

**CHANGING LIVELIHOOD: A STUDY OF FREED BONDED  
LABOURER (MUKTA KAMAIYA) OF SHIVNAGAR SIVIR,  
TIKAPUR-1, KAILALI DISTRICT**

**A Thesis**

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**November, 2022**

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this dissertation entitled Changing Livelihood: A Study of Freed Bonded Labourer (Mukta Kamaiya) of Shivnagar Sivr, Tikapur-1, Kailali District submitted to Central Department of Sociology, 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 has not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
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**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

The dissertation entitled" Changing Livelihood: A Study of Freed Bonded Labourer (Mukta Kamaiya) of Shivnagar Sivr, Tikapur-1, Kailali District" has been prepared by Sanjita Chaudhary under my guidance supervision. I forward this thesis to the assessment committee for final evaluation and approval.

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**LETTER APPROVAL**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Changing Livelihood: A Study of Freed Bonded Labourer (Mukta Kamaiya) of Shivnagar Sivar, Tikapur-1, Kailali District" submitted by Sanjita Chaudhary for partial fulfilment of the Masters of Arts in sociology has been authorized by this department in the required format of the Humanities and Social Science faculty.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DECLARATION.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>LETTER APPROVAL .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1-7</b>
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study .....	6
1.4 Significance of the Study .....	6
1.5 Organization of the Study .....	7
<b>CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....</b>	<b>8-22</b>
2.1 Kamaiya System as a Bonded Labour .....	8
2.2 Livelihood Related Studies .....	9
2.2.1 Sustainable Livelihood.....	11
2.2.2 Livelihood Assets.....	12
2.2.3 Livelihood Strategies .....	12
2.2.4 Livelihood Outcomes.....	13
2.2.5 Vulnerability Context.....	13
2.3 Marxist Perspective.....	13
2.4 Empirical Studies of Bonded Labour.....	14
2.5 Conceptual Framework.....	20
<b>CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>23-26</b>
3.1 Rational of Site Selection of the Study .....	23
3.2 Research Design.....	24
3.3 Nature and Sources of Data .....	24
3.4 Universe and Sampling Procedure.....	24
3.5 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection.....	25
3.5.1 Interview .....	25
3.5.2 Observation .....	25

3.6	Methods of Data Analysis.....	26
3.7	Limitations of the Study.....	26
<b>CHAPTER IV: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION .....</b>		<b>27-52</b>
4.1	Introduction of the Respondents .....	27
4.2	Social and Economic Status of Freed Bonded Labourer .....	27
4.2.1	Age of the Respondents .....	27
4.2.2	Family Structure.....	28
4.2.3	Family Size .....	29
4.2.4	Education .....	30
4.2.5	Household Monthly Income and Expenditure .....	33
4.2.6	Landholding Size of Freed Bonded Labourer.....	35
4.2.7	Food Sufficiency.....	36
4.2.8	Livestock.....	36
4.2.9	Types of House .....	37
4.2.10	Training Status of Freed Bonded .....	38
4.2.11	Health.....	39
4.3	Activities in which Freed Bonded are Involved in for their Livelihood.....	40
4.4	Activities Contributing To Improve Their Livelihood .....	48
4.4.1	Education .....	49
4.4.2	Family Size .....	49
4.4.3	Occupations and Working in Non-Agricultural Sector .....	50
4.4.4	Income.....	50
4.4.5	Landholding Size .....	51
4.4.6	Market Area, Construction of Roads and Buildings.....	51
<b>CHAPTER V: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.....</b>		<b>53-55</b>
5.1	Summary .....	53
5.2	Conclusion .....	55
<b>REFERENCES</b>		
<b>QUESTIONNAIRE</b>		

## LIST OF TABLES

	<b>Page No.</b>
Table 1: Age of the Respondents .....	28
Table 2: Family Structure .....	28
Table 3: Family Size .....	29
Table 4: Education Level of Head Household.....	30
Table 5: Education Level by Age Group .....	31
Table 6: Education Level by Sex .....	31
Table 7: Schooling Enrolment and Dropout Rate.....	32
Table 8: Distribution of Monthly Income.....	33
Table 9: Distribution of Monthly Expenditure .....	34
Table 10: Distribution of Major Area of Expenditure .....	34
Table 11: Distribution of Landholding Size .....	35
Table 12: Food Sufficiency.....	36
Table 13: Distribution of Livestock.....	37
Table 14: Types of House .....	37
Table 15: Training Status.....	38
Table 16: Health .....	39
Table 17: Activities Involved in by Head of the Household .....	41



## ABBREVIATIONS

BASE	Backward Society Education
DFID	Department of International Development
GEFONT	General Federation of Nepalese Trade Union
GON	Government of Nepal
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
KTM	Kathmandu
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
No.	Number
P	Page number
%	Percentage
SED	Socially and Economically Disadvantaged People
VDC	Village Development Committee

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The Kamaiya System or bonded labour was one of the most vulnerable bonded labour system in the Terai region of Nepal. It was mostly found from the Tharu caste which was practiced in the five districts. Kamaiya refers to male worker. Illiteracy, poverty and social discrimination were the major causes that pushed Tharus in Kamaiya System. There are different categories of bonded also in which Kamiyas children who were involved in animal herding knows as Gaiwar if they herd cattle, if they herd buffalo known as Baisarwar and if the children involved in goat herding known as Chegrahwa. The girls involved in domestic works are known as Kamlahri (Sharma and Thakurathi, 1998). All the Kamaiyas were not bonded. Two types of Kamaiyas are found i.e. Semi-freed and Bukrahi. Semi-freed Kamaiya had their own home; usually work alone for landlord whereas Bukrahi represents the whole family i.e. including wife and children who used to live in small hut constructed in the land of landlord. The whole family had to work but payment was basically only for Kamaiya (male worker).

Before liberation, Kamaiya and their family are compelled to work for the landlord as bonded labour generation to generation. They had no right to work in other places without the permission. The landlord used to make an agreement with the labourer to work for a year to meet the obligation that he had provided. It was traditionally done on Maghi festival of each year. Theoretically, at that time both parties may agree or disagree to enter into the contract but in the case of bonded, they didn't have this freedom of choice. They had to work more than eighteen hours a day for a low remuneration. About twelve sacks of paddy per year were given to the Kamaiya which was insufficient for them. Therefore, they are forced to take loan which further became their debt. Kamaiyas were extremely from Tharu caste who worked as peasants and landlord were from both Tharu and non- Tharu. Similarly, Kamaiya might get land for share-cropping from the landlord. This was feasible incase of having some portion of land (Rimal, 2019). Share-cropping known as Bataiya was often in the share of fifty-fifty produces with the landlord. In this system of wage

payment, share cropper has used all the production units including human labour. They share the harvest equally. This later degenerated to the landlord keeping seventy-five percent of the product and share twenty-five percent of the product with the Kamaiya family. After liberation, all the Kamaiyas and their family members become free from their debts. In the beginning, they faced many problems because of landless, no house but slowly they were able to manage their life. Freed bonded have adopted livelihood activities in different ways. The present livelihood has totally changed. They have shifted to non-agricultural sector such as wage labour, carpentry, tailoring, driving and so on. Those who are involved in agricultural began working into new agreement especially under share-cropping. There is equal contribution of production inputs such as fertilizers and share harvest equally. Changes, Freed bonded have shifted to non-agriculture sectors. Their health conditions, education and other things have improved from their previous days. Income is calculated in terms of money. These activities have enhanced their present livelihood from their past. It has played an important role in their life. They have right to work in the place without anyone's permission. Therefore, after freedom there are lots of changes found in their life. Although, the organizations and institutions have continued to extend their hand to help but still they are struggling to change their life.

Change is continuous and universal phenomenon which is found in all the societies at all time. People have adjusted their way of earning activities for livelihood as per the changing situation. Change can be seen through development activities and its impact in their livelihood. Sometimes it comes through development and sometime through modernization, innovation along with social and political movements. But every kind of change does not bring only positive transformation on the lives of people and community but also bring negative impacts on their livelihood (Subedi and Pandey, 2002). Livelihood practice is a survival strategy of a household as well as for individual. That's why it is considered as a continuous and changing process of an individual or household level of economic and social activities in order to fulfil livelihood needs. A simple meaning is means of securing the basic needs. It is a set of activities which involved in securing water, food, fodder, medicine, shelter, clothing and capacity to acquire above necessities through working individually or as a group using endowments for meeting the requirements of the self and household on a sustainable with human dignity. In other words, it is the outcome of how people

organize and transform the natural environment to meet their needs using labour, technology, education and the social relations. It is expressed through daily activities, livelihood assets and entitlements through which an individual make a living. Livelihood comprises the capabilities assets (both material and social expenses) and activities required for a means of living. It is sustainable when it can withstand with a recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future while not undermining the natural resources base (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

Similarly, most of the household rely on multiple income sources and adapt wide range of livelihood strategy for food security due to inadequate income from one occupation. Mainly in recent days, diversification of livelihood is caused by access of road, market expansion as well as access to power. These things open new opportunities for employment and sources of income for a poor people. Diversified income sources lead to the multiple sources of income and it is secured than single one in any situation. It is less vulnerable than undiversified ones. Non-farm and off-farm activities for earning are also seen important in those areas for secured livelihood (Ellis, 1998).

Over time and space every community has undergone varying degrees of change. The Nepalese society is no exception. People are modifying their tactics to adapt with the change in time as modern civilization develops. They are being attracted to persue new occupations while giving up their traditional occupations such as traditional agricultural and forest-based economic activities. Modern development has become a negative impact on people's economic lives. As a result, people are forced to work for low wage, level of jobs for living resulting in a variety of livelihood methods. Livelihood activities are guided by the capabilities and assets. Different livelihood activities can be found within a household such as seasonal work, hunting, land cultivation and so on as the occupation. Capabilities and activities are considered as inherent merit of an individual whereas assets and surrounding environment has shape it and also have influence on it.

The sustainability of livelihood became a function of how people are utilizing assets on both short and long-term basis. Assets in the particular context are not defined only natural/biological (i.e. land, water, common property resources) but also social and

political (i.e. community, family networks, employment, participation), human (i.e. knowledge, skills) and physical (i.e. roads, markets, schools, bridges, clinics). Hence socio-economic aspect is also important part of sustainable livelihood of the poor or marginal population besides natural and environmental resources. This means in developing countries rural people earn for living is unhappy and so complex. The lives and agricultural operations of people have not improved. They are no longer able to support themselves only through agriculture. It makes no difference if they sell their surplus to improve their well-being and promote sustainability after lowering their food security and vulnerability (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The issue of bonded labour was considered as one of the worst form of abuse in human. It existed particularly in the five districts- Banke, Bardia, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dang. Tharus are one of the oldest ethnic groups living in the Terai. Basically, Bonded are from Tharu community which means working all types of work in the field as well as household chores for the landlord. The government has declared the freedom of the bonded labour on July 2000. Various organizations, agencies as well as government of Nepal have continued to help them but they were still struggling to change their lifestyle. Though, the Kamaiya related programs and institutions continue to work for them but cannot solve all the issues faced by them in their daily life. It is known that still they are facing problems. Related institutions and programs are not enough to uplift their livelihood. They were surviving in their own capacity for the better settlement. Because of these they were unable to have good health facilities, education, nutritious food and other items. This is the reason they were still backward (BASE, 1995).

Before the liberation, Kamaiya and their families are compelled to work for the landlord as bonded labour generation to generation. They had no right to work in other places without the permission. The landlord used to make an agreement with the labourers to work for a year to meet the obligation that he had provided. It was traditionally done on Maghi festival of each year. Theoretically, at that time both parties may agree or disagree to enter into the contract but in case of bonded labour they didn't have this freedom of choice. About of twelve sacks of paddy per year was given to them which was insufficient. They had to do about more than eighteen hours

per day including agricultural works as well as household chores. They were totally dependent on their landlord. They were landless, homeless and whatever they need they have to go to their landlord. So, they are forced to take loan which further became their debt. Kamaiyas were extremely from Tharu caste who worked as peasant and landlord were from both Tharu as well as non-Tharu caste (Rimal, 2019). After liberation, all the bonded labourers became free from their debt and previous contracts with their landlord. In the beginning they faced many problems. They can be found involved into different occupations. Those who are involved in agriculture are found remaining with landlord but in a new agreement. Share-cropping known as Bataiya was often in the share of fifty-fifty produces with landlord. In this system of labour sharecropper has used all the production units including human labour and harvest were shared equally between them. They were not dependent on the landlord.

