

"Socio-cultural change in Tharu community"

(A case study of PAHALMANPUR VDC of Kailali District)

A Thesis Submitted To

Birendranagar Multiple Campus, Birendranagar Surkhet.

(Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Department of

Sociology/Anthropology for the partial Fulfillment of Master's Degree

in Sociology)

Submitted By

RAGHU NATH CHAUDHARY

Exam Roll No: 4831

T.U. Regd. No:26921-94

Campus Roll No:26/061/62

**TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY /ANTHROPOLOGY
BIRENDRANAGAR MULTIPLE CAMPUS BIRENDRANAGAR
SURKHET**

Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Raghu Nath Chaudhary has Completed his dissertation entitled "Socio-Cultural Change in Tharu Community" of pahalmanpur,V.D.C. Kailali. A Sociological study under my guidance and supervision. Therefore I recommend this dissertation for the final approval and acceptance.

.....
Anand Prasad Subedi
Department of
sociology/Anthropology
Birendranagar M.Campus Surkhet

3, August 2009

TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
BIRENDRANAGAR MULTIPLE CAMPUS BIRENDRANAGAR, SURKHET

Approval

On the recommendation of Mr. Anand Prasad Subedi ,this dissertation work of Mr. Raghu Nath Chaudhary is Approved for the examination and is submitted to the Birendranagar Multiple Campus, Birendranagar, Surkhet for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the M.A. Degree in sociology .

Evaluation Committee

Name And Designation

Signature

Krishna Bahadur Regmi

Head of Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Birendranagar Multiple Campus
Birendranagar, Surkhet

.....

Keshar Sing Rana

Campus Chief
Birendranagar Multiple Campus
Birendranagar, Surkhet

.....

External Supervisor

.....

Anand Prasad Subedi

Internal Supervisor

.....

Date:–

Acknowledgement

I am extremely grateful and indebted to my respected and honorable advisor Mr. Anand Prasad Subedi for his valuable guidance, suggestion, comments and kind supervision.

Most of all, I am very thankful to Mr. Krishna Bahadur Regmi, Head of Department, Department of sociology/Anthropology Birendranagar Multiple Campus ,Birendranagar Surkhet.

I would like to convey my thanks to all the teachers, friends and other people who directly or indirectly assist me in preparing my thesis. Similarly, I am very obliged to all the people of Pahalmanpur V.D.C. for helping me through my research study period.

RaghuNathChaudhary

3, August 2009

ABSTRACT

The study entitled "Socio-Culture Change in Tharu Community" in Pahalmanpur V.D.C" was completed under the supervision of Mr. Anand Prasad Subedi, Lecturer of Birendranagar Multiple Campus, Surkhet.

The present study area, Pahalmanpur V.D.C.is a densely inhabited place of Tharu people. It is located just near the Mahendra highway. The migration of hill people in the village started only after 1970 (after the Resettlement programme), before this period, only the Tharus were the inhabitant of this village. Now the total population of the VDC is roughly 11892.Traditionally, the Tharus of this village are farmers supplemented by livestock rearing.

After the migration of hill people, have been interested with different ethnic groups. In such interactions they are been interacting with different ethnic groups. In such interactions they are accepting and imitating numerous techniques and leas from them, which causes various changes on their economic life style. The first stage that took place among these people after the migration of hill people is loss of home of their land to the people of other ethnic groups and also land is fragmented into small pieces. Thus on one hand their land holdings have been loosing and on the other hand the open land for pasturage and dense forest in the vicinity area have encroached by over population due to which they have to face with new problems for subsistence. Meanwhile, they adopted new methods in farming system such as uses of new and improved seeds, fertilizer and plantation of summer paddy. So, they have been able to yield more grains from the same areas of land than before. As the number of people increased in this village, different new kinds of tasks were also increased on one hand, and on the other hand, they also came in contact with the people of different occupations. Therefore, to solve the food deficit problems, they ultimately have been changing their traditional occupations. Thus after the migration of hill people the economic life of the Tharus seen to be quite changing.

As the migration of hill people started to flow, then the event of inter-cast marriage relationship between Tharu and other tribes has become not a strange deal, and there took a great interaction between Tharus and non-Tharus. AS a consequence,

Tharu people have adopted new kinds of social and cultural practices, which were not prevalent among them in the past. The most important positive impact on Tharus after the migration of hill people is that of attraction towards educational sector. The newly opened educational institutions due to the activities of hilly migrants caused not only to help for developing positive attitudes but also increased literacy rate.

The Tharus of this site have adopted Hindu religious systems such as adoption of Brahmin priest in different deities and rituals rather than using own Gurung involvement of some people in Satsung, accept new ideologies with behavioral modification such as avoidance of liquor drinking, which are mainly in the direction of Hindu philosophy, are the indicators of Hindu domination. They started to observe Hindu festivals such as Dashain and Tihar with giving more priority rather than their own festivals such as Maghi, Jitia, Aitawari, Ghudiya, Bhajahaar. They have adopted some Hindu rituals in lifecycle ceremonies too, such as polluted assuming system in birth of child for a period of 11 days, naming by Brahmin priest with Hindu system, reduction in mis-matched and early marriage, performance of mourning ritual just after the death are such newly adopted cultural practices which were not prevalent in the ancient times. Similarly the Tharus of this village have adopted new types of dressing and ornaments. They have started to participate in social activities more than before on one hand, and on the other hand, due to the fear of hilly people the ethnic feelings among them have also developed. Thus such types of economic, social and cultural changes on the life-style of the Tharu people of Pahalmanpur village have carried by the migration event.

