty as, of course, a matter of deprivations. The recent shift in focus especially in the sociology literature from absolute to relative deprivation has provided as useful deprivation is essentially incomplete as an approach to poverty and supplements the earlier approach, which deserves substantial reformulation, but not rejection relates to this irreducible core of absolute deprivation keeping issues of starvations and hunger out the center of poverty (Sen, 1981).

Poverty is the condition that in which a person either because of inadequate income or unwished expenditure does not maintain a scale of living high enough to provide his physical and mental efficiency and to enable him and his natural dependents to function usefully according to the standards of the society of which he is a member (Gilder).

Poverty is condition that is said exists when people lack of means to satisfy their basic needs. In the context, the identification of poor people first requires a determination of what constitutes basic needs, These may be defined as narrowly as "Those necessary for survival" or as broadly as "Those reflecting the prevailing standard of living in the community". The first criterion would cover only those people near the boarder line of starvation or death from exposure the second would extend the people whose nutrition, housing and clothing through adequate to preserve life do not measure up to those of the population as a whole (The new Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. The University of Chicago, 1978).

Absolute poverty occurs when people fail to receive sufficient resources to support a minimum of physical health and efficiently often expressed in terms calories or nutritional levels. Relative poverty is defined by the general standard of living in different societies and what is culturally defines as being poor rather than some absolute level of deprivation (Dictionary of Sociology).

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The first target of the Millennium Development Goals is to decrease the extent of extreme poverty by one-half by the year 2015. Poverty remains a predominantly rural problem, with a majority of the world's poor located in rural areas. It is estimated that 76 percent of the developing world's poor live in rural areas. Disparities between rural and urban areas is on the rise, particularly in many developing and transitional countries. Globally, rural people and rural places tend to be disadvantaged relative to their urban counterparts and poverty rates increase as rural areas become more remote (UNDP 2006).

The economic development of any country depends upon not only on the availability of natural resources but also on the extent of its rational utilization. Poverty in Nepal is widespread, deep and severe and is identified as the most important factor leading to the unsustainable use of natural resources (Smith et al. 2003). For all round development of the country, careful utilization of the natural resources is necessary. Participation of all stakeholders in the utilization of resources has been identified as one of the suitable means for sustainable use of natural resources.

The problem of poverty is especially in the rural areas of the countries like Nepal. The problems of poverty is more intense in local development committees in rural location i.e. 3915 Village Development Committees where 83 % people are living (Census 2011). Rural areas based on agricultural activities play vital role to uplift the economy of nation. In case of Thumki VDC there are the means of transportation, electricity, communications, water supply, basic health facilities, high schools up to +2 level but the standard of people is not improving in expected way.

As the construction of a building requires the strong building blocks, development of nation requires proper development of each village. Requirements of economic development of a village is related to agriculture, rural cottage industries, electricity, animal husbandry, drinking water, primary health care, education, minimum rural transport and communication facilities. Though rich in natural resources it lacks most of the requirements for its economic development. Topography of most of the VDCs itself is one of the obstacles for its development.

In this context, for the Thumki VDC, due to lack of industries and institutions the employment opportunities are lacking beyond agricultural sector. In reality a large number of rural people are incapable of meeting basic requirement like food, clothes, shelter, health, education etc. i.e. rural people are facing poverty problems. Sociological researchers stress that poverty leads to miserable problems in the society. Due to the deprivation of basic need i.e. food, clothes and shelter, the individual moves toward choosing further alternatives whether those are legal or illegal for his/her survival.

The next anti-poverty programme appeared during the sixth five year plan, 1980 in the form of Food for Work Program. The program had an aim to reduce the food shortage in the rural areas through the increased food supply to the needy people and its response to build and maintain rural infrastructure through local participation. The establishment of 'Grameen Vikash Bank' was another anti-poverty program in eighth economic plan. Similarly 'Aafno Gaun Aafain Banaun' was another poverty alleviation program implemented in 1995, 'Garib Sang Bishaswor', 'Mahila Jagrati' were another anti-poverty programs in Ninth economic plan.

Likewise, Land Reforms, Co-operative Movements, Back to Village Campaign, People's Participatory Approach, *Ghar Gharma Bhakari Gaun Gaunma Sahakari* (Store in each

home Co-operative in each village), *Hamro Gaun Ramro Banau* (Make our village better) and many similar programs which are either implicitly or explicitly related to poverty alleviation has been launched throughout the country in different time and spaces.

But such poverty alleviation efforts and programmes have not fulfilled the expectations of the people. Likewise due to inability to identify the poor, a large share of the development benefits goes to the non-poor. As a result, rural poverty in Nepal has reached at alarming state. The government has repeatedly promised and committed to the people to abolish the massive poverty. This is still only a mere dream.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Objective of this study, in general, is to explore overall situation of rural poverty of the village based upon the facts examined by tools and methodologies. In particular the following specific objectives are set:

1. To examine the state of poverty of Thumki VDC Kaski.
2. To find out the causes of poverty in the study area.

### **1.4 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Since poverty affects overall development of an individual it determines the state of any society of a particular time. Poverty contributes to physical weakness through lack of food malnutrition leads to low immune response to infections, inability to afford for the health services give serious health problems. Non-schooling, lacking pure water, communications, electricity, road, no access to employment, remoteness, inequality all these things imply backwardness. In fact this all is itself poverty. Injustice, powerlessness and low standard of living propagates humiliation and weak psychology and down moral. Hence the poor loses the voice (Upadhaya, 2007).

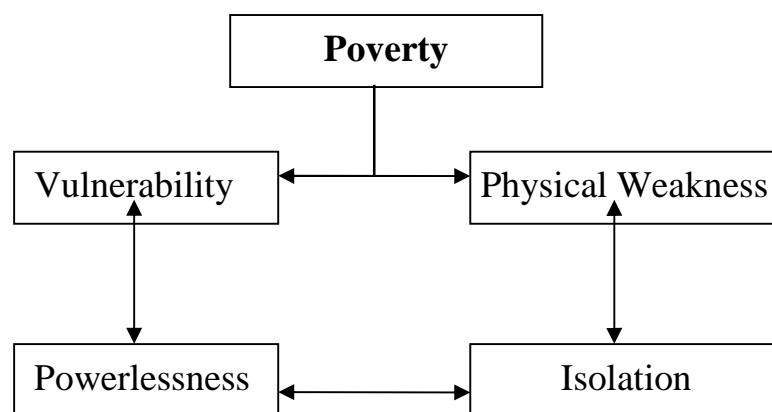
The traditional society is still in transition although development practices are being carried out in a planned way at least from 2013 BS. Why the ideas are not working? The trickle-down approach, Centre/ State led approach, Modernization approach are all gone in vain. Dependency of the nation and villages is going higher day by day. Globalization has injected the roots on the ground of world system theory establishing the permanent exploitative mechanism. The local productions and skills are now the matter of history.

How this all happened to happen? Development turned into under development. The transport system, after the long wait, does not export the village productions instead; it imports materials from foreign districts and foreign country. The infrastructure and services provided have demanded more purchase power to the rural people. Meanwhile they have nothing to sell. Thus, the gap created which is, in fact, poverty.

I have conceptualized that neither the community development follows particular development model nor particular theory can predict and guide the rural community and its poverty. Rural community has a great influence of Structural Functionalism. Modernism is compulsive intervention of internal and external bourgeoisie development experts. World System is the reality that any rural area is a part of internal and external world becoming the satellite to feed the core. Marxism is almost inactive because of the less chances of conflict and struggles. Structural functionalism, modernism and world system are the primary theories leaving effects to this VDC.

Powerlessness contributes to poverty in many ways not only the exploitation by the elites. It limits or prevents, access to resources from the state, legal redress for abuses, ability to dispute wage or interest rates and it entails weakness in negotiating the terms of distress sales, and only feeble influence on government to provide services for the poorer people and places. Isolation is linked with powerlessness through the inability of those who are powerless to attract government aid, schools, good staff, or other resources. Powerlessness also makes the poor more vulnerable to sudden demands for the repayment of loans (Chambers 1983: 112-114).

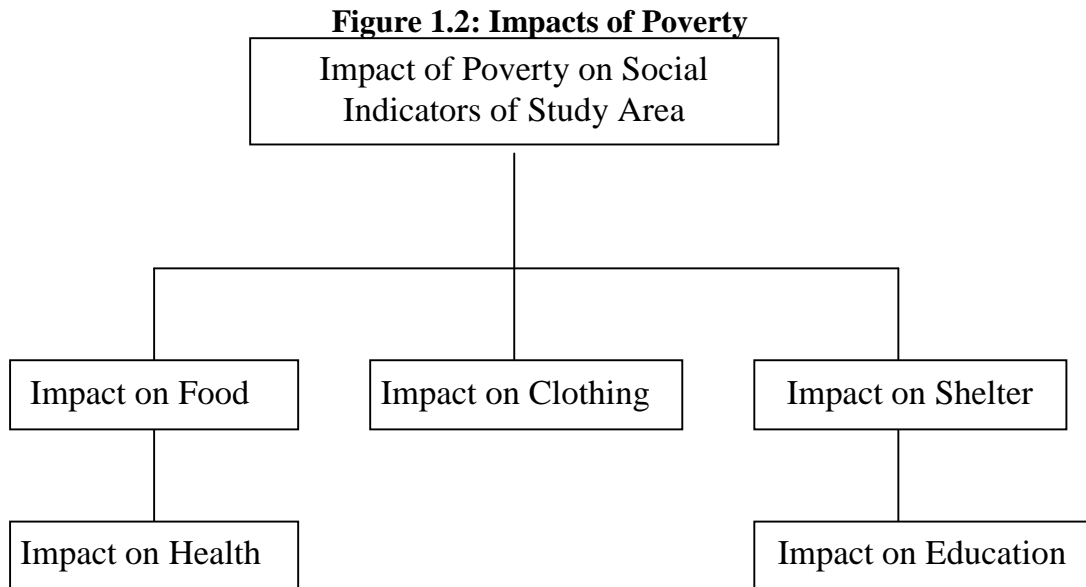
**Figure 1.1: Poverty Circle**



*Source: Chamber 1983*



This is variously described as the vicious circle of poverty, the syndrome of poverty and the poverty trap. Linking the five clusters shown in the figure 1.1 gives possible causal relations which in their negative forms interlock like a web to trap people in their deprivation. The strength of these linkages has been illustrated above by starting with each cluster in turn.



Obviously, the impact of poverty is seen through different social indicators. The social indicators are Fooding, Clothing, Shelter, Health, Education etc. Besides these aspects other different parts of social life are addressed as associated with the poverty level existing in the study area.

## 1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

What is poverty? What is its impact on the population? What measures can be undertaken to manage it? What is the poverty state of Thumki VDC? How particular ways will work effectively in the reduction of poverty in Thumki VDC Kaski?

