

**STATUS OF WOMEN IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY:  
A CASE STUDY OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY  
ELECTION 2007, NEPAL**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE CENTRAL  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY  
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY**

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ANTHROPOLOGY  
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**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Mr Dipendra Prasad pant has completed this dissertation entitled on “Status of Women in Constituent Assembly: A Case Study of Constituent Assembly 2007, Nepal” under my supervision. I would like to recommend it for final evaluation and approval.

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**LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE**

This dissertation of Mr. Dipendra Prasad Pant on “Status of Women in Constituent Assembly: A Case Study of Constituent Assembly 2007, Nepal” has been approved as partial fulfillment for the Master’s Degree of Sociology by the following Expert Committee.

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Dipendra Prasad Pant

Date:

## ABSTRACT

When CPN (Maoist) started waging war in Nepal in 1996 a revolutionary tinge of women's activism was seen in the rural area based subaltern women. Anthropologists have sufficient ground to examine the Maoists' claims of radical social transformation in the light of women's experiences on the ground. Based on fieldwork in several areas, they consider how the intersecting lines of class, caste, ethnicity, religion, gender and history shape individual women's political consciousness and motivations for enlisting as guerrilla cadre. Since Nepali Maoist models for women's "empowerment" must negotiate between overarching Maoist ideologies and the existing particularities of gender discrimination in Nepali society. Some people saw noticeable gaps between rhetoric and practice. Ultimately, after the Maoists adopted the mainstream democratic process and Nepal carried out the CA election, women's representation has reached almost to the level of thirty three percent despite the fact that fundamental changes in gender relations that the Maoists assert may not be the intentional result of their policies, but the largely unintended consequences of the conflict that emerge in relation to women's existing practice

Maoist women's involvement was, quite debatably, voluntary and was not intermittent. Being away from social mainstream and having left home and houses for uncertain times, they were the full fledged women activists. But, in the cases of non-Maoist women only the certain days, events, accidents and issues would call for their activism and participation. The Maoist women could have been mustered for the war but once they entered, they served in the war seemingly and for their understanding, voluntarily. Their offences , defenses , assault ,marriage, love matters, inability to rehabilitate back, party's doting rules and many other circumstances compelled them to be the full-fledged women activists. After the peace process started the women couldn't divert back to the previous lives so it helped the Maoist women intensify their agenda and propagate accordingly for the electoral success.

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## ACRONYMS

CA	–	Constituent Assembly
CPN (Maoist)	–	Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
CPN (UML)	–	Communist Party of Nepal, (United Marxist and Leninist)
FPTP	-	First-Past-the-Post
INGO	–	International Non-Governmental Organization
MJF	–	Madhesi Janadhikar Forum
NC	–	Nepali Congress
NGO	–	Non-Governmental Organization
PR	–	Proportional Representation
TMLP	–	Tarai Madhesh Loktantrik Party