

# **LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES OF CHEPANG**

**(A Case Study of Shaktikhor VDC, Chitwan, Nepal)**

**A Thesis Report**

**Submitted to:**

Central Department of Rural Development  
Trivhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal  
In partial fulfillment of the requirements  
For Mater's Degree of Arts in Rural Development

**Submitted by :**

Mahesh Sapkota

Roll. No. 2537

**Regd. No: 9-1-240-1030-2000**

Central Department of Rural Development

Trivhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal

**Februry, 2010**

**Central Department of Rural Development  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu  
Nepal**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Mr. Mahesh Sapkota has prepared this dissertation entailed Livelihood strategies of Chepang. A case study of Shaktikhor VDC of Chitwan District under my supervision and guides. I endorse it for final evaluation.

.....  
**Mr. Suman Baskota**  
**Supervisor**  
**Date : 2066/11/14**

**Central Department of Rural Development  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu  
Nepal**

**Letter of Approval**

The Evaluation committee has approved this dissertation entitled Livelihood strategies of Chepang. A case study of Shaktikhor VDC of Chitwan district submitted by Mr.Mahesh Sapkota for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Arts in Rural Development.

**Evaluation Committee :**

**Prof . Dr. Pradip Kumar Khadka**

*Head of the Department*

.....

**Dr. Umakanta Silwal**

*External Examiner*

.....

**Mr. Suman Baskota**

*Supervisor*

.....

**Date :2066/11/14**

## **Acknowledgement**

Nepal is a multiethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi culture nation. 'Nepal is a garden of four caste and 36 sub cast.' Chepang are one of the indigenous ethnic groups of Nepal, who have been scattered in the steep hills of Chitwan, Makawanpur and Dhading Districts. Not only this, they are one of the exploited ethnic groups of Nepal. They attracted my mind when first time I read about them in book 'people in Nepal' written by Prof. Dor Bahadur Bista. The present inquiry is about the Livelihood strategies of Chepang in Chitwan District.

On the other hand, it is attempt to present social profile of Chepang in terms of their origin, economic condition and livelihood condition with suggestion for their uplift.

The Putting together of this dissertation paper would not have been possible without the in valuable support and guidance from my advisor lectures Mr. Suman Baskota. I am especially thank full to him for having taking time out despite his busy schedule, to provide his suggestion and comments.

I would like to thank the Department Chief, Faculty members, and staff of Central Department of Rural Development for their kind cooperation.

I express my sincere gratitude to my father Shiva P. Sapkota and mother Shiba K. Sapkota encouraged me to complete my work through out my work on this thesis. I would thank my brother Bishnu P. Sapkota who encouraged me every time for preparing this dissertation and I would also like to thank my bro. Bipin and closest friends Nirmal, Nabraj, Narayan, Rajan, Pranam for helping to prepare this thesis.

I am grateful to my Chepang Respondents of Shaktikhor VDC for cooperation. Without their help, this work wouldn't have been possible.

Finally, I thank to all the respondents for their valuable time with me.

**Mahesh Sapkota**  
2010

## **ABSTRACT**

*This thesis entitled "livelihood strategies of Chepang : A case study of Shaktikhor VDC Chitwan, Nepal". The general objectives of this study are to analyze the livelihood practices of Chepang, to examine the Socio-cultural and demographical characteristics of Chepang and to find out the socio economic condition of Chepang. Chepang of Shaktikhor VDC is miserable condition. They are back warded in every sector. The study attempts to documents of the livelihood strategies of Chepang and fuscous socio-economic and occupational pattern in the study area.*

*Shaktikhor VDC, situated in the north part of the Chitwan. In this VDC, there were 1160 households. In the study area 40 households are selected for the random sampling from Shaktikhor, gairibari, Chepedhap, Chisapani, Kalika, Devitar and Neureni .The respondents are household head. Simple random sampling techniques have been used to select the sample. In this study data were colleted from field survey by applying household's survey, questionnaires and observation methods. The study found that total 40 households are interviewed reported that they had adopted agriculture as a main occupation. Average family size of the sampled households was 6.4 per households. About the 62.5% Chepang households are involving in agriculture as a main occupation. The total population of 40 households are 257 among them 129 are male and 128 are female. Among the 40 respondent only 10% have produced adequet quantity of food grain, among the 40 respondents 75% found the traditional houses and 25 found in modern.*

*It was found that from study, 60% are illiterate, and now 90% of Chepang are interested to send their Children to school and out of the 40 respondents 7.5 % have permanent toilet where as 30% are temporary and 62.5% are none, and 62.5% Have facility of tap water and 50% of the households had a 0.1 to 10 ropani land and estimated annual income is 20000 to 30000. The above analysis is shows that Chepang community of Shaktikhor socially and economically deprives.*

*It was found that, to improve the Livelihoods strategies of Chepang there traditional type of farming system should be changed in to modern. Some sort of intensive type of farming scheme should be encouraged in this area. 'JT' and 'JTA' must be sent for their help regularly, so that they could be convinced about intensive type of farming and the implication of small farmer program will be fruitful for uplift the Chepangs livelihood. Government should provide some low interest lone for livestock and agriculture production. Government should be focused income generation activities, such as Goat farming, pig farming, bee keeping, vegetable farming etc. They were not trained with any vocational guidance or proper training, for the mobilization of local resources skill development training also required them.*

## **Table of Contents**

	<b>Page No.</b>
Letter of recommendation	II
Letter of Approval	III
Acknowledgement	IV
Abstract	V
Table of Contents	VI
List of Tables	IX
List of Figures	IX
Acronyms/Abbreviations	X

### **CHAPTER-ONE**

<b>INTRODOCTION</b>	1
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the study	4
1.4 Conceptual framework	4
1.5 Rational of the study	4
1.6 Limitation of the study	5

