

**SOCIO-CULTURAL STATUS OF LEPCHA
IN FIKKAL VDC, ILAM**

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty
of Humanities and Social Sciences in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for Master's Degree of Arts in Rural Development**

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This Thesis entitled have been "**Socio- cultural status of Lepcha in Fikkal VDC, Ilam district**" prepared by **Muna Rai** under my supervision as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

To the best of my knowledge the study is original and carries useful information. I recommend it for evaluation to the report evaluation committee.

.....
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(Supervisor)
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LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

The thesis work entitled "**Socio- cultural status of Lepcha in Fikkal VDC, Ilam district**" prepared by **Muna Rai** for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

Approved by

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Abstract

*For the partial fulfillment of Master Degree in Rural Development, this dissertation has been done on the title of “**Socio- Cultural Status of Lepcha in Fikkal VDC, Ilam**”. To the very fact, this study has also analyzed the economic status of Lepcha in the Fikkal VDC.*

Nepalese society is made up of different types of people. But some of the tribes are going backward due to the lack of proper research, study and security for that tribe. In order to protect these tribes, the existence of these tribes should first be protected; if no one pays attention to these tribes they might remain only in the history.

Among different people of Nepal, only one tribe who has been living since the ancient period in the eastern part of Ilam is "Lepcha". Even though, but again, Ilam is claimed as an original place of Lepcha, many people inside and outside Ilam is still unknown about the tribe Lepcha. Therefore, the proper research and study should be done on the Lepcha tribe only then they can remain forever. Lepchas are basically found in 15 VDCs of Ilam district. The total number of Lepchas of these 15 VDCs of Ilam is 2559. The largest numbers of Lepchas live in Fikkal VDC. Similarly the 2nd largest numbers of Lepchas are in Samalbung VDC and the 3rd largest numbers of Lepcha are in Iroutar VDC. Likewise the less number of Lepchas are in Laxmipur VDC and Gorkhe VDC respectively. The Lepchas of Fikkal live in 71 different houses and the total number of Lepchas is 183. out of which, this study has been based on sample size of 46 HHs.

For this study, researcher has taken sample size of 46 by using simple random sampling method. However, the area of the study was selected purposively. In case of research design, it used the exploratory, descriptive and case study types in which the total thesis was framed. Similarly, primary

data were collected through questionnaires, observation, key informant and interview.

The population of this caste is in downsizing condition. The reason behind less in number of this caste is because of the low fertility rate in these castes and it is because they used to eat food like 'kukur Tarul' which slightly affected in the fertility rate. The socio cultural status of the Lepchas has been ameliorating day by day at present time. They have accessed in education, health, jobs facilities and even they get 1000 incentives per individual/ months from the GON.

From this study, researcher found that their socio- cultural and economic status has been massively in comparison to previous years. As a result, their ancient way of life, religion, dress, house pattern, cultural ceremonies, occupation are rapidly transforming in to modernization. The educational status of this caste has been increasing day by day. They also go for foreign employment. Thus, as a whole, the socio-cultural status of Lepcha in Fikkal VDC in specific and Ilam in general get changing.

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ABBREVIATIONS/ ACRONYMS

B.S.	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	:	Districts Development Committee
Dr.	:	Doctor
GON	:	Government of Nepal
HHS	:	Households
INGO	:	International Government
LUM	:	Lepcha Uthan Manch
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
Prof.	:	Professor
RD	:	Rural Development
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
UML	:	United Maxist Lenelist
VDC	:	Village Development Committee