The significance of this study is primarily concerned with the above raised questions. Besides, this study will help to understand the poverty and poverty related constraints rampant in the VDC. It will predominantly help to concretize the poverty nature of the same VDC. This gives more effective poverty reduction ideas.

On the other side, this research has academic value. It would be a useful reference for the students of Sociology/Anthropology, libraries, organizations including NGOs and INGO and others interested to introduce development activities. It is also useful for further studies related to poverty and it would be beneficial to get deep into the problem.

It will help to explore the current situation of poverty in the study area which is significant to the local leaders, teachers and farmers as well as to the local and district level planners and administrators. Similarly it is useful for local organizations, NGOs and INGOs, educational institutions, health workers and the social mobilizers.

## **1.6 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

Although the researcher tried his most to reduce the limitations of this study there are some methodological and tool based limitations. First, only fooding, clothing, housing, health and education are taken as the indicators. In fact, no standardized tool of poverty indexes in perfect level could have followed. Not being the quantitative research it has not following any perfect statistical techniques or any test. The qualitative research depends on the field survey, interview and the self-observation data. Other limitations are the sampling procedure and administration of questionnaire.

## **1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

This research has organized in six chapters. The first chapter 'Introduction' contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Objectives of the Study, Theoretical Framework, Significance of the Study, Limitation and Delimitation of the Study. The second chapter presents 'Literature Review'. Chapter three contains 'Research Methodology' which includes Definition of the Terms, An Introduction to the Study Site, Research Design, Universe and Sampling Procedure, Social Indicators, Nature of Data, Data Collection Techniques. "Demographic and Socio-economic Characterization of Study Area" is presented as chapter four which includes Geographical, Demographic and Socio-economic Setting of the Village. Chapter five describes 'The State of Rural Poverty and chapter six named as 'Causes of Rural Poverty' and concludes with 'Summary of Major Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations' in seventh chapter.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW**

Nepal's poverty is mostly concentrated in the rural areas where 85 percent of its total population lives (NPC: 2008). Although, Nepal's economy is basically based on agriculture, its productivity has been declining continuously. The reasons for poor performance in the agricultural sector are due to lack of well fertile land, lack of irrigation, implementation of traditional methods, small and fragmented land holding and lack of improved and credit facilities.

Poverty, once thought to be the natural condition of a class of people, has metamorphosed into something of a problem with the maturity of the development discourse. From disease to terrorism, poverty is blamed for many things (Adhikari 2011). Poverty is having very little money; not having enough money for basic needs (Oxford 2005).

Robert Chamber in "Putting the Last First" writes rural development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and need. It involves helping the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. The group includes small scale farmers, tenants and the landless.

The Dictionary of Sociology distinguishes the difference between relative poverty and absolute poverty. Absolute poverty occurs when people fail to receive sufficient resources to support a minimum level of physical health and efficiency that often expressed in terms of calories or nutrition levels. Relative poverty is defined as the general standard of living in different societies and what is culturally stated as being poor and ultra poverty line is below the absolute poverty line its half by the gestation as a rule of thumb. The most commonly used way to measure poverty is based on income or consumption level. A person is considered poor if his or her consumption or income level falls below some minimum level necessary to meet basic needs. This minimum level is usually called the "Poverty line". What is necessary to satisfy basic needs varies across time and societies. Therefore, poverty lines vary in time and place, and each country uses lines, which are appropriate to its level of development, social norms and values (WB: 99).

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines poverty as the state of being poor or lack of something. It refers to the condition of having insufficient resources or income. Webster's Dictionary defines poverty as the state or condition of living with little or no money, goods or means of support. According to Encarta Encyclopedia, poverty is a lack of basic human needs such as adequate and nutritious food, clothing, housing, clean water and health services. Poverty contributes to low life expectancy, low literacy ratio and educational attainment and low standard of living (UNDP 1998). Various medicinal herbs scattered in the Himalayan region, Hills and Plains of the country, are being used as grass and firewood. These precious herbs need to be preserved in Herbal gardens but is hard due to lack of resources.

The definition of poverty varies from region to region depending upon their economic status. The characteristics of poor people in rural area can be identified as landlessness, too little land, large family malnutrition, ill health, illiteracy, high infant mortality, low life expectancy, low income, irregular income, weak position, isolation due to poor communication focus on survive and indebtedness (Dixon 1990). The rural people under poverty have their economy below subsistence level. They have little access to political power and little say in decision making. The five major characteristics of poor people can be identified as powerlessness, isolation, poverty, physical weakness and vulnerability (Chamber 1983). The explanation of rural poverty can be made with the help of socio-cultural factor, economic factor, political factor and environmental factor.

## **2.2 THEORETICAL REVIEW**

Poverty is a complex phenomenon not easy to conceptualize. Poverty is said to exist when the resource of family or individuals are inadequate to provide a socially acceptable standard of living (Johnson 1996). That condition in which a person either because of inadequate or unwise expenditure does not maintain a standard of living high enough to provide for his physical and mental efficiency and to enable him and his natural dependents to function usefully according to the standard of society in which he is a member (Gillen and Gillen 1982).

Poverty is not only the economic problem developed countries but it is also the problem of developed countries. However, the problem of poverty is deeply rooted in developed countries, in developed countries, poverty is defined the failure to come up a desire level

of living standard whereas in underdeveloped countries it means hungry, malnourishment, illiteracy and survival oriented peoples. About poverty most of the research work have been done in the context of developing countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia. But, only few proper authentic research work have been done in the context of Nepal.

Poverty causes suffering among millions of people. Many of the poor cannot buy the food, shelter, clothing and medical care that they need. Deprivation causes malnutrition and poor health. It also produces feelings of frustration, hopelessness and a loss of dignity and self-respect. Governments and private organization have tried to reduce or eliminate poverty. But it remains a widespread and serious world problem. The different definitions of poverty from country to country make it difficult to determine how many people are poor. It is estimated that more than 1 billion people about one fifth of the world's population are so poor that their health and lives are endangered. The most wide spread and severe poverty occurs in nations with few resources. (The World Book Encyclopedia Volume 15).

D. Hamilton discusses about the meaning of poverty in his book. He has examined income and its distribution. He has also taken the income inequality as the major factor of poverty he has used Lorenz curve to show it geometrically. He makes distinction between absolute poverty and relative poverty. However, he uses relative concept for analytical purpose. He has made a due consideration on how to eliminate poverty. He has used secondary data. (Hamilton, 1968)

David Seddon, in his book "Nepal: A State of Poverty" has examined the cause of poverty in Nepal. According to this increasing population, agricultural crisis and the wide gap between rich and poor are the main reasons for poverty. The writer has taken primary data for the analysis of poverty through field survey between 1974 and 1982. The writer has also used secondary data. The writer has given due consideration on the struggle for basic essential of life. Mr. Seddon has recommended some policies giving high emphasis on the role of government. (Seddon, 1987)

The dependency theorists advocate that underdevelopment of the third world countries was due to the exploitation of developed countries. The process of development in rural areas can be compared with the core-periphery model by John Friedman. As of this model, the cores are centrally located areas, which absorbs resources from periphery.

Thus exploitation occurs. One of the important aspects of rural poverty is extraction of surplus production. Which is caused by colonialism, neo colonialism and single world economy i.e. capitalism. Similarly it is affected by uneven exchange between third world and developed world or rural and urban areas. The other factors affecting poverty are identified as poor health and nutrition, quality less education, contaminated environment, natural disaster, shortage and uneven distribution of resources, war and destruction, rapid population growth, degradation of the environment, inappropriateness and prejudice in development policies over rural development sector.

The Human Development Report 2004 sets out to address four crucial questions that lie at the heart of the crisis facing the country today:

- ) Why do poor still remain disempowered?
- ) Why have development efforts to date fallen short of tackling critical social and economic issues?
- ) How has this affected the process of deepening democracy?
- ) Why have these factors led to heightening the conflict?

### **2.3 REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES**

Nepal was one of the poorest countries in the world with a per capita income 210\$ in 1997 (WBR 1999). It was 340\$ in 2008 (WBR 2009) positioning Nepal in the fourteenth poorer state. Regarding human development Nepal was in the 142<sup>th</sup> position in 2008 whereas it was 138 in last year (UNDP 2009). Corresponding low level of consumption i.e. 51 percent of the total income of household is spent on food. Nepal is the poorest country from Asia (WBR 2008/09). Most of the poor live in the rural areas of Nepal. During the fiscal year, 1995/96, 44 percent of the rural people and 23 percent of the urban people were under the poverty line (NLS Survey 1996). 31% of the total population of Nepal was below poverty line at the end of Tenth Plan (NPC 2009).

Rowntree's book "Poverty: A Study of Townline (1901)" was based investigation in Newyork. For Rowntree, poverty was a condition in which earning was insufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a healthy and productive life. Rowntree (1941) published a secured study 40 years after the first. He felt that a single and invariant definition of poverty would not be justice to the social reality, which varies across time and space.

The first attempt to define and quantify the level of poverty in Nepal was made by NPC in 1976/77 through a survey on employment, income distribution and consumption patterns. The minimum subsistence level of income and expenditure was used for derivation of the poverty line. An income level of Rs. 2 per capita per day at 1976/77 prices was taken as the minimum subsistence level. This out of level was based on the expenditure required to buy food, giving average daily intake of 2256 calories and value of the lowest actual daily consumption of other basic necessities this gave a poverty estimated of 40.30 percent (NPC. Vol IV, 1978 P-32).

The World Bank study in 1990 showed that there is 74 percent of rural population below poverty line. According to this report, there is the existence of severe poverty in Nepal i.e. 71 percent of total population live in poverty especially in rural areas. The study has used various socio-economic indicators to show the exact situation of poverty i.e. health, education, basic service etc. (WDR 1991, P-67).

A case study of Purna Jhanga Jholi VDC of Sindhuli district by J. P. Aryal (1993) has analyzed the nature of poverty and he has concluded that 41.42 percent of households and 16.91 percent of people are relative poor. A research carried out on 'rural Poverty in Nepal' has used secondary data and descriptive method to highlight the dimension of poverty. It has applied data on land owners, tenure income, food production, consumption, employment, literacy, health and other demographic measures. Rural poverty in Nepal is associated with various economic factors such as population growth, minimal land holding, per capita low productivity of land, lack of marketing facilities, food, educational attainment and overall socio-economic structure that favors the rich over the poor (Dahal 1978).

"Poverty to prosperity in Nepal" written by S.C. Jain focuses on the various poverty problems in Nepal and recommends some long terms policies to reduce it. His study is based on the sample survey done by National Planning Commission. He categorizes the poor people into two groups poorest of poor and the poor about poverty line. In the former case he takes the people who have income less than NRS 2 per day in 1977 prices and he calculated that 36.2% of the total population falls in this group. In the latter case, there falls the people whose per capita daily income ranges from NRS 2.00 to 2.68 and he estimated that 18.8% the total population lies in this group. Thus 55% of total population

is poor in Nepal. According to him, 87 percent of the total poor live in rural areas of Nepal. He recommends some policies for additional income generation in order to raise the living standard of the poor people of Nepal (Jain 1981).