Recently, respondents of that sivr were not involved in agriculture or any type of sharecropping. They have adapted other types of occupations to survive. They were involved in wage labour, tailoring, mason, driving (tractor, auto-rickshaw, and truck), carpentry and small business such as hotels, cosmetic shops). Some of them are selling vegetables, few of them are doing mushroom farming and some of them are working in India. Among these occupations more respondents are found in wage labour and that was their main sources of income. In above activities freed bonded are involved for their livelihood. Single factor does not played significant role to improve the livelihood. There are several factors such as education, working in construction sites, occupation, income, landholding size, market area, trainings and others. If these activities are well maintained or employment was available then the livelihood is improved by itself.

Today, freed bonded labourers have adapted livelihood strategies in a different ways. The present livelihood of them has totally changed from their past. They have shifted to non-agricultural sector. Those who are involved in agriculture have found working into new agreement. Freed bonded have adapted non-agricultural occupations for sustaining which is increasing. They are not dependent on one occupation for their livelihood supporting. Today their income is calculated in terms of money. That's why they are able to fulfil their needs on time. These activities in which they are engaged has improved and changed their present livelihood from their previous days. In the

previous days, they had no land, no house, only dependent on their landlord but now they have their own house, have small piece of land to live in. Their education as well as health conditions are also improved from their past life. Although, various organizations and institutions have continued to extend their hands to help freed bonded still they are struggling to change their lifestyle but this cannot solve the issues which they have faced. They are struggling for their better settlements. Many researchers have researched about bonded labour. In the previous studies researchers have dealt with socio-economic conditions of bonded labourers before declaration of freedom but about changing their livelihood in today's context or in what types of activities freed bonded are involved in for livelihood and activities contributing to improve their livelihood has not discussed well which I would like to explore through the research questions. This research study is about the changing livelihood of freed bonded labourers. The research questions are as follows:-

- i. How is the social and economic status of the Freed Bonded Labourer?
- ii. In what types of activities does freed bonded are involved in for their livelihood?
- iii. How does those activities are contributing to improve their present livelihood compared to past?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objectives of this study are to describe the present day livelihood, their everyday activities and their successful resettlement of the freed bonded labour. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:-

- i. To describe the present livelihood activities of freed bonded labourer.
- ii. To find out the activities contributing to improve their present livelihood.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Various castes and different ethnic groups are found in Nepal with different culture, language, and traditions. Freed bonded labourers are more economically and disadvantaged than other groups in the society. Every group needs to understand about their situation and support in the progress for the improvement of them. As per

the improvement of them, it is necessary to know about problems. The efforts of NGOs seem to have been able to create awareness and readiness among bonded to dismantle the system and the state should come forward to create conducive environment to address the freed bonded labourers. They were freed and debts were written off by the declaration of government on 17 July 2000.

This research is motivated by the need to improve the freed Kamaiya who had spent their lives for generations in the exploitative bonded labour system. Different types of institutions and organizations were taken as for evidence in the related field. It is expected that this study would be more useful for government and other organizations working in the field of developmental. It can also provide them a guideline to construct the developmental policies for disadvantaged groups. It may be helpful document for those who want to know or have interest in the livelihood of freed bonded. This study might be useful to know that how freed bonded are struggling to secure their lives in today's context. It also helps to identify the actual situation or problem and may be helpful to solve the hidden issues.

### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study and significance of the study. Similarly, the second chapter goes through various review of literature. The third chapter describes the methods of the research which includes rationale of the site selection the area, research design, sample size, nature and sources of data, data collection techniques, tools and analysis of the research and limitation of the study. The fourth chapter includes the presentation and analytical view of data. And the fifth chapter describes the summary and conclusion.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Reviewing literature is a way to develop the idea about the research. In the research, literature review plays an important role. It also helps a researcher to acquire knowledge about the topic, hypothesizes the research, to set the objectives and design a research framework. It is earlier mentioned in the introduction. So, let's introduce in short Kamaiya as a bonded labour.

#### 2.1 Kamaiya System as a Bonded Labour

Kamaiya System was a Tharu tradition that was existed in the Terai region of Nepal. Those people who work as bonded are known as Kamaiyas. This system was similar to most of system found in the 17<sup>th</sup> century where people without land or take land in loan from the landlord is giving them a source of income to sustain minimum livelihood in exchange to working and living in the landlord's land as slaves until the time the debts was cleared which also took generations. The excessive debt charges made them bonded to their lenders and forced to sell labour to repay the debt which they had taken from them. After the eradication of the malaria in 1950s the area saw a large number of migrants from hilly region. Tharu people lived undistributed for generations and the hill tribes moved to Terai and displaced Tharus taking their land. The marginalized Tharu people who traditionally owned the land since, they had no record of their landownership. The settlers registered land in their names and got them to work as farming labourers. The practice of getting people from the group to help in the family was gradually turned into a forced labour system. This system was most prevalent in the central and western Terai of Nepal where there are more indigenous groups living in that area (Chaudhary, 2019).

The Kamaiya System was a long term work contract between Kamaiya and the landlord. They were hired on the annual basis to execute various tasks on the landlord's field in exchange for in kind payment. The main factors for promoting Kamaiyas are poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, landless, lack of awareness, homelessness and lack of means of subsistence and social facts. The Kamaiya System of bonded labour was abolished by the government in 2000. The government

officially announced ban on the system and ordered all Kamaiyas to be free and their debt be cancelled. In 2002, The Kamaiya Labour (Prohibition) Act was adopted which prohibited bonded labour among Kamaiyas declared all loans taken as null and void and declared all persons working as Kamaiya labourer free. The Act established freed kamaiya rehabilitation and monitoring committees. The Act also provided that upon completion of housing construction the government would hand over an additional for income generating activities which included chicken, pig farming, goat. Though intended primarily for the Kamaiya bonded labourer by prohibiting labour or services provided by a person to his creditor without any wages or at a very low cost to repay loans, the 2000 Act has potential to include in its scope other forms of bonded labour (BASE, 1995).

## **2.2 Livelihood Related Studies**

According to Chamber and Conway, (1992) a livelihood comprises the capabilities assets (resources, stores, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living and a livelihood is sustainable when it cope with and provide sustainable opportunities and choices of individual or household in order to achieve their livelihood assets. The sustainable rural livelihood tells about three components: capability, equity and sustainability. These are interrelated to each other. Capability refers to ability of household to make a living by mobilizing different kinds of assets. It could be tangible and intangible. Stocks like gold, jewellery, saving and resources comprising of land, water, minerals, livestock, trees, equipment, utensils which a household commands are tangible assets. Claims are the appeals and demand that can be generally made at time of stress and stocks for moral, material and other supports. Access refers to the practical opportunities to use resources and services (transportation, education, health, communication, market). Equity implies a less unequal discrimination of assets, capabilities and opportunities. It includes an end to discriminate against marginalized groups and communities (women, untouchable and minorities). Livelihood sustainability is a function how assets and capabilities are utilized, maintained and enhanced in order to preserve livelihood. It can be separated in two levels- local and global.

Scoones, (1998) this paper outlines a framework for analyzing sustainable livelihood defined in relation to five key words- creation of working days (Sen 1975:5, three

aspects of employment- income, production and recognition), poverty reduction, capabilities, livelihood adaptation, vulnerability and resilience and the last is natural resource base sustainability. These framework shows how indifferent context, sustainable livelihood strategies are achieved through access to a range of livelihood resources (natural, economic, human and social capital) which are combined in the pursuit of different livelihood strategies (agricultural intensification, livelihood diversification and migration). It also considers some of the practical, methodological and operational implications of a sustainable livelihood approach.

DFID, (2002) stated that a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses, shocks and maintains or enhance its capabilities and assets and in the future while not undermining the natural resource base. A livelihood strategy comprises range of combination of activities and choices that people undertake in order to achieve their livelihood goals. It includes productive activities, investment strategies; livelihood strategies change over a time and there is enormous diversity of livelihood strategy geographically, across the sector with household. The more choice and flexibility that people have in their livelihood strategies, the greater their ability to with stand or adapt to the shocks and stress of the context.

Subedi and Pandey, (2002) focus on the livelihood strategies of Rai communities based on the field survey in two geographic locatons Sitalpati and Makalu. Findings are based on the survey of 192 households in Sitalpati and 113 households in the Makalu VDC of Sankhuwasabha district. Rai communities had adopted various strategies to earn livelihood. From this paper, household has gradually reduced land under khorias using more public resources for self- consumption and transforming bari (non- irrigating sloping terrace) into khet (irrigated sloping terrace) and these have followed additional inputs in agriculture adoption of multiple cropping and crop diversification strategy. Strategies such as wage labour, pottering, crediting and livestock stock selling activities were the livelihood adopted by them. These types of strategies were also adopted by other groups in that village. This paper also attempts to find out the differences in livelihood strategies in two different locations representing two different elevation zones. It also examines that how Rai communities in two locations differ in elevation have been adopting various livelihood and how traditional options have continued while new options are being adopted.

Rai, (2017) this paper focuses to explore the changing rural livelihood strategies of a community in mountain region of Nepal. It states that different patterns of living are found in different places within the same community. That's why; livelihood strategy is changing process of an individual or a household level economic and social activities in order to fulfil daily livelihood needs. Similarly, multiple sources of income of a household have resulted into secured livelihood system. The agriculture with the livestock farming was their traditional livelihood sources of income in past, non-agricultural sector has become significant for livelihood sustaining in the rural community. Development of hydro power and trade route has played an important role for changing rural livelihood of local people in that village. Primary data are collected through focus group discussion and key informant interview and question survey was conducted with fifty- two households by applying random sampling method. The finding of this paper indicated that livelihood strategies of that area are changing rapidly.

### **2.2.1 Sustainable Livelihood**

A livelihood is sustainable if it can cope with and recovers from stress and shocks maintain or improve its capabilities and assets, provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; if it contributes net benefits to other livelihood in the short and long-term at the local, national, global levels. In the context of livelihood, sustainability relates to self-sufficiency and self-reliance which is also the ability to preserve and develop livelihood while maintaining the local and global assets and skills on which the livelihood rely. According to DFID sustainable livelihood definition the livelihood strategies refers to variety and mix of the actions and choices in which individual make in order to maintain their livelihood goals. How does a person associate their income-generating activity; how they utilize the assets; which assets they choose to invest in and how they manage to maintain their current assets are the some examples of the livelihood strategies? The members of a household may work and live in different areas involving into different activities either permanently or temporarily. They may rely on a variety of income-generating activities at the same time.

### **2.2.2 Livelihood Assets**

People require a range of assets to sustain their life. No single asset is sufficient to gain varied livelihood outcomes that people seek. Production activities, investment strategies and the reproductive choice are included as livelihood assets which yield a flow of benefits overtime. And these choices are depended on the human and natural capital. In some of the extent the choices are also shaped by the social norms and values which may not be constraint. People want their way of living from sustainable perspective. A livelihood is sustainable when it is cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future (DFID, 2002). People have also adjusted their way of living to the exchanging environment since ancient period and their livelihood strategies to adapt the changing environment condition differ over space and time (Subedi and Pandey, 2002). Those Kamaiya who are far from development activities are living in the camp. Their livelihood assets are determined by their works. There are wide differences between Kamaiya group and settlement camp interms of access of livelihood assets. And such assets results in the variation of daily working and also for livelihood outcomes.

### **2.2.3 Livelihood Strategies**

Livelihood strategies are the combination of activities that people choose to undertake in order to achieve their livelihood goals. It includes participation in labour markets, production for market, working from home as well as subsistence production. Livelihood strategies can change over time period and there is huge diversity geographically across the sector with household. Poor people often depended on multiple diverse livelihood activities involving different employment as well as self-employment activities. The more choice and flexibility that people have in their livelihood strategies, the greater their ability to withstand or adapt to the shocks and stress of the context (DFID, 2002). It also focus to increase the range of assets in which an individual as well as household has increasing access to particular types of capital to improve in long-term livelihood security and quality of life.

#### **2.2.4 Livelihood Outcomes**

Outcomes are measured to determine how successful household are in their livelihood strategies. This outcomes may be normative standard (nutritional status or identified by the communities). Such measures need to be differentiated across groups, individual and household. Livelihood outcomes are the results of livelihood strategies such as more income, reduced vulnerability, increased well-being, improve food security and more sustainability. This may be providing insight into how individual will react to new opportunity and which performance should be used to support the activity.

#### **2.2.5 Vulnerability Context**

The vulnerability context frames the external environment in which people exist in which people's livelihoods and the wider availability of assets are fundamentally affected by the trends, shocks as well as seasonality over which they have limited or no control. It focuses on variables that local people cannot alter in the short and medium term and many improvised individual faces ongoing livelihood security as a result of these circumstances. The external world in which human reside is refer as vulnerability context (trends, shocks and seasonality) frames. Shocks comprise of human health shocks, economic shocks and conflicts whereas trends includes population trend, technological trend, economic trend and seasonality includes price, production, health and employment opportunities. These are the external factors which affect the livelihood of the people but they have to persue beneficial livelihood outcomes. These factors should not always consider as in negative form. They can be move toward favourable directions, diseases can be eradicated and new technology may be valuable to poor people (DFID, 1999).

