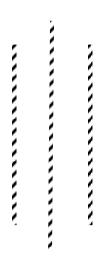
# Tharu and Their Rituals: An Anthropological analysis of changing rituals at Sharadanager, Chitwan



A Thesis Submitted to Tribhuvan University
The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology in
Partial fulfillment

For Master Degree of Arts in

Anthropology



Submitted by

Ms. Ranjita Poudel
Center Department of Sociology/Anthropology

2009

#### TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

## **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

### Kirtipur, Kathmandu

#### RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Ms Ranjita Poudel has completed this thesis entitled "Tharu and Their Rituals: An Anthropological analysis of changing Rituals at Sharadanager" on Sharadanagar-6 of Chitwan District under my guidance and supervision. The dissertation embodies the result of her empirical investigation based on fieldwork. I recommended for this dissertation to the examination committee for approval and acceptance.

| Recommended by:                      |
|--------------------------------------|
|                                      |
| (Dr. Keshav Kumar Sthertha)          |
| Lecturer                             |
| Department of Sociology/Anthropology |
| Tribhuvan University                 |
| Kirtipur, Kathmandu                  |
| Date: 2066-                          |

#### TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

## **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

## Kirtipur, Kathmandu

#### **APPROVAL LETTER**

The dissertations entitled: "Tharu and Their Rituals: An Anthropological analysis of changing Rituals at saradanager" on Sharadanagar-6 of Chitwan district written by Ms Rajita Poudel has been evaluated, accepted and approved as a partial requirement for the Degree of Masters in Anthropology in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Tribhuvan University:

| Approved by,                 |
|------------------------------|
|                              |
| 1. Pro. Dr. Om Gurung        |
| (Head of department)         |
|                              |
|                              |
| 2. Dr. Keshav Kumar Shrestha |
| (Supervisor)                 |
|                              |
|                              |
| 3. Tika Ram Gautam           |
| (External)                   |
|                              |

Date: 2066-

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** 

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all-honorable lecturers and head

of Department of Sociology/Anthropology kindly helped me officially as well

as personally.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to my respected teacher **Dr.** 

**Keshav Kumar Sthrestha**. I am able to complete my dissertation/thesis under

his close and kind supervision. He has always been available, whenever I

approached. Without his valuable time and suggestion, I couldn't able to

complete it on time.

I acknowledged and extended my sincere thanks to all my key informants for

providing me required information's of Sharadanagar-6 of Chitwan. And I

humbly respect my friend's sister, who introduced the village at first.

My appreciation and sincere thanks goes to Mr. Pramod Kumar, who helped

me to prepare and edit this dissertation easily.

Ms. Ranjita Poudel

# **Table of content**

Letter of Recommendation Letter of Approval Acknowledgement List of Table

| <b>Chapter-1 Introduction</b>       |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| 1.1 Background of the Study         | 1  |
| 1.2 Statement of the Problem        | 5  |
| 1.3 Objectives of the Study         | 6  |
| 1.4 Limitation of the study         | 6  |
| 1.5 Importance of the Study         | 7  |
| 1.6 Organization of the Study       | 7  |
| Chapter-2 Literature Review         |    |
| 2.1 Theoretical Review              | 8  |
| 2.2 The origin and history of Tharu | 12 |
| 2.3 Life cycle rituals of Tharu     | 15 |
| 2.3.1 Birth Ritual                  | 15 |
| 2.3.2 Marriage Ritual               | 16 |
| 2.3.3 Death Ritual                  | 21 |
| <b>Chapter-3 Research Methods</b>   |    |
| 3.1 Selection of study area         | 22 |
| 3.2 Research Design                 | 22 |
| 3.3 Purposive sampling              | 22 |
| 3.4 Data collection Techniques      | 22 |
| 3.4.1 Interview Schedule            | 22 |
| 3.4.2 Observation                   | 23 |
| 3.4.3 Key Informant Interview       | 23 |
| 3.4.4 Questionnaire                 | 23 |
| 3.4.5 Data Analysis                 | 23 |
| Chapter-4 Area and People           |    |
| 4.1 Background                      | 24 |
| 4.2 Demographic Aspect              | 24 |
| 4.2.1 Population Structure          | 24 |
| 4.2.2 Family structure              | 25 |
| 4.2.3 Occupation of the Study area  | 27 |
| 4.3 Social Aspect                   | 28 |
| 4.3.1 House type                    | 28 |
| 4.3.2 Decision Making               | 29 |

| 4.3.3 Educational Aspect 4.3.4 Health and Sanitation 4.3.5 Language 4.3.6 Religion 4.3.7 Marital status 4.4 Economic Aspect | 30<br>31<br>31<br>32<br>32<br>33 |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 4.4.1 Land Holding Pattern 4.4.2 Food Situation   | 33<br>33                         |
| 4.4.3 Animal Husbandry/Livestock  | 34                               |
| Chapter-5 Life Cycle Rituals and Change   |                                  |
| 5.1 Birth Ritual  | 35                               |
| 5.2 Marriage Ritual   | 36                               |
| 5.2.1 Arrange Marriage  | 37                               |
| 5.2.2 Love Marriage/Elopement Marriage  | 38                               |
| 5.2.3 Polygamy  | 38                               |
| 5.2.4 Widow Marriage  | 39                               |
| 5.2.5 Mis-match and Early Marriage  | 39                               |
| 5.2.6 Inter-Caste Marriage  | 39                               |
| 5.2.7 Jamani Marriage   | 40                               |
| 5.2.8 Other types of Marriage   | 40                               |
| 5.3 Death Rituals   | 40                               |
| 5.4 Factors and Processes of Change   | 42                               |
| 5.4.1 Economic  | 42                               |
| 5.4.2 Migration   | 42                               |
| 5.4.3 Technology  | 43                               |
| 5.4.4 Education   | 43                               |
| 5.4.5 Physical facilities   | 43                               |
| 5.4.6 Modernization   | 44                               |
| 5.4.7 Sanskritization and Hindunization   | 44                               |
| 5.4.8 Nepalization  | 44                               |
| 5.4.9 Westernization  | 44                               |
| 5.4.10 Urbanization and Industrilization  | 45                               |
| Chapter- 6 Summary & Conclusion   |                                  |
| 6.1 Summary   | 46                               |
| 6.2 Conclusion  | 49                               |
| References Cited  |                                  |

Questionnaire schedule Annex-1 Key Informant Questions Annex-2 Name of key informants

## **List of Table**

- Table -1 Population distribution by age and sex of the study area. (Page 27)
- Table -2 Presents the types Family of the Study area. (Page 29)
- Table-3 Occupation of the people of Sharadanagar. (No. Of people) (Page 30)
- Table-4 House Structures of study area. Table-5 literacy rate of the study area (Page 31)
- Table-5 Literacy rate of the study area literacy rate of the study area (Page 32)
- Table-6 Education Status of the study area (Page 33)
- Table-7 Distribution of Tharu population by marital status (Page 35)