Efforts to measure the extent of poverty has also been done by Shrestha (1994) in 'Rural Poverty in Nepal' and introduced the notion of absolute poverty and established poverty line based on minimum required calories per person per day. The author analyses the extent and level of poverty lacking primary data from Markhu VCD of Makawanpur district. The study concludes that 59.7 percent people and 60 percent households are absolute poor in the study area.

The Living Standard Survey of Nepal (CBS: 1996) had covered 3,373 households from 730 districts while estimating the size of living below the poverty line. Per capita consumption level had been treated as the criterion. The living standard survey determined 2124 calories necessary for per capita per day. The per capita annual expense to purchase that calorie equivalent of food is to be Rs. 2637. If expenditure on non-food item is added, the per capita annual expenditure is estimated to start at Rs 4404. Based on this, the size of population living below the poverty line has been found 42 percent. Out of this, 24.9 percent is poor and 17.10 percent is estimated to be ultra poor. Population under poverty line has been described according their geographical condition. Geographic region-wise, 41 percent and 42 percent of the total population is below the poverty line in the mountain. Similarly, 23 percent in the urban area and 44percent people in rural area live below t he poverty line. The study included that higher poverty concentration prevails in the rural area then the urban area (CBS 1996).

Anil Prasad Gautam, in this study has examined the cause of poverty in Nepal. According to him low national consumption/expenditure, heavy unemployment along with misemployment, explosive growth rate of population, inadequacies of anti poverty planning and actions. Rising inequalities of income, regional disparities, inappropriate technology, capital deficiency, selection of wrong investment strategies, lack of education, lack of skill development program and a number of social factors are also responsible (Gautam, Anil 1996).



Regarding the cause of poverty, Mr Byrn and Stone concludes that "The cause of poverty are many and varied; poor families have little education, few earners and more children than to middle or upper class families. The characteristics of the poor are not necessarily the cause of poverty. Discrimination may be one of the important cause of poverty (Shrestha 1997). According to Ghai et al, "The problem of mass poverty in the third world is primarily one of the rural poverty". APROSE (1998) conducted a field survey to assess the poverty situation in 255 VDCs of 15 districts of Nepal. This study concluded that more than two-third population of the country was living in a critical poverty.

A study of poverty at Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City (Srivastav 1998) has categorized the poor households into two groups, that is (a) very poor and (b) poor on the basis of total consumption criterion. To identify as very poor and poor households, various indicators have been used like total consumption expenditure, composition of consumption expenditure, saving and social indicators like housing, clothing, education, health etc. With regard to the composition of consumption expenditure 67.40 percent families seen to be very poor and remaining 32.60 percent as poor. Regarding housing 26.30 percent families have been found as very poor and remaining 73.70 percent as poor. This study concludes that 4.20 percent of total active members are fully employed and remaining 95.80 percent as partially employed.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN**

This study is based on fieldwork. The research design will be descriptive and exploratory. It is descriptive in the sense that this study has sought to describe the situation of rural poverty of Thumki VDC. It is exploratory in the sense that it has tried to explore the underlying factors of poverty and furthermore it will try to explore the reasons as well. In fact, this research design is directed to achieve the particular goals of the research target.

#### **3.2 SELECTION OF STUDY AREA**

The study area is Thumki VDC of Kaski district which lies on the Western Development Region of Nepal. This VDC is located at the north-east part of Kaski district connecting to Lamjung District by Madi River. The geographical location of this VDC lies between 28° 7' N to 28° 13' N latitude and 84° 7' E to 84° 12' east longitude. The altitude ranges from 450 M to 1420 M. The area, population and household of the VDC are 24.28 Sq. Km, 4034 and 835 respectively (CBS 2001) whereas only 828 households and 3328 total population is recorded in national census 2011.

This Thumki VDC is the birth place of the researcher and hence it is believed that the data collection and analysis will be more effective. The key persons provided the data in an intensive way and exchanged the feelings about the VDC and its poverty condition.

#### **3.3 UNIVERSE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE**

The Thumki VDC of Kaski consists of 835 households which is the universe of this study. The total population in the four sampled wards 6, 7, 8 and 9 is 1555. Out of 350 households from the sample wards, 50 households were taken as a sample unit for the study. These wards were purposively selected to collect data. The systematic survey was adopted to determine the household to be surveyed. Thus 14.28 % of the total numbers of households are included as sampling unit for the collection of relevant information.

#### **3.4 SOCIAL INDICATORS FOR STUDY**

The social indicators of the rural poverty are food, shelter, land holding, education, occupation, assets, health and other services. These indicators are the indexes of poverty.

### **3.5 NATURE OF DATA**

This study is based on primary as well as secondary data from the prospective of data collection procedure. On other side, both qualitative and quantitative data are used. This all aims to fulfill the targeted objectives. Primary data are collected by using structured questionnaire, direct observation, interview and field survey. Secondary data, as the supplement, are collected from the published reports of different organizations and articles in different journals. Especially the publications of Central Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Commission, Nepal Rastra Bank, Agricultural Development Bank, Thumki VDC and DDC Kaski are taken as source of data.

### **3.6 TOOLS AND ITS VALIDATION**

Structured Questionnaire, Key-informant Interview Outline, Direct Observation, Note System are the tools and techniques to gather data. The questionnaire and interview outline was developed taking the reference of previous study on rural poverty and also taken into discussion with supervisor before administrating it. For the purpose of validation of questionnaire, a pilot study was done in five random households. Consequently, Nine questions were removed to get the final questionnaire. Similarly, five questions namely Q.6, Q. 21, Q.24, Q.29 and Q. 31 were added (Annex III). Questions no 2, 12, 19 and 23 were reformed.

### **3.7 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE**

To collect necessary data the following methods of data collection are used.

#### **3.7.1 Structured Questionnaire**

The nature of questionnaire is structured in type. Structured questionnaire was primarily quantitative and a bit qualitative in nature. The questionnaire consisting questions pertaining to the inquiry were prepared. The blank had been filled by taking interview with the hand of sample household's respondent. The researcher himself visited door to door to the sample household to collect relevant data.

#### **3.7.2 Key-informant Interview**

Unstructured interview was conducted with key-informant to collect supplementary information about situations of rural poverty in the study area. Five local leaders from five wards, two teachers from village school, one from each NGO workers, development

activist, political leaders, VCD and DDC members, leader of women group were taken as key-informant interview to collect appropriate information for the study. Information obtained from unstructured interview was recorded in a personal diary to collect data.

### **3.7.3 Direct Observation**

It is possible to get all necessary information neither from structured questionnaire nor from interview. Therefore qualitative information was also collected through direct observation. Researcher himself is well known to the village and observed the study area during the study time as well to understand its physical and socio-economic setting from the research eye. Observation included livelihood pattern and overall socio-cultural activities.

### **3.8 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

After collecting the responses through the various tools and techniques, the researcher made a fair form of data to accommodate in electronic media. Then the data was properly tabulated, analyzed and interpreted keeping in mind the objectives of the study. The report exposes the rural poverty situation in reference to the social variables like food, shelter, occupation, income, land holding, and education of the study area. For this purpose, the Word Processing Software is used wisely. The standard format for the research report is followed.

While presenting the data, simple statistical tools like frequency and percentage have been used. Likewise, tabulation and graphical representation have also been used. In order to present some quantitative data figures, chart, diagram have been used too. Most serious efforts have been made to interpret data to get the reality as far as possible.

## CHAPTER IV

### DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION OF KASKI DISTRICT

Kaski lies in Gandaki Zone of Western Development Region of Nepal. It has good reputation among the districts of Nepal with respect to many indexes such as infrastructure, education, communication, tourism, water resource, weather etc.

Kaski is about 200 Km west from the capital Kathmandu. The location of Kaski district is 28° 6' north to 28° 36' north latitude and 83°40' east to 84°12' east longitude (DDC 2006). Whereas, Nepal is situated 26°22' north to 30°27' north latitude and 80°04' east to 88°12' east longitude. The total area of this district is about 2017 square kilometer. Whereas area of Nepal is 147181 sq km. Pokhara Sub-metropolitan and Lekhanath Municipality are two major cities. There are 4 election constituencies, 13 Ilaka, 43 VDCs, 420 wards, 1367 Bastis and 85,075 Households. The population, density, PGR, per capita income and household size of this district are respectively 3,80,527, 189 per sq. km., 2.64 %, Rs 13761 and 4.47. In 2011, 4,92,098, 243.97 sq. km, 3.92 are respectively collected as the population, population density and average household size (Census 2011).

The biggest VDC is *Ghandruk* (296.50 Sq Km) and the smallest VDC is *Ghachok* (6.13 Sq Km) whereas the area of Thumki VDC is 24.28 Sq Km. The most populated VDC is Bharatpokhari and the least populated VDC is Namarjung with the population 10115 and 1470 respectively (CBS 2001). The below given table shows the total land area and population of Kaski district.

**Table 4.1: Land Area and Population of Kaski District**

S. N.	Population			% as National Pop <sup>n</sup>	No. of House holds	Average HH Size	Area in sq. km.	Pop <sup>n</sup> density/ Sq.Km.
	Total	Male	Female					
1	3,80,527	1,84,995	1,95,532	1.64	85,075	4.47	2017	189
2	4,92,098	2,36,385	2,55,713	1.86	125673	3.92	2017	243.97

1: Source: **CBS, National Census Report 2001**

2: Source: **CBS, National Census Report 2011**

The animal and plant diversity persisting in Kaski district is also one of the goodness. The population is ethnically and socio-economically heterogeneous. Around 85 casts/ ethnic groups are identified. For example, *Brahmins* with population 114899, *Gurungs* with population 69038, *Chettris* with 55918, *Paswan* 6, *Satar* 1. The Prithvi Highway crosses the district from east-south to west. Kathmandu, Narayangadh, Baglung, Syanga are major cities surrounding Kaski district with its beautiful cities Pokhara (headquarter) and Lekhanath. There are major feeder roads connecting different villages of Kaski district to the main city Pokhara.

There are seven lakes, 2 major caves, 1 falls, many temples, many *gumbas* (Monasteries), many *Musgids*, many *Churches*, many tourist areas, foot trails, historical places, Seti and Madi river, electricity and irrigation projects, Hospitals with almost all facilities, large number of colleges, many banks, hotels, NGOs and INGOs. The regional and zonal government offices are also providing their services by situating in this same district.

The rainfall is 3068 mm to 3353.3 mm and temperature ranges from minimum 5.6°C to maximum 33°C.

