

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SYARPUDAHA MINI
HYDROPOWER PROJECT IN RUKUM DISTRICT**

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By
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Recommendation Letter

This thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Impact of Syarpudaha Mini Hydropower Project in Rukum District** submitted by Mr. **Kiran Gautam** to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Master of Arts in Rural Development is carried out under my guidance and supervision. I recommend this for the final evaluation.

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Date: 29-12-2015

2072-09-14

Approval Letter

This thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Impact of Syarpudaha Mini Hydropower Project in Rukum District** submitted by Mr. **Kiran Gautam** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (M.A) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Impact of Syarpudaha Mini Hydropower Project in Rukum District** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is completely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgement to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of writing this thesis. The result of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

Date: 28-12-2015
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Acknowledgment

This research report is prepared as a thesis in the partial fulfillment of the requirement the Master's Degree in Rural Development. The purpose of this study is to identify the **Socio-Economic Impact of Syarpudaha Mini Hydropower Project in Rukum District**. This thesis would never have been completed without the generous help of many individuals. First of all, I would like to express my heartily gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Uma Kanta Silwal, Central Department of Rural Development of T.U., for his considerable care and substantial time extended to me during the whole course of this research.

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Thank You.

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Abstract

In general, this study attempts to evaluate the importance of electricity in the development of Nepal. This research, however focuses on the significance of the micro- hydropower project in the context of our county. Obviously, Nepal has lack capital, infrastructure and technology to install large hydropower projects. In such a case. it is rather wise and practical to install micro hydropower projects to fulfill our demand for electricity. For it can be installed with small amount of capital. So we can encourage the private sector to invest on it. Likewise, it does not demand as sophisticated technology as the large projects do. Moreover, it is free of hazardous environmental impacts. In all, it unlike the big projects, has more positive impacts than negative ones. So, the small hydropower projects can play a key role in the overall development of Nepal. The present study has attempted to bring these aspects of the small hydropower projects into the limelight through the study of impacts of Syarpudaha Mini Hydropower Project in the overall sectors of the study area, Jhula VDC, Rukum. Nepal has immense endowment of water resources. It is expected that electrification will create various opportunities of development activities in the rural areas. Neither are traditional sources in the position to meet the requirements of energy nor are they sustainable.

The hydropower plant of Zurich of Switzerland built in 1882 is the first hydropower plant in the world. In the context of Nepal, Pharping Hydro plant (500KW) is the first hydropower plant. Nowadays, the demand of electricity is increasing by more than 10 percent. Up to the end of FY 2008 there are 58 hydropower projects. They have contributed total 675.959 including 144.083MW by private sector in accordance with Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA).The Syarpudaha Mini Hydropower is a run-off-river type project with 240KW capacity. The construction work of this project started in 2041 and completed in 2045. It has brought about various impacts on socio-economic aspects of people residing in the surrounding areas of the project. The socio- cultural norms and values have changed due to the concentration of large number of people from diverse background. The level of awareness in people has significantly increased. The project has created abundant opportunities for knowledge and skill. So, their economic status has become better than before. PAFs include the ethnic groups such as Brahmin, Chhetri,

Kami, Damai and Thakuri in the study area, however is dominated by the Chhetri community.

In conclusion, installation of small hydropower project like Syarpudaha Mini Hydro Project is significant from various angles in the present context of Nepal, eg. to fulfill the national demand of electricity, protect environment, uplift living standard of rural people, enhance economic activities in the rural areas and reduce regional imbalance of development.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEPC	:	Alternative Energy Promotion Center
CBS	:	Central Bureau Statistics
CDM	:	Clean Development Mechanism
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussion
INGO	:	International Non Government Organization
KII	:	Key Informants Interview
KM	:	Kilometer
KW	:	Kilo Watt
MA	:	Master of Arts
MHP	:	Micro Hydro project
MW	:	Mega Watt
NGO	:	Non Government Organization
NMHDA	:	Nepal Micro Hydro Development Association
NO.	:	Number
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
TWB	:	The World Bank
NRB	:	Nepal Rastra Bank
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
DDC	:	District Development Committee
SMHP	:	Syarpudaha Mini Hydro Project
GoN	:	Government of Nepal