

**EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF
LEPCHA COMMUNITY:
A CASE STUDY OF PASHUPATINAGAR VDC, ILAM
DISTRICT, NEPAL**

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The Central Department of Rural Development,
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Recommendation Letter

The thesis entitled **Education, Health and Economic status of Lepcha Community :A Case study of Pashupatinagar VDC, IlamDistrict,Nepal** has been prepared by **Ramesh Sapkota** 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

The thesis entitled **Education, Health and Economic status of Lepcha Community: A Case study of Pashupatinagar VDC, Ilam District, Nepal** submitted by **Ramesh Sapkotain** partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Ramesh Sapkota

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ABSTRACTS

Nepal is a habitat for cultural diversity. Thus, Nepalese society is a multi-ethnic and multicultural society. They have habited Nepal for thousand years; ethnic groups are classified in three communities as: Original Nepalese tribes, Indo Nepalese races, and Tibeto Nepalese races. The origin Nepalese tribes include several ethnic groups that have existed in the country since ancient times. The other communities are migrated into the country later. There are 61 indigenous groups and various unidentified deprived groups in Nepal, who are scattered in diverse sector of rural areas in the country i.e., mountain, hill, Terai. Out of them, Lepcha ethnic people are minority ethnic people in Nepal. They are mostly residing in eastern part of Nepal.

Lepcha people are migrated from India and Sikkim. They have well-known, typical culture, religion, ritual/rites, dress, language, tradition belief and indigenous knowledge. However, their culture, ritual/rites of one place is partially difference to another place/region and language as well. They are recognized as simple gracious, politics honest, hard laborious, extra-tolerable and romantic in nature.

The present study has attempted to find out the socio-economic deternintal factors of "LEPCHA ETHNIC PEOPLE in Pashupatinagar VDC of Ilam district. For the study, primary/secondary data was collected through consulting with 21 household's purposive sampling method to extract the authentic socio-economic determining factors. The data's are collected by using questionnaire, interview, observation, focus-group discussion and key informant interview tools/techniques. Hence, it is based on primary and secondary sources as well as qualitative and quantitative questionnaires but this study is both explorative and descriptive and actionable in nature.

From the research study, socio-economic situation of Lepcha is not so bad. But, all of Lepcha ethnic people are using loan to live by organized source or un-organized source. Credit support is not satisfactory and that need to support by organize development stakeholder. Most of the Lepcha people are adapting subsistence agriculture as main occupation. In sample HHs agriculture as main occupation of HHs is 75 percent agriculture and wage labor > 15 percnent HHs, 60percent male are literate and 20 percent female are illiterate. 9.52 percent have annual income less than 50,000 Rs. 52.38 percent

of Lepcha people are living in joint family. >71 percent of sample household have no saving for future use. 28.57 percent of student are dropping out school regularly every year.

However, there socio-economic situation seems not so poor but they are remarkably rich from the cultural point of view. Every HHs celebrates feasts/festivals, ritual/rites with great pleasure and great expense. As they are migrated from Bhutan, Sikkim and other part of India, they are contributing much for social development for prosperity and wellbeing to other ethnic group in Pashupatinagar of Illam district.

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ACRONYMS

CBS	Central bureau of statistics
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
HHs	House holds
HMG	His Majesty Government
INGOs	International Non-Government Organizations
JTMM	Jannati, Terai-basi, Muslim, Madheshi
MoCTA	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
NCDC	Namsaliing Community Development Council
NDC	Nepal Dalit Council
NFDIN	National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NPC	Nepal Planning Commission
NTB	Nepal Tourism Board
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
USA	United State of America
VDC	Village Development Committee
VOIToF	Village Tourism Promotion Forum