

Livelihood Analysis of *Dalits* A Case Study of Geta VDC in Kailali District

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Master of
Arts in Rural Development**

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2010**

RECOMMENDATION

The Thesis entitled **Livelihood Analysis of *Dalits*** in Geta VDC of Kailali District has been prepared by Sunita Bhandari in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Arts in Rural Development under my supervision. I forward it with recommendation for approval.

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APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research comes to successful completion with the co-operation from various person and institution that have been supportive throughout my work and bring in the final shape. I am greatly indebted to all of them.

I, first of all, owe a deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Dr. Prem Sharma for his proper guidance throughout the research period. I express my cordial gratitude to Professor Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka; head of Department, for giving me opportunities to carry out this thesis.

Similarly, my sincere acknowledgement goes to the T.U. Central Library, Office of District Development Committee, Kailali and Rural Development Center, Geta.

My family members, especially my parents, Mrs. Bishnu Maya Bhandari and Mr. Tilak Bhandari as well as my sister Kavita Bhandari and my brother Pawan Bhandari deserve special thanks and sincere appreciation for always supporting me morally. Their constant love and affection helped me to reach to this stage.

Last but not the least; I am thankful to all the respondents of Ward 4 and 5 of Geta VDC who are the cornerstones of this study. Without their cooperation and assistance, this research would not have been possible.

Sunita Bhandari

ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in the purposively selected wards (4 and 5) of Geta VDC of Kailali district with the objectives of a) examining the socio-economic and livelihood conditions of Dalit, b) assessing their household level food security with respect to land holding size and c) finding out their living standard. Of the total 104 Dalit households, 66 households were sampled for the study. Both qualitative and quantitative techniques were used for data collection. The data analysis was done with the help of computer software packages i.e. Microsoft Excel 2007.

Sixty five respondents had some kind of land. Of these, 35 possessed Ailani land (barren land owned by the government) and the rest had private land. For the majority, size of landholding was very small. The major crops grown in the study area were rice, wheat, mustard, pulse crop and maize and their yield rates were 3.2534 metric ton/ha, 1.7290 metric ton/ha, 0.2699 metric ton/ha, 0.2381 metric ton/ha and 0.6288 metric ton/ha kg respectively. For the absolute majority, food they produced was only sufficient for less than three months. They supplemented their requirements with off-farm labour, farming and caste-based occupation. Those who earned less than NRs.3, 000 per month, 3,000 to 4,500 and more than NRs.4, 500 were almost equally divided. Majority of the respondents owned some kind of livestock such as goat, ox, cow, buffalo, calf and hen and had thatched houses. Very few had access to electricity where as none of the Dalits had toilets in their houses. Most of the family members were just literate. However, they took loan from both formal and informal institutions. The average monthly expenditure on food, education, health and clothing was NRs.3060.94. Nearly three-fifths (56.06%) of the respondents perceived their living standard as low and for the rest, it was medium. The socio-economic condition of Dalits in all dimensions, such as sources of livelihoods, size of land holding, food security and other is at lower level.

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

GO	Government Organization
Ha	Hectare
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.
Kg	Kilo gram
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NRs.	Nepalese Rupees
VDC	Village Development Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE PAGE	i
RECOMMENDATION LETTER	ii
APPROVAL LETTER	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABSTRACT	v
ACRONYMS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
ANNEXES	x
LIST OF TABLES	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of Problem	3
1.3 Rational/ Justification of Study	4
1.4 Research Objectives	5
1.5 Limitation	4
1.6 Definition of Terms	4
1.7 Organization of Thesis	5
2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	7
2.1 Defining <i>Dalit</i>	7
2.2 Review of Theoretical Literature	8
2.2.1 Sustainable Livelihood Framework	8
2.2.1.1 Vulnerability Context	8
2.2.1.2 Livelihood Assets	9
2.2.1.3 Livelihood Strategy	11
2.2.1.4 Livelihood Outcomes	11
2.3 Contemporary Research	12
2.3.1 Situation of <i>Dalit</i>	12
2.3.2 Land Availability and its Distribution	16

2.3.3 Different Land Acts and their Amendments	16
2.3.6 Indicators for Nepal Living Standard	17
2.4 Conceptual Framework	19
3. METHODOLOGY	22
3.1 Study Site	22
3.2 Research Design	22
3.3 Sampling Design and Procedure	22
3.4 Data Collection Instrument and Techniques	22
3.4.1 Primary Source	23
3.4.2. Secondary Source	23
3.5. Data Analysis and Interpretation	23
3.6. Ethical Consideration	23
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	25
4.1 Study Area Description	25
4.1.1 Geographical Location	25
4.2 General Characteristics of Respondents	25
4.2.1 Age	25
4.2.2 Sex	26
4.2.3 Marital Status	27
4.2.4 Religion	28
4.2.5 Education	28
4.2.6 Occupation	29
4.2.7 Head of House	31
4.3 Land	32
4.3.1 Land Ownership	32
4.3.2 Land Received	33
4.3.3 Size of Land Owned	34
4.3.4 Land Renting	35
4.4 Food Security	36
4.4.1 Livelihood Sufficiency from Land	36
4.4.2 Productivity	37
4.4.3 Food Sufficiency	38

