

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences
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Kachahari Performances in Nepal: Towards Liberation, Social Empowerment,
Conflict Resolution and Therapy

A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of English in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Philosophy in English

By
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Letter of Recommendation

Bhim Lal Aryal has completed his dissertation entitled “Kachahari Performances in Nepal: Towards Liberation, Social Empowerment, Conflict Resolution and Therapy” under my supervision. He carried out his research from October 2012 to September 2013. I hereby recommend that his dissertation be submitted for viva voce.

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Approval Letter

This dissertation entitled “Kachahari Performances in Nepal: Towards Liberation, Social Empowerment, Conflict Resolution and Therapy”, submitted by Bhim Lal Aryal to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy in English has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research studies the Kachahari performance which is the Nepali adaptation of Augusto Boal's Forum Theatre. Unlike traditional forms of performances, it empowers the audience community to define their roles in analyzing the socio-economic conditions of their own as a fate maker of their own, who deserve to be called the director and actor of their own life and problems. Thus, this thesis studies few representative Kachahari Performances made by Aarohah Gurukul, Kathmandu and Shilpee Theatre. It takes Kachahari performances as the form of social avant-garde in resolving the socio-cultural issues of communities and relies heavily on Augusto Boal's concept of Theatre of the Oppressed, Forum Theatre and his discursive theory of Spect-actor that radically deconstruct the traditional notion of artists and directors as the creators of the meanings. The functionality of the theatre is no longer in doubt, as many people have come to realize the potency of the theatre in development. It has the power to influence thought and opinion, and can serve as a popular and effective means of political propagation, economic empowerment and culture diffusion. This research tries to establish the fact that the nature of theatre being advocated, if explored to its fullness can create the awareness that conflict is antithetical to societal progress and development, by helping the people to understand issues through metaphoric communication and providing a communal experience, which relates the individual to groups, and the groups to the forces controlling the society.

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