## **4.2 BOUNDARY AND ALTITUDE**

Kaski district is surrounded by Lamjung in the east, Manang in the north, Tanahu and Syangja in South and Parbat and Myagdi in the west. It has Himalayan range in the northern part. Besides, two major valleys Pokhara and Lekhanath other parts of this district is full of hills and mountains.

The altitude of this district ranges from 450 m to 7969 m from the sea level. Whereas the altitude of the headquarter Pokhara is 750 meter.

## **4.3 CLIMATE AND SOIL**

Even though the particular climatic study is rare, the general nature of the climate of this district is moderate in the national context. The warmest region Tarai and the coldest region Mountain elaborate this climatic specificity. Because of the uneven land forms with hills and mountains the climate diversity is also found around the district. Thus here we find the three forms of temperature sub-tropical, temperate and cold temperature. The maximum temperature in April is 33 Celsius.

## 4.4 THE SETTING OF STUDY AREA

### 4.4.1 Introduction of Thumki VDC

The study area is Thumki VDC of Kaski district which lies on the Western Development Region of Nepal. This VDC is located at the north-east part of Kaski district connecting to Lamjung District by Madi River. The shortest distance to Prithvi Highway is around 25 Km. from the VDC. The newly constructed *kachhi* road connects this VDC to Rupakot VDC, Lekhnath Municipality and to Pokhara in the west whereas to Karaputar (Ishaneswor) VDC of Lamjung district in the east. The geographical location of this VDC lies between 28° 7' N to 28° 13' N latitude and 84° 7' E to 84° 12' east longitude. The altitude ranges from 450 M to 1420 M. The area, population and household of the VDC are 24.28 Sq. Km, 4034 and 835 respectively (CBS 2001). But only 828 households and 3328 total population is recorded according as census 2011.

This VDC is surrounded by Rupakot and Deurali VDC on the west, Madi river connecting Lamjung district on the east, Siddha VDC on the South and Hamsapur VDC on the north. According to the record of DDC, Kaski (2005) total arable area of land in it is 850 hectares. Out of total arable land 125 hectares have the provision of perennial irrigation facilities and 205 hectares have monsoon irrigation facility. The climatic condition of this VDC is sub-tropical. The main natural resources of the VDC includes a big river coming from the himilayas, streams and rivulets, forests, herbs, soils, stones etc.

**Table 4.2: Total Area of Thumki VDC**

VDC	Area (hectares)	Pop <sup>n</sup> Densitsy per hectare	<i>Khet</i> in Hectares	<i>Pakho</i> in Hectares	Grazing area in hectares	Forest area in hectares	Barren land in hectares
Thumki	2428	1.66	481.05	358.6	332	1083	173.35

### 4.4.2 Climate and Forest Resources

The climatic condition of Kaski supports the growth of sub-tropical and moderate plants and vegetation.

The climate of this VDC is of the temperate type, neither too cold nor too hot. However the parts facing the Himalayas are colder. The clomate of the VDC is good enough for people and vegetation. Climatologically, four distinct seasons are seen in the area.

**Summer:** The season prevails the VDC from April to June. In this season the temperature rises up to the maximum of about 34<sup>0</sup>C in May throughout the village (Chhetri 1993). The atmosphere remains stormy and dusty. During this season days become hot and dry due to scarcity of water in some area of the VDC.

**Monsoon:** Monsoon is a rainy season. It begins in July and ends in September. Rainfall is high during July. The highest rainfall recorded was 1704.7 mm in July 1991 (Chhetri 1993).

**Winter:** Winter season lasts from October to December, with clear sky and cold temperature. Mornings are quite cold and days are warm. Sometimes the cold wave (*sireto*) blowing from the northern Himalayas makes the environment bitterly cold and the temperature falls completely down.

**Spring:** The season lasts from January to March. The season is warm and most pleasant for physical and mental activities of the people.

*Sal, Katus, Chilaune, Sisou, Simal, Sallo, Bar, Pipal, Blair, Chinne, Bans, Champ* etc. are the main tree species vegetation found in the village forest of Thumki VDC as well as in Kaski district. Rural people are getting benefit from community forest. There are fifteen community forest groups (*Ban Samuha*) in the study area. Community forest provides fodder for animals and fuel (firewood) for village people. Community forest also contributes to reduce rural poverty because members of community forest can get house construction materials, firewood, and fodder for animals free of cost or at low cost (Field Survey, 2009).

#### **4.4.3 Agriculture**

Most of the sample households have more than five *Ropanis* of land of which major portion is covered by *Pakho* and only a small part by *Khet*. Most of the parts of *Khet* even do not have well irrigation facility. They grow different summer and winter crops varying from the different nature of land. Paddy, Maize, Millets and Wheat are the main food grains of Thumki village.

Vegetables like cauliflower, green beans, green leaves, cucumber, cabbage, potatoes, pumpkins, radish, bringer etc are grown there. The winter crops are potatoes, wheat, peas etc. Till fifty years back the Sirkutan village was popular in producing chilly, ghee and paddy among the western region. Then *Pokhereli* people were the major consumers. Now the situation is reverse. The production level of the villagers is only of subsistence type. Buffaloes, goat farming, bulls, cows and local chicken are kept as the animal husbandry.



Banana is the only fruit which is produced enough for the villagers and also comes in local market, even sometimes exported to the closer city. Lemon, Orange, papaya, *jimire* are also found in lesser volume. For better agricultural productivity animal fertilizer is used.

The agricultural system is still of the traditional type. No collective initiation has come true till date. There is potentiality of mass production of chilly, papaya, ginger, banana as well as properly organic local ghee. Goat farming too could be highly potential profession.

#### **4.5 CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC SETTING**

The culture of this VDC is obviously Hindu dominant. In terms of religion Buddhism comes second. The population of Hindu, Bauddha, and Islam people is respectively 3707, 316 and 11. Brahman, Magar, Gurung, Dalits (Kami, Damai, Sarki and Sunar), Newar have their different particular cultures. The Hindu festivals *Dashin*, *Thihar*, *Haritalika Tij*, *Janai Purnima*, *Shiva Ratri* and *Loshar* are specially marked. The fundamental patterns of division of caste are now being diluted even if there are more than eleven caste groups.

The culture of traditional agricultural system is still prevailing. *Khainjari– Mujura* (played by *Brahman Chettries too*) and *Panchai Baja* (*Sahanai*, *Dholak*, *Damaha*, *Tamko and Jhyali*) are the musical instruments played in cultural, religious ceremonies and life rites of the people. Gurungs and Magars have more different classical musical instruments. Brahman, *Chettri* and other *Dalit* mark *Sharadda* whereas *Gurungs* and Magar mark *Arghou* for their dead ones' soul rest in peace. Funeral ceremonies too done as per their own rituals. Burning is done by *Brahmin*, *Chettries and Dalits* and buried by Janajaties like Gurung, Magar etc for the last right of the dead.

Till 2020/25 B.S. this VDC was also one of the resourceful VDC and familiar to neighbouring districts especially in the name of "*Sirkutan*" Village. There are still several *kuwas* and ponds constructed for human and animal use but are now ruining because of the operation of drinking water projects and other global phenomena.

People used to produce paddy, barley, maize, *mass* and other grains in larger scale so as to export up to Pokhara and outside. People from neighbouring villages used to come to collect different grains. The chilly was one of the identities of Sirkutan. People from

places so far even from mountain regions (Bhot), Kaski used to come to trade grains and the chilly in both goods-goods and cash-goods approach. The *Bhote* people used to bring *Jiummbu*, *siyo-dhago*, *birenoon*, *sidhenoan* and other medicinal plants to exchange with. Also the production and export of ghee was one the means of livelihood. Slowly the village too became dependent to the modernization constraints and crippled down its agricultural activities.

Now, this VDC is acquainted with the motorable road for last 8 eight years. Public services like electricity, telecommunications (mobile in large scale) and drinking water supply systems are available. There are ten schools including one Higher Secondary (Shivalaya at Thumki) and one Secondary (Jateshwor at Barapirke) scattering in different wards. Agricultural and pastoral activities are in subsistence. Goat farming is emerging as one of the possible earning means even it is too in the traditional approach. The economic activities are becoming passive each year because of the heavy out migration. The road and the transportation facility are facilitating the import rather than export lacking the production of export materials. Peasants, daily wage workers, teachers, shopkeepers, ex-service men are the main professionals.

#### 4.6 DEMOGRAPHIC STATUS OF STUDY AREA

According to national census 2001, the total population of this VDC was 4034 comprising 1854 (45.96 %) male and 2180 (54.04%) female. Average household size is 4.83 with total 835 households. The density of this VDC is 166.15 per sq. km. whilst the density of Nepal itself is 157.3 and the density of Kaski is 189 per sq. km. National Census Report 2011 unveiled 828 Households and total population 3328 (Male: 1500, Female:1828).

**Table 4.3: Ward-wise Population Distribution.**

Ward No.	House Holds		Population					
	No.	Size	Total		Male		Female	
			No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
1	90	5.16	464	11.50	219	47.20	245	52.80
2	95	5.11	485	12.02	225	46.39	260	53.61
3	52	4.52	235	5.83	111	47.23	124	52.77
4	89	5.22	465	11.53	219	47.10	246	52.90

5	158	5.25	830	20.58	386	46.51	444	53.49
6	71	4.14	294	7.29	119	40.48	175	59.52
7	117	4.65	544	13.49	255	46.88	289	53.13
8	72	5.46	324	9.74	178	45.29	215	54.71
9	91	3.56	393	8.03	142	43.83	182	56.17
Total	835	4.83	4034	100.00	1854	45.96	2180	54.04

Source: National Census 2001, CBS Nepal

#### 4.7 POPULATION COMPOSITION BY ETHNICITY

Although the place is geographically not large, more than 17 ethnic groups are smoothly entertaining with different allotment. Most of the people know Nepali language but the ethnics have their own languages.

**Table 4.4: Population and HH combination of Ethnic group in Thumki VDC**

S.N.	Ethnic Groups	Households		Population		Household Size
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	
1	Brahman-Hill	295	35.33	1672	41.45	5.66
2	Magar	95	11.38	507	12.57	5.33
3	Chhetris	87	10.42	455	11.28	5.25
4	Kami	57	6.83	343	8.50	6
5	Gurung	44	5.27	308	7.64	7
6	Newar	64	7.66	255	6.32	4
7	Damai/Dholi	31	3.71	146	3.62	4.75
8	Gharti/Bhujel	23	2.75	114	2.83	5
9	Sarki- Nepali	13	1.56	69	1.71	5.5
10	Sunar	6	0.72	26	0.64	4.25
11	Thakuri	6	0.72	24	0.59	4.25
12	Majhi	NA	NA	24	0.59	NA
13	Rajput	NA	NA	14	0.35	NA
14	Muslim	NA	NA	11	0.27	NA
15	Sanyasi	NA	NA	10	0.25	NA
16	Tamang	NA	NA	8	0.20	NA
17	Chhantel	NA	NA	7	0.17	NA

18	Unidentified Dalit	NA	21	0.52	NA
19	Unidentified	NA	NA	12	0.30
20	Others	NA	NA	8	0.20
	Total	835		4034	100

Hindus and the Buddhists have the dominant presence whereas Muslims and Christians are in a small number. The inhabitants of the study area are from more than 17 cast groups as presented in the following table.

