

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

*Guthiyars: Makers and Maintainers of Newar Performance Culture*

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By

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## Abstract

This research work aims to redefine *guthiyars*. Taking *Yomali Punhi*, a particular Newar festival at Thecho as the case studies, this work argues that *guthiyars* should not be taken as mere followers of the rules given or prescribed to them by their forefathers. *Guthiyars* hold locations of power to bring improvisations in their cultural practices. Moreover, they live in a reality that they and their fellow community members belong to the era of multiculturalisms and globalizations, the times they need to be mobile to carve out their identity. Therefore, they try their best to free their fellow community members from the burden of over-sized rituals. Importantly, they also know that *guthiyars* should also work to convince their fellow members especially their youths that *guthi*-driven activities provide them differently powerful identity.

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## Table of Contents

Chapters	Contents	Page No.
	Title	
	Letter of Approval	
	Abstract	I
	Acknowledgement	II
Chapter: One	<i>Guthiyars</i> and Researchers	1 - 7
1.1.	Points of Departure	6
Chapter: Two	<i>Guthi</i> , <i>Guthiyars</i> and Foods	8 - 23
2.1	<i>Guthis</i> Now	10
2.2	<i>Guthiyars</i> and Foods	15
Chapter: Three	<i>Guthiyars</i> and Newar Performance Cultures	24- 38
3.1.	<i>Guthiyars</i> and Performance	24
3.2.	Globalizations and <i>Guthiyars</i>	37
Chapter: Four	Foods, Foods and Foods: Newar Culture	
	Thy Name is "Continuity and Change"	39 ó 58
4.1.	Foods and <i>Guthiyars</i>	42
4. 2.	Foods and Festivals	45
4.3.	Ornaments and <i>Guthiyars</i>	47
Chapter: Five	Conclusion	59 ó 63
	Works Cited	
	Appendix	