4.4.4 Required Size of Land	39
4.4.5 Working in Other’s Land	41
4.4.6 Type of Land Tenancy	41
4.5 Living Standard	42
4.5.1 Livelihood Activities	42
4.5.2 Income Range	44
4.5.3 Sources of Income	45
4.5.4 Regularity of Income	47
4.5.4 Livestock	48
4.5.5 House Type	50
4.5.6 Family Size Living in a House	51
4.5.7 Facilities	53
4.5.7.1 Electricity Facility	53
4.5.7.2 Toilet Facility	53
4.5.7.3 Drinking Water Facility	54
4.5.8 Possession of Physical Assets	54
4.5.9 Education Status of Family Members	55
4.5.10 Saving	56
4.5.11 Saving Amount	56
4.5.12 Loan	57
4.5.13 Monthly Expenditure	59
4.5.14 Living Standard	60
5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	62
5.1 Summary	62
5.2 Conclusions	64
5.3 Recommendation	66
BIBLIOGRAPHY	67
ANNEXES	69

ANNEXES

	Page
ANNEX A: Interview Schedule for Households Survey	69
ANNEX B: Photographs	76

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 4.1	Distribution of Respondents by Sex According Ward Number	27
Table 4.2	Distribution of Respondents by their Primary Occupation	30
Table 4.3	Distribution of Respondents by their Secondary Occupation	31
Table 4.4	Distribution of Respondents According to their Land Ownership	33
Table 4.5	Statistical Summary of Amount of Land Owned by Respondents	34
Table 4.6	Distribution of Respondents According to Fulfillment of their Livelihood Requirement with their Land Holding Size.	36
Table 4.7	Statistical Summaries of Productivity of Crops	38
Table 4.8	Cross Tabulation of Number of Family in a Single House and the Size of Land Required as Mentioned by the Respondent to Ensure Livelihood Security of their Family	40
Table 4.9	Distribution of Respondents by Family Members' Occupation	43
Table 4.10	Distribution of Respondents/ their Other Family Members by Sources of Income	46
Table 4.11	Statistical Summaries of Income of the Respondents from Different Source (NRs/ year)	47
Table 4.12	Distribution of Types of Livestock Holding Pattern of Respondents	50
Table 4.13	Distribution of Respondents by Access to Electricity	53
Table 4.14	Distribution of Respondent's Education of Family Members	55
Table 4.15	Distribution of Respondents by Types of Loans Sources	59

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 2.1	21
Conceptual Framework on Socio-economic Study and Livelihood Condition of <i>Dalit</i> in Geta VDC of Kailali District	
Figure 4.1	26
Distribution of Respondents by Age Group	
Figure 4.2	28
Composition of Respondents by their Marital Status	
Figure 4.3	29
Distribution of Respondents by their Education Level	
Figure 4.4	32
Distribution of Respondents by Sex as of Household	
Figure 4.5	33
Distribution of Respondents by Land they Own	
Figure 4.6	34
Percentages of the Respondents by Land Received from Land Reform Act or Squatter Commission	
Figure 4.7	35
Distribution of Respondents by Amount of Land Owned	
Figure 4.8	36
Distribution of Respondents by Land Renting	
Figure 4.9	37
Distribution of Respondents by Number of Crops in a Year	
Figure 4.10	39
Distribution of Respondents by Food Self Sufficiency	
Figure 4.11	41
Percentage of Respondents Working in Others Land	
Figure 4.12	42
Distribution of Respondents by Land Type Tenancy	
Figure 4.13	45
Distribution of Respondents by Income per Month	
Figure 4.14	48
Distribution of Respondents by Regularity of Income	
Figure 4.15	48
Percent of Respondents' Livestock Holding	
Figure 4.16	51
Distribution of Respondents by their House Types	
Figure 4.17	52
Distribution of Respondent's Family Size Living in a House	
Figure 4.18	53
Percentage of Respondents by House Congestion	
Figure 4.19	54
Distribution of Respondents by their Asset Types	
Figure 4.20	56
Percentage of Respondents by Saving	
Figure 4.21	57
Distribution of Respondents by their Saving Amount per Month (NRs.)	
Figure 4.22	58
Percentage of Respondents by Loan	
Figure 4.23	60
Distribution of Respondents by Monthly Expenditure	
Figure 4.24	61
Percentage of Respondents by Living Standard	