#### **2.3 Marxist Perspective**

In the case of Kamaiya System, we can say that it is the result of feudal mode of production where land is the most important asset. It determines the economic status, social and political of an individual because due to this reasons autocrats, rulers and political leaders desired to keep huge amount of land. It is a exploitative relationship between landlords and peasants and there was always contradiction between them.

Landlord used to exploits the peasants and land was the main causes of it that means peasants works on the land of the landlord and sustain his life from them. In the favour of keeping land in their own assets they made uneven policies, made a trend of land grants where land tax were free for the rulers, local landlords whereas local people were forced to pay expensive land tax which was more than their production. So, the providing land grant played crucial role in the emergence of Kamaiya System.

#### **2.4 Empirical Studies of Bonded Labour**

Bhatta,(2001) concentrates on the problem of landlessness of the indigenous Tharu people who have been inhabited there since very long ago. Rural poverty has been central problem. Its major concepts are access to land, income, employment in agriculture and the poverty individually or in combination with another in identification of the landless. This study was so far on the Tharu people which were confined to Anthropological sphere. It was carried out in general or regional basis. The sample survey or census survey was conducted by National Planning Commission which defined rural landless household. This field survey was carried out during April- June 2001.Majority of the total population settled in rural areas depending upon the agriculture as the principal source of livelihood. More than ninety percent of people live in rural areas and eighty percent of them primarily dependent on agriculture. Economic condition of these people is mainly determined by the access to land. There is also lack of alternative employment opportunities in non-farm activities. Landlessness is often considered to be both the cause and symptom of poverty. All ethnic groups are not attending the same status of living. Some are far ahead socially, economically and politically than the other groups. The focus of this study lies on analyzing the problem of landlessness indigenous group of the Terai region of Tharus which are regarded as the economically disadvantaged group deserves special significance.

Maharjan, (2003) stated the livelihood of rural people depends on farming and non-farming sectors. Forestry, livestock and cropping sectors of farming livelihood are interrelated and interdependent to each other. Forest provides fodder to the livestock and livestock provides manure to the crops and again crop provides fodder to the livestock and livestock provides manure to the agriculture and forestry. Farmers manage these resources for procuring their food and shelter as a tradition of Nepal.

Though, Mukta Kamaiyas have extremely small size of own land they are also practicing share- cropping agriculture. Rice and maize are the main crops grown by them. They also grow mustard, pea and vegetables. Livestock is another important component of farming in this community. Small livestock like poultry, goat, pig is common. Fishing is also important to them. A large numbers of Mukta Kamaiyas are dependent on off- farm due to the small size of land holding. Majority of them are depending on wage labour either unskilled wage (agriculture activities, infrastructure construction works and seasonal migration to India) and skilled wage (carpentry, masonry, house wiring, driving). Some people started to go abroad in gulf countries (Saudi Arab, Qatar and Malaysia) for foreign employment.

Chaudhary et all. (2014) focuses on to access food security situation of Mukta Kamaiyas (former agriculture bonded- labourers) and to know their strategies to cope the food deficit. The method in this paper includes the random sampling household survey with semi- structured questionnaire with the sample size of 120. The methods in this paper included the segments of site selection, sample size and sampling units, data entry and analysis and many others. The field survey was carried out during August- September 2010 and primarily based on qualitative study and also supported by quantitative data through simple statistical tools. The sources of data were primary and secondary. They are living in five districts. Among five districts Banke and Bardia districts were selected by this paper. It is selected because of the highest numbers of Mukta Kamaiya. One Village Development Committee from each district (Koholpur VDC and Kalika VDC) was selected by this paper. Due to large family size, higher dependency and having limited income generating opportunities as a result food self- insufficiency and the food insecurity is more prevalent in them. The food- sufficiency was hardly for three months and sometime it was more severe. Thus, the small land size had forced them in large proportion to adopt the off- farm activities to manage the food insecurity across this two VDCs. 4 percent of household were found self- sufficient while 75 percent household had less than three months food self- sufficiency. About 36 percent household were unable to meet the minimum daily calorie requirement. From the data of this paper the food self- insufficiency was more sever in Koholpur due to the smaller land size and also due to rather family size and more dependent family members than Kalika VDC. But the food security situation was slightly better than Kalika due to trade based entitlements (wage labour



and business opportunities). Wage labour is most prominent source of income for securing household food demand in them and supported by the other strategies like wage labour, borrowing cash and food, less eating and less eating preferred food items cash loan, food borrowing, and so on. It also describes to improve food security situation in long term to improve labour productivity and employment generation and enterprising which help to promote income generation activities and in short term, off- season vegetable farming, poultry and small livestock husbandry would be better options for sustaining livelihood in the rural setting of Mukta Kamaiya.

Bhatta, (2010) main focus was on access to land for socially and economically disadvantaged (SED) people, where agriculture was the main sources of employment from the country in order to improve the livelihood. So, the aim of this research paper is to access Land Reform approaches in terms of their condition to benefit SED people. SED people are from poor, landless, socially and economically deprived on the basis of their caste race, ethnicity and religion. This research paper includes the selection of case areas, approach of questionnaire designing, the tools and techniques used for data collection and the approaches for data processing. The sources of data collection are through primary and secondary. The analysis of data was collected from related case study in Nepal and Vietnam and method includes study approach and desk research. The implementation of land reform programs take place through state-led, community and market assisted where state-led is a case redistributive land reform in Nepal and a case of land consolidation in Vietnam and the desk research is based on literature review. This research has done by three phases: pre-field work, field work and post-field work phase. From this case study, Nepal is based on a redistributive land reform program implemented through state-led approach and focus on people from SED people commonly known as Mukta Kamaiya. At the, time of freed, most of them were landless and some were homeless. With the abolishment system, the government initiated rehabilitation program for these people where land rehabilitation is one of the main part of it. And the second study is in Vietnam which belongs to a land reform program, more specially and consolidation program. This program was initiated since early 1990s and its main objectives are to implement to reduce the fragmentation of land to improve productivity and labour efficiency. This research paper found that through the land reform programs in place implemented through the state-led approaches have brought little improvement in the access and

productivity of land but it is not sufficient for the livelihood of the SED people. The market assisted approach and community based also cannot offer expected benefits to SED people even implemented in isolation. The analysis of this research is that the potential of each stakeholder of land reform can be integrated to achieve better benefits SED people and innovative approach is with pluralistic approach of land reform.

Rimal, (2019) analyzes and discusses the initiatives undertaken by the GEFONT to curb bonded labour in the form of the Kamaiya System. It also highlights the critical role of trade unions in the case of GEFONT in facilitating the process of transitioning informal work including bonded labour to formal and protected work of Global Labour University that look onto the role of trade unions in curbing precarious employment and during the period of 2014-2015 this paper produced ten case studies including this one. And these case studies covered various groups of workers such as agricultural workers, home-based workers, domestic- based, fixed term contract workers, casual, contractors, project-based workers. This paper also provide an overview of informal economy, conditions of Kamaiyas, introduced framework in 2002 prohibited the use of Kamaiya labour, narrates how GEFONT fight against the Kamaiya System and the unions initiatives support the liberated Kamaiyas, assesses the impact and outcomes of the interventions that aim at rehabilitating former Kamaiyas. This case study was prepared based on primary and secondary information where primary was collected from focus group discussion and kin informant interview. Secondary information was gathered from published and unpublished materials from various organizations as well as individuals.

Budhathoki, (2012) studied about Kamlari entitled " Tharu Girls in Bonded Labour (Kamlari) Servitude in the Era of Post Socio-Cultural and political Revolution in Nepal: A Case Study of Dang District". She has explained the condition of Tharu women who worked as Kamlari in Dang District. She uncovered some vulnerable and specific of the Kamlari issues. When Kamaiya System was abolished in 2000, Kamaiya were liberated from their landlord but Kamlari entered into more bonded labour relationship. Further, this study also writes the issue of Kamlari where NGOs and INGOs have played an important role in addressing the Kamlari issues after liberation. Organizations such as Society Welfare Action Nepal, Friends for Needy

People, Nepalese Youth Opportunity Foundation, Freed-Kamlari Development Forum in support of plan Nepal have emancipated around six thousand Kamlaris and provided them support in terms of health, education and income- generating training programmes.

Moreover, Sharma, et all. (2001) studied about Kamaiya's children entitled " Bonded Labour Among Child of Kamaiya System: A Rapid Assessment". This study concluded that there is an excessive incidence of child wage labour among Kamaiya families. The child labour problem among children of Kamaiya seems mainly due to poverty, large family size and landlessness. In an agricultural society, lack of land results ensuring and deepening poverty and Kamaiya households resort to sending their children to work as one of the key strategies to withstand with poverty and indebtedness. In addition, the working conditions of the Kamaiya children contain elements of worst form of child labour: work without pay, excessive working hour, worked at night and employment at early age.

Similarly, Fujikura,(2001) Studied about Kamaiya entitled:" Emancipation of Kamaiya: Development, Social Movement and Youth Activism in Post-Jana Andolan Nepal" and contended about how Kamaiya movement started from Kailali district, how they get emancipation, what was the role of BASE (Backward Society Education) mobilized Tharu youth during Kamaiya movement and what was the role and strategy of these Kamaiyas in Jana-Andolan and Post-Jana Andolan?

Giri, (2012) states about the haliya and Kamaiya System in Nepal are labelled as agricultural bonded labourer. The former exists among various ethnic groups including Musahar people but later it affects in the Tharu ethnicity. This paper also defined that the haliya and kamaiya contract agreements have largely moved from adults to children. It presents an alternative perspective by taking an account of the Mushar and Tharu children understanding of the positive and negative aspects of their life. It also explain that Musahar and Tharu children accepted the haliya and kamaiya work of their parents insistence but they were also attracted by the idea of getting good food, new clothes and possible education as well as food stiffs, sharing cropping land. So they express positive attitudes towards bonded labour if they were able to receive good food, clothes, sleeping place. Negative aspects was also drawn by this paper such as living and working conditions are not same, leave far from their home,

did not allow to meet anyone else or visit their families, came home at the end of the contract or become ill. It shows a rather complex picture of bonded labour than the ones presented by various advocacy groups. In particular, it echoes the voices of research participants that unless better alternative which are available a complete abolitionist position actually put their immediate livelihood strategy in risk.

