

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT OF DALIT  
COMMUNITY AND ITS IMPACT ON UNTOUCHABILITY:  
A Case Study of Dalit Community in Khoplang VDC,  
Gorkha, Nepal**

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Upliftment of Dalit Community and its Impact on Untouchability: A Case Study of Dalit Community in Khoplang VDC, Gorkha, Nepal** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The result of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purpose. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before

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## RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Upliftment of Dalit Community and its Impact on Untouchability: A Case Study of Dalit Community in Khoplang VDC, Gorkha, Nepal** has been prepared by **Rajdeep Neupane** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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## **APPROVAL LETTER**

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## ABSTRACT

The study explores the relationship between the Dalit community and untouchability, that way that is affected by the socio economic upliftment of Dalit community. The community people were highly suppressed and discriminate and were far behind in the mainstream of development of nation. They were considered as untouchables and became poor and poor. The rapid change in the political system after the Rana regime, the government had started the equal rights to all the people. After that they were aware of their right and started to active participation in socio economic and political activities.

The Dalit community (Sarki, Kami, Damai ) mainly depend upon the traditional occupation like leather ,metal, sewing clothes and working in the field of higher caste people like Brahmin, Chhetri etc. in Khoplang VDC, Gorkha. The youth of Dalit community are mostly work in foreign countries like Dubai, Qatar, Malaysia, Japan, India etc. which help them for their economic development .About the total population 64 households with population of 395 in research study, about 21 youths are outside the Nepal as working visa. In addition, the 15 youths are working in government service as teacher, army, police and other organization. The other young, adults are continuing their traditional occupation.

The engagement of youths and increase in the income source helps the upliftment of living standard of Dalit people. The changing system in education ,health, occupation ,political environment , modern technology make them able to discuss, participate and decide what is right and what is wrong . These activities change the life of Dalit people.

The socio economic upliftment has the positive impact on the reduction of untouchability in the society. Though the government has already abolished this system but the practice of untouchability has been seen in the society. The behavior towards the Dalit people is not too rigid that was in the past. The socio economic and political development changes the concept of untouchability and most of the youths of Dalit and other community do not considered the untouchability among their group like in schools, college, hotel, restaurant. But the old generation people of higher castes still practice the untouchability just like not eating food, not drinks water

touched by the Dalits. They also do not support to eradicate this system. The inter-caste marriage, entrance of Dalit to the non-Dalit's house, touching their food in their kitchen are still the place of untouchability existing.

There is also the difference to treat the Dalit people by the other people in the community. The higher the socio economic status lesser the untouchability and suppression .The poor Dalit are not treated well as the high standard Dalit in the community. Also the intra Dalit untouchability is existing in the society which lag them away from the development.

Because of many political changes, socio economic development and awareness in the society and individual, the untouchability process is drastically changed than the past. Many of the government bodies, NGO/INGO, youths of the community are also played the supporting role for the reduction of this system and developed the theme called that all we humans are equal.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS**

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
INGO	:	International Non-governmental Organization
NGO	:	Non-governmental Organization
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
BK	:	Bishwakarma
NDC	:	National Dalit Commission
B.S.	:	Bikram Sambat
AD	:	Anno Domini
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
NHDR	:	Nepal Human Development Report
DWO	:	Dalit Welfare Organization
DDC	:	District Development Committee
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
JUP	:	Jana Utthan Pratisthan
Rs.	:	Rupees
No.	:	Number
FEDO	:	Feminist Dalit Organization
HHS	:	Households
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
UAE	:	United Arab Emirates
EU	:	European Union