### **CHAPTER-TWO**

<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	6
2.1 Review of the Related Literature	6

### **CHAPTER-THREE**

<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	9
3.1 Research design	9
3.2 Rationale for selecting the study area	9
3.3 Nature and sources of data	9
3.4 Universe of study	9
3.5 Data collection tools and techniques	10
3.5.1 Household survey	10
3.5.2 Observation	10
3.5.3 Key informant Interview	10
3.6 Method of data analysis	10

## **CHEPTE- FOUR**

<b>AREA AND PEOPLE UNDER STUDY</b>	11
4.1 Geographical setting and climate of the study area	11
4.2 settlement pattern	11
4.3 Natural resource	11
4.4 Forest	12
4.5 Population of the Chitwan District	12
4.6 Cast/Ethnicity	12
4.7 Social Hierarchy	13

## **CHAPTER-FIVE**

<b>LIVILIHOD STRATEGIES OF CHEPANG</b>	14
5.1 Occupation for livelihood and Secondary Occupation	14
5.2 Agriculture and animal Husbandry	15
5.3 Types of Crops Produced For Livelihood	15
5.4 Level of food Sufficiency for Livelihood	16
5.5 Farming system and gender participation	17
5.6 Housing Structure	18
5.7 Traditional skill and their uses for Livelihood	19
A. Traditional Skill	
B. New Learnt Skill	
5.8 Sources of Income	20
A. Kitchen Gardening	
B. Chiuri Tree	
C. Cottage Industries	
D. Hunting and fishing	

## **CHAPTER-SIX**

<b>SOCIOCULTURAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARECTERICICTICS OF CHEPANG</b>	
6.1 Age& Sex	22
6.2 Marital Status	23
6.2.1 Types of Marriage	23
6.2.2 Educational status of study area	24
6.2.3 Health & Sanitation	25

6.2.4 Family planning	26
6.2.5 Drinking Water	27
6.2.6 Language	28
6.2.7 Religion	28
6.2.8 Food and Drinking Habit	29
6.2.9 Dress Pattern	29
6.2.10 Festival	29
6.2.11 Birth	30
6.2.12 Hair Cutting Ceremony	31
6.2.13 Life cycle and Change	31
6.2.14 Death Ceremony	31
6.2.15 Clan	32
6.2.16 Politics in Chepang Community	33

## **CHAPTER-SEVEN**

<b>ECONOMIC CONDITION OF CHEPANG</b>	35
7.1 Economic Condition of Chepang	36
7.2 Occupation	36
7.3 Size of Land Holding	36
7.4 Annual Income	37
7.5 Estimated Annual Expenditure	38

## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

<b>SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</b>	40
8.1 Summary	40
8.2 Conclusion	43
8.3 Recommendation	43
<b>Bibliography</b>	45
<b>Appendixes</b>	47
<b>Check List</b>	51
<b>Photos</b>	52
<b>Maps</b>	56



## **List of Tables**

### **Number of Table :**

Table no 1: Distribution of respondents by level of food sufficiency	pg. 16
Table no 2: Farming, off farm and food style activities	pg. 18
Table no 3: Distribution of housing structure.	pg. 19
Table no 4: Distribution of Respondents by skills.	pg. 19
Table no 5: Distribution of Respondents by age and sex.	pg. 22
Table no 6: Distribution of sampled population by age & sex.	pg. 23
Table no 7: Types of marriage by number of wives.	pg. 24
Table no 8: Educational status of Chepang.	pg. 25
Table no 9: Interested to send children to school.	pg. 25
Table no 10: Treatment pattern of illness in Chepang community.	pg. 26
Table no 11: Sanitation condition of sampled house hold.	pg. 26
Table no 12: Distribution of respondents by using contraceptive device.	pg. 27
Table no 13: sources of drinking water.	pg. 27
Table no 14: Respondents familiar with their own language.	pg. 28
Table no 15: Chepang participation in local policies.	pg. 34
Table no 16: Distribution of respondents by economic status.	pg. 35
Table no 17: Distribution of respondents by occupational status.	pg. 36
Table no 18: Distribution of respondents by the size of land holding.	pg. 37
Table no 19: Estimated annual income of house hold from different sources	pg. 38
Table no 20: Estimated annual expenditure of chepang.	pg. 38

## **List of Figure**

Figure no.1 Chepang livelihood activities.	pg. 4
--	-------

## **List of Picture**

<i>Picture 1</i> : Housing Structure of Chepang Family at Shaktikhor	pg. 52
<i>Picture 2</i> : Information taking by local leaders	pg. 52
<i>Picture 3</i> : Information taking by Chepang local leaders at Shaktikhor-2	pg. 53
<i>Picture 4</i> : Information taking by Young Chepang at Chisapani	pg. 53
<i>Picture 5</i> : Information taking by Chepang Children Kalikatar	pg. 54
<i>Picture 6</i> : Information taking by male Chepang at Shaktikhor-3	pg. 54
<i>Picture 7</i> : Information giving by Chepang housewife at kalika	pg. 55
<i>Picture 8</i> : Information Taking by young Chepang lady at Neurini.	pg. 55
Map of Shaktikhor VDC	pg. 56

## **Acronyms/Abbreviation**

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau Statistics
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DFO	:	District Forest Officer
GON	:	Government of Nepal
INGO	:	International Non Government Organization
JT	:	Junior Technician
JTA	:	Junior Technician Assistant
NCPM	:	Nepal Communist Party Maoist
NCP-UML	:	Nepal Communist Party United Marxist and Leninist
NGO	:	Non Government Organization
NLSS	:	National Living Standard Survey
PG	:	Page
RPP	:	Rastray Prajatantra Party
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nation Development Program
VDC	:	Village Development Committee