

# **URBAN POVERTY IN NEPAL**

**A CASE STUDY OF SHANKHAMUL SQUATTER SETTLEMENT IN KATHMANDU**

**A Dissertation**

**Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Tribhuvan  
University Padma Kanya Multiple Campus in fulfillment of the  
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**in**

**POPULATION STUDIES**

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April, 2010



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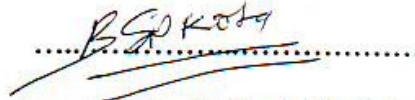
All living beings of the universe are empowered with knowledge through the Supreme Self; the universe abides in the same Supreme Self. The Supreme Self is the Brahma. (Aitareyopanishada 3/5/3)

RATNADEEP BHAWAN  
Bagbazar, Kathmandu,  
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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This thesis entitled "*Urban Poverty in Nepal: A Case Study of Shankhamul Squatter Settlement in Kathmandu*" is prepared by Miss Anita Thapa under my guidance and supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Degree of Masters of *HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES* in *POPULATION STUDIES*. I hereby recommend this thesis for evaluation and acceptance.



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**LETTER OF APPROVAL**

This thesis entitled "*Urban Poverty in Nepal: A Case Study of Shankhamul Squatter Settlement in Kathmandu*" submitted to the Department of Population Studies Padma Kanya Multiple Campus Tribhuvan University in the prescribed format by Miss Anita Thapa, has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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## ABSTRACT

In Nepal, poverty has been urbanized over the last few years, physically manifesting in squatters settlements. With the objectives to explore the causes of squatting and current socioeconomic condition of squatter community, a descriptive study has been carried out at Shankhamul squatter settlement, one of the oldest settlement in Kathmandu. The study is based on the direct field observation method accompanied by interviews and group discussions.

The present study reveals that Shankhamul squatter settlement comprises 104 households, totaling a population of 533, with an average household size of 5.13. Majority of households has started to squat in hope of improving the quality of their lives through better jobs and income, landslide, flood and famine at their birth place. More than fifty per cent of the houses are made-up from non-durable materials like wooden flakes, bamboo, straw, mud, unbaked bricks. However, every house has electricity and toilet. They primarily depend on water supplied in tanker by Water Corporation for drinking water.

Of the 533, there are more males than females, with an average sex ratio of 109. More than fifty per cent of the population lies in the productive age group, 15- 45 years. One-fourth of the people are under 15 while only about 5 per cent are above 60 years of age. Surprisingly, 0.56 per cent of them still continue to survive even after 75 years of age. Highest number of female lies in the age group 20-24 years whereas the age group 15-19 years accounted for the highest number of male.

More than one-fourth of the population is still illiterate. More males have achieved higher level of education than their female counterparts. Although 34.52 per cent have completed primary education only 20 per cent have passed SLC and 17.8 per cent have completed their high school. Likewise, only 7.83 per cent has passed bachelor's level and above.

Most people are engaged in physical labor works like construction workers, some are drivers, job holders, some has small shops in their own house and 36 youths have left the gulf countries. About 16 per cent of the households are surviving with a monthly income below 2,000/- NRs. while more than one-fourth have monthly income of NRs. 10,000/- or above. They expense more on food followed by education, medicine, clothing and others. About 30 per cent of the households used to take loans to support the basic needs of family members whereas some save money mostly below 100 RS. per month. Majority of them ranked as 'very poor' by themselves.

Such a growing complexity reflects the need of a separate and concrete squatter policy. It should be recognized by various international and national organizations who are working towards the goal of poverty alleviation, in addition to the governmental sector. Moreover, Nepal's national policy still seems to be rural poverty bias, so its time to give national policy priority to urban poverty issues.

**Keywords:** urban poverty, squatter settlement, household

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Anita Thapa

April, 2010

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ADB	: Asian Development Bank
CBS	: Central Bureau of Statistics
DADO	: District Agriculture Development Office
DDC	: District Development Committee
FAO	: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FY	: Fiscal year
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product
GO	: Government Organization
HDI	: Human Development Index
HDR	: Human Development Report
IDP	: Internally Displaced People
IMF	: International Monetary Fund
INGO	: International Non-Government Organization
IRIN	: Integrated Regional Information Network
KMC	: Kathmandu Municipality Corporation
MDG	: Millennium Development Goals
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
NHRC	: Nepal Human Right Commission
NLSS	: Nepal Living Standard Survey
NPC	: National Planning Commission
NRB	: Nepal Rastra Bank
SAARC	: South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation
SPOSH	: Society for the Preservation of Shelters and Habitation
UN	: United Nations
UNCHS	: United Nation Centre for Human Settlements
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	: United Nations Population Fund
US	: United States of America
VAT	: Value Added Tax
WB	: World Bank

# CHAPTER-ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Despite the several efforts for reducing poverty by government agencies, international agencies, non- governmental organizations (NGO), theorist and think tanks, poverty remains a persistent problem throughout the world. Poverty has no boundaries. Although the dramatic progress in the field of communication services, infrastructural sectors, transportation facilities and others recent advancement, developed nations still have to tackle the problem of poverty. Most of the developing countries of the world have been facing the problem of poverty, as a major one. Poverty has presented political and moral challenges to all societies at all time.

Poverty is a situation in which an individual would not get sufficient income to sustain his life. However poverty is not only the sole economic phenomenon; rather it is a multidimensional phenomenon. The multifaceted nature of poverty appears particularly important in relation to urban areas.

In Nepal, poverty is widespread across all development regions and ecological belts including both the rural and urban areas. With in the last decade or so the urban structure has changed significantly due to rapid rate of rural-urban migration, stretching urban boundaries and the urban population. In fact, the urban centers of a country are important to national economic development, because they are the engines of economic growth. Cities are centers of excellence for education, health care, technological innovation, entrepreneurship and governance and as those that provide access to large markets for goods and services as well as communication with the rest of the world. On the other hand, while urban centers have focused much on literature, music and fine arts, there are also the aspects that threaten the life such as poverty, diseases, crimes, and so on.

Nepal is increasingly been suffering from urban poverty problems particularly, the rise of squatter settlements and slums in the major cities and towns. A large proportion of the

people living in these informal settlements is under absolute poverty, has serious housing affordability problems and is socially and economically deprived. Owing to the way squatter communities are formed, their locations and impact on the environment as well as land value they are constantly under threat from both law and nature.

Kathmandu, the capital and the largest urban center in the country has witnessed a proliferation of squatter settlements locally known as "sukumbasi basti" in the last two decades. The sukumbasi migrated from their food-deficit villages decades ago, after natural disasters, which made them homeless and landless, thus impoverishing them further. Over the past decade, the wave of internally displaced people (IDPs) due to the war between Maoist and the state had tremendously increased the population of landless and homeless. Unemployment, increase in number of street children, sex workers, rise in crime and insecurity further add to the magnitude of urban poverty situation. Growth of urban poor is also accelerated by the decline in rural agricultural investment and lack of favorable environment to sustain rural industry. Even today, the activity of "underground organizations" in different parts of Terai and remote hill regions is further increasing the population of squatters in major cities. Political instability, economic stagnation and growing inequality can be cited as reasons for a large number of people attracted to Kathmandu.

It is the time to address that urban poverty is becoming an issue as critical as rural poverty, due to intensification of rural-urban migration resulting in growth of urban squatters and slums. If the urban poverty reduction strategies are not implemented properly, haphazard urbanization and rise in population of urban poor could turn out to be a catastrophe, with dire consequences in future.

So, the study will concentrate on the poverty of urban squatters. The research will be focused on one of the oldest squatter settlement area in Kathmandu, Shankamul Squatter Settlement, which appear in existence since 2030 B.S. with 3 households and now comprises 104 households.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

In Nepal, poverty has urbanized over the last two decades, physically manifesting in slums and squatter settlements across many urban centers. Proliferation of squatter settlements in urban areas is associated with urban-rural migration influx, cross-border migration and inherent socio-economic disparity aggravated by soaring cost of lands and housing, rising unemployment. Inadequacy of policies to address fundamental economic issues has further fuelled their proliferation, thus, living squatting as the ultimate solution for many migrants and low-income dwellers.

Some important problems related to urban poverty and settlements of squatters in the urban areas are explained below:

The Kathmandu city accommodates 7 per cent of the national population which is equivalent to 30 per cent of the urban population of Nepal. Squatter settlements in Kathmandu valley have grown in number from 17 in 1985 (with a total population of 2134) to 63 in 2003 (with a total population of 15,000), the majority of them located on marginal land along the riverside (KMC, 2001; Karki, 2004; Pradhan, 2003).

At present, according to the Society for the Preservation of Shelters and Habitation (SPOSH)- Nepal there are about four-million squatters, popularly known as 'Sukumbasi', living in cities and towns, including 50,000 population over 66 squatter settlements in Kathmandu (IRIN, 2007).

According to SPOSH-Nepal officials, the squatters survive on less than 1 US \$ per day. The major problems faced by the city's poor are a limited supply of drinking water, and poor sanitation, health and hygiene, according to an NGO Lumanti. Those squatters most affected by poverty and poor hygienic are women (IRIN, 2007).

The first reality associated with these settlements is the poverty levels within which their inhabitants live, and the social exclusion to which they are subjected as a consequence of,

among other factors, a lack of sufficient income to satisfy their basic needs (Paudel, 2003) as well as the need for landownership (Vajra, 2003), which classifies them as squatters, hence as violators of the law. They are unsecured or vulnerable, to poor levels of health, literacy, education, and the range and quality of services (Paudel, 2003).

The fact that they lack all these conditions and the need for employment to generate an income to satisfy their social and basic needs makes this informal urban environment a fertile ground for illegal informal activities including violence (Lumanti, 2005). This seems to stress the strategic importance of cities in the development process in one hand and growing squatters and continued unauthorized occupancy of public land and buildings due to absence of clear-cut policies is affecting social, physical, economic, as well as human development in squatter settlements.

Further, poverty is part of Kathmandu's city life; the city's tissue is permeated by squatter settlements, their existence side by side, with wealthy neighbors, middle class suburbs, and commercial centers. The upper classes of the city of Kathmandu, even though they know that people such as their maids, drivers, watchmen, and servants are the inhabitants of squatter settlements, condemn the squatter dwellers as breeders of crime. They look down upon them as mere marginals-the prostitutes, unemployed, illiterates and a plethora of inadequate characteristics. The urban governance issues have not been able to address the reality of the settlers in these areas and they are far from experiences the rights and contributing to the urban development. State responsibility to implement its policy by formulating the real and practical strategies is also questioned. The state policies and program for urban governance, equity and gender have not been crystallized.

While the economy of country is still in doldrums and urbanization on the mercury, it is expected is that squatter settlements will increase and even more left behind areas will be transformed to squatter settlements and if the government further lacks capability of serviced land for housing and programs for squatter settlements upgrading, the informal settlements will always appear desirable enough to attract additional settlements in cities and towns.

In such context, the main statement of the research work will be to study the poverty in urban squatters as an example of Shankhamul Squatter Settlement, Kathmandu.

Furthermore, the research will be focused on the below mentioned statements.

- a) What are the common reasons why settlers in the squatter settlements occupy that area?
- b) What are the dwellers socio-economic and living conditions including housing structure in such settlements?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The *general objective* of the research is:

- ❖ To study the urban squatter poverty in Shankhamul settlement area in Kathmandu.

Besides this main purpose, the *specific objectives* are as follows:

- ❖ To explore the underlying causes and duration of squatting in Shankhamul squatters settlement.
- ❖ To study the age-sex distribution of the people in the study area.
- ❖ To study the housing conditions and access of the people to basic services.
- ❖ To study the educational status and occupation of the people in the study area.
- ❖ To study about the income, habit of expenditure as well as saving of people in the study area.

### **Research Questions**

The research questions are outlined as follows.

- 1) What is the trend of squatting in the Shankhamul area?
- 2) Why these people become squatters?



- 3) What is the infrastructure of houses/housing unit in-use in the study area?
- 4) What is the educational status of the people?
- 5) What are the sources of income and/or occupational composition of the people in the study area?
- 6) How much they expense for foods, cloths, education and health purposes?
- 7) Is their income sufficient for living or burrow loans for consumption?
- 8) Do the people save any money?

## **1.5 Justification of the Study**

Cities in developing countries like Nepal are growing rapidly. In the burgeoning urban areas, the pace and scale of the growth have outstripped the capacity to maintain acceptable standards of public health, environmental safety and sustainable economic growth. Increased urbanization is not necessarily an indicator of prosperity but also an indicator of growing inability to sustain peace, stability and economic development in rural areas. Growth of squatter populations in urban areas is an evidence of it.

There is limited research works on urban poverty in squatter settlements of Nepal. The preliminary studies on urban poverty suggest the overall status of urban squatter settlement is far from satisfaction. The quality of life in the squatter settlement is not encouraging. A large proportion of people living in these settlements is under absolute poverty, has serious housing affordability problems and is socially and economically deprived. Owing to the way squatter communities are formed, their locations and impact on the environment as well as land value they are constantly under threat from both law and nature. Poor sanitation, unclean water, overcrowding complicate the problems further resulting in high prevalence of mortality and morbidity of the urban poor populace.

Oddly enough, the government's response to these settlements has been tantamount to non-action despite reflecting explicit understanding of the issues associated with squatters, and their consideration in city development strategy. Nepal's national policy

still seems to be rural poverty bias and for this reason urban poverty issues seem to be undermined. Although the 10<sup>th</sup> five year plan recognized tenure security affecting social, physical, economic as well as human development in squatter settlements, nothing has happened regarding the upgrading and regulation of the selected squatter settlements for pilot project.

Mostly NGOs and INGOs have rural poverty experience. To address the poverty issues of squatter settlements of Nepal, an NGO called Lumanti Support Group for Shelter emerged in 1993 in Kathmandu Valley. There are couples of INGOs such as Action Aid, Water Aid working in the valley. However, their emphasis is on one sector such as education or water rather than on the settlement as a whole and mostly focus on rural issues rather than urban mainly to harmonize with the government's rural bias development approach.

Hence, there is a need of further study on this issue to find out the poverty situation of people living in urban squatter settlements. This study will provide information on poverty in urban squatter settlement as an example of Shankhamul Squatter Settlement in Kathmandu. Furthermore, the research outcomes may also through lights on necessary conceptualization and formulation of sustainable urban policies to reduce the poverty in different squatter settlements in Nepal.

## **1.6 Research Gap**

In recent decades, Nepal has experienced rapid urbanization, resulting in the expansion slums and squatters in urban areas. The urban poor are hidden, living in small pockets of squatter or slum settlements over the city.

There have been different works and researches in urban squatter settlements in the global context. Consequently, the recommendations that have been recognized by the governments have been able to generate positive results for the betterment of the settlements. However, there are limited research works in urban settlements in Nepal and

no holistic intervention package has been suggested. It could be one of the reasons why the situation in Nepal's informal settlements has not been able to improve significantly.

The previous studies on urban poverty suggest that the quality of life in the squatter settlement is not encouraging. Moreover, presentation of an integrated vision on the inhabitants' socio-economic conditions in such settlements and the types of hazards which predominantly occur in these types of settlements is still weak. There is still no good explanation of how these people manage to live in such terrible conditions of poverty and high vulnerability.

Moreover, much researchers and policy analysts still focus their works only in rural areas. Nepal's national policy still seems to be rural poverty bias and for this reason urban poverty issues seem to be undermined. Now, the attention needs to be shifted to address the issues of urban poor dwelling in squatters. The present study on urban poverty in one of the oldest urban squatter settlement in Kathmandu, Shankhamul Squatter Settlement, has been conducted to fulfill the gap of research.

## **1.7 Organization of the Study**

In this research chapter one deals about introduction; chapter two explains literature review; chapter three describes methodology; data are analyzed in chapter four; chapter five presents crosstabulations, correlations and regression; chapter six gives the overall summary ,conclusions and recommendations and finally references and appendices are included.

## CHAPTER-TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 POVERTY

##### 2.1.1 Concepts and Analysis

The word itself, poverty, is a familiar one which everyone understands, or thinks they understand. At its simplest, poverty refers to basic lack of the means of survival; the poor are those who, even in normal circumstances, are unable to feed and clothe themselves properly and risk death as a consequence. But the specific meaning depends upon the underlying concept of poverty. It is possible to conceptualize and define poverty in a number of ways, depending on the variety of defining parameters. Which particular definition is adopted depends upon the situation in which poverty analysis is carried out. Being poor, or being in want, is a relative concept. It has to be seen in relation to time, space, society and family - both across and within. With the passage of time the definition of poverty has changed to encompass a variety of issues, moving from its initial treatment as an economic phenomenon to take on a number of sociological perspectives (Dixon & Macarov, 1998).

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines poverty "as the state of not having and/or not being able to get the basic needs of life."

According to Robert Chamber, it is the form of deprivation with a strong interactive linkage to others forms such as lack of income and assets, physical, weakness, isolation, vulnerability and powerlessness ( Srinivas , 2009).

Amartya Sen defines poverty as the 'deprivation of basic capabilities', rather than merely as 'lowness of incomes'. Using this 'capability deprivation' perspective, and the elements that contribute to 'capability' as propounded by Sen, it is clear that the definition is

inclusive of almost all factors and processes – social, economic, political and the like. While distinguishing ‘the notion of poverty as capability inadequacy from that of poverty as lowness of income’, he makes it clear that ‘the two perspectives cannot but be related, since income is such an important means to capabilities. And since enhanced capabilities in leading a life would tend, typically, to expand a person’s ability to be more productive and earn a higher income, we would also see a connection going from capability improvement to greater earning power and not only the other way around’ (Sen, 1999).

According to World Bank, poverty is defined as the state of economic, social and psychological deprivation occurring among the people or countries lacking sufficient control or access to resources to maintain the minimum standard of living or it is the inability to attain the minimum standard of living.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) consider poverty as denial of human rights, adequate nutrition, literacy and employment are not favored or acts of charity to bestowed on the poor. It is the state in which opportunities and choices most basic human development are denied to lead a long healthy and creative life and to enjoy the decent standard of living, freedom, dignity, self respect and respect from others.

Irrespective of how poverty is defined, objective identification of a ‘poverty line’ is the starting point of most poverty analysis. It serves as an objective standard by which the ‘poor’ are distinguished from the ‘non-poor’. In poverty analysis literature one encounters three types of poverty lines, ‘relative’, ‘absolute’ and ‘subjective’ (Srinivas, 2009).

The relative poverty line is simply a cut-off point. It may be the point in the welfare distribution below which a specified proportion lie, or it may be the proportion of population that lie below half of the median income. The relative poverty line is both transparent and simple to calculate, but it is not comparable across regions with different income levels, nor it permit ready comparison over time.

An absolute poverty line is linked to a minimum welfare level necessary for life as a human being. Defining the poverty line in this way allows comparisons to be made over time or across groups, as it would guarantee that two individuals irrespective of where they live are treated in the same way. Once the welfare level distinguishing the 'poor' from the 'non-poor' is defined, monitoring poverty over time also becomes possible. This concept of the poverty line is used in most of the developing countries and also by the World Bank.

A subjective poverty line is defined in terms of the minimum level of income that a person feels is required to meet his/her basic needs. This approach leads to different poverty lines for people in different regions and for the same people over time but with the same level of welfare. This is because the minimum level of income perceived as being required to meet basic needs may differ between people in different areas and for the same people over time. This concept of poverty line is used in developed countries.

### **2.1.2 Measurements of Poverty**

The extent of poverty is often measured through a bench mark called the poverty line. In Nepal, as in many other developing countries, the concept of an absolute poverty line is used. This specifies the income required to buy a package of nutritionally defined food items and normatively defined other goods and services. Those whose incomes fall below this level are said to live 'below the poverty line', thereby making it possible to calculate the number and proportion of people in poverty.

According to National Planning Commission (NPC) the poverty line is defined as the income required providing adequate calories (2250 kilocalorie) for an average Nepalese to remain active. Based on this, the NPC has endorsed that Rs 4404 per person per year is the poverty line.

### **2.1.3 Types of Measures (Maxwell, 1999)**

#### **Individual or household measures:**

Early measurement of poverty (e.g. by Rowntree) was at the household level, and much still is. Other analysis disaggregates to the individual level, so as to capture intra-household factors and different types and causes of deprivation affecting men, women, children, old people, etc.

#### **Private consumption only or private consumption plus publicly provided goods:**

Poverty can be defined in terms of private income or consumption (usually consumption rather than income, in order to allow for consumption smoothing over time, e.g. by managing savings), or to include the value of goods and services provided publicly, the social wage.

#### **Monetary or monetary plus non-monetary components of poverty:**

So-called money-metric measures are often used, because they are either regarded as sufficient on their own or seen as an adequate proxy for poverty. However, there is a clear fault line between definitions of poverty which are restricted to income (or consumption) and those which incorporate such factors as autonomy, self-esteem or participation. In Maslow's hierarchy of needs, these were seen as higher needs, which would become more important as basic needs for food, shelter, housing and safety were met. However, many current definitions deliberately blur the distinction between higher and lower needs.

#### **Snapshot or timeline:**

Many surveys and poverty assessments report the incidence of poverty at a point in time. However, there is a long history of thinking about poverty in terms of life cycle experience (e.g. Chayanov's pioneering work in the 1920s on the peasant household), seasonal stress, and shocks (illness, drought, war).

**Actual or potential poverty:**

Some analysts include as poor those who are highly sensitive to shocks, or not resilient. Small-scale pastoralists exposed to the risk of drought are a common example: current income may be adequate, but vulnerability is high. Planning for these groups means understanding both short-term coping strategies, and also long-term adaptation to livelihood stress.

**Stock or flow measures of poverty:**

The definition of poverty as income focuses on the flow of material goods and services. An alternative is to examine the stock of resources a household controls. This may be measured in terms of physical or monetary assets (land, jewellery, cash), or in terms of social capital (social contacts, networks, reciprocal relationships, community membership). Sen analysed the commodity bundles to which an individual was 'entitled': as Swift has emphasized, entitlements may derive not just from current income, but also from past investments, stores or social claims on others (including the State).

**Input or output measures:**

Sen has reminded us that poverty measured as a shortfall in income essentially captures an input to an individual's capability and functioning rather than a direct measure of well-being. Writing about poverty has often assumed, wrongly, an automatic link between income and participation, or functioning, in the life of a community.

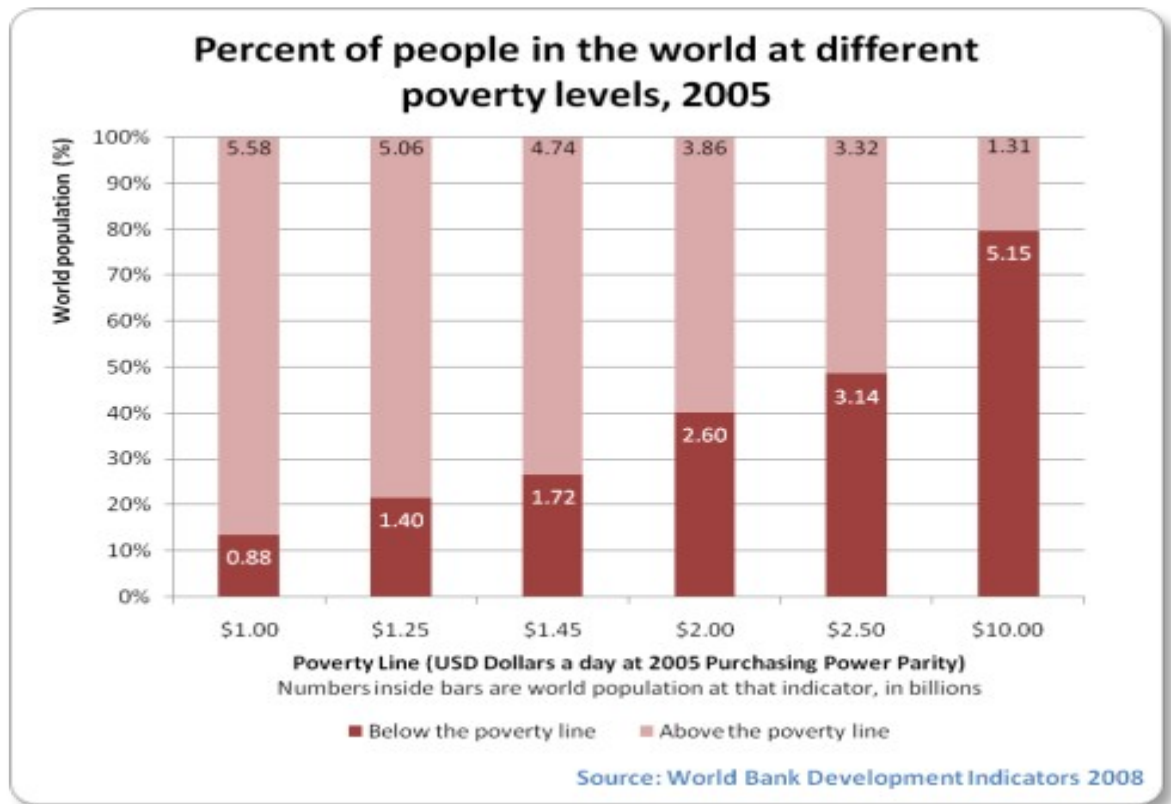
**2.1.4 Poverty in Global Context**

The new poverty line of \$1.25 a day was announced by the World Bank in 2008. For many years before that it had been \$1 a day. The use of the poverty line of \$1 a day had long come under criticism for seeming arbitrary and using poor quality and limited data thus risking an underestimate of poverty. The \$1.25 a day level is accompanied with some additional explanations and reasoning, including that it is a common level found amongst the poorest countries, and that \$2.50 represents a typical poverty level amongst



many more developing countries. The new figures from the World Bank therefore confirm concerns that poverty has not been reduced by as much as was hoped, although it certainly has dropped since 1981 (Chen & Ravallion, 2008; Ravallion, Chen & Sangraula, 2008).

Figure: 1 Per cent of people in the world at different Poverty levels, 2005



Almost half the world — over three billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day (Shah, 2009).

At least 80 per cent of humanity lives on less than \$10 a day; this is equivalent to 95 per cent of developing country population (Ravallion, Chen & Sangraula, 2008).

Rural areas account for three in every four people living on less than US\$1 a day. However, urbanization is not synonymous with human progress. Urban slum growth is outpacing urban growth by a wide margin (Human Development Report, 2007).

The poorest 40 per cent of the world’s population accounts for 5 per cent of global income. The richest 20 per cent accounts for three-quarters of world income (Shah, 2009).

Water problems affect half of humanity. Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation (United Nations Human Development Report, 2006).

Globally, 1.6 billion people — a quarter of humanity — live without electricity. The following table represents further division based on the region.

Table: 1 Number of people living without electricity in the World

<b>Number of people living without electricity in the World</b>	
<b>Region</b>	<b>Millions without electricity</b>
South Asia	706
Sub-Saharan Africa	547
East Asia	224
Other	101

( Source: United Nations Human Development Report, 2006)

### **2.1.5 Poverty in Nepal**

According to the Population Census 2001, the annual growth rate of population is 2.25 per cent and the total population of the country in 2009 has reached about 27.5 millions (CBS, 2009).

Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Over the last decade Nepal has made considerable progress toward reducing poverty, with the headcount poverty rate falling dramatically—from 42 per cent to 31 per cent—between

FY95/96 and FY 03/04. But there are wide discrepancies depending on geographic location, ethnicity, caste and gender (CBS, 2005).

Nearly one third of the population (31 per cent) live below poverty line as per the Nepal Living Standards Survey 2003/04 and the Ginni Coefficient, which indicates inequality between the poor and rich is 41.4(CBS, 2009).

The preliminary estimate of per capita GDP at current prices stands at NRS. 34732 (US \$473) for the year 2007/08. The economic growth of the country measured by GDP is 5.56 per cent per year in the year 2007/08 (CBS, 2009).

## **2.2 URBANIZATION**

### **2.2.1 Definition of Urbanization**

The word "urbanization" itself refers to an increase in the proportion of national or regional population living in cities. In other words, urbanization (also spelled "urbanisation") is the physical growth of urban areas as a result of global change.

Geography Dictionary defines urbanization as "the increase in the proportion of the population residing in towns, brought about by migration of rural populations into towns and cities, and/or the higher urban levels of natural increase resulting from the greater proportion of people of childbearing age in cities (this, in turn, reflects patterns of migration)". Urbanization indicates a change of employment structure from agriculture and cottage industries to mass production and service industries.

Urbanization is also defined by the United Nations as movement of people from rural to urban areas with population growth equating to urban migration.

### **2.2.2 Trend of Global Urbanization**

Urban growth is generally contributed by natural increase in population, reclassification and addition of new urban area due to emergence of new towns, expansion of existing urban areas or extension of urban boundaries, and migration( both internal, from rural areas and external due to international migration). Thus, a country is said to become more urbanized as its cities grow in number, its urban populations increase in size, and the proportion of its population living in urban areas rises.

Over the last few decades, cities in both developing and developed countries have emerged as the major form of human settlement. Besides the technological advancement, better access to paying jobs, more varied diets, better education and better health care have made cities a 'destination of choice'.

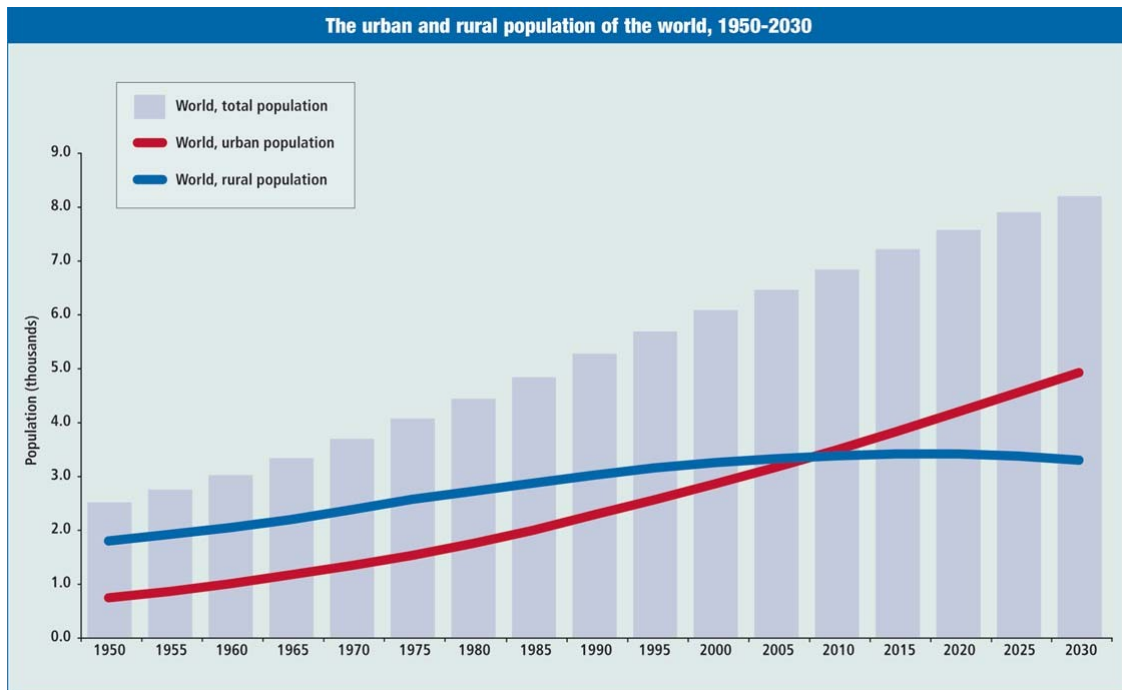
The degree of urbanization varies across the world but generally reflects the wealth of individual countries. The rich, industrialized countries tend to be the most highly urbanized. In the Netherlands, for example, 89 per cent of the population is urban, compared to only 13 per cent in Ethiopia, a much poorer country ( Srinivas , 2009).

In recent history, the degree of urbanization has been relatively low in Africa and Asia compared to Europe and North America. However, as a result of large-scale migration from rural areas and a natural increase in the urban populations themselves, the populations of cities in the developing world have been growing rapidly. The population of Cairo, for example, has trebled in the last 40 years, and more than half of Africa's people are expected to be living in cities by 2020. Similarly, the urban share of the population in China has risen from about one in five in 1960 to nearly half today ( Srinivas , 2009).

The rapid urbanization of the world's population over the twentieth century is described in the 2005 Revision of the UN World Urbanization Prospects Report. The global proportion of urban population rose dramatically from 13 per cent (220 million) in 1900,

to 29 per cent (732 million) in 1950, to 49 per cent (3.2 billion) in 2005. The same report projected that the figure is likely to rise to 60 per cent (4.9 billion) by 2030 (UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2006).

Figure: 2 The urban and rural population of the World, 1950-2030



(Source: United Nations, Department of Economic & Social Affairs, Population Division, 2006).

According to the UN State of the World Population 2007 report, in the middle of 2007, the majorities of people worldwide were living in towns or cities, for the first time in history; about 93% of urban growth occurred in developing nations, with 80% of urban growth occurred in Asia and Africa (UNFPA, 2007).

Approximately half the world's populations now live in cities and towns. In 2005, one out of three urban dwellers (approximately 1 billion people) was living in slum conditions (Millennium Development Goals Report, 2007).

### 2.2.3 Urbanization Trend in Nepal

Urbanization is a relatively recent process in the Third World where it is even more rapid than population growth and where the largest agglomerations are growing most rapidly. Nepal is one of the least urbanized country in the world but paradoxically it also has one of the highest urbanization rates.

Urbanization in Nepal is believed to go back as far as the second century when Lichhavis were ruling in Nepal (Levi, 1905). It was then understood as a comparatively more dense a settlement. But the urbanization as we understand now as the adoption of the industrial and service trades and the abandonment of the agriculture trades is a recent phenomenon in Nepal (Pokharel, 2006).

The pattern of the growth in urban population and places in Nepal since 1952/54 to 2001 is presented in Table: 2. The number of urban centers in Nepal has increased rapidly from 10 in 1952/54 to 58 by 2001. In the year 1971, urban population was 0.462 million with 16 municipalities which now have reached 3.23 million with 58 municipalities. The percentage of population in urban centers has increased from 9.2 per cent in 1991 to 13.94 per cent in 2001 (CBS, 2002).

Table: 2 Growth in urban population and urban places in Nepal, 1952/54 to 2001.

<b>Census year</b>	<b>Urban Population (in '000)</b>	<b>Number of urban places</b>	<b>Per cent of population urban</b>
1952/54	238.3	10	2.9
1961	336.2	16	3.6
1971	461.9	16	4.0
1981	956.7	23	6.4
1991	1,695.7	33	9.2
2001	3227.9	58	13.9

(Source: CBS, 2003)

The average annual growth rate of urban population was 6.65 per cent as against the national growth rate of 2.25 per cent. If this trend continues, half of the population of Nepal will be living in urban areas by the year 2035 (ADB, 2000; CBS, 2002).

The data on population census 2001 showed that 25.6 per cent of the total population of urban area was born in the districts other than the one in which the urban area was located and another 4.4 per cent were foreign born (CBS, 2003).

Among geographical regions Kathmandu Valley has witnessed a relentless growth in the level of urbanization and remains the most urbanized region in Nepal. In 1952/54, only 47.4 per cent of valley population was urban. This has risen to 60.5 in 2001 (CBS, 2003).

According to the Nepalese government, the population of Katmandu valley tri-city area- including Lalitpur and Bhaktapur has more than doubled between 1994 and 2004. Today, it stands at some 1.5 million people (IRIN, 2007).

## **2.3 URBAN POVERTY**

### **2.3.1 Introduction of Urban Poverty**

Concentration of economic, social, political and administrative organs of a nation or region in cities has made it a magnet for rich as well as poor households. While aggregate figures might suggest economic and social progress and development, it hides the essential dichotomy and disparities between 'rich' and 'poor' that exists in most cities. It has been estimated that the richest fifth of the population in developing countries control more than 80 per cent of the resources and economic activity in terms of GNP, world trade, commercial lending, domestic savings and domestic investment. On the other hand, the lowest fifth of the population control less than 1.4 per cent of the resources and economic activity.

Thus when the rural migrant family arrives in the city, they discover that the housing, jobs, incomes and amenities that had 'pulled' them to the city are not available or is inaccessible. The authorities are not willing to help them find the 'dream' they aspired for, or simply ignore them. As a result, in cities of most developing countries, 30 to 75 per cent of the population work and live in squatter settlements making a living with the few informal resources that is accessible to them.

But the problems and shortcomings are not simplistic and 'single-cause' in nature, and many factors contribute and cumulate to create the deteriorating situation and conditions in urban areas today. The problems in housing, infrastructure, credit, land and other sectors in urban areas of Asia are a result of shortcomings inherent in both the government and its various agencies, as well as the urban poor themselves. Within the government, shortcomings such as inadequate financial resources, ineffective institutional structures, weak legislation or their implementation, lopsided policies and lack of adequate trained man power tend to compound shortcomings of the urban poor themselves: lack of marketable assets, low skills and education levels, low income jobs, etc. in the informal sector.

Such a scenario also has ripple effects on a variety of sectors: education, health, labour/job markets, and economic activities, both directly and indirectly. Services provided by the government are insufficient and inefficient, and do not reach or 'trickle-down' to most low-income groups. This forces the low-income households to seek alternative means to obtain services like housing, and other network and social infrastructure.

Asia and the Pacific region is the home to approximately 3.7 billion people, and a large share of the world's poorest. Asia is experiencing the largest movement of people in the shortest period of time in human history, with urbanization and migration occurring at unprecedented rates. Over half of Asia's rapidly growing urban population will likely be forced to live in slums and informal settlements characterized by a lack of basic services (UNFPA, 2008-2011).



### **2.3.2 Urban Poverty in Nepal**

Nepal is a rural dominant but rapidly urbanizing nation. In Nepal, poverty has been urbanized over the last two decades, with the rise of squatter settlements and slums in the major cities and towns.

According to the report of World Bank-1999, out of the total urban population of Nepal, 54 per cent were living without private water supply connection, 33 per cent without access to toilet, 20 per cent without electricity and 88 per cent without private telephone (World Bank, 1999).

Out of the urban population, 10 per cent are below poverty line. Between 1995-96 and 2003-04, poverty declined in Kathmandu Valley by 23 per cent, while in other urban areas it declined by 59 per cent (CBS, 2005). The lower rate of decline may be attributed to an increase in the urban poor and also to the higher rate of migration of poor people to the valley.

### **2.3.3 Growing Complexity of Urban Poverty in Nepal**

Nepal is increasingly suffering from urban poverty problems. Increased urbanization is not necessarily an indicator of prosperity but also an indicator of growing inability to sustain peace, stability and economic development in rural areas. Growth of slums and squatter population is an evidence of it.

Unemployment, increase in number of street children, sex workers, rise in crimes and insecurity further add to magnitude of the urban poverty situation. Kathmandu valley is not an exception to this. Any upcoming urban policy will be inadequate if it does not accommodate appropriate strategies to reduce vulnerabilities of urban poor populace.

Urban poverty was intensified partly because of a decade long Maoists-State conflict. Internal armed-conflict was initially rural-centered and as a result, there was forced

internal displacement of people from conflict-ridden rural areas to relatively safe urban centers. Nepal IDP Research Findings-2003 conducted by GTZ, INF, SNV, and UNDP/RUP in collaboration with NHRC concluded that the numbers of internally displaced people may have ranged between 37,000 to 50,000 (Karmacharya, 2006).

Growth of urban poor is also accelerated by the decline in rural agricultural investment and lack of favorable environment to sustain rural industry. This has forced millions of tribal, peasant and subsistence farmers from their traditional occupations and forced them to migrate to towns in search of wage labor. Lack of accessibility to service centers, reduced farm subsidies, poor education and health services, food insecurity, unemployment, lack of collateral and financial assets are other push factors which contributed to further of rural inhabitants and encourage them to look for shelter in deserted marginal peri-urban land with the hope of living a better life.

Sharp increase in urban poor has challenged the capacity of government for the supply of essential services including safe water supply, sanitation, electricity, solid waste management, housing and employment, growth of in-migrants population has contributed to the increasing land housing prices in Kathmandu valley. This has made poor people, especially the migrants, difficult to access a decent and secured housing.

Consequently, they opt to reside in temporary, overcrowded and unsanitary areas often illegally. Such settlements which are normally known as informal or squatter settlements have increased sharply in settlements. They are usually vulnerable to natural and human – made disasters and are deprived of access to basic services. These settlements suffer form various disease, which are environmental borne. Poor sanitation, unclean water, overcrowding, lack of ventilation both in the residential and work environments complicated the problems further resulting in high prevalence of mortality and morbidity of the urban poor population.

Incidents of child labor, street children, drug abuses and female/male sex workers have also increased drastically. Criminal activities such as robbery, murder, trafficking have

become a daily news digest especially in Katmandu Valley. Despite of these visible problems in urban centers, government, on-government and donors have not given much importance towards urban poverty. Now it's a time to implement the urban poverty reduction strategy in an effective and efficient manner by providing adequate economic opportunities, adequate living conditions for the urban poor, by improved local governance and protection of civil rights.

## **2.4 SQUATTER SETTLEMENT**

### **2.4.1 Introduction of Squatter Settlement**

For the millions of poor in developing areas of the world, urban areas have always been a means for improving their quality of living and environment, besides getting better jobs and incomes. This, in contrast to deteriorating conditions in the rural areas has generated a considerable flow of migrants to cities, particularly in the last three decades. Priorities of urban migrants change over time, depending on various conditions that they find themselves. But one of the first dilemmas that they face and which persists for a long period, is the question of an adequate house. With little resources, financial or otherwise, skills or access to them, the drastic option of illegally occupying a vacant piece of land to build a rudimentary shelter is the only one available to them. The problem is further compounded by the apathy and even anti-pathy of various government agencies who view the "invasion" of urban areas by "the masses" and the development of squatter settlements as a social "evil" that has to be "eradicated". Such a confusing and knee-jerk reaction and attitude towards squatter settlements has not helped the more basic question of "adequate housing for all". Qualifying definitions, characteristics, quality and examples of squatter settlements vary widely, with the inherent danger of generalization, but an attempt has been made to identify key features which are common to such areas and distinguish them (Srinivas, 2009).

## 2.4.2 Definition of a Squatter Settlement

Definition of a squatter settlement varies widely from country to country and depends on a variety of defining parameters. In general, it is considered as a residential area in an urban locality inhabited by the very poor who have no access to tenured land of their own, and hence "squat" on vacant land, either private or public.

The UNCHS has defined squatter settlements as "unauthorized occupation of land in an area by the destitute class (usually migrated population) of the society living under very low environmental and infrastructural condition" (UNCHS, 1996).

There are essentially three defining characteristics that help us understand squatter settlement: the Physical, the Social and the legal with the reasons behind them being interrelated (Srinivas, 2009).

### a. *Physical Characteristics*

A squatter settlement, due to its inherent "non-legal" status, has services and infrastructure below the "adequate" or minimum levels. Such services are both network and social infrastructure, like water supply, sanitation, electricity, roads and drainage; schools, health centers, market places etc. Water supply, for example, to individual households may be absent, or a few public or community stand pipes may have been provided, using either the city networks, or a hand pump itself. Informal networks for the supply of water may also be in place. Similar arrangements may be made for electricity, drainage, toilet facilities etc. with little dependence on public authorities or formal channels.

### b. *Social Characteristics*

Most squatter settlement households belong to the lower income group, either working as wage labour or in various informal sector enterprises. On an average, most earn wages at or near the minimum wage level. But household income levels can also be high due to many income earners and part-time jobs. Squatters are predominantly migrants, either rural-urban or urban-urban. But many are also second or third generation squatters.

*c. Legal Characteristics*

The key characteristic that delineates a squatter settlement is its lack of ownership of the land parcel on which they have built their house. These could be vacant government or public land, or marginal land parcels like railway setbacks or "undesirable" marshy land. Thus when the land is not under "productive" use by the owner, it is appropriated by a squatter for building a house. It has to be noted here that in many parts of Asia, a land owner may "rent" out his land for a nominal fee to a family or families, with an informal or quasi-legal arrangement, which is not however valid under law.

In general, there are several attributes that act as generative forces and determine the quality and size of a settlement. Such attributes could be either internal to the settlement or external:

Table: 3 Internal and external attributes of a settlement

<b>Internal Attributes</b>	<b>External Attributes</b>
Religion/Ethnicity	Land owner
Work place	Tenure security
Place of origin	Municipal/city government policies
Language	Length of stay in city
Length of stay in settlement	
Investment in housing	
Construction activity	
Presence of renters	

**2.4.3 Historical Development of the term, "Squatter Settlement"**

Squatter settlements have been in existence from a long time, in the sense that an individual other than the land owner has built houses with or without the consent of the land owner. But they were not illegal "squatter" settlements as we define and categorize

them today. The term "squatter settlement" is in fact a more recent western-initiated development, which came about by the writings of Charles Abrams and John Turner and particularly during and immediately after the Habitat Conference of 1976 in Vancouver, Canada. This delineation of such informal or spontaneous settlements as "squatter" settlements represented a growing change in attitude from outright hostility to that of support and protection.

Abrams (1964) illustrates the process of squatting as a "conquest" of city areas for the purpose of shelter, defined both by the law of force and the force of law. Turner (1969) takes a positive outlook and portrays squatter settlements as highly successful solutions to housing problems in urban areas of developing countries. Payne (1977) similarly puts the development of squatter settlements in the overall perspective of urban growth in the third world and its inevitability. A vast number of case studies at the Habitat Conference at Vancouver in 1976 highlighted the conditions in squatter settlements, calling for a concerted and committed approach towards solving the problems.

#### **2.4.4 Squatter Settlement - Alternative Names**

One common confusion regarding squatter settlements is its relation to the term "slum". Encyclopedia Britannica defines a slum as "...a residential areas that are physically and socially deteriorated and in which satisfactory family life is impossible. Bad housing is a major index of slum conditions. By bad housing is meant dwellings that have inadequate light, air, toilet and bathing facilities; that are in bad repair, damp and improperly heated; that do not afford opportunity for family privacy; that are subject to fire hazard and that overcrowd the land, leaving no space for recreational use...." Therefore, while a slum settlement refers to the condition of a settlement; squatter settlement would refer to the legal position of the settlement. There are a number of names by which squatter settlement are described by various authors, which highlight the attitudes and approaches towards them, ranging from a positive to neutral to negative outlook. These are:

- Informal settlements
- Low-income settlements
- Semi-permanent settlements
- Shanty towns
- Unauthorized settlements
- Uncontrolled settlements

Some of the local/colloquial names for squatter settlements (often also used for slum settlements)

- Ranchos = Venezuela
- Callampas, Campamentos = Chile
- Favelas = Brazil
- Barriadas = Peru
- Villas Misarias = Argentina
- Colonias Letarias = Mexico
- Barong-Barong = Philippines
- Kevettits = Burma
- Gecekondu = Turkey
- Bastee, Juggi-johmpri = India

## **2.5 CAUSES OF SQUATTING**

The key question to be asked here is why do people squat? There are two reasons for this: one is internal to the squatter, and the other is external. Internal reasons include, lack of collateral assets; lack of savings and other financial assets; daily wage/low-income jobs (which in many cases are semi-permanent or temporary). External reasons include, high cost of land and other housing services; apathy and anti-pathy on the part of the government to assist them; high "acceptable" building standards and rules and regulations; loopsided planning and zoning legislation.

These reasons leave no option for the low-income householder to squat on a vacant piece of land. The actual squatting is done either by a "slum lord" or simply a initial small group of core squatters. The slum lord appropriates a piece of vacant land, subdivides it and "sells" it to various households for the purpose of building a house. Services like water-supply or electricity may be provided either by this person or by the organization of the squatters, usually at the community level. The core group squatters are a small number of families who, almost overnight, occupy a piece of land and build a rudimentary and temporary shelter. Later, depending on the degree of threat of eviction, this may be upgraded to a permanent and more families may join this group. There are two distinct processes involved in the formation of a settlement. One is the organic and induced processes. The organic process refers to the forces and pressures which are initiated from within the settlement and squatter. They evolve naturally, without any outside intervention and using internal resources of the family or settlement for development, such as labour, locally available materials etc. The induced process refers to the "inducement" set up by agencies and organizations which are external to the settlement. Operating with objectives and goals on a larger, city-wide scale, they initiate programmes and projects for the overall development of the settlement. Both these put together act on the growth of a squatter settlement, through a series of consolidative stages of development. These stages are conclusive in their outcome, in the sense that they represent a continuum with one stage or process overlapping and even running parallel to each other. They are also cumulative in their effects and not exclusive.

## **2.6 GROWTH OF SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS IN URBAN AREAS**

Squatter settlements in urban areas are inevitable phenomena. As long as urban areas offer economies of scale and agglomeration economies, large cities will always continue to grow attracting migrants from rural and smaller urban areas, leading to more squatting.

High rates of urban growth, inadequate infrastructure and a widening housing deficit has resulted in an increasing number of urban residents living in inadequate housing. Without affordable housing in good locations, or accessible transportation links, millions of urban



citizens end up living in squatter settlements. UN-HABITAT estimates that nearly 900 million people in developing countries live in these environments, characterized by poor access to water and sanitation, overcrowding and poor housing conditions. Many also lack security of tenure and frequently face evictions, which further exacerbates insecurity and poverty (Lumanti Urban Resource Centre, 2007)

By 1996, about 7 per cent of the country's population lived in squatter settlements (CBS, 1997), equivalent to the population of Kathmandu today. At present, there are about four-million squatters, popularly known as 'Sukumbasi', living in cities and towns, including 50,000 populations over 66 squatter settlements in Kathmandu (IRIN, 2007).

## **2.7 SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS IN KATHMANDU**

Kathmandu, the largest urban center in the country has witnessed a proliferation of squatter settlements. Unauthorized occupancy of land is a growing phenomenon in Kathmandu, supported by political backing. Squatter settlements have grown in number from 17 in 1985 to 63 in 2003, to over 66 in 2007, the majority of them located on marginal land along the riverside (Karki, 2004; Pradhan, 2003; IRIN , 2007).

A survey of 24 squatter settlements carried out by Norwegian students from Trondheim University in 1988 revealed that 46 per cent of these settlements were made on marginal river banks full of garbage, 52 per cent were without tap water; and 63 per cent had no electricity and 66 per cent had no toilet facilities (Rana, 2007).

A comprehensive survey of 37 squatter settlements of Kathmandu valley with a total of 1,729 households and 7,126 population, carried out by an NGO Lumanti, from 2000-2001 found that majority of the settlements are formed by encroaching into the ecological sensitive and marginal areas such as riverbeds, forest and lowlands. The survey also displayed inadequate service provision in the settlements as 67 per cent reported inadequate water supply with a further 15 per cent having no supply at all. Only half of the household had toilet. Electricity supply was however available to most of

them. Household characteristics showed 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the population in informal labour work and 80 per cent population with an income ranging between 1000-5000 NRs. Only 1.8 per cent of the population had higher education (Lumanti, 2001).

The growing population of the Kathmandu has exacerbated the plight of the city's estimated 50,000 squatters who are among the poorest people in Nepal, according to a study by an NGO Water-Aid Nepal (IRIN, 2007).

According to SPOSH-Nepal officials, the squatters survive on less than 1 US \$ per day. The major problems faced by the city's poor are a limited supply of drinking water, and poor sanitation, health and hygiene, according to an NGO Lumanti. Those squatters most affected by poverty and poor hygienic are women (IRIN, 2007).

## **2.8 SHANKHAMUL SQUATTER SETTLEMENT**

Shankhamul squatter settlement is one of the oldest squatter settlements of Kathmandu, located in Ward Number-10 of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. It lies on the right bank of the Bagmati River just downstream of the Baneshwor- Bagalamukhi road.

There are many causes of squatting in Shankhamul area. Most of them migrated to the town looking for job. The room's rent was supposed to be high and they could not afford it so then, they started settling on the bank of Bagmati River. Some people are also in the community after being victims of flood and landslides. Regarding their place of origin, most of the residents are from the hilly districts like Ramechhap, Kavre, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, while a few are also from Terai districts like Siraha.

According to data from SPOSH-Nepal and Lumanti, the squatter settlement in Shankhamul started in 2030 B.S. with three households in public land. After a month, ten more households entered into the settlement. At present, the number of households has reached to 104, totaling a population of 533.

The community is multifarious in the ethnicity, Newar being the highest in its population and Chhetri with lowest numbers. Thirteen households follow Christian religion, while others follow either Hinduism or Buddhism. The main festivals of the people are Dashain, Tihar and Buddha jayanti.

The Squatter currently occupies 56 ropanis of land, including merely 17 ropanies of land covered by the housing units. The average land distribution is about four aana per household. A graveled road passes by the community.

Most of houses are made by brick with either mud or cement. Every house has electricity and toilet facility. Around 38 houses enjoy the drainage facilities. Other houses possess safety tanks. Water Corporation supplies drinking water to the three hilltake tanks of 5,000 liters capacity each, either once or twice a week. Around 49 families are dependent on a single tank for the drinking water. Besides this, five hands-pumps and a well are other sources of water of the community.

## CHAPTER-THREE

# METHODOLOGY

A research can produce fruitful results only by adopting proper methodology to analyze and evaluate different parameters under study. In order to accomplish this research, following approaches and methods are adopted.

### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design provides the glue that holds the research project together. A research design is used to structure the research, to show how all of the major parts of the research project- the samples or groups, measures, programs, and method of assignment- work together to try to address the central research questions.

The present study is a descriptive and expletory research, as it is designed primarily to describe the patterns of urban poverty indicators in a squatter settlement. The major indicators of urban squatter poverty are access to basic services, education, occupation, sources of income, health and sanitation of the settlement.

### **3.2 Research Technique**

The study is based on census method. It is the best method of counting the total number of inhabitants in an area at a certain point of time. In addition to the count of all people in a specified area at a given time, a present day census also collects other demographic, social and economic information. There are 104 households in the Study area and respondents are either household heads or who is available at the time of field observation.

### **3.3 Techniques of Data Collection**

This study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected by field visit to the squatter settlement. Secondary sources are published and unpublished reports, research studies and articles by different researchers, line agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

#### ***a) Primary Data collection***

The techniques of primary data collection are direct field observation interview, questionnaire and group discussion.

#### **Site of data collection**

The site of data collection is Shankhamul Squatter Settlement, located in Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) Ward No-10, Shankhamul.

#### **Observation**

The field work of the present study was undertaken during the period of Jan 17- 24, 2010. Direct field observation is made in the study area to collect the information about the number of households, infrastructure of the housing unit and access to basic services such as electricity, water supply, toilet facility.

#### **Interview**

Information on family size, educational background, occupation, income and habit of expenditure or saving are collected by general enquiries at each household.

#### **Questionnaire**

All the information obtained during interview is noted on the standard set of questionnaire, based on the respondents says. The questionnaire was designed in such a way so as to obtain information at the household as well as at the individual level.

### **Group discussion**

Information on the impact of programs implemented for reducing poverty in the study area, recent challenges and problems faced by the squatters and future suggestions to be implemented for betterment to reduce the poverty of squatters are collected from the participants through group discussion

#### ***b) Secondary Data collection***

Secondary data are collected from the published reports of CBS, NPC, World Bank, UNDP, Lumanti, SPOSH-Nepal, articles of different researchers, unpublished reports, and relevant literatures from Central Library, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur.

### **3.4 Data Analysis**

For this research, all the collected data are analyzed descriptively, exploratory qualitatively and SPSS methods are applied necessarily. Data are analyzed using frequency counting, crosstabulations, corelations, regression and t test analysis.

Information obtained on cause of squatting, housing condition, access to basic services like electricity, water supply and toilet facility, their suggestions to enhance living standard of the squatters are analyzed descriptively. Moreover, the data on family structure, average household size, population composition on age-sex basis, educational attainment, economic status, sources of income, habit of expenditure and saving are analyzed descriptively as well as statistically.

The statistical tool/technique used for the present study varies from simple mathematical calculations to SPSS method of analysis. Most of data are tabulated and presented in percentage while some are presented in figures.

## CHAPTER- FOUR

### PRESENTATION & ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data obtained from filed survey as well as through different sources are presented and analyzed as follows.

#### 4.1 Trend of Squatter Settlement in Shankhamul

According to the field survey, the settlement started in 2030 B.S. with only three households. Now, about 36 years later, the household numbers has reached to hundred and four. The increased trend in the number of households, during this period, is presented in Table: 4.

Table: 4 Total number of households in Shankhamul Squatter Settlement over time

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Year (in B.S.)</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>
1.	2030	3
2.	2030 (after 3 months)	10
3.	2031	30
4.	2042	17
5.	2044	20
6.	2044 (after 3 months)	17
7.	2055	2
8.	2058	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>104</b>

#### 4.2 Causes of Squatting in Shankhamul Squatter Settlement

The following table represents data on the causes of squatting in Shankhamul area during the field survey.

Table: 5 Causes of Squatting in Shankhamul Squatter Settlement

The data clearly shows that the main squatting causes of squatting in Shankhamul settlement area are for betterment of their lives, landslide, flood victims, and famine.

S.N.	Causes of Squatting	Households	
		No. of Households	% of Households
1.	For betterment of life	28	26.92 %
2.	Landslide	24	23.07 %
3.	Flood Victim	19	18.26 %
4.	Famine	15	14.42 %
5.	Parents were squatters	13	12.50 %
6.	Family dispute	1	0.96 %
7.	Not known	4	3.87 %
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>104</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Some are residing in that area as their parents were squatting since a long time. And a single household started to squat due to family dispute.

### 4.3 Distribution of Household Size

Information obtained on the household size of the study area, during field survey is presented in Table: 6. It shows that the size of household ranges from 3 person to the maximum of 14 person, per household; with an average of 5.13 person per household. Of the total 104 households surveyed, highest number of household i.e. 27 households comprises 5 people per household whereas only 2 households has 10 and 12 persons in each.

Table: 6 Distribution of household size

S.N.	Size of Households	No. of Households
1.	3 person	25
2.	4 person	23
3.	5 person	27



4.	6 person	9
5.	7 person	6
6.	8 person	5
7.	9 person	5
8.	10 person	1
9.	12 person	1
10.	14 person	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>

Here is a bar diagram of distribution of households size in Shankhamul Squatter Settlement:

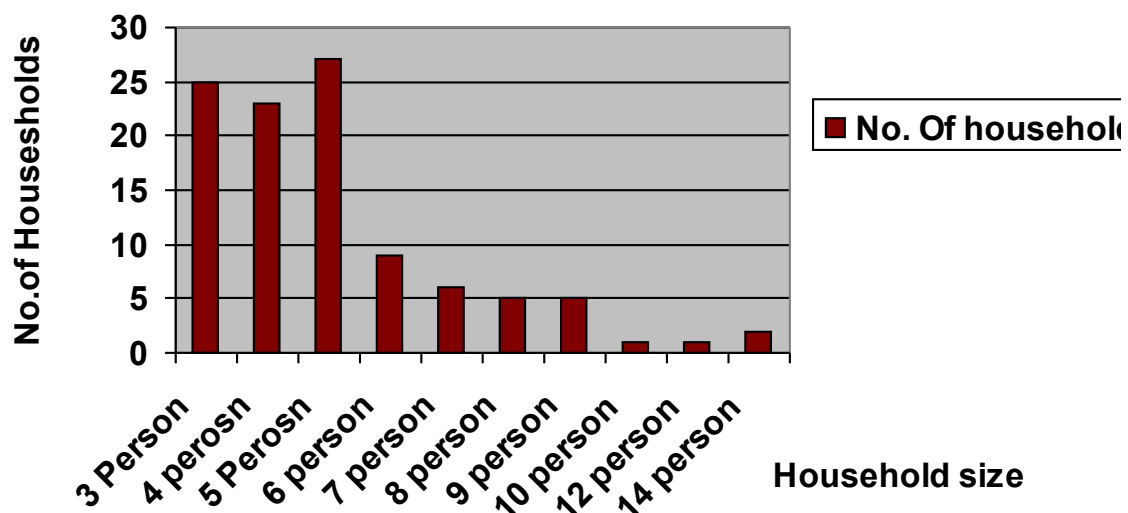


Figure: 3 Bar diagram on distribution of household size

#### 4.4 Age-Sex Distribution of Population

The Table: 7 shows the age and sex structure of the total population of Shankhamul Squatter Settlement.

Table: 7 Age-Sex distribution of population

Age group (year)	Distribution of Population			
	No. of Male	No. of Female	Total	Sex ratio (Males /100 females)
Under 1	8	9	17	88
1-4	12	15	27	80
5-9	22	20	42	110
10-14	27	22	49	122
15-19	<b>36</b>	27	63	133
20-24	24	<b>29</b>	53	82
25-29	30	27	57	111
30-34	22	19	41	115
35-39	25	23	48	108
40-44	19	18	37	105
45-49	17	10	27	170
50-54	16	9	25	177
55-59	11	8	19	137
60-64	4	7	11	57
65-69	3	6	9	50
70-74	1	4	5	25
75-79	----	2	2	
80-84	1	-----	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>533</b>	

There are more males (278) than females (255) in the settlement, with a total population of 533. The average sex ratio is 109.

Distribution of population on the basis of age shows that highest percentage (56.10 per cent) of total population lies between 15 and 45 years of age while lowest percentage (5.25 per cent) of people are of age above 60 years. The total population under 15 years of age is 135, which is 25.33 per cent of the total population. Similarly, 8.25 per cent of the people are under 5 years of age. Only 0.56 per cent of the population of the settlement is more than 75 years of age.

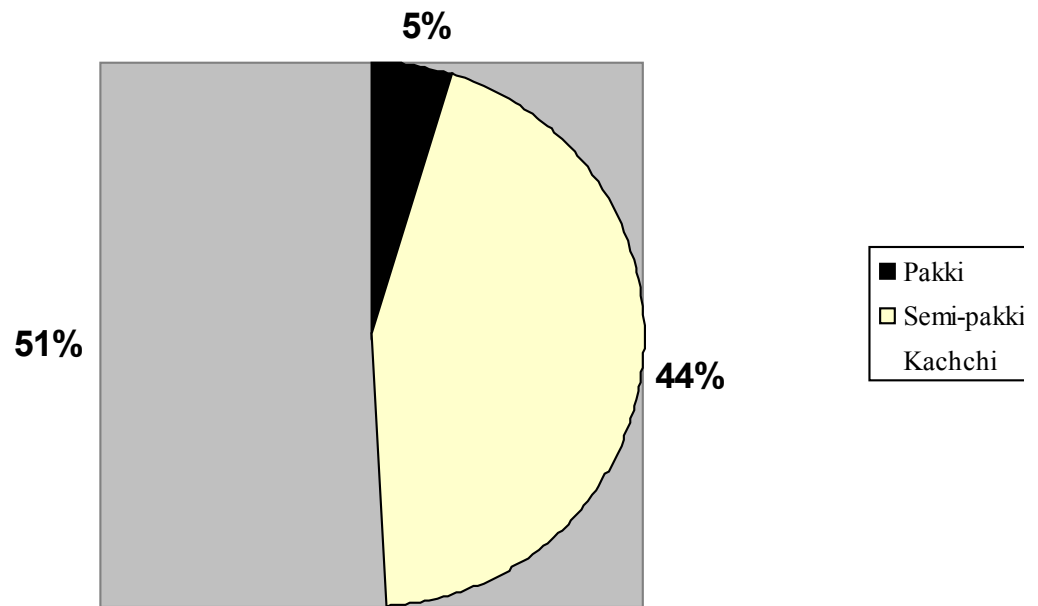
The data also reveals that highest number of female lies in the age group 20-24 years whereas the age group 15-19 years accounts for the highest number of male.

#### 4.5 Households by Types of the House in use

The houses are classified into 3 different categories as Pakki, Semi-pakki and Kachchi based on those standard categories set by the population census of 2001. Figure: 3 shows the percentage distribution of household by types of house in use at the study area.

Out of the total 104 households, 51 per cent of house in use are Kachchi type, 44 are per cent are Semi-Pakki and only 5 percentage are Pakki.

Figure: 4 Percentage distribution of households by types of house in use



#### 4.6 Status of Access to Basic Services to the Population

##### Electricity Supply:

From field observation, we found that every house has electricity supply.

##### Toilet Facility:

If households possess their own toilet that could be within the house or boundary of the house then such households are considered as households having toilet facilities. If the households do not have their own toilet are considered as households having no toilet facilities. During the study, we found that every house has toilet facility.

Source of Drinking Water:

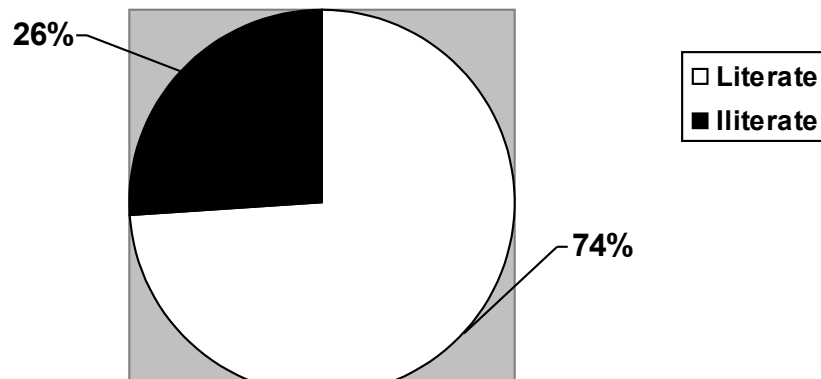
The main sources of drinking water in Shankhamul Squatter Settlement is the water supplied in tanker by Water Corporation to the three hilltