

Tribhuvan University

Enforcement of Masculinity in Rabi Thapa's *Nothing to Declare*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social sciences

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Masters of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

This research entitled “Enforcement of Masculinity in Rabi Thapa’s *Nothing to Declare*” has been completed by Keshav Pandeya under my supervision in partial fulfillments for the degree of Masters of Arts in English. I recommend this to Research Committee for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This research entitled “Enforcement of Masculinity in Rabi Thapa’s *Nothing to Declare*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Keshav Raj Pandeya, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Research Committee Members:

Internal Examiner

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Abstract

This research looks into Rabi Thapa's story collection *Nothing to Declare* and argues that masculinity is a social construct and it is enforced on male characters from the very young age. Almost all the characters in the story collection are males on the one hand and on the other side female characters are not given appropriate role. *Nothing to Declare* centers on the experience of Nepali middle class youths in and around the capital. They follow a loose chronological progression, starting with initiation where a young boy is deeply embarrassed by the rituals of an initiation ceremony, moving through to boarding school experience in Angles, to college, moving aboard and running, to exploring an arranged marriage. The masculinity of contemporary middle-class youths seems to be constructed at a middle space between tradition and modernity, by the new modes of consumption, and by a desire to go to other foreign locations.

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