

LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY OF DAMAI COMMUNITY

(A Case Study of Kharigaira V.D.C of Dailekh District)

A Thesis

**Submitted to Central Department of Rural Development
in the Partial Fulfillment of the Degree of Master of Arts**

in Rural Development

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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May, 2010

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled "**Livelihood Strategy of Damai Community: A Study of Kharigaira VDC, Dailekh District**" has been prepared by Mr. Hari Bahadur Malla under my supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for evaluation by the thesis committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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This is to certify that the thesis entitled "**Livelihood Strategy of Damai Community: A Study of Kharigaira VDC, Dailekh District**" written and submitted by Hari Bahadur Malla has been examined. It has been declared successful for the fulfillment of the academic requirements toward the completion of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I am very much grateful to my thesis supervisor Prof. Dr. Uma Kant Silwal (Associate Professor of Central Department of Rural Development) TU, Kirtipur for his valuable inspiration and guidance throughout my study without whose continuous guidance and creative suggestions this task would have never been completed. I am also deeply indebted to all my respected teachers for their valuable information and suggestions.

I would like to extend my sincere to villagers people who unhesitant responded in course of data collection. During the course of writing this thesis, I received help and suggestion from various people's institutions and friends. I would like to thank VDC, DSS, and DDC Dailekh for their kind co-operation.

Similarly, I would like to thank my friends Nanda Ram Neupane, Durlov, Bogatti Topendra Shahi Chiran Givi Nepal, Mr. Nandraj Gyawali for their useful suggestion and valuable help to complete this thesis and my special thanks goes to Mr. Govinda Bahadur Malla for his technical support.

I would like to thank my parents Mr. Jaya Bahadur Malla and Mrs. Padma Malla for their continued encouragement and inspiration throughout my life and the study period and also thank my brothers Mr. Birendra Malla.

Finally, I am alone responsible for errors of judgment or of analysis, if exists any.

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ABSTRACT

People have adjusted their ways of earning livelihood to the changing environmental condition differ over space and social groups. Cultural values of people in the same space can create differences in the pattern of adaptation from one ethnic group to another in the same way, adaptation pattern of the same ethnic group may differ from one place to another due to change in the physical environment.

In the case of Nepal the livelihood condition of rural people is very poor and miserable. The life of people and the agricultural activities of the country over the years have not been improving as expected, when locally self-sufficient community are compelled to change their livelihood strategy has been changing with modernization and globalization. This is a critical problem of originality of a particular community today.

Damais are known as occupational caste groups with their own traditional occupation. In Nepal the occupational castes have been treated as Paninachalne and the term Dalit is used to refer to this group of people. Dalits are culturally socially and economically oppressed.

The general objective of the study is to find out the livelihood strategy of Damai community of Kharigaira VDC of Dailekh district, whereas the specific objective are to explore the traditional livelihood strategy of Damai community in the study area, the continuity and change occurring in the livelihood strategies and alternate livelihood strategies as the result of modern development activities of study area.

Before selecting a topic, a Brief review of the literature related to the strategy study of Damai community has been studied. Primary as well as secondary data have been taken as sampled households of Damai. 25 households have been taken as sampled households out of 102 household's sample. In this study, data were collected from field survey by applying household survey questionnaire, field note focus group discussion and observation method.

This study found that majority of the households (36%) out of total interviewed reported that they had adopted agriculture as a main occupation. Average family size of the sampled household was 5.18 per household. About 20% Damai out of total interviewed depend on telaring and 24% depend on laboring

A specific change has been seen in some traditional occupation and social institution of these groups. The changes and diversification emerged due to the internal as well as external causes. Industrial products, readymade and fashionable goods are the external causes. The absence of knowledge and skills about new fashion and nature of frequent migration are taken to be the internal causes which have played a vital role in the changing livelihood of Damai community.

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ABBREVIATION

Bs	Bikram Sambat
CBS	Central Bureau of Stastics
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Development for International Development
Dr.	Doctor (PhD)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
Fig.	Figure
Govt.	Government
H H	Household
KM	Kilometer
KIs	Key Informants
KG	Kilogram
LS	Livelihood Strategy
MA	Master's of Arts
NGOs	National Governmental Organizations
PN	Page Number
Prof.	Professor
TO	Traditional Occupation
TU	Tribhuvan University
TH	Total Household
VDC	Village Development Committee
VP	Village Profile

GLOSSARY

Aashe Jat	One who lives in expectation from others
Adhiya	Share Cropping
Baja	Musical Instrument
Bali	Food Grain
Balighare	Household which Provides Bali
Bari	Non-irrigated land
Bista	Clientele
Chhunu hune	Touchable
Chhununahune	Untouchable
Dashain	A Great Festival of Hindu
Jat	Caste
Jatis	Several Castes
Khet	Irrigated land
Madhesi	Plain People
Matuwali	Liquor Drunker
Naumati Baja	A Set of Nine Musical Instruments
Pakha	Non-Irrigated Slopy Land
Panchai Baja	A Set of Five Musical Instruments
Ropai	Transplanting Rice Seedlings
Ropani	Land Equal to 0.050872002 hectare
Samaj	Society