#### 4.8 POPULATION COMPOSITION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS

Only eight ethnic groups are included in accordance to the field survey. The sampled ethnic groups, their population, household numbers and the household size are presented in the following table.

**Table 4.5: The Composition of Sample Population By Ethnicity**

S. N.	Ethnic Groups	Households		Population				HH Size
		No	%	M	F	Tot	%	
1	Brahmins	24	48	72	64	136	48.22	5.66
2	Magar	6	12	14	18	32	11.34	5.33
3	Chettris	4	8	12	9	21	07.44	5.25
4	Kami (BK)	2	4	5	4	11	04.25	6.00
5	Gurung	4	8	21	10	31	11.00	7.00
6	Damai (Pariyar)	4	8	10	9	19	06.34	4.75
7	Gharti (Bhujel)	4	8	13	7	20	07.09	5.00
8	Sarki (Nepali)	2	4	7	7	12	03.90	5.50
		50	100	154	182	282		5.56

In this VDC out of total 4034 population having mother tongue Nepali, Gurung, Magar, Newar and other are respectively 3664, 291, 34, 30 and 15.

#### 4.9 SEX-WISE POPULATION COMPOSITION

**Table 4.6: Sex-wise Population Composition of Sample Wards**

Sample Ward No	No. of HH	Population						HH Size
		Total	%	Male	%	Female	%	
6	71	294	18.91	119	40.47	175	59.53	4.14

7	117	544	34.98	255	46.87	289	63.13	4.64
8	72	324	20.84	142	43.83	182	56.17	4.5
9	91	393	25.27	178	45.29	215	54.71	4.31
Total	351	1555	100	694	44.63	861	55.37	4.43

Source: Field Survey, 2009

In every ward the female population is higher than the male population. Male population is only 45.96 in the VDC. In case of sample, the % of male population is 44.63%.

#### 4.10 AGE GROUP COMPOSITION OF SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS

**Table 4.7: Age Group Composition of Sampled Households**

Age group	Sampled Wards				Total	%
	6	7	8	9		
0-14	17	18	25	18	78	27.65
15-59	30	57	54	38	179	63.83
60+	5	8	7	5	25	08.51
Total	52	82	110	60	282	99.99
Households	9	14	17	10	50	

In other words the population of the active age group (15-59) is 63.83 %. Which is not so critical in the sense that the ratio of economically active and dependent population.

## CHAPTER V

### STATE OF POVERTY IN THE STUDY AREA

In this study any particular poverty index is not calculated and interpreted which is also the limitation of this study. Instead different parameters of a community which are directly related to the poverty are used through which one can evaluate the state of poverty of the Thumki VDC.

#### 5.1 POPULATION COMPOSITION

The following table presents sampled ward wise economically active population composition. It is clearly seen that 63.83 % of the people of this VDC are from the economically active age group. Only 36.16 % population from the dependent age group shows that the population composition of age group is not much affecting on the poverty of the VDC. Table 4.10 describes this well.

#### 5.2 OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS

**Table 5.2: Occupational Distribution of Sample Households**

S.N.	Occupation	No. of Households	%	Population Involved	%
1	Agriculture	46	92	80	44.44
2	Study	48	96	104	49.64
3	Service	28	56	42	23.33
4	Wage-labor	24	48	30	16.66
5	Business	10	20	12	6.66
6	Foreign Employment	12	24	16	8.88
7	Industry	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.00

*Source: Field Survey 2009*

All the 50 households have economically active members. In total 180 people are found from the economically active age group. Nobody is involved in industry; only 6.66 % of people are earning their lives through business, 44.44 % and 49.64 % of people are doing subsistence agriculture and study in different level or classes respectively. This scenario is enough to understand the state of rural poverty in Thumki VDC.

### 5.3 ASSET HOLDING OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THUMKI VDC

**Table 5.2:** Asset Holding of Households in Thumki VDC

S.N.	Items	Number of Households	%
1	Agricultural Land only	28	3.38
2	Livestock only	9	1.08
3	Poultry only	5	0.06
4	Land & Livestock only	188	22.5
5	Land & Poultry	9	1.07
6	Livestock & Poultry	8	0.97
7	Land, Livestock, Poultry	550	65.86
8	None of all	38	4.55
Total		835	100

*Source: National Census 2001, CBS Nepal*

The data presented in the table shows 65.86% of Households have land, Livestock and poultry which is in subsistence level. Thus remaining Households are clearly under the poverty line.

### 5.4 LITERACY STATUS OF THUMKI VDC BY SEX

**Table 5.3:** Literacy Status of Thumki VDC by Sex ( 6+ age group)

S.N.	Status	M	F	Tot	%
1	Read and Write	1175	973	2148	61.97
2	Read only	85	42	127	03.66
3	Can't read/write	277	864	1141	32.91
4	Not Stated	8	42	50	01.44

*Source: National Census 2001, CBS Nepal*

61.97 % of literacy is average in national level. From the aspect of literacy the poverty of national level seems to be equal with this VDC. In other words approximately 38% of illiteracy shows the state of poverty from the literacy point of view.

## 5.5 EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS

**Table 5.4: Education Status by Sample Population (6<sup>+</sup> age)**

S.N.	Level of Education	Sample Population			%
		M	F	Total	
1.	Illiterate	12	37	49	17.75
2.	Just literate (Grade 1-5)	40	44	84	30.65
3.	Literate (Grade 6-10)	58	30	88	32.12
4.	S.L.C. Passed	24	14	38	13.87
5.	Higher Education	15	2	17	6.20
Total		149	127	276	

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Table no. 5.5 shows shows the level of education in the study area. About 30.65 percent of population is just literate and 62.77 percent population is under S.L.C excluding the illiterates. As the VDC had literacy rate 59 % in 2001 we assume it better according to national figure of 54.1 % of National Census 2001.

Total illiterate population consists of 17.15 percent of the population above 6 year. Only 20 percent of them are S.L.C. passed and only 6.20 percent have received higher education. Before few decades, this percentage was even lower.

## 5.6 FAMILY SIZE

**Table 5.5: Family Size of the Sample Households**

S.N.	Family Size	Brahmin	Chhetri	Magar	Gurung	Bhujel (Gharti)	Nepali (Sarki)	Pariyar (Damai)	Bi Ka (Kami)	Total	%
1	Up to 3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.0
2	4 – 5	14	2	4	2	4	2	4	0	32	64
3	6 – 7	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	11	22
4	8 & above	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	10
	Total	24	4	6	4	4	2	4	2		



The family size does not seem significantly influencing the poverty level in rural areas. Many better off families found having more than 6 family members whereas the weaker families found having 3 to 4 family members.

## 5.7 SIZE OF CULTIVATED LANDHOLDING

**Table 5.6: Sample Households by Size of Land Holding**

S.N.	Size of Land Holding	No. of Households	%
1	Landless	2	4.0
2	0 – 2 ropani	5	10
3	3 – 5 ropani	9	18
4	6 – 8 ropani	6	12
5	9 – 11 ropani	4	8.0
6	12 – 14 ropani	6	12
7	15 and above	18	36
Total		50	100

Although the amount of land holding is normal the production is less so that it only caters 30 % people for the whole year. In fact all the land is non irrigated. The irrigation of village field is determined by the monsoon. Where it could be irrigated from the water of stream there is no settlement of the people. Only the plantation of paddy is the custom of this *besi* field which occupies more than 50 % of the field.

Even more now a days it is of less meaning that whether a family owns more land. Because of the out migration people have no more attraction towards the substantial agricultural system and the modern agricultural system has not became possible. No level of enthusiasm is left on the villagers towards this long run agriculture letting them only survive witnessing the different outer world.

## 5.8 SIZE OF CULTIVATED LAND

As in other rural parts of the country land is the main asset or means of production. Unfortunately, there is no means of permanent irrigation. The nature of land on the basis of irrigation facility is presented in the below table which indicates the fertility of the land as well.

**Table 5.7: Size of Cultivated Land**

S.N.	Type of Land	Amount in	Average per HH	%
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		ropani		
1	<i>Khet</i> (seasonal irrigation)	436	8.72	58.76
2	<i>Pakho</i> (monsoon irrigation)	306	6.12	41.24
		742	14.84	100

The average size of land holding is 14.84 *ropani*. Despite the fact that every HH have 8.72 *ropani* of *Khet* and 6.12 *ropani* of *Pakho* the food is not sufficient to the VDC. Fundamentally, the quality of land and its nature is hilly. Irrigation depends only on monsoon. Professional and technological approaches are not used to have agricultural production. Thus catering only 30 % of Households for the whole year by their own production is the food reality of this VDC.

## 5.9 HOUSING STRUCTURE

The houses are important indexes too for analyzing the poverty/prosperity level. The prevalence of the traditional houses is becoming dilute with the new ones with *jasta* roof. The newly made houses are of almost this type. The following table depicts the types of houses of the sample households. The furniture, internal home appliances and other quality materials also indicates the economic aspect of the family but this part is excluded in this study in the sense that while the gross proof and evidences are manifested why the latent subtle proofs needed to search.

**Table 5.8: Housing Structure of the Sample Households**

S.N.	House Structure	No of House	%
1	Rough wood, bamboo and mud wall	2	4
2	Stone and mud wall with straw roof	18	36
3	Stone and mud wall with <i>Jasta</i> roof	22	44
4	Stone and mud wall with stone roof	2	4
5	Cemented wall with <i>jasta</i>	4	8
6	Having no home	2	4
	Total	50	100

**Table 5.8.1: Number of Rooms of Sample Households**

No of rooms	0	1	2	3	4	5
No of Households	2	8	12	4	14	10

Total number of rooms:  $8 + 24 + 12 + 56 + 50 = 150$

Average number of rooms in the sample households is three where as the average household size is 5.64 thus one room nearly accommodates two people. It is seen that each house has three rooms in average which cannot considered as poverty.

### 5.10 LEVEL OF FOOD SUFFICIENCY ON THE STUDY AREA

72 % people responded that the food produced on their own field is insufficient.

**Table 5.9: Level of Food Sufficiency of the Sample Households**

S.N.	Food Sufficient for	HH No.	%
1	Less than one month	8	16
2	Three months	12	24
3	Six months	11	22
4	Nine months	4	8
5	Twelve months	15	30
6	More than 12 months	-	-

This is a very striking point that the villagers work the whole year on their fields but only 30% Households are self reliant on their productions. This is the area of production where 92 % Households are involved. 44.4 % economically active age group people have devotion on agricultural activities whereas only 70 % of the total population faces the food scarcity.