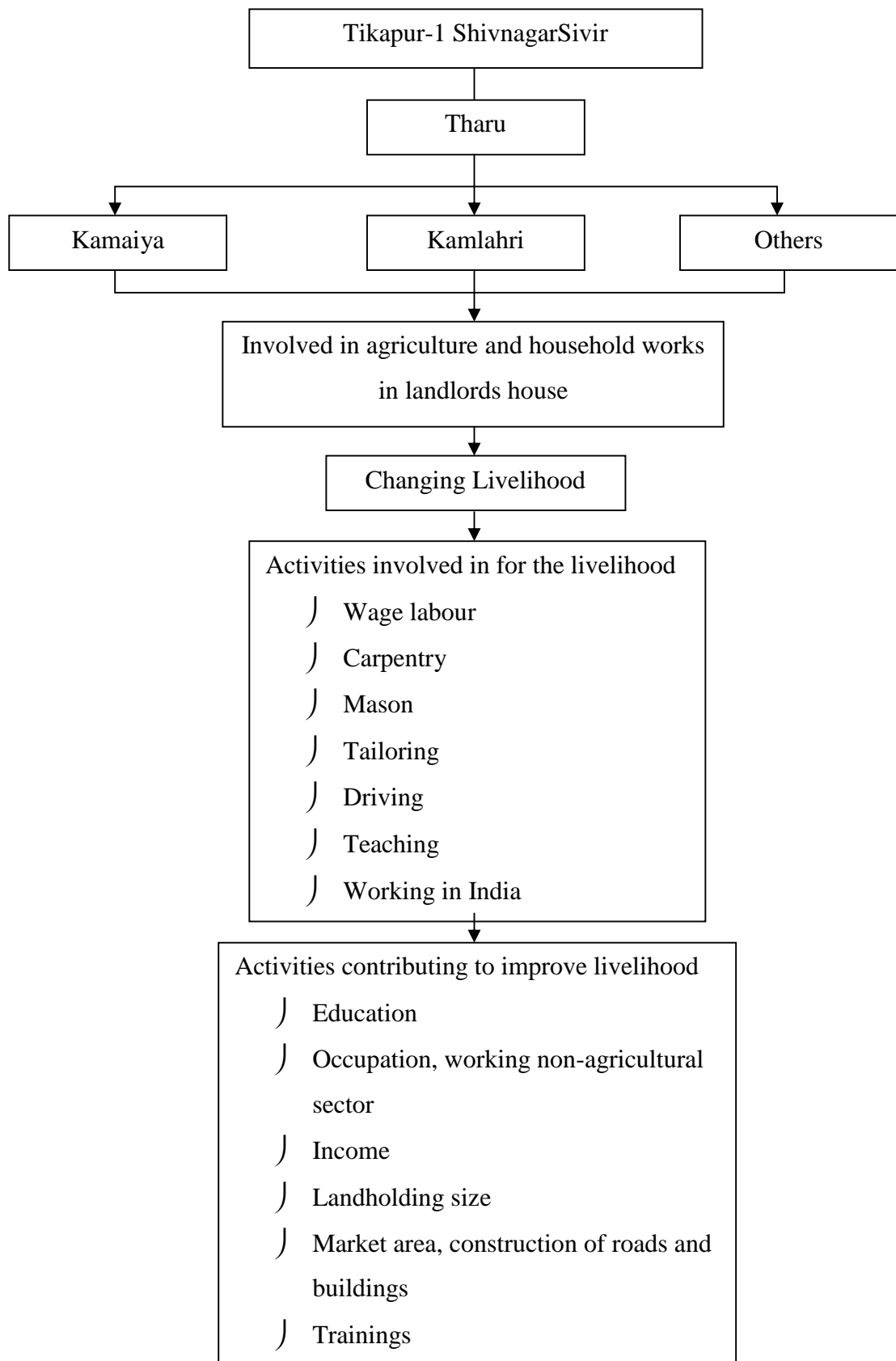
Chhetri, (2005) this paper examines the condition of Tharus in the Terai who were subject to an exchange form of socio-economic exploitation through Kamaiya System. It reviews the social and economic problems of the Tharus in a historical perspective. It looks into Kamaiya practice and freeing them. It also reveals the issue related to them has not been looked at from a holistic perspective by the concerned agencies. The data of this paper was taken from Bardia and Rajapur where there is largest proportion of Tharu population. It portrayed that poverty is a key problem. The economic plight of the Tharus seems to be associated with the unequal relations with the landlord. State policies in relation to reserve access and ownership, locally dominant groups of people may have equal responsibility for the plight of the Tharu Kamaiya. Efforts to improve them have to come from all sides as unity.

So, it is concluded that Livelihood of rural people depends in their livelihood assets or resources; these assets are factors that reduced poverty and gain value through a prevailing social institutions and policy environment. The livelihood strategies are affected by this environment and people used to achieve the beneficial livelihood outcomes. Different vulnerability of assets affects the greater availability of assets. It may affect the welfare of household, individual as well as communities in the face of cultural, social and environmental changes and how people react, cope and deal with that change. In the Marxist sense, feudal mode of production is exploitative relationship between landlord and peasant and there is always contradiction between them. Landlord exploits peasant and land is the main sources of exploitation that means peasant works on the land of the landlord and sustain his life from it. All above mentioned literature review concentrated on the landlessness in which poverty was the main problem, focus on food security of freed bonded shifting to off-farm and their situation, issues, adapting new activities, their hard work during movement. Many researchers have researched about bonded labour, child labour and kamalari health but there is not enough research on this issue. . In the previous studies

researchers have dealt with socio-economic conditions of bonded labour and their causes and consequents of being bonded but have not induced the condition of them after the declaration of the freedom or about their changing livelihood are not mentioned. Many studies has described about their past period only. There was very limited study dealing after the emancipation. Therefore, this present study tries to cover all aspects of bonded labour. Though, they were emancipated in 2000 but still now all of them are not completely settled. A small piece of land is provided to them is not sufficient for them. Therefore, this study is about their current situation. Those programs which government of Nepal and other organizations have implemented for their welfare, are able to improve their livelihood goal?

## **2.5 Conceptual Framework**

This study is about the changing livelihood of the freed bonded labourers. As we know that Kamaiya System was the most vulnerable bonded labour system and government have focused for the resettlement of them by providing the land and money to make house. So, after the declaration of freedom, in what type of activities they are involved in for their livelihood and activities contributing to improve their livelihood are focused here. Before the abolition, they used to work as Kamaiya, Kamlari and others but after freedom they are involved in different activities for their livelihood such as wage labour, small business, mason, carpentry, tailoring, teaching, working in India etc. Because of working in cash payment they are able to manage their daily life needs. They have improved their life from their previous days and the activities contributing to improve their livelihood are education, occupations, landholding size, income, family size, market area, construction of roads and buildings and training.



This research study is taken from Tikapur-1 Shivnagar Sivar and researched in Tharu Community. Before the abolition, Kamaiya and their families were involved in agriculture and household works in the landlord house. They used to serve as Kamaiya, Kamlahri, cattle herder, sheep and goat herder and buffalo herder. They had to do any type of works assigned to them by the landlord. They were forced to work for a long as 18 hours a day. But after the abolition, all the Kamaiyas become free from their debt and from their landlord. In the beginning, freed kamaiya faced many problems because they had no house, no land to survive but slowly they were able to manage their life. Freed bonded have adapted livelihood activities in different ways. Their present livelihood has totally changed. They have shifted from agriculture and household works to non-agricultural sectors such as wage labour (skilled and unskilled), carpentry, masonry, tailoring, driving, teaching, small business like noodle shop, grocery shop and working in India.

But those who are involved in agriculture began working into new agreement especially under sharecropping. Both freed bonded and their families were involved in non-agriculture works. Today their income is calculated in terms of money. Education, family size, occupation, income, landholding size, market area (construction of buildings, roads, bridges and others) and training are the activities contributing to improve the livelihood of freed bonded labourer. Education has played major role because if the respondent is literate he can do skilled wage labour and other job. Those who are literate are earning more in the comparison of illiterate. Occupations also differ according to education. If the occupation is skilled based then they can earn more. They have good income and become easy to handle their economic problems. Market area including construction works, training and landholding size have also played main role in enhancing their livelihood. Because of the market job are easily found especially construction works like construction of buildings, roads bridges are rapidly increasing. Majority of them are involved in construction of buildings and roads. In a small piece of land few of them have used for vegetable farming, some has used for animal husbandry and some has used for grocery shop and small noodle shop. Training has also helped them to find a job as well as for self business.

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Every study needs a systematic methodology to show the better result of the research. So, this chapter is to focus on different research methods. It is the way to solve the research problems systematically. Research Methodology has deal recent studies. It has describe the method of rational of site selection, research design, nature of sources of data , universe and sampling procedure, techniques of data collection.

#### 3.1 Rational of Site Selection of the Study

The Kamaiya System is the most researched and analyzed among the bonded labour in Nepal. Yet, the studies, discussion and initiatives from the preparation to the liberation were more intense and result oriented than they are after the liberation. Some INGOs and the government are still working for the betterment for the freed bonded but the issue are still same and the Kamaiya issue seem an unforgotten one. Tharus are one of the indigenous groups of Nepal. They are settled entirely from west to east Terai region of Nepal and majority can be found in especially in five districts (Banke, Bardia, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dang). So, in these five districts there was existence of Kamaiya System which is also mentioned as bonded labour where exploitation was in practice. They had no options to fulfil their needs. Most of them are found more economically poor and disadvantaged from benefits as well as from different types of services than other groups. No study of freed bonded has been carried out in this area. Among the five districts I have selected Tikapur-1 Shivnagar Sivr of Kailali district for my research study.

The reason for selecting Kailali district is that majority of the freed bonded are found in this district than other and it is a district where I also live in. The reason for selecting Tikapur, it is more convenient than other places which are unknown and easier to collect information as well as data with the people around there and related committee member. It is also a place where I spend my time from my birth to now. The last, the reason for choosing Shivnagar Sivr, I belong from Tharu community and also a resident from Tikapur-1 where Shivnagar Sivr is located in it. I am well



familiar with that area, people and language. So, I can easily collect data and information for the study. That's why I have selected this area for my study.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The research design is a strategy for gathering and analyzing data. This research is based on descriptive research design. Descriptive research design is applied to accumulate adequate information concerning the nature of the subject matter of the research. It also enables the researcher to assess the opinions and characteristics of selected population without manipulating the environment and to describe the situation as well as events during the research work. The main purpose of this research is to find out the current situation of the freed bonded labourer living in Tikapur-1 Shivnagar Sivr of Kailali district. The researcher had to visit the camp early in the morning or late in the evening because at the day time the household head and other working population wouldn't be available at home. Most in the household only aged population and children were seen and they can mistake the data collecting information. So, it took five days to collect data from that area.

### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

Both primary and secondary sources of data with qualitative as well as quantitative nature are used in this study. The primary sources of data were obtained from the freed kamaiya living in Shivnagar Sivr with the help of semi-structured interview and it is the main basis of the study. Other related information of primary characteristics is collected by applying field observation method. The secondary sources of data are obtained from articles, journals, organizations, dissertation, and research reports and online are also implied as well.

### **3.4 Universe and Sampling Procedure**

For the sample, Shivnagar Sivr is selected where maximum numbers of Tharu people were used to be Kamaiya in the previous days. At first, I contact with the member of that sivr (Shanti Chaudhary). She helped me by addressing their problems more clearly which they were experienced or faced. There was no exact data of freed bonded in that Sivr and till now because no one has researched about them. They

have not got Kamaiya ID Card. There are altogether 300 households. Among them, I have selected 30 household respondents for the research and one respondent is selected from each household. While interviewing when household head were not available than their family members were interviewed on the behalf of them. For this research simple random sampling method is used because they were working early in the morning and late in the evening and they were not available at home. This method as well as the help of Shanti Chaudhary member of that Sivar helps me to find out the accurate and reliable data so, that their reality can be obtained and easy to gather information.

### **3.5 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection**

Various techniques are implemented to collect relevant information for the study. The nature and dept of the approached data required interview as the main technique for collecting primary data. Observation is implied regarding the collection of information for physical and environmental assets. It was implied for the validation of responses collected from face-to face interview.

#### **3.5.1 Interview**

Interview is one of the best techniques for data collection in the research to address the associated problems. It is also a type of conservation in which information is gathered. To collect primary data, Semi-Structured Interview method is applied. A set of questions were designed to obtain information such as individual and household which help to obtain the information about background and activities of the respondents. Each question are tried to make easily understable because the questionnaire was conducted through face to face interview and the questions are also explained and elaborated while needed. The interview was conducted in Tharu language.

#### **3.5.2 Observation**

Observation is more a direct way of gathering information. It is implied regarding the collection of information for physical and environmental assets. This technique allows observing behaviour, surrounding, events and recording them. Through this it does

not constitute an independent technique for collecting data. It has utilized mainly for narrating the physical reality; their habitat and the surrounding physical environment, their household and economic achievement and health hygiene as well as sanitation conditions.

### **3.6 Methods of Data Analysis**

The method of data analysis determines the reliability, applicability and legitimacy of a research work. It has a great care with organizing, tabulating performing statistical analysis and drawing inferences. The data was analyzed with the help of simple statistical tools. Tables and other figures are depicted as well as to make the interpretation more understandable and reliable. Tabulated data is interpreted based on percentage distribution and presented in the bar diagram as well as in pie-chart with the help of excel and calculation. Descriptive research design method and Observation is used for both qualitative and quantitative data.

### **3.7 Limitations of the Study**

This study has tried to identify the present livelihood situation of Freed bonded. It is very specific and limited to freed-bonded of Tikapur-1. It is limited to academic purpose only. Main focus of this study is about the present livelihood situation. This area is located in Tikapur-1 Kailali District. Below some of the limitations of the study are listed which are as follows:-

- ) This research study area of Shivnagar Sibir which is located in ward no.1 which is nearer to Tikapur of Kailali district.
- ) This study is limited to the academic purpose only.
- ) This study mainly focuses about the changing livelihood of freed bonded labourers.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION**

This chapter an attempt is made present and analyze the data concerned with the freed bonded of Shivnagar Sivr, Tikapur-1 Kailali. This chapter consists of different sections such as Introduction of the Respondents, Social and Economic Status, Activities in which freed bonded are involved and Activities contributing to improve livelihood.