Raghu Nath Chaudhary

List of Glossary

Zimdari:–	Land is Zamindar
Raithani:–	Land is given by zamindar to raiti
Raiti:–	Some one who lived in Zamindars land
Daunri:–	Threshing rice paddy by oxen and buffaloes
Guruwa:–	Witch doctor
Rosari:–	Tharu's people song
Sowrathi:–	A kind of song
Jhumra Nach:–	Traditional dance of tharu people
Sakhiya Nach:–	Tharu people ladies dance
Aitwary: –	A kind of fasting festival of tharu people
Anattar:–	A kind of fasting festival
Dhamar:–	A kind of winter season song of tharu people
Sajna:–	A kind of spring season song of tharu people
Badkimar:–	A kind of song
Auli:–	(A kind of Ceremony) After harvesting rice paddy celebrating this festival
Hardahuwa:–	A kind of ceremony (After planting paddy celebrating this Festival)
Guriya:–	Nagpanchami
Ashtimki:–	Krishna janma Astami
Horohiya:–	Someone who ploughs the field
Charohiya:–	Someone who looks after the cattle
Bhegwa:–	Tharu's male people costume
Goniya:–	Tharu;s female costume
Lehnga:-	Traditional costume of tharu's women
Bijaith:-	A kind of Barslets
Baju:–	A kind of Barslets
Bichhuwa:–	A kind of fingers ring
Dhikri:–	A kind of traditional food of tharu people
Balmansa:-	A key person of village

List of Table

Table No.	Subject	Page No.
1	Landholding Category of Tharu people Now	29
2	Changing the in farming style	32
3	Seasonal cropping system in the study area	33
4	Total months of grain deficit by households	35
5	Total months of grain deficit by household in 1980	36
6	Name of the industries in Pahalmanpur V.D.C.	38
7	Educational Status of the Tharu Community	40
8	Types of toilet of the study area	41
9.	Distribution of sampled household by main occupation	44
10.	Subsidiary occupation of the Tharu Community	45
11.	School in Pahalmanpur VDC.	49
12.	Change in school enrolment of Tharu Children of Pahalmanpur VDC.	50
13.	Change in pattern of human treatment	50
14.	Married age and age prefer to marry by couples of sampled households .	61

Contents

Recommendation
Approval
Acknowledgement
Abstract
List of Glossary
List of Table

Chapter One Introduction

Page no.

	1-8
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the problem	3
1.3 Objective of the study	5
1.4 Importance of the Study	6
1.5 Organization of the study	7
1.6 Limitation of the study	8

Chapter Two Literature review

	9-23
2.1 Origin of tharus	9
2.2 Social economic status	11
2.3 socio-cultural change	15
2.4 Festivals and life cycle	21
2.5 Conceptual framework : Factors affecting tharu community	23

Chapter Three Research Methodology the of study

	24-27
3.1 Research design	24
3.2 Universality and sample size	24
3.3 Sampling technique	25
3.4 Techniques of data collection	25
3.4.1 primary data collection	25
3.4.1.1 Interview schedule	25
3.4.1.2 Key information interview	25
3.4.1.3 Observation	26
3.4.1.4 participatory rapid appraisal (PRA)	26
3.4.2 Secondary data collection	26
3.5 Data analysis and presentation	27
3.6 Selection of the Study area and its justification	27

Chapter Four
Data presentation and analysis 28-69

4.1 Change in landholding system and land patterns	28
4.2 Change in land pattern	30
4.3 Change in farming	30
4.3.1 Chang in animal farming (Livestock keeping)	30
4.3.2 Change in farming style	30
4.3.3 Changing practices	32
4.4 Establishment of industries (Large and small)	37
4.5 Change in life standard	39
4.5.1. Change in housing types	39
4.5.2 Change in educational aspect	39
4.5.3 Change in health and sanitation	40
4.5.4 Family planning acceptance	42
4.5.5 Change in language	42
4.5.6 Mobility	42
4.6 Occupation	43
4.7 Change in other resources	47
4.8 Change in Education	48
4.9 Change in health treatment system	50
4.10 Socio - Cultural change	51
4.10.1 Change in family system	51
4.10.2 Change in cultural activities	
4.10.2.1 Clothing	52
4.10.2.2 Fooding and drinking	52
4.1.2.3 Ornaments	53
4.10.2.4 Song and dance	53
4.10.2.5 Others	54
4.10.3 Change in religious faith	54
4.10.4 Festivals	56
4.11 Change in life-Cycle ceremonies	58
4.11.1 Birth	58
4.11.2 Marriage	58
4.11.3 Death rites	62
4.12 Increment in social activities	63
4.13 Development of ethnic feeling	64
4.14 Factors of change	65
4.14.1 Transportation	65
4.14.2 Economic	65
4.14.3 Migration	66
4.14. 4 Technology	66
4.14.5 Education	67
4.14.6. Social organization	67
4.14,7 Modernization	67
4.14.8 Sanskritization	68

4.14.9 Nepalization	68
4.14.10 Westernization	68
4.14.11 Deforestation	69
4.14.12 Industrialization	69

Chapter Five

Summary , Conclusion and Recommenda	70-74
6.1 Summary	70
6.2 Conclusion	72
6.3 Recommendation	73
Annex	References