### 5.11 TYPE OF ENERGY IN USE

The following table shows the type of energy used by the sample Households.

**Table 5.10: Type of Energy Used by Households**

Type of Energy	Firewood	Bio-gas	LP-gas	Kerosene	Electricity
No. of Households	49	4	2	0	0
%	98	8	4	0	0

Number of households using both firewood and bio-gas is 4, LP-gas and firewood both is 1, LP-gas only was 1. Thus, 98 % of the household use firewood as the dominant source of energy that obviously is one of major poverty index.

### 5.12 DEPENDENCY RATE

The following table shows the rate of dependents' on the sample households. The dependent population rate is 36.16% whereas 63.83 % of people are working from the economically active age group.

**Table 5.11: Dependents' Number of Sample Households**

No of dependent Population	1	2	3	4
Households No	17	12	7	10

### 5.13 THE STATE OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP

The following table shows the number of households under the leadership of female by the sample wards.

**Table 5.12: State of Female Leadership in Sample Households**

S.N.	Sample Wards	No. of Households	Households Under Female Leadership	% of Female Leadership
1	6	71	15	21.12
2	7	117	78	66.66
3	8	72	33	45.83
4	9	91	21	23.07

This seems indicating the amount of gender equality on the Thumki VDC but there are many other jeopardizing factors that let females take responsibility. Normally it is because of the out migration of the male member of the family. Sometimes it is because of the death of the husband and other male in-laws. Normally the sex balance in leadership of a family contributes in poverty alleviation.

### 5.14 STATE OF WATER RESOURCE

The following table shows the state of water availability in Thumki VDC.

**Table 5.13: Water Resource of Sample Wards**

Water Resource	Wards			
	6	7	8	9
Wells (spring)	3	5	4	5
Taps	3	5	22	12
Population	294	544	324	393

According to the data published by DDC Kaski in 2061 BS, the population benefited by water project in this VDC is 2577. This is 32 % of the total population of 8034. Besides forty two taps, there are seventeen springs (*kuwa*) and three classical stone *dhara* on the four sample wards catering 1555 people. According to the World Health Organization, the water source has to be within 1,000 meters of the home and

collection time should not exceed 30 minutes (WHO, 2012). Since every house has the facility of drinking water within the distance half an hour it can be assumed as a good condition but no water taps are linked to an individual household.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **CAUSES OF RURAL POVERTY**

In simple, rural poverty refers existence of poverty in the rural areas. Its nature may be either absolute or relative. In general, rural poverty in developing economies is absolute poverty at the mass level. As a hurdle in the path of development in the developing economies, such poverty always remains as a challenge. Poverty is a complex phenomenon as a heap of factors such as capital, land, education, employment, wage rate etc. The researcher knows that the less educated, the young, the old aged, households headed by women, unemployed and underemployed, fully employed in low income paid job etc. have created high poverty rate in the study area. Often a number of factors can be identified as the causes of poverty. Therefore, causes of rural poverty with respect to the sample households are as follows:

#### **6.1 WEAK ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

Though people are busy in agriculture, service, wage-labour, foreign service and business they are having less economic benefits. The detail of the occupation of the villagers is given in table 5.2.

The agriculture keeping busy 92% of Households and 44.4% of total population is almost subsistence. Only 30% of the Households are capable of supplying required amount of food they need during the whole year. Similarly wage-labour is neither regularly available nor paid well amount. Regarding the profession of service, some work in local schools, some work in government posts, private sector in different districts of Nepal. A major part has gone for Foreign Service mainly in India, Arabian countries, Europe and other countries too. Since only those who earns less than needed to settle in city reside in the village the poverty situation of the VDC is not improving.

The more number of people are involved in agriculture the less chance to be any country economically strong. Although every house has economically active member and in total 180 people are from the economically active age group the condition of economic activity is critical. There is not a single industry. This means there is no use of technology at all. Since not having a single industry, 8.88% people are in foreign employment, only 6.66 % people are involved in business the condition of poverty is severe. Neither there is any

natural resource that have been wisely used nor the jungle resource is used in a productive and integrated way. Lacking the sufficient population there is neither any market nor any business consequently leading the VDC in the deep-rooted poverty. Moreover, the service and wage-labour they do is paid less and the agricultural product is not sufficient for them. In gist there very less objects to sell out (export) in comparison to the objects to purchase (import). This is the root cause of the poverty prevailing around the VDC.

**Figure 6.1: Relation of Capital, Investment and Production**

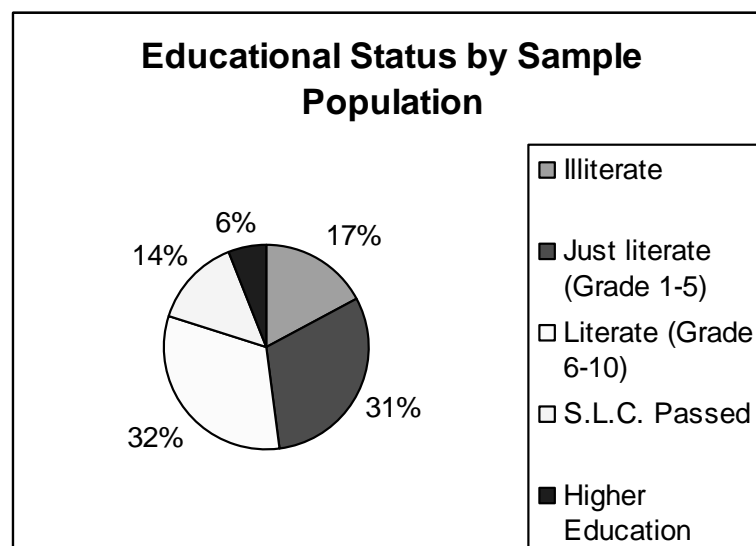


## 6.2 LOW LEVEL OF EDUCATION

One of the prominent causes of poverty is lack of education. While discussing the causes of poverty sample household's educational backwardness can be cited as one of the foremost reasons. So the situation of rural poverty is also influenced by the literacy status of society. Most of the poor people are usually found illiterate either due to their low income or illiteracy heredities. Table 5.5 shows the level of education of this VDC.

The above table shows the level of education in the study area. About 30.65 percent of population is just literate and 62.77 percent population is under S.L.C excluding the illiterates. Total illiterate population consists of 17.15 percent of the population above 6 year. Only 20 percent of them are S.L.C. passed and only 6.20 percent have received higher education. Before few decades, this percentage was even lower. The data in the above table has been presented in a pie-diagram below:

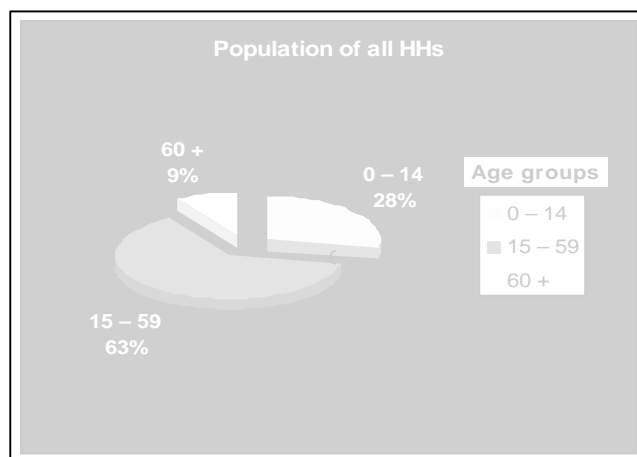
**Figure 6.2: Educational Status by Sample Population**



### 6.3 MISSING YOUTH POPULATION AND EFFORTS

Neither there is proper ratio of youth population nor any united effort of production of any thing is carried out by the residents of the VDC. Lacking the entrepreneurship, amidst the availability or possibilities of many professions or production activities the VDC people is facing the poverty in all dimensions.

**Figure 6.3: Population Composition of Sample Households**



Despite of the availability of the transportation service, electricity, communications, drinking water and schools for a decade the state of poverty remains severe. It concludes the primary thing essential for the reduction of poverty is the production of what we can consume or sell. In absence of these factors, the out migration is increasing leaving the helpless peoples only i.e. child, old, females in the village. This kind of manpower can't contribute to the development in one side and in the another side youths in the village are skillless and not making any united effort to have output from the available resources.

### 6.4 LACK OF PROPER FERTILE LAND

This VDC lies in the hilly region and furthermore the VDC itself is a hill. Thus, inclined land having irrigation problems and non-professional agricultural system the agricultural production is not sufficient to the VDC. The top parts of the hills in the VDC are generally dry and stony. These parts therefore are usually barren and not useful for cultivation, and habitation. Thus the infertile land discourages people to harvest grains, cereals and beans. The pastoral system too is subsistence type. Some are earning so that to partially assist their annual expenses.



Land is one of the major assets of the study area and a major factor determining the socio-economic status of the rural household. Landless condition and limited access to land are the major factors responsible for poverty. There is positive relationship between productive land holding and income while a negative relationship between unproductive land holding and poverty. 60% of the population are having less than ten *ropani* of land including both *khet* and *Pakho*. Table 5.2 depicts details on the situation of size of land holding.

**Table 6.1: Size of Land Holding**

S.N.	Size of Land Holding	No. of Households	%
1	Landless	2	4.0
2	0 – 2 ropani	5	10
3	3 – 5 ropani	9	18
4	6 – 8 ropani	6	12
5	9 – 11 ropani	4	8.0
6	12 – 14 ropani	6	12
7	15 and above	18	36
Total		50	100

*\*Land size is measured in Ropani and both Khet and Pakho have included.*

Out of 50 households, two poor households are landless as shown in the above table. 10 % of households have less than two *ropani* of land. Only 15 Households have 15 *ropani* land including the *khet* and *pakho* both. Although the amount of land owning is normal the production is less so that it only caters 30 % people for the whole year. In fact all the land is non irrigated properly. The irrigation of village field is determined by the monsoon. Where it could be irrigated from the water of stream there is no settlement of the people. The valley people have to walk minimum of 45 minutes from the village to reach their *besi*. Only the plantation of paddy is the custom of this *besi* field which occupies more than 50 % of the field.

Even more now a days it is of less meaning that whether a family owns more land. Because of the out migration, old-aged people, steep and no irrigated land non-agricultural sentiment/atmosphere the proper utilization of the land is not being too. People have no more attraction towards the substantial agricultural system and the professionalism and modern agricultural system has not became possible. No level of

enthusiasm is remaining on the villagers towards this long run agriculture letting them only survive witnessing the different outer world.

People who used to produce grains and sell to local and other market now are only feeding themselves and their siblings staying in the cities. Most of them have given their field over to farm because of the lack and interest and crisis of work force.