#### **4.1 Introduction of the Respondents**

Kamaiya is a traditional system of bonded labour in the Southern Terai of Nepal. Kamaiyas are those who worked in the landlord's house for household chores as well as in the field. They become Kamaiya because of different reasons such as their parent debts, requested by landlord in order to give them land to share crop because of poverty. Not only Kamaiya but more often the whole family of them was bonded with landlord to perform different types of agricultural and domestic works. In the previous days, they were only dependent on their landlord. There were no other sources of income for them. After the declaration of freedom in 2000, it has become a big headache for the government to settle the problem. The conditions of households were so poor and vulnerable, landless and homeless. To address the problem the government arranged organizational setup and started to rehabilitation programs. The major component of that program is the land distribution and the house construction and others are skill, employment and enterprising.

#### **4.2 Social and Economic Status of Freed Bonded Labourer**

##### **4.2.1 Age of the Respondents**

Age and sex composition are important factors of population composition which determines several demographic and economic conditions. Age is an important demographic variable. It provides the information of persons of different groups at a particular period. Moreover, it also shows the number of economically active persons and the number of dependents. It has been said that the age structure records the demographic and to some extent the economic history of population over a period of

century. The table no.1 shows the age and sex wise population composition of freed bonded labourers.

**Table 1**

**Distribution of Respondents Age Group**

Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below 14	6	20%
15-59 years	20	66.66%
60+ Above	4	13.33%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to the data, 20% respondents belong to the age group below 14, 66.66% respondents belong to the age group 15-59 years and 13.33% respondents belong to the age group 60+ Above. From the data, we can say that the maximum numbers of the respondent are in between 15-59 years age group and minimum numbers of the respondent are 60+ above age group.

**4.2.2 Family Structure**

Family is the basic and universal social institution. It fulfils various needs of the members. In the study area, nuclear and joint family exist. It shows that few families live in joint family. So, the family structure of the study area has been changing from joint to nuclear. One of the reasons may be the economic condition. The table no. 2 presents the family structure of the freed bonded labour.

**Table 2**

**Family Structure of Freed Bonded Labourer**

Household Type	No. of Household	Percentage
Nuclear	19	63.3%
Joint	11	36.7%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The nuclear family consists of married couple with or without children. The joint family is a group of people living together under the command of their parents and it may be include the people of three generations living under the same roof in which there is a joint residence, kitchen and property. In the study area, 63.3 percent of freed bonded households were found living in a nuclear family and 36.7 percent were living in joint family. Nowadays, many of them are preferring as nuclear family because of their poor economic condition, not having enough land, earn little amount of money which insufficient to feed all the members of the large family. Various factors are responsible for the increased in nuclear family than joint family. Awareness among them has changed their living style. They were engaged in different activities to make their family life happy. That's why they prefer small family size so that they could manage their family expenditure.

#### **4.2.3 Family Size**

Family size has important value in change of the life style of the freed bonded labourers. If they have less members they can do well in economic activities and have better life. The table no. 3 shows the family size of the freed bonded labourers of the study area.

**Table 3**

#### **Distribution of Family by its Size**

Family Size	No. of Household	Percentage
1-3	9	30%
4-6	20	66.7%
7-9	1	3.3%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to the above data, 20 households have 4-6 members in their family which seems to be the higher proportion. It consists 66.7 percent. ON the other hand, 9 households have 1-3 members which make 30 percent and the family size of 7-9 members exist in only one household which makes 3.3 percent. The data shows that the sivr does not have much large family size which is the result of nuclear family.

The families who have more members were only the result of unmarried daughters and newly married daughter- in- laws.

#### 4.2.4 Education

Education means knowledge and without it no any kind of development is possible. It has an important role to play in the change and reform of the society. The primitive society has changed into today's modernized world because of the education being followed by other factors such as industrialization, scientific inventions, and trade ( Chaudhary, 2019). So it is necessary element to make our life better and advanced. It also helps the people to improve their position. It is a critical choice of uplifting life style. It develops perception power and increases the potentiality of a person. Education leads us from darkness to brightness. It will not only help in individual development but also provides knowledge and skills to develop the community and nation as well. The table no. 4 shows the education level by sex.

**Table 4**

**Education Level of Head of Household**

Level of Education	No. of Household	Percentage
Illiterate	22	73.3%
Primary	1	3.3%
Lower Secondary	6	20%
Secondary	1	3.3%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The above sub- section shows that the education level of head household of freed bonded labourers. A higher percentage of illiteracy rate of household head of freed bonded, majority of them; 73.3 percent are illiterate and the household are 22. The number of household of primary level is 1 which makes 3.3 percent. The household of lower secondary is 6 which makes 20 percent and secondary level is only one household which makes 3.3 percent. There are reasons behind the history. All the household head were once Kamaiya. A huge burden of work over their shoulder and their family never let them have leisure time for education. They hardly had time to read and write in some cases they were not allowed.

**Table 5****Education Level by Age- Group of Freed Bonded Labourer**

Age Groups	Level of Education					Total
	Illiterate	Primary	Lower. Sec.	Secondary	Intermediate	
0-14	0	24(75%)	7(21.9%)	1(3.1%)	0	32(100%)
15-19	2(16.7%)	3(25%)	4(33.3%)	3(25%)	0	12(100%)
20-44	21(36.8%)	11(19.2%)	17(29.8%)	5(8.7%)	3(5.2%)	57(100%)
45-59	17(89.47%)	0	2(10.52%)	0	0	19(100%)
60+	14(100%)	0	0	0	0	14(100%)
Total	54(40.29%)	38(28.35%)	30(22.35%)	9(6.71%)	3(2.23%)	134(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2021

In the above table, in (0-14) age- group, primary level are 24(75%), lower secondary are 7(21.9%) and secondary are 1(3.1%). In the (15-19) age- group, 2(16.7%) are illiterate, 3(25%) are in primary level, 4(33.3%) are in lower secondary level, 3(25%) are found in secondary level. Similarly, in (20-44) age- group, 21(36.8%) are illiterate, 11(19.2%) are in primary level, 17(29.8%) are in lower secondary level, 5(8.7%) are in secondary level and 3(5.2%) are in intermediate level. In the (45-59) age- group, 17(89.47%) are found illiterate and 2(10.52%) are in lower secondary level and in 60+ age- group, 14(100%) are found illiterate. The total no. of illiterate are 54(40.29%), primary level are 38(28.35%), lower secondary are 30 (22.35%), 9(6.7%) are in secondary and 3(2.23%) are in intermediate level. From the table, more illiterate rate is found between (20-44) age- groups.

**Table 6****Education Level by Sex**

Sex	Level of Education					Total
	Illiterate	Primary	Lower Sec.	Secondary	Intermediate	
Male	28(38.9%)	19(26.4%)	20(27.8%)	4(5.6%)	1(1.4%)	72(100%)
Female	27(44.3%)	17(23.3%)	10(16.4%)	5(8.2%)	2(3.3%)	61(100%)
Total	55(41.4%)	36(27.1%)	30(22.6%)	9(6.8%)	3(2.3%)	133(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2021



In the given above table, 28(38.9%) are male and 27(44.3%) are female found illiterate where 19(26.4%) are male and 17(27.3%) are female have primary level of education. The no. in lower secondary level in male is 20(27.8%) and in female are 10(16.4%). Similarly, in secondary level male are 4(5.6%) and female are 5(8.2%) and in intermediate level one male is found and in female two are found in that study area.

**Table 7**  
**Schooling Enrolment and Dropout Rate**

Schooling Situation	Level of Education												Total		
	Primary			Lower Sec.			Secondary			Intermediate			B	G	Both
	B	G	Total	B	G	Total	B	G	Total	B	G	Total			
Total Students	22	16	38	19	9	28	4	5	9	1	2	3	46	32	78
Enrolled	15	9	24	3	3	6	1	3	4	1	2	3	20	17	37
Dropout	7	7	14	16	6	22	3	2	5	0	0	0	26	15	41

Source: Field Survey, 2021

In the above given table, total number of students are 78 in which 46 are boys and 32 are girls. 37 students are enrolled in which 20 are boys and 17 are girls and drop out are 41 in which 26 are boys and 15 are girls. From this the number of girls schooling enrolment is less than boys and boys are found more in the number of dropout than girls. These data has included all the numbers of male and female from the study area. Before the liberation, Freed bonded used to live in the landlord house. They were not free because of debt. Poverty has forced most of the children to start at very early age to support their parent. They were unable to attend school because their parents could not afford the school fees, uniforms and stationary cost. At that time education was not important for this group. One of the reasons was economic condition and awareness. Women are not sent to school in comparison of male. Huge burdens of work over their shoulder and their family never let down them have leisure time for education. They hardly have time read and write but in some cases they were not allowed. But now, many changes have come out. Even the parents are illiterate they started to educate their children. All the household of children are going to school.

#### 4.2.5 Household Monthly Income and Expenditure

Freed bonded have adapted different sources of income such as wage labour, small business such as hotels, tailoring, driving etc. According to the data, most of the freed bonded were dependent on wage labour for their income and expenditure where their expenditure was more than their income. But those who were involved in tailoring, carpentry and mason, they were satisfied from their income. Income is the major factor to know the livelihood. To illustrate further the economic characteristics their monthly sources of income was estimated. The respondents could not say their exact monthly income because they were not keeping record of their income. The sources of income of the respondents are calculated in terms of money. Besides the table no. 10 income they were involved in other income such as selling vegetables, selling mushroom small cosmetic shops, hotels etc. The table no. 8 shows the monthly income of the freed bonded labourers.

**Table 8**

**Monthly Income of the Freed Bonded Labourer**

Income in Thousand	No. of Household	Percentage
Less than 10,000	9	30%
10,000-15,000	16	53.33%
15,000-20,000	3	10%
20,000-25,000	2	6.66%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table shows the estimated monthly income of the respondents. 30% household earn less than 10,000, 53.33% household earn between 10-15 thousand per month which is the largest percent of the respondent. Similarly, 10% of household earn between 15-20 thousand per month and 6.66% household earn between 20-25 thousand. The household expenditure is more than income because all the household items are purchased through that which they earn. Mostly expenditure is used in food items, health and education. In the previous days, they did not get money by their landlord instead they only receive twelve sacks of paddy and other food grains. But

now they get wages by doing works in terms of money. With that money they brought necessary things for their subsistence.

**Table 9**  
**Monthly Expenditure of Freed Bonded Labourer**

Expenditure in Thousand	No. of Household	Percentage
Less than 10	6	20%
10,000-15,000	21	70%
15,000-20,000	2	6.66%
20,000-25,000	1	3.33%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to the data, monthly expenditure shows that 20% of the respondent monthly expenditure was less than 10 thousand, 70% of the respondent monthly expenditure is between 10-15 thousand and 6.66 % of the respondent monthly expenditure was between 15-20 thousand and 3.33% respondent monthly expenditure was between 20-25 thousand. The table shows that 70% of the respondent monthly expenditure is between 10-15 thousand. From the above table, we can see the huge differences. Monthly household income is more than their income. 9 household monthly incomes are less than 10,000 but only 6 households monthly expenditure is less than 10,000 i.e. 3 households expenditure is more than 10,000.

**Table 10**  
**Major Area of Expenditure**

Items	No. of Household	Percentage
Food	19	63.33%
Clothes	2	6.66%
Health	1	3.33%
Education	4	13.33%%
Working Inputs	4	13.33%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

In the given above table, Food items has occupied the largest area of the households monthly expenditure. 63.33% households has reported that majority of their income is spent on food items because none of them have enough land for farming and self-food sufficiency. Therefore, buying food items remains the major area of expenditure. Similarly, health, clothes and education are also reported 3.33%, 6.66% and 13.33% of the households as their major area of expenditure. Freed bonded labourer are engaged in non-agricultural sector so, inputs are also necessary for carpentry, mason, tailoring etc. Therefore, 13.33% has used in working inputs as their expenditure.

#### **4.2.6 Landholding Size of Freed Bonded Labourer**

Land is the most important asset and sources of income and employment of every household. It is an area which is used for a particular purpose such as housing and farming. It also determines economic, social and political status of individual due to this everyone desired to keep a huge amount of land. While conducting the study the information about the ownership of land of each respondent has been collected as shown in the table no. 11.

**Table 11**

#### **Landholding Size of Freed Bonded Labourer**

Landholding Size	No. of Household	Percentage
1 Katha	4	13.33 %
2 Katha	26	86.66 %
Total	30	100 %

Source: Field Survey, 2021

In the above given data, 4 household have 1 Katha which makes 13.33 percent and 26 household have 2 Katha which makes 86.66 percent. The research shows that the economic activities of freed bonded is still poor and vulnerable. They have received small piece of land is hardly enough to feed their family. It has pushed them towards wage labour. They are heavily depended on wage labour and large proportion of them is in unskilled labour. The household hardly save their income. The large proportion of their income is spent on health treatment and food items. The education status was found encouraging and it is limited to secondary level with countable people in higher

education. They prefer skills based employment as well as wage labour for their better livelihood.

