

**THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY  
DUE TO SETTLEMENT OF BHUTANESE REFUGEES IN  
BELDANGI-II CAMP:A Case Study of  
Damak Village of Jhapa**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
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## RECOMMENDATION LETTER

It is certified that that Ms. Chandrakala Acharya has completed her thesis entitled **THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DUE TO SETTLEMENT OF BHUTANESE REFUGEES IN BELDANGI-II CAMP: A Case Study of Damak Village of Jhapa** under my guidance and supervision. I recommend this thesis for final approval and acceptance.

Approved by

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## **Letter of Acceptance**

The thesis entitled **THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DUE TO SETTLEMENT OF BHUTANESE REFUGEES IN BELDANGI-II CAMP: A Case Study of Damak Village of Jhapa** submitted by **Chandrakala Acharya** has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology.

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I do not claim this research work to be very exhaustive in nature because of various constraints during the study. I hope this small effort of mine will be of great value to those who are interested in the area of refugees and other researcher of this subject.

June 2013

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## ABSTRACT

According to the refugees' law, refugees must reside within their camps and not to engage in economic activities outside the camp. In practice neither refugees are following this law nor is government of Nepal being able to effectively implement this law. As a result, employment opportunities and wage rate of Nepali citizen is affected. On one side the people of Nepal are suffering from lack of employment opportunities, and in other side refugees are obtaining facilities provided by UNHCR and other national and international organizations and at the same time they have been entered in labor market. Although the refugees have some positive impacts but these positive impacts are very less in comparison to the negative impacts. This situation is providing the ground of further incumbent of poverty level of Nepalese people.

This present study entitled **THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DUE TO SETTLEMENT OF BHUTANESE REFUGEES IN BELDANGI-II CAMP (A Case Study of Damak Village of Jhapa)** has tried to reveal the various impacts of Bhutanese refugee of Beldangi Camp on the local people who are living around the camp and its adjoining area. Mainly the study has focused on the socio economic and environmental impacts of the refugees. Impacts may be both positive and negative.

In this study both exploratory and descriptive research designs have been used. The study is descriptive as it attempts to describe the cause of influx of Bhutanese refugee in Nepal. Both primary and secondary data have been used to carry out the study. The primary data were collected from the local community. Apart from the primary data, much relevant secondary information was also used from published and unpublished literature.

Refugees have created both positive as well as negative impacts to the local people and environment. Thefts, prostitution, alcoholism, gambling, fights are social negative impacts of refugee. Similarly exchange of culture and tradition, health facilities obtained

from the camp are social positive impacts. Likewise, markets for local product, easy and cheap wage, skill and idea sharing, employment creation are economic positive impacts. High market price exploitation of labor, unemployment is negative economic impacts of refugees. From environmental point of view, refugees have created mostly negative impacts to the local community.

Although refugees have created both positive and negative impacts, the positive impacts are less in comparison to the negative impacts. So, local people are bearing lots of negative impacts of the refugees in particular and Nepal in general. However, with resettlement, there has been a fresh batch of problems as well as its own solutions.

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## ABBREVIATION/ACRONYMS

AHURA	-	Association of Human Rights Activities
AMDA	-	Association of Medical Doctors of Asia
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
GON	-	Government of Nepal
INGO	-	International Non Government Organization
IOM	-	International Organization of Migration
INHURED	-	Institute for Human Rights Environment and Development
JVT	-	Joint Verification Team
LWS	-	Lutheran World Service
Mcs	-	Municipality
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
NRCS	-	Nepal Red Cross Society
NPR	-	Nepali currency
OXFAM	-	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PFHRB-		Peoples Forum for Human Right Bhutan
RBA	-	Royal Bhutan Army
RCU	-	Refugee Co-ordination Unite

RGOB - Royal Government of Bhutan

RT - Registration Team

TCR - Third Country Resettlement

TCRP - Third Country Resettlement Program

UN - United Nation

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioners for Refugee