## **6.5 POOR STATE OF WAGE LABOUR**

Wage labour is not the interest of anyone. Once lacking the production means it is one of the compulsion to continue to survive. It again maintains the 'vicious circle of poverty' and the person falls on the poverty trap. In this VDC, because of the lacking of economic activities very few human resource is required. It is required only for the seasonal agriculture while harvesting paddy, maize, wheat and millet etc. People cannot afford laborers due to the poor economic condition. They do it by turn by turn i.e. *Parma* System. On the other hand, they are paid less for their wage. In some cases they are unpaid or grains are offer instead of their remuneration. Amidst these circumstances, there are people who depend on wage labor. This gives us one ray to understand the poverty level of the VDC.

The lack of productive assets and potential human capital means that the households have to exclusively earn from their physical labor for sustenance. Hence poverty problems across households can be explained in terms of this exclusive dependence on wage labour. Intensity of poverty varies across the households and the same is an account of variations in the characteristics of employment such as employment availability and earning and dependency rate. Obviously the village wage is very low and which is also seasonal implying the high rate of unemployment. This all suggests one of the causes of poverty 'depending on the wage income' can be counted influential. This also varies house to house on the study area. The statistics shows 30 % of the total people from working age group from 24 houses involve in wage labour.

## **6.6 HIGH DEPENDENCY RATIO**

The part of dependent population is also one of the reasons of poverty. This is true also in case of Thumki VDC. The percentage of population under 15 years is 27.65 and above 16 is 08.51. Thus the total dependent population percentage is 36.16. Thus the ratio of economically active population to the dependent age group population is 1: 0.57. Table

4.10 gives the detail of the age distribution showing in the following bar graph. Since the underemployment and unemployment is very high the economically active population should also be counted under the dependent population in fact. But above data is presented in term of the number of economically active age group and the other.

## **6.7 HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

Obviously there is no means of employment besides the schools for some teachers and VDC office and Sub-Health Post for assistant workers only. Agricultural employment is negligible because of lack of professional farming system. People do their work in collaboration on the turn by turn basis i.e. *Parma*. People go to the nearest cities, India and Arabian countries to earn hard. Because of the need of heavy investment for European and American job market people from the VDC normally cannot reach there. Similarly due to the crisis of investment they are not being able to invest for business purposes. Income generating and production oriented activities aren't started yet in the absence of strong determination, united effort and dynamic leadership.

## **6.8 LOW LEVEL OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

People have limited resources for their daily expenditures. Only 30% people are independent in food and grains for the whole year.

Every agricultural activities/production is of subsistence level. Livestock, nominal cash crops are being produced which is working like the drop of water in the ocean in the context of the demand of the people in their daily and occasional necessities. Opposite to the decades ago, due to many reasons stated in different parts of this dissertation, the state of the VDC is helpless losing most of its strengths.

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

#### 7.1 SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

- J 72 % people responded that the food produced on their own field is insufficient for them. They have limited access to land, irrigation and credit facilities. They are reported to be rather slow in adopting modern agricultural techniques. 60% people are having less than 10 *ropani* of land both including *khet* and *pakho*.
  
- J 92 % of Households and 44.4 % of total population is almost subsistence. Only 30 % of the Households are capable of supplying required amount of food they need for the whole year. Since not having a single industry, 8.88% people are in foreign employment, only 6.66 % people are involved in business the condition of poverty is severe. Moreover the service and wage-labour they do is paid less and the agricultural product is not sufficient for themselves. In gist there are very less objects to sell out (export) in comparison to the objects to purchase (import). This is the root cause of the poverty prevailing around the VDC.
  
- J The percentage of population under 15 years is 27.65 and above 60 is 08.51. Thus the total dependent population percentage is 36.16. Thus the ratio of economically active population to the dependent age group population is 1: 0.57.
  
- J They find themselves in a worried and helpless condition and disappear from the village towards the urban areas expecting the employment or some business. There is one place in Ratnanagar Municipality in Chitwan named after this VDC because of the large number of Households migrated from this VDC. Since only those who earns less than needed to settle in city reside in the village the poverty situation of the VDC is not improving. In some cases, people sell their assets and take the capital where they are migrating or going to migrate.
  
- J 17.15% of total population is illiterate and 30.65% of it was found just literate having educated with below than fifth grade. Only 13.87% of people have SLC graduation and many of them are residing outside the VDC to acquire more education or for some other profession for the struggle of life. 6.20% of people are

having higher degree. Ward no. 3 (Syastri Village) have no school at all. The students from this village need to walk 1 hour to 2 hours for the primary and secondary schools respectively.

- J Out of 50 households, two poor households are landless. 10 % of households have less than two *ropani* of land. Only 15 Households have 15 *ropani* land including the *khet* and *pakho* both. Although the amount of land owning is normal the production is less so that it only caters 30 % people for the whole year. In fact all the land is non irrigated properly. The irrigation of village field is determined by the monsoon. Where it could be irrigated from the water of stream there is no settlement of the people. The valley people have to walk minimum of 45 minutes from the village to reach their *besi*. Only the plantation of paddy is the custom of this *besi* field which occupies more than 50 % of the field.
- J They rarely bring their production for the purpose of sell in very small amount to the market areas of the VDC itself and very rarely to the headquarter of Kaski District i.e. Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City. This is negligible in comparison with the amount of chilly, ghee and paddy they used to supply fifty years ago. The sell of other domestic products, agricultural tools and livestock is also almost nil.
- J The infertile land discourages people to harvest grains, cereals and beans. The pastoral system too is subsistence type. Some are earning so that to partially assist their annual expenses. Lacking the entrepreneurship, amidst the availability or possibilities of many professions or production activities the VDC people is facing the poverty in all dimensions.
- J In Thumki VDC most of the peoples are in farming occupation only few persons are in different sectors like army, police, businessman, teacher and so others, nowadays most of the young people are going aboard country and peoples migrating to Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City, Chitwan district and other places is very high. It is because of different factors like less agricultural productivity, decreasing interest on subsistence agriculture and other professions in search of the better standard of living and alternative ways of earning.

) Gender disparities also found in this VDC. Women employment and participation in social and political activities is very limited. Most of the women are confined in the household activities being subordinated by the male member. Even in the labour market women are paid Rs.125 whereas men get 250-300 for the same work and time. The discrimination between son and daughter is clearly seen in terms of their recognition, education, marriage age, freedom etc. The women' legal right in parental property ensured by the Interim Constitution 2063 B.S. is still not in practice.

) Neither there is proper ratio of youth population nor is any united effort for production of any thing carried out by the residents of the VDC. Lacking the entrepreneurship, amidst the availability or possibilities of many professions or production activities the VDC people is facing the poverty in all dimensions (Picture 7).

) Despite of the availability of the transportation service, electricity, communications, drinking water and schools for a decade the state of poverty remains severe. It concludes the primary thing essential for the reduction of poverty is the production of what we can consume or sell. In absence of these factors, the out migration is increasing leaving the helpless peoples only i.e. child, old, females in the village.

## **7.2 CONCLUSION**

There are the means of transportation, electricity, communications, water supply, basic health facilities, high schools up to +2 level but the standard of people is not improving in expected way. Therefore, the poverty and development concerned to something else rather than in the infrastructures and facilities.

As in other rural areas, due to lack of industries and institutes the employment opportunities are lacking beyond agricultural sector. In reality a large number of rural people are incapable of meeting basic requirement like food, cloths, shelter, health, education etc. i.e. rural people have facing poverty problems.

Poverty in rural areas is basically caused by low productivity of agriculture. The limited base and inadequate growth rate of non-agricultural sector in the economy. Similarly the

lack of exploitable mineral resources, poor agricultural policy and topographical disadvantages are also responsible for its economic backwardness and poverty. As well as there is low level of per capita income in rural sector there is low rate of saving, which turn lead to low rate of investment and capital formations. In connection with these realities, the reliance of farmers on traditional inputs and prevailing technology can also be assumed as the cause of poverty. development effort of the government are also very limited. The private sector is also not properly developed. All these factors are accountable for wide spread of poverty among the people living in the VDC.

Landless condition and limited access to land are the major factors responsible for poverty. There is positive relationship between productive land holding and income while a negative relationship between unproductive land holding and poverty.

Poverty is one of the main characteristics of the rural areas of Nepal because more than 88 percent people live in rural areas and all most all of them are engaged in agricultural sector for their livelihood. Therefore, we can say that the maximum percent of the poverty problem is in agriculture sector. The productivity in agriculture sector is very low an account of irrigation, fertilizers and agricultural credits, backward technology, small and fragmented holding of land etc

Poverty is the main obstacle to the economic growth of the country. The problem of poverty arises due to various reasons such as small size of land holding lack of market facilities lower literacy rate unemployment problem, large family size etc.

The objective of this study was to explore overall situation of rural poverty of the village based upon the facts examined by scientific tools and methodologies. Particularly, to identify the state of rural poverty of Thumki VDC of Kaski and to suggest some effective measures for reducing poverty in the study area were two objectives.

72 % of the people are facing food deprivation. They have land, more or less, giving insufficient grain production for the twelve months. Neither professional harvesting of vegetable or livestock nor any employment possibility in alternative sectors is seen. This means it has very less production of goods and commodities and almost no sells at all.

Some of the poor are landless or those who have their own land in very small size are living in very small hut with very large family size so far their feeding is concerned they are ill-fed badly suffering from hunger and malnutrition they are frequently ill due badly suffering from hunger and malnutrition. They are frequently ill due to insufficient

nutrition as are their clothing is concerned they are badly clothed most of them wear rags and torn clothes in regards to education most of the poor are illiterate in regards to ethnic group most of the poor are occupational caste as they become the age of 8 or 9, they have to work for earning

The country has enormous potential for raising GDP through maximum utilization of opportunities available in the areas of agro-processing industry, tourism, hydropower, high-value herbs processing industry, education and health. Mobilization of domestic and foreign investments becomes very much necessary for enhancing the use of available exclusive natural wealth. Amidst the current uneasy atmosphere to attract investments, attention of all concerned needs to be drawn towards this reality. It is a challenging responsibility of creating interest of all concerned towards the fact that investments in such industries can make solid contribution towards reducing unemployment and alleviate poverty.

The more number of people are involved in agriculture the less chance to be any country economically strong. Although every house has economically active member and in total 180 people are from the economically active age group the condition of economic activity is critical. Similarly, wage-labour is neither regularly available nor paid well. In gist, there are very less objects for export purpose in comparison to the objects to import. This is the root cause of the poverty prevailing around the VDC.

A big question mark has emerged on our skill of overall economic management in a situation where the Nepalese economy entangled in the vortex of economic sluggishness amidst the double-digit price rise thereby adversely affecting the purchasing power and living standard of Nepalese people. Hence, there is the necessity of wider reform initiatives on development efforts, investments, and regulatory areas for expanding the economy. The nation is also being made to bear adverse supply shock due to frequent *Bandhs*, *chakka jams*, strikes etc. For this, national imperative is making sufficient legal arrangements and ensuring effective enforcement of those provisions for completely banning *Bandhs*, strikes especially against transportation and movements of the people for allowing the country's economy move ahead in a smooth and natural way, and also providing relief to the people's livelihood.