#### 4.2.7 Food Sufficiency

Increasing food self-sufficiency and food security are among the major challenges the world faces. In the agro-based country like Nepal and farming based community like freed bonded securing food self-sufficiency and eliminating poverty should have been the main reason whereas food security can be achieved through economy accessibility.

**Table 12**

#### **Food Sufficiency of Freed Bonded**

Food Sufficiency	No. of Household	Percentage
First 3 Months	24	80%
Till 6 Months	4	13.33%
Till 9 Months	1	3.33%
1 Year and Above	1	3.33%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From the above given table 24(80%) of the households have insufficient food for 3 month which is largest among other, 4(13.33%) households have insufficient food for 6 month, 1(3.33%) households have sufficient food for 9 month and 1(3.33%) household have sufficient food for 1 Year and Above.

#### 4.2.8 Livestock

Livestock also plays an important role as sources of income. Regarding, livestock it is not common in commercial scale. The important of domestic animals is not limited only for economic aspects. Some are kept for cash and also for different purposes like religiously as well as culturally. Most of the household keep small livestock such as poultry, ducks, sheep goat and pig. Pig is socially and culturally preferred meat in Tharu people and most of them have it. The distribution of livestock of freed bonded are as follows:-

**Table 13**

**Distribution of Livestock**

Livestock	No. of Household	Percentage
Having Livestock	18	60%
Not Having Livestock	12	40%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From the above table, it is found that only 18(60%) of the household have livestock and 12(40%) of the household have decreased because they have no time, members are working outside. They are involved in daily based work. In previous days, more household had livestock, mostly pigs, ducks, goat and chicken were used to their needs.

**4.2.9 Types of House**

Habitation is the basic need of an individual. People have different types of houses as their access. The house of the freed bonded are made up of mud/ hut, blocks & cement and bricks& cements. The table no. 14 shows the types of houses of freed bonded labourers.

**Table 14**

**Types of House of Freed Bonded Labourers**

Types of House	No. of Household	Percent
Bricks & mud with tin roof	23	76.7%
Cemented with tin roof	2	6.7%
Blocks with tin roof	5	16.6%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From the above table, the living houses of freed bonded. Mainly, the houses of them are categorized into three types i.e. bricks and mud with tin roof, cemented with tin

roof and blocks with tin roof. 23 houses are made up of bricks and mud with tin roof which makes 76.7 percent. 2 household houses is made up of cemented with tin roof with 6.7 percent and 5 household house is made up of with blocks with tin roof which makes 16.6 percent. While analyzing the data, it is found that most of them have no proper residence because of low income resources. Therefore, they are unable to build pakki houses. Only few respondents have build houses made with blocks& bricks with cement. Freed bonded have made their houses without the help of the government and community. Before the liberation, they used to live in airport where all the households have only Kachhi houses (made with bamboo and grass). But now in the comparison of previous days they have improved a lot.

#### **4.2.10 Training Status of Freed Bonded**

Training is the process of learning the skills that we need for a particular job or activity. In other words it is a process of developing skills and knowledge in oneself, in others capability, performance, competence. Various types of trainings were delivered to freed bonded and their family members. It utilizes local resources, self-employment and enterprising were selected based on the labour market, participants needs and future market. Carpentry, masonry, tailoring, welding etc are some of the trainings targeted for employment in the labour market. Similarly, in agro-based training such as off-season vegetable farming, mushroom farming and small livestock (poultry, goat, pig, duck and sheep) rising are providing self-employment.

**Table 15**

**Training Status of the Freed Bonded**

Training	No. of Household	Percentage
Got Training	17	56.7%
Training less	13	43.3%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From the above data, out of 30 freed bonded only 17(56.7%) household have got training in different works such as tailoring, carpentry, vegetable farming and mason and 13(43.3%) households are training less. So, most of them are unskilled.

#### 4.2.11 Health

Health is a wealth. If the health is not good then nobody earn or progress in the life. So, to be healthy everyone should be careful. The table below shows the health of the freed bonded labourers. When they were bonded labour they were poor and fragile from every aspect and economic condition was also not strong. They were not aware about services of modern medicine. Many of them died in certain time. But now it is found that they were using hospital services.

**Table 16**

#### **Health Aspects of the Households**

Sources of Drinking water	No. of Household
Hand Pump	10(33.3%)
Tap	2(6.7%)
Both	18(60%)
Total	30(100%)
Sources of Fuel	No. of Household
Firewood	13(43.33%)
LPG Cylinder	17(56.66%)
Total	30(100%)
Toilet Availability	30(100%)
Illness Treatment	No. of Household
Guruwa/ Dhama	30(100%)
Hospital	30(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Hand pump and tap water is the main sources of drinking water in the study area. All the households have the access of drinking water. The government has provided the facilities. 10 household were using hand pump, 2 household are using tap and 18 household are using both facilities. All the households have electricity. As the sources of cooking 13 household are using firewood and 17 households are using LPG cylinder. They have no difficulty in collecting firewood for cooking because of community forests where they live. All the houses have toilet facilities. The sanitation environment is very satisfactory. Before the freedom, bonded labours were not aware of using toilet. Open toilet were used and did not use soap to wash their hands as a result they become victim of many communicable diseases. But today they are using



toilet and soap is also available in their bathroom. When the family member becomes ill they use hospital as well as guruwa service.

### **4.3 Activities in which Freed Bonded are Involved in for their Livelihood**

Before the liberation, Kamaiya and their families were involved only in agriculture and household works. The wife of the Kamaiya used to work as Bukrahi and the children had to serve the landlord as Kamlahri (child and home care taker), Chhegrahwa (Sheep and goat herder), Gaiwar (Cattle herder) and Bhaisawar (Buffalo herder) just for square of meals. But the payment was only given to kamaiya. Kamaiya and his families had no other sources of income except working in their landlord house. Every year in Maghi, they fixed remuneration for the next year but the terms and conditions are only fixed by the landlord and no claims, terms and conditions of Kamaiyas are accepted because of their lack of any alternative source of livelihood. They had to do all type of works assigned to them by the landlord and forced to work for as long as 18 hours a day for a very low remuneration. Kamaiyas did not receive any additional benefits for their hard work. About 12 sacks of paddy per year and small portion of other grains were given to them which were not sufficient for them. Thus, they were forced to take loan which further turns into their debt.

But after the freedom, they were free from all the debt as well as from landlord. At first, they faced many problems because when the declaration was announced they become landless, homeless. Freed bonded have adopted livelihood activities in different ways. Those who are involved in agriculture began to work in to new agreement as sharecroppers. They are involved in different occupations and can do any types of work that they could get their hands in. They rely in multiple sources of income due to inadequate income from one occupation. Freed bonded and their families were shifted from agriculture and household works to non-agriculture works such as wage labour, driving, business etc. Today, their income is calculated in terms of money. These activities have changed their lifestyles, their economic status. The income from head of the household as well as from family members has helped them to fulfil their needs and also help in their difficult situation. The activities in which household head and their family members are involved in are mentioned below:-

**Table 17**

**Activities Involved in by Head Household**

<b>Sources of Income</b>	<b>No. of Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Wage Labour	17	56.66%
Carpentry	1	3.33%
Mason	3	10%
Tailoring	3	10%
Driving	4	13.33%
Working in India	2	6.66%
Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From the above data, 56.66% are involved in wage labour, 3.33% are involved in carpentry, 10% are mason. Similarly, 10% are involved in tailoring, 13.33% are involved in driving and 6.66% household are working in India. Majority of the household are found in wage labour.

**Wage labour**

We can say that most of them were unskilled labour due to which they are struggling hard for survival and to fulfil their basic needs. Most of them work for 10-12 hours which is physically very painful. In the study area, availability of job of daily work was mainly construction works and others. So, they were busy all the times. Out of 30, 17 head household are engaged in wage labour such as construction of buildings, roads and bridges, stone breaking, labour, seasonal work and can do any type of work that they could get their hands in. Before the liberation, Kamaiya( head household) were involved in only agriculture and household works. They had to do all the works which was given by their landlord but didn't receive any benefits for their hard work. Head household work both skilled as well as unskilled work. Majority of them are found illiterate and those who head household who were literate were literate after freedom. In the wage labour there was found huge differences. Those who were involved in skilled labour are economically strong in the comparison of unskilled labour. From 17 respondents 7 are involved in skilled wage labour and the

respondents are from new generation. Old generation are found illiterate. After freedom, they were still found illiterate but rest of them started their schooling, have various types of training provided to them according to different occupations has helped the head household to earn money for their daily needs as well as helped to improve their livelihood. According to discussion with respondents said their situation of their previous days.

All the time of the Kamaiya System only the adult get allowance as payment for the work of their entire family. All the family members had to work under the command of landlord from morning to evening but no other family members labour was counted as deserving of any payment. Taking inflation to consideration, even their real wage at present is higher than it as under the Kamaiya System. All the family members could involve in available work and receive payment. If one is calculated the earnings of whole family members in terms of real wage this is far greater than that of the allowance which they used to received during the Kamaiya System. In the previous days, the family members of freed bonded had serve the landlord as Kamlahri, cow and buffalo herder, cattle herder and sheep and goat herder just for square for meals but the payment was only given to the Kamaiya. Poverty has forced them to start at very early age to support their parent. They were unable to attend school because their parent could not afford the school uniforms, school fees and books. Huge burden of work over their shoulder and their family never let down them to have lessure time for education. As we know, the Kamaiya System was a form of slavery and in that questions what the reason behind this system? All the family members (former bonded labourer) have same answer about this system. Their father was already Kamaiya and he could not manage to feed them. There was a scarcity of food in their house, wearing clothes and not any small piece of land in any part. To survive from starvation they are sent in landlord house to become kamaiya and other works. After freedom, the family members of freed bonded were involved in non-agriculture works. Rest of ten respondents said they were eight years old when their father took them to landlord and kept as Kamaiya. It is because of the insufficiency of food, wearing clothes and others. They also said at that time not much food were used to available for food, no matter how much you work in the field, you could not get enough food to feed your family. From this we can relate Kamaiya System with economic condition where the respondents were forced to become Kamaiya due to

poor economic condition, scarcity of food, clothes and sustain their daily livelihood. Another most important factor is land that forced them to work in the landlord house.

Due to the large family size and landlessness the child labour problem among children was occurred. In addition in an agricultural society, due to the lack of land results in ensuring and depending poverty. Therefore, Kamaiya households resort to sending their children to work as one of the key strategies to handle with poverty and indebtedness. The working conditions of the children were used to work without pay, excessive working hour, work at night and employment at early age. All the 8 respondents have attained their schooling and most of them have left their study in the middle and started to earn money for their family. Among eight respondents two respondents had worked as kamaiya for short period because of the scarcity of food and other necessary things. Their education level is primary level and left their study because of their family problem. At least they have their schooling up to lower secondary level. Some has got training and some are training less but still working. Schooling as well as training has helped to find a job for their earning. Those who are trained have good income than others. In the study area, most of the respondents are small land holders. Therefore, their products did not support of the monthly consumption. So, the respondents of those area are found involve in construction works (buildings and roads) and other kinds of activities. In that activity, mostly young male and female respondents were found.

### **Carpentry**

Out of 30, 1 head household is found involved in carpentry. In the previous days, this respondent was only involved in agriculture and household works of his landlord. At that time he was unable to attain school because of weak economic condition as well as family debt. But after freedom, he has his schooling and has taken training of carpentry on his own capacity and now he is earning good income than before. The local people of Tikapur also contact and call him to make things. Likewise activities involved in by family members, 2 respondents are found involved in carpentry. These two respondents have also served to their landlord in their previous days. But today they are working without help of anybody. These two respondents have left their study in the middle and started to work for their family. Both of them are trained carpenter. Now they are working in furniture shop in the Tikapur market. Therefore,

education, training as well as market has played major role for job opportunity for them. From this they are have good income and slowly they are improving their livelihood without pressure.

### **Mason**

Out of 30, 3 head household are found working as mason. Both illiterate and literate respondents are found in masonry. These respondents had also worked as Kamaiya in the landlord house in their previous days. But now they are free and have own decision of working. Due to the market area construction works are rapidly increasing such as roads, buildings and bridges. From that they got opportunity to earn. Mason are earning better in the comparison of labour. From this skill they build their own houses. The three respondents are from new generation. Education is found up to lower secondary level, left their schooling in the middle. Activities involved in by family members out of 30, 4 respondents are mason. These respondents had also served to the landlord in their previous days. Because of poverty and other problems they had to work at very early age. But now, they were not forced by their parent. They are earning good income in the comparison of other labour work. At first 2 respondents used to work as labour and rest 2 respondents were working as mason from beginning but working few years they started to work as mason. Without getting any training but with work experience they were able to work. One of the major elements is education.

### **Tailoring**

Out of 30, 3 head of the households are found involved in tailoring. These respondents are from new generation and had not served the landlord as Kamaiya. They had not experienced as their parent. Due to the market area the head household have easy to involve in tailoring. One of them has own tailor shop and rest 2 are working in other tailor shop. Trainings are taken by themselves in their own cost. They were very happy about their income from that occupation. Their education level is from primary to lower secondary level. And from family members out of 30, 4 respondents are involved in tailoring. These all four respondents are female and also left their study in the middle and started to work for their family. All four respondents has got training for this occupation from the market and started to work in that

market. The local people of the community are also coming to them for sewing clothes. So, they are earning both from home as well as market. The respondents have got benefits of living near the market area. For this occupation having even formal education can work but if anybody has a little more education he/she can sew designing clothes so that they can earn more. Therefore, in this occupation education seems to be an important factor.

### **Driving**

Before liberation, no one was involved in driving activity. They were only involved in agriculture and household works assigned by the landlord. There was not available of such occupation for kamaiyas like today because of the poverty they had no capacity to afford as well as right to work without the permission of their landlord. Therefore, they were forced to work in the landlord house as kamaiya. But now they were involved in various occupations one of them is driving. From driving respondents are earning better than other occupation. 4 head of the households are found involved in driving such as auto-rickshaw, tractor, truck etc. Now a day, because of construction of roads, people are using auto-rickshaw a lot. So, driving auto they are earning more. They earn 1000 to 1200 a day. Only carrying people to one place to another is not done by auto but things were also carried by them. Therefore, they have benefit of earning from both sides. From tractor they also earn better. For one trip tractor cost 3500 to 4000 but in the comparison of truck driver earn more than them. But the respondents are very satisfied from their earning. For this occupation even illiterate can do. Qualification is not necessary but driving license and driving experience is needed. It can be related with construction works because to build anything materials are used. Therefore, if a person has driving experience and transport he can earn.

### **Working in India**

The head of the household were involved in agriculture and household works. They did not have right to work and go to other places to earn without the permission of their landlord. But now they can choose and go wherever they want to go. Out of 30, 2 head of the household were found working in India. They can work as labour, driving, for seasonal work etc. The two head households are found working in marble cutting company. Their income is better than working in Nepal as labour. They have

earned and made their house and also utilizing that income for their necessities and for their children education and for others. The education status of these two respondents is eight grade. They have no other sources of income except working in India. Therefore, remittance has played an important role in the respondent life. The family members of the freed bonded had not worked in the landlord house. They were working in India by their own choice. Leaving their study in the middle and went to work outside of the country. Out of 30, 7 respondents from family members are found working outside the country. Therefore, the head household and family member income has helped them to improve their livelihood. Almost all respondents have left their study and while asking they answer that they have no interest in study. In the case of labour migration within country or outside the country the trend of manual work is also gradually increasing day by day in the tharu people. Such manual works are mason, auto driving, house painting, carpentry etc. The trend for labour migration within country or outside the country is heavily increasing now a day. Therefore, due to this reason no one wants to work in agriculture field as Kamaiya where maximum level of exploitation and minimum wages are provided. One of the main reasons is that working in non-agricultural sector the payment is received by the end of the day.

### **Business**

In the previous day, there was no option except working into landlord field. Those places where they used to live and the harvested crops were also belong to their landlord. There was insufficient food, wearing nice clothes and other problems. So, there was no possibility of doing business and other occupation. But now there situation has changed. Parent and children both are working in cash based work. Household head are not involved in business but their family members are found involved in small scale of business such as small noodles shop, grocery etc. Some of them found taking training from agro based such as vegetable farming, mushroom farming, poultry etc are provided by Rani Jamara Kulahriya Irrigation. Now a day, the main purpose of the pig rearing is to produce piglet for selling and from that people are earning more. Noodle shop and grocery shop is found within the place where they live. They have got 1 or 2 Katha land and in that small piece of land somehow they were managing to grow vegetable and other. For this we can relate to landholding size. It determines economic, social and political status due to this every one want

desire to keep land for them. If we have land we can do any kind of works. Market is also can be relate to this. If the market is near it become easy to sell and buy products.

### **Teaching**

Before the freedom, nobody was able to attain school because of poverty. Parent from old generation are all found illiterate. Most of the children start at very small age to support their parent. They were unable to attend school because their parent could not afford school fees, uniforms and books. Huge burden of work over their shoulder and their family never let down them have free time for education. Out of 30, 2 respondents from new generation are found involved in teaching. These two respondents has completed their intermediate level and involved in teaching primary level in private school. From the research area only these two respondents were found in teaching. Education is one of the major contributing factors to improve the livelihood of the people including freed bonded. Because of poverty and very little consciousness about education they did not send their children to school but now they have understood about the importance of education. It has helped to seek job opportunity. This shows that education has played an important role on them.

Education has become an important role in the life of the respondents. The educational background is more than their parents and less than their children, majority of old generation parent are illiterate. They have never seen the face of the school entire their life. All the respondents told their children as well as grand children are reading in private boarding and government school. From this shows that tharu people realized the value of the education and feel changes that brings to their lives. And in the context of freed bonded and their children as well as grand children the level of education is gradually increased after liberation. The gradually increased in education played a major role in eradication of Kamaiya tradition. Lack of education and awareness has created this type of situation. Education that brings changes in them and it is not in the case related all sector. Therefore, it consolidate that the fact that lack of appreciation by parents and role of education in improving the life and living condition has contributed to the bonded labourer.

Majority of the respondents were involved in wage labour then other occupations. Those who are involved in wage labour including such as stone breaking, wood



cutting, ploughing field according to hours, dehari work etc are economically weak in the comparison of those who are working as carpenter, mason tailor are economically stronger than them and wages also differ from each other. Most of them have started new occupations by investing own money because they do not have any skills. Therefore, they have not achieved drastic livelihood outcomes. The main reason of adapting wage labour is to fulfil the basic needs and for that they were struggling very hard to achieve them. Adapting such type of occupation in recently it was notable livelihood outcomes. And such outcomes are seen in economic easily. All of them are not able to save money and such saving varies from one household with another household as well as individual to individual. They are also familiar to urban environment in which they are able to increase their social interaction and with the help of that linkage they are also getting some kind of benefits from them.

Livelihood situation is the complex relationship between human as well as environment in the particular space and time. Freed bonded have adapted livelihood activities in a different ways. Freed bonded and their family members are shifted from agriculture and household works to non-agricultural works. After freedom they are not limited to only one occupation and rely on multiple sources of income and adapt to wide range of livelihood strategy due to inadequate income from one occupation. Their situation is very challenging because they are struggling very hard for their survival. One or two Katha land which is provided by government is not sufficient for them. Old generation were found illiterate. Majority of the respondents were found involved in wage labour. In the study area, most of the respondents are small land holders. Therefore, their products did not support of the monthly consumption. Therefore, the respondents of those area were found involved in construction works and other kinds of activities. In that activity, mostly young male and female respondents were found.

#### **4.4 Activities Contributing To Improve Their Livelihood**

We know that development is a continuous process. The development of various facilities has contributed a lot of change in livelihood activities of the people. Single factor does not played significant role to improve the livelihood. There are several factors such as education, job opportunities, market area, construction of roads and

buildings help to improve the livelihood. Likewise, some activities are also help to improve the livelihood of the freed bonded labourer which is mentioned below:-

#### **4.4.1 Education**

Education is the primary source of Knowledge, skills attitude and ideas and a key indicator of a communities as well as nations socioeconomic growth. It is a powerful tool for improving the lives of society most vulnerable citizens. Illiteracy, poverty and social discrimination were the major causes of Kamaiya System. It is one of the major contributing factors to improve the livelihood of the people including freed bonded. In the previous day, because of poverty and very little consciousness about education they were unable to send their children to school. During the study, I have found most of the adult are illiterate but old parent are found totally illiterate. Some adult have left their study in the middle because of the family problem and started to work but school going children are found to study in different level of school education. But when they get free from bonded labour system they got different types of technical and non-technical supports from government, organizations or institutions. Some of them were found involved in skilled work, teaching after education and other occupations. Some have uplifted themselves but some of them did not. Lack of education, skills and finance hindered their progress. Now, they have understood the importance of education. Children are attending both types of schools government and private. Schooling has provided them to earn good income. At least they have attended up to lower secondary level but now they have attended up to intermediate level. They have involved in skill based work which has helped them to earn good income. Those who are involved in wage labour are (skilled or unskilled) are also earning better than their previous days. So, education has helped them to enhance their livelihood.

#### **4.4.2 Family Size**

Family size is a group of people who form a basic and universal social structure that meet the requirement of its members like protection, integration and continuity. Many families were found nuclear in the research area. Because of awareness or education most of the household are belonging to nuclear family. It has helped to improve the livelihood because if the family is small then their expenditure is also less as well as

they can save small portion of income but if the family is large all the income is spent on them and they could not save their income.

#### **4.4.3 Occupations and Working in Non-Agricultural Sector**

The livelihood situation of freed bonded of the study area has shifted from agriculture to non-agricultural sector. Kamaiyas working on a long-term contract is decreasing slowly while that non-agricultural wage labour is increasing. There has been shift in employment relations after liberation. After being free they are not limited to only one occupation. They are involved in different occupations and can do any types of work that they could get their hands on. Some are involved in wage labour, small business, tailoring etc. Comparatively, those who were involved in wage labour are economically weak than other occupations. Because of the occupation which they have started after freedom has enhanced their lifestyle. They have maintained better economic status and have become independent. Most of the household rely on multiple income sources and adapt due to wide range of livelihood strategy due to inadequate income from one occupation.

Due to the lack of land freed bonded are shifting to non-agricultural field. Working on agriculture field there was physical difficulties and have to face many problem while working on the non-agricultural sector is short way to income. One of the reasons is not having enough land they are shifting to this sector. Therefore, working in these sites is not happy but working in non-agricultural sectors is far better than agricultural one. If anybody work in agricultural field he/she has to wait for cash until harvesting time but if anyone work in other field he/she will get payment at the end of the day. This is the difference so who want to work in the field. This trend of working in agricultural work is decreased and increased in non-agricultural sectors. This means working in the changed field might be one of the most important among various causes and this sector had played a significant role in emancipation of Kamaiya.

#### **4.4.4 Income**

Income is the factor to know the livelihood to illustrate further the economic characteristics and their sources of income. Freed bonded did not get money from the landlord in their previous days instead they only used to receive 12 sacks of paddy

and small portion of other food items. The income was not in terms of money. Freed bonded have adapted different sources of income such as small business such as hotels and shops, tailoring, driving etc. According to the data most of them were depend on wage labour for their income and expenditure. But those who are involved in off farm are economically strong than in the comparison of wage labour basically among unskilled labour. But now they get wages by doing in terms of money. With that money they bought necessary things for their subsistence. Few of them have good income and are able to save some income. Therefore today's income has uplifted their situation a little bit.

#### **4.4.5 Landholding Size**

Land is the most important asset and sources of income and employment of every household. It is an area which is used for particular purpose such as housing and farming. It also determines economic, social and political status of individual due to this every one want desire to keep a huge amount of land. Landholding size has also help to improve the livelihood because in the previous days they were landless but now at least they have 1or 2 Katha land. In that small piece of land they were somehow managing their life. Few of them were using the land for vegetable farming and selling that vegetable in the market to earn money. Some have used for livestock such as pigs, goat, poultry farming etc and some have used for small business like hotels and shops. From these they are earning good income and are able to improve their livelihood.

#### **4.4.6 Market Area, Construction of Roads and Buildings**

The research area is located near the market of Tikapur. They go to Tikapur market for buying and selling products. It took 30 minutes to reach the market from that place. They also sell their produced own product such as vegetables, seasonal fruits in the haat bazaar. Because of the market they get opportunities for job. Some of them have established their small business, working in hotel, working in garage, tailoring, furniture shop etc. Because of living near market area there are also construction works such as construction of roads, buildings, bridges and these are rapidly increasing. The construction works has provided them job opportunities of wage labour. The contractor hired the local people for digging the track, collection of other

material as labour and mason and it has provided great opportunity of wage labour (both skilled and unskilled people) and also has helped to ease their life to improve the livelihood. They sell the product and buy the necessary things from the market which has been made easier by the construction of roads. Majority of people from study area are involved in construction works.

#### **4.5.6 Training**

Training is the process of learning the skills that we need for a particular job or activity. It is also a process of valuable addition and developing skills and knowledge in oneself and in others capability, competence, productivity and performance. Training has specific goal of performance and to change its behaviour and direction in a possible and constructive manner. Various types of training has provided to them according to different occupations. Some of them have got training by themselves. It has helped them to get job. Some training such as tailoring, masonry, hair-cutting, plumber etc are given by government and some agro-based training such as vegetable farming, poultry, pig farming, mushroom farming are also given to disadvantaged people. This training has helped people to earn money for their daily needs.

With the help of these contributing activities mentioned above freed bonded labourer are earning good income either in a small amount or in a satisfied term is inadequate for their livelihood because their expenditure are totally depend on their income. Sometime their household expenditures become more than their income. Therefore, they are involved in different occupations for their survival. With the support of these activities at least they have some satisfaction of improving their economic condition and other factors. Those respondents who were involved in unskilled wage labour are economically weaker than who are involved in skilled wage labour and other occupation. From this it seems that their life has become better than past. Even though, they have some improvement but still struggling hard to achieve them and it has also supported in a small amount to improve their livelihood.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

#### 5.1 Summary

Freedom is a comparative term. It has subjective quality embodied in it and for an individual or groups is shaped by their perceptions, desirability and these both factors are brutal to the circumstances. When Kamaiya were freed from fierce bondage system in 2000, freedom for them had no other meaning but was an escape from the landlord working excessive hours and indebtedness. They have thought that they don't have to return to landlord again or owe them anymore like previous days. This present thesis Changing livelihood: A study of Freed Bonded Labourers of Shivnagar Sivr in Tikapur-1 of Kailali district focus on the present activities in which they are involved for their livelihood and to find out the activities contributing their livelihood. Tharu people are ethnic and indigenious group of Terai region. Literacy, poverty and landlessness are the main reason to increase of Kamaiya System.

According to the age of respondents 20% respondents belong to below 14 years age group, 66.66% respondent belong to 15-59 years age group and 13.33% respondents belong to 60+ Above age group. The nuclear family size is found and i.e. 19 houses and joint family are in 11 houses. The economically active population is between (24-29) age- groups which makes 14.9 percent. About the education, 41% are illiterate, 27% are in primary level, 23% are in lower secondary level, 7% are in secondary level and 2% are in intermediate. Male dropout is 41 in which 26 are boys and 15 are girls. According to sex wise 44 male are literate and 28 are illiterate. 34 female are literate and 27 are illiterate. Before liberation, literacy rate was not good. Only few of them were literate. Most of the household head are found illiterate.

The occupation of the freed bonded labourers has increased after the freedom. They are involved in different occupations except agriculture. Before the freedom, all the households and their family members were involved in farming. But now the household head and their family members are involved in non-agricultural sectors in which 56.66% head household are involved in wage labour, 3.33% are carpenter, 10% are mason, 10% are involved in tailoring, 13.33% are driving and 6.66% are

working in India. And the members of all household of freed bonded 26.66% are doing wage labour, 6.66% household are engaged in carpentry, 13.33% are mason, 13.33% are in tailoring, 10% are doing business and 23.33% are working in India. Some of them have involved in other sources of income such as selling alcohol, selling vegetable, mushroom farming. Among them the highest percent is found on wage labour than other. All the households have got 1-2 Katha land. Few of them have not registered in their name. 26 households have got 2 Katha and 4 households have got 1 Katha land. It is not sufficient for them. 30% household earns less than 10,000, 53.33% earns between 10-15 thousand per month which was the largest percent among them. Similarly, 10% household earns between 15-20 thousand and 6.66% earn between 20-25 thousand. 20% of the respondent monthly expenditure was less than 10 thousand, 70% of the respondent monthly expenditure was between 10-15 thousand, 6.66% respondent expenditure was between 15-20 thousand and 3.33% expenditure was between 20-25 thousand.

70% of the respondent monthly expenditure was between 10-15 thousand. The largest household expenditure is found in food items and health treatment. Health, education and clothes are also major expenditure of them. But major expenditure was spent on health treatment and food items. 24 houses have insufficient food for three months. 4 household have insufficient food for six months, only one household has sufficient food for nine months and one household also has sufficient for one year and above. Out of 30 freed bonded only 17 household have got training in different works such as tailoring, carpentry, mason, vegetable farming and other and 13 household are training less. The physical accessibility and growing health sector has no doubt made freed bonded labourers health status appear progressive but their comfort utilization of health services due to financial and health awareness made them ill. Majority of the households had feel that their health has improved in the years of liberation.

Their first preference for curing illness is hospital than other treatment. Houses of freed bonded is made by themselves. Their houses are categorized into three types: bricks and mud with tin roof, cemented with tin roof and blocks with tin roof. The sources of drinking water have been increased after liberation. Only few houses were unable to use tap water. They are using hand pump and tap water for drinking. 33.33% are using hand pump, 6.7% are using tap and 60% are using both facilities.

Toilets are used by all the members of that area and electricity is also available in that area. 18 households have livestock and 12 households have no livestock in that area. For the sources of fuel for cooking, 13 households are using firewood and 17 households are using gas cylinder. They have easy to collect wood for cooking because they living near the community forest. They have become a member of micro finance. The saving groups have assisted them as financially as well as community needs. It has made them of saving habit. Their saving has reached up where they can use in their hard situation. They don't have to rely on others for money. It has made easy to borrow money from the group. All the households in the sivr are living harmony as a family. They help each other in need, in any functions and feasts.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Livelihood is the process of adopting with environment in particular time and space. There is change in any society and space. Livelihood is defined as a set of activities involving securing water, food, fodder, shelter, medicine, clothing and capacity to acquire above necessities through working individually or as a group using endowments (both human and material) for meeting the requirements of the self and his/her household on a sustainable basis with human dignity. The objective of the study is to describe present livelihood activities of freed bonded and to find out the activities contributing to improve their livelihood. Tharus are one of the ethnic and indigenous groups of Nepal. The Kamaiya System was only found in Tharu community. Variety of livelihood is caused by access of land, market expansion and access of power. These things open new opportunities for employment and sources of income for the people. Transformations of agricultural sector to non-agricultural sector are appeared in the rural areas as a new source of income.

In the context of freed bonded they have adopted livelihood strategies in a different ways. The present livelihood of them has totally changed from the past. They have shifted to non-agricultural sector but before the abolition they were only involved in the agricultural works and household chores for their landlord. After the freedom, their life is enhanced than before. Currently, all of them have settled in the camp with registered and unregistered land. In their previous days, they were deprived from all the rights and opportunities like today. After the freedom there is little bit positive change in the life of the freed bonded labour because they were supported by different



institutions, organizations and the government. In the beginning, they were totally dependent on the landlord, no house and no land but now-a-days they are independent, have house and have a small piece of land, all of them living freely. The bonded are engaged in wage labour, carpentry, mason, tailoring, small business and some of them have other sources of income such as selling alcohol, mushroom farming, and selling vegetables. The education of that area's respondent is not bad. Though the parents are illiterate they send their children for study. Currently, all the children are attending school. They have understood the importance of the education. They have become aware of their health and sanitation. The house and surroundings are found neat and clean. All of them are using toilet. In the past, Tharu medicinal system the traditional healers such as guruwa, sohrinya, baidawa and others were used where guruwa uses both chanting and herbs to cure the patient, baidawa is a professional user of medicines to cure sick people and cattle and sohrinya is a lady practitioner who facilitates during a child delivery. When the people used to get sick firstly they used to go to guruwa for the treatment. But, now still they believe in those chanting but firstly they go to hospital than after other treatment. Today, they are using both traditional as well as modern treatment but hospital is the first priority than other traditional treatment. In the past time, the house of Tharus was made up of mud and straw with thatched roof. But now it has changed, the freed bonded have their own house made up of bricks and mud with tin roof, cemented with tin roof and blocks with tin roof. Most of Kamaiyas are member of micro finance where they deposit and utilize it or take loan from that organization incase of insufficiency.

Changing livelihood activities in Shivnagar Sivr have been remarkably changing over. In the previous days, there was only basic source i.e. agriculture for sustaining in that area. Now, they are not depended on one occupation for their livelihood supporting. They are engaged in different occupations. Gradually, the role of non-agricultural activities for sustaining livelihoods is increased day by day. Shifting from subsistence agriculture to non-agricultural activities concerning cash earning has become common phenomena in that area. Wage labour, driving, masonry, tailoring, small business, carpentry etc are some of the off-farm, sources of income in which freed bonded are involved and these activities has improved small proportion compared to their past days.

It means their life has become better than past. The liberation has provided them the freedom of expression, to make own decisions, talk freely and choose the way of living. They have learned to manage with various insufficiencies and make a livelihood as good as possible out of destitution, misery and poverty. In these years, they have survived and it is their greatest achievements. They are still struggling hard but they are happy because of freedom and it is found the biggest and precious in their life. Because of these the current livelihood has changed their life. Today, they have become more aware about their situation than past.

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## Questionnaire

Name of the head of the family:-

Age:-

Sex:-

Occupation:-

Religion:-

Education:-

Marital Status:-

S.N.	Name of the family members	Age	Education	Occupation	Marital Status

1. Do you have land?

Yes ( ) No ( )

2. How much do you have?

1-2 Katha ( ) 3-6 Katha ( )

7-10 Katha ( ) None ( )

3. Have you got land certificate on your name?

Yes ( ) No ( )

4. What are the main sources of income?

Wage labour ( ) Business ( )

Job ( ) Selling domestic animals ( ) Others ( )

5. Is the production is enough for your family?

Yes ( ) No ( )

6. How long can you sustain your family with your food production?

1-3 months ( ) 4-6 months ( )

7-9 months ( ) 10-12 months ( )

7. How do you manage insufficient food except agriculture?

- Job ( )            Labours ( )  
Business ( )    Selling Alcohol ( )  
Others ( )

8. What types of fuel do you use to cook food?

- Firewood ( )            Bio- gas ( )  
Kerosene ( )            Others ( )

9. What are the main sources of drinking water?

- River ( )            Tap ( )  
Well ( )            Hand-pump ( )  
Others ( )

10. What type of house do you have?

- Made up of mud/hut ( )            Cement ( )  
Bricks ( )                            Blocks ( )  
Others ( )

11. Do you have some of the following things?

- Radio ( )    T.V. ( )    Fan ( )  
Refrigerator ( )    Rice-Cooker ( )

12. How do you treat if your family fall ill?

- Dhami/Guruwa ( )            Local Health Post ( )  
Hospital ( )                    Others ( )

13. Are you literate?

- Yes ( )            No ( )

If No, Why?.....

14. If Yes, then how much

- S.L.C. ( )                    intermediate ( )  
Primary ( )                    Lower Secondary ( )  
Drop out ( )

15. How much do you earn per month?

- Less than 3 thousand ( )            3-5 thousand ( )  
6-8 thousand ( )                    9-15 thousand ( )

16. How much do you spend per month?

- Below Rs 2000 ( )            Rs 2000- Rs 5000 ( )  
Rs 6000-Rs 10000 ( )            11000- onwards ( )

17. Do you have animals in your house?

Yes ( )                  No ( )

18. What types of livestock do you rise?

Pig ( )                          Goat ( )

Cow/Buffalo ( )                  Hen ( )

Duck ( )                          Sheep ( )

19. What type of family do you have?

Nuclear ( )                  Joint ( )

20. How many members do you have?

Male ( )                          Female ( )

20. Do you have transportation and communication facilities in your house?

Bicycle ( )                          Bike ( )

Power-tailor ( )                  bullock Cart ( )

Mobile ( )                          Landline ( )

21. Do you have facility of electricity?

Yes ( )                          No ( )

22. Do you have toilet availability?

Yes ( )                          No ( )

23. Do you have loan?

Yes ( )                  No ( )

If                  Yes,                  then                  for                  what                  purpose?

.....

.....

24. Have you got any kind of training based on

Off-farm                                  Farm

Carpentry ( )                                  Vegetable Farming ( )

Masonry ( )                                  Livestock raising (goat, pig fish

poultry) ( )

Driving ( )

House wiring ( )

Hand-pump boring ( )

Tailoring ( )

Hair cutting ( )

25. Do you have any saving groups in your camp?

Yes ( )                      No ( )

26. If Yes, then, what is the name? .....

Year of registration:-.....

27. Do you have involvement in development work for your camp?

Yes ( )                      No ( )

28. How do you feel after getting freedom from Kamaiya? Is it better or more problematic?

.....  
.....  
.....

29. Have you got any opportunity to receive the training or income generating activities?

.....  
.....

30. Do you have job?

.....

31. Are you doing daily job?

.....

32. What wage do you earn per day?

.....

33. What do you do?

.....

34. Have you still gone to work in landlord house?

.....

35. Is their behaviour of landlord changed to you?

.....

36. Does the landlord still call you for work?

.....