

THE SOCIAL STATUS OF THARU COMMUNITY
(A Case Study of Shreepur VDC, Kanchanpur)

A Thesis

**Submitted in Partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in
Sociology/Anthropology**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the thesis entitled *The Social Status of Tharu Community (A Case Study of Shreepur V.D.C. Kanchanpur)* has been prepared by *Mrs. Nirjala Kumari Bam* under my supervision as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology/Anthropology.

To the best of my knowledge the study is original and carries useful information in the field of study of "Shreepur V.D.C" Kanchanpur. I recommend it for evaluation to the Thesis committee.

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APPROVAL LETTER

We certify that this thesis entitled *The Social Status of Tharu Community (A Case Study of Shreepur V.D.C. Kanchanpur)*, submitted by *Mrs. Nirmala Kumari Bam* to the Central Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in Sociology has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

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ABSTRACT

The title of this study, "The Social Status of Tharu Community : A Case Study of Shreepur VDC, Kanchanpur, deals with extinct status of Tharus. Nepal, a country of unity in diversity, consists 126 castes & ethnic groups as well as 61 indigenous groups. Most of these groups are economically poor and marginalized as well as under the crisis of extinction due to the insurmountable influence of westernization, modernization.

This study analyzes, examines and reveals the socio-economic and cultural status of Tharu community of Shreepur VDC Kanchanpur as well as identifies constraint and opportunities to promote and empower the indigenous Tharu community especially in sector of rural development and National development in Nepal, including significant meaning to development experts and planners. The similarities and dissimilarities within Tharu community could be interesting with plentiful illustrations for rural development research work. Thus, this study reveals the pristine scenario on the changing pattern and trend of social condition of Tharu community of Shreepur VDC Kanchanpur.

As for research methodology for this study, mainly descriptive research design & explanatory research design, has been used to gather both qualitative and quantitative datas on Tharu's socio-economic, political, health, sanitation condition as well as status of children, women, food habits and their housing styles.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BASE	=	Backward Society Education
CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistics
ECCE	=	Early Childhood care & Development
FP	=	Family Planning
G Os	=	Government Organization
HH	=	House Hold
GN	=	Government of Nepal
INGO	=	International Non-government Organization
NGO	=	Non-government Organization
V.D.C.	=	Village Development Committee
D.D.C.	=	District Development Committee
Pop.	=	Population
FCHV	=	Female Community Health Volunteers

LIST OF THARU S TERMINOLOGY

Aitwari	=	Festival Celebrated on Sunday
Astimki	=	Krishna Janmastami
Atwar	=	Sunday
Baba	=	Father
Aiya	=	Mother
Bahuriya	=	Daughter in law
Barapu	=	Elder brother of father
Bathinya	=	Unmarried Tharu girl
Bhauji	=	Elder Brother's wife
Bhajinya	=	Sister in law
Bubu	=	Grand Father
Dadu	=	Elder brother
Bhutwa	=	Home god
Chhawa/putwa	=	Son
Chhewar Karana	=	Head saving
Chhotaka	=	Youngest son
Chhotki	=	Youngest daughter/girl
Damada	=	Son in law (Daughter's husband)
Dai	=	Mother
Dasahara	=	Dashain
Dhurehari	=	Holi
Dewari	=	Tihar
Deurahar	=	Traditional God (Deity)
Guruwa	=	Shaman
Gotyar	=	Consangeineous
Gharduniya	=	Head of the Family
Jhanga	=	Bride Price
Kardhan	=	Block and Thick thread around the waist
Kamaiya	=	Bonded cabour
Lehanga	=	A cloth worn around the waist to upper to upper ankle

Mama	=	Mother's brother
Mai	=	Maternal uncle's wife
Maghi	=	First day of Magh
Mahato	=	Village chief
Nana	=	Mother's father
Naru	=	Mother's mother
Patohiya	=	Daughter in law
Phaguwaina	=	Holi song
Phenphi	=	Nose ring
Phuwa/phui	=	Father's/sister's husband
Pritrahawa	=	Ancestors, whom they worship on 5 th day of Dasain
Suranya	=	Traditional mid wife
Tariya	=	Silver bracelet put on the upper arm by Tharu women