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## ANNEX I

### Local Villages in Different Wards of Thumki VDC

Ward No	Name of Local Villages	Ethnicity	Key Informants	Remarks Feature
1	Hatia, Dargauntar	Newar, Chettri, Dura Brahmin, Gurung, Dalits, Magar, Muslim	Krishna Bdr Godar	Primary School
2	Raikar, Barhampirke Phalyangkot	Magar, Chettri,	Bal Bdr Ale Ganesh Parajuli	<i>Lahure Basti</i> Secondary School
3	Systri	Brahmin, Dalits	Lekhanath Khanal	Orange Cultivation No School, Low population
4	Deupur besi, Kuwapani	Brahmin, Magar, Chettri	Suya Pd. Koirala Bhola Pd Gautam	Close to lamjung, Primary School
5	Chapakha, Chyarpe, Ratamata, Systri	Gurung, Magar, Brahmin, Chettri	Buddhi Bdr Gurung	Orange cultivation Lower Secondary and Primary School
6	Pelunga, Ukhubari	Brahmin, Dalits	Prem Pd. Dhungana 'Saildai'	<i>Purets</i> , Primary School
7	Machkot, Thumki, Dandapari	Gurung, Magar, Dalits	Bal Bdr Gurung Som Bdr. B.K. Deepak Sonam	Centre of VDC, Higher Secondary School, Shivalaya
8	Sirkutan, Tallathock, Panibanda, Dadapari	Brahmin, Bhujel (Gharti),	Bhoja Raj Ojha Surya Bdr Bhujel	Primary School, Shiva Mandir
9	Sirkutan, Dandagaun, Kallari, Bhakyuda, Tallathock, Dharapani,	Brahmin, Chettri, Damai	Ramchandra Ojha Prem Chettri	A famous traditional stone tap,

## ANNEX II

### General Services Available in Different Wards of Thumki VDC

Ward No	School/ Education	Transport	Water Supply	Electricity	Communication	Health	Mail Post
1	Sarasawati Primary	Motorable road	50 % tap 50 % spring	Partial areas	NTC CDMA Mobiles	20 to 45 min walk to SHP	Thumki
2	Jateshwor Secondary	Motorable Road	Taps, 20 min walk to well	Available	NTC CDMA Mobiles	SHP	Thumki
3	-----	Motorable Road	Tap and well good facility	Partial	NTC CDMA Mobiles	Half an hour walk	Thumki
4	Chandi Primary	Motorable Road	Tap and well good facility	Available	NTC CDMA Mobiles	Half an hour walk	Thumki
5	Kalika LSS Rithumala PS	Motorable Road	sufficient	Partial	NTC CDMA Mobiles	two hour walk	Thumki
6	Pragatisil PS	Motorable Road	Tap and well good facility	Available	NTC CDMA Mobiles	Pvt. Clinic 1 hr to SHP	Thumki
7	Shivalaya SC Bhairav Kalika PS	Motorable Road	Taps enough water supply in shortage	Available	NTC CDMA Mobiles	1 hr walk to SHP and pvt. Clinic	Thumki
8	Balbikas PS	Motorable Road	Enough water supply	Available	NTC CDMA Mobiles	1 hr to SHP 20 min. clinic	Thumki
9	Kuleshwor PS	Motorable Road	Problem in water supply	Available	NTC CDMA Mobiles	50 min. to SHP	Thumki

**ANNEX III**  
**Administered Questionnaire**

Name: ..... Caste: .....  
 Age: ..... Religion: .....  
 Ward No: ..... Occupation: .....  
 House No: ..... Education: .....

1. Please write your family structure by age, sex education and occupation .

S.N.	Age	Sex	Education	Occupation
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

2. What is the nature of your house, tick one?

- 1 Rough wood, bamboo and mud wall
- 2 Stone and mud wall with straw roof
- 3 Stone and mud wall with *Jasta* roof
- 4 Stone and mud wall with stone roof
- 5 Cemented wall with *jasta*
- 6 Other type
- 7 Having no home
- 8 Number of rooms in the house (write) .....

3. What type of cultivated land you have with amount in ropani?

Type of Land	Area ( in ropani)
Irrigated	
Non- irrigated	
Total	

4. What is the main source of irrigation?

- a) Kulo
- b) Stream
- c) Monsoon rain
- d) Others

5. Is the food production sufficient for your family?  
 a) Yes  b) No
6. Food sufficient period.  
 a. Nill (less than one month)  d) for nine months   
 b. For three months  e) for 12 months   
 c. For six months  f) more than one year
7. Have you benefited from any NGO/INGO for poverty alleviation programme?  
 If yes, which NGO/INGO? .....
8. Do your children attain school daily?  
 a) Yes b) No
9. From where your family takes health services?  
 a) Health Post  b) Hospital   
 c) Traditional Practitioner  d) Private Clinic
10. Do your family members adopt family planning devices? If yes of what type?  
 a) Temporary  b) Permanent
11. What is your source of income?  
 a) Farming  b) Service   
 c) Wage labour  d) Business   
 e) Livestock  f) Other
12. What source of drinking water do you use?  
 a) Public tap  b) Well   
 c) stream  d) Other
13. What type of energy is used for cooking purpose?  
 a) Firewood b) Biogas  
 c) Electricity d) Kerosene
14. The literacy of family members.

S.N.	Level of Education	Sample Population		
1.	Illiterate			
2.	Just literate (Grade 1-5)			
3.	Literate (Grade 6-10)			
4.	S.L.C. Passed			
5.	Higher Education			

15. Occupation distribution by sex

Name of Occupation	Female	Male	Total
Agriculture			
Wage labour			
Service			
Business			
Others			

16. What is employment status of working age member?

- a) Fully employed       b) Semi-employed       c) Unemployed

17. Number of dependent members on economically active member.

- a) No dependent       b) One       c) Two   
 d) Three       e) 4 and more

18. Does you family income sufficient for your household needs?

- a) Yes       b) No

If No, how much is insufficient? Rs .....

19. What is the cause of insufficient income (if)?

- a. Lack of sufficient land.   
 b. Lack of sufficient manpower.   
 c. Lack of employment.   
 d. Lack of market for agro products.

20. Annual income of your family from agricultural product.

Product Name	Production Amount	Price per Unit	Total Income
Paddy			
Corn			
Millet			
Wheat			
Potato			
Pulses			
Vegetable			
Oilseeds			
Fruits			
Others			

21. Annual income from horticulture .

- a. From milk product       c) Chicken and eggs

- b. Fruits and cash crops d) Other

22. Annual expenditure details.

Expenses Item	Amount Rs
Food	
Clothing	
Shelter	
Education	
Health/Personal care	
Festival / Custom	
Firewood / Lighting	
Transport	
Smoking / Liquor	
To pay interest	
Others	

23. Home appliances used.

- a. .... c) .....  
 b. .... d) .....

24. Schooling pattern.

- a. Local Community School  c) Local Institutional School   
 c. Community School at City  d) Institutional School at City

25. Livestock detail.

Name of Livestock	Number

26. What type of support and programs do you seek from the government for poverty alleviation?  
 .....

27. What is your suggestion for reducing poverty level for raising the standard of living?  
 .....

28. What is poverty?.....



## ANNEX IV

### Interview Guideline

Although four wards (6, 7, 8 and 9) were sampled for the detailed study of the selected households. The key respondents from all the wards are included for the purpose of interview. It became possible in personal visit and telephone call approach. Interview respondents' detail is given in Annex VII.

Following was the interview guideline used after some informal sharings.

- ) How do you evaluate our VDC in the present days?
- ) What are the positive changes you have seen?
- ) What are the major problems facing by the VDC residents?
- ) Has this VDC lost any of the strengths it had in past?
- ) What is the living standard of the VDC people?
- ) How can we judge this VDC in reference to the poverty?
- ) What are the main productions of this VDC?
- ) What is the situation of employment?
- ) How do the youths of this VDC do?
- ) How many are going abroad in search of job?
- ) What about the transportation, electricity, communication, drinking water, health and education facilities available in this VDC?
- ) Are people migrating from this VDC to other places? If yes, what reasons are there for the out migration?
- ) Do you think any idea can work for the reduction of poverty in this VDC?
- ) What are the shortcomings in the VDC & DDC plans and programmes?
- ) How are the NGO/INGOs and local groups and clubs working in fever of the village development?
- ) How the village people are thinking of themselves living in this circumstances?

## ANNEX V

### Interview Respondents' Detail

S.N.	Name	Ward No.	Age	Occupation
1	Krishna Bdr Godar	1	52	Ex- teacher and Local Politician
2	Bal Bdr Ale	2	66	Ex- Indian Army and Local Politician
3	Ganesh Parajuli		67	Ex- Nepal Army and Politician
4	Lekhanath Khanal	3	43	Lecturer of TU at Pokhara
5	Narayan Krishna Koirala	4	65	Social Worker
6	Bhola Pd. Gautam		58	Teacher
7	Buddhi Bdr Gurung	5		
8	Prem Dhungana ' <i>Saildai</i> '	6	63	Ex-teacher and Politician
9	Bal Bdr Gurung	7	47	Social Worker
10	Som Bdr. B.K.		52	Carpenter and SMC member
11	Deepak Sonam		46	Tailoring and SMC member
12	Bhoja Raj Ojha	8	44	Transportation
13	Surya Bdr Bhujel		22	Business
14	Ramchandra Ojha	9	55	Teacher
15	Prem Chettri		34	Foreign Employment

## ANNEX VI

### Annual VDC and SHP Services Statistics-2065/66 BS

#### VDC and Address

Thumki VDC, Kaski  
Thumki – 2, Bahrapirke- Phalangcoat

#### Staff

VDC Secretary - 1  
Peon - 1

#### Social Services

S.N.	Service Title	Client/Consumer	Persons	Rate	Amount (Rs)
1	Old aged allowance	70 + aged group	215	500	107500
2	Widow allowance	Helpless, 60 +	65	500	32500
3	Untouched group	<i>Dalit</i>	60	500	30000
4	Disable allowance	Deaf, physically, mentally impaired	25	200 - 1000	

#### Record of Incident Archive

Birth	Marriage	Relation Approval	Death
83	26	35	28
Annual Citizenship Recommendation (average)			100

#### Sub-Health Post

#### Address

Thumki VDC, Kaski  
Thumki – 2, Bahrapirke- Phalangcoat

#### Staff

AHW (CMA) - 1  
VHA - 1  
Ma Si Ka - 1  
Peon - 1

Annual number of service seekers in average: 425

Other Services: Delivery Facilitation

Temporary Family Planning Services

Sangini = 42 persons

Pills = 6 persons

Counseling

First Aid

Dressing

Free of Cost Medicines: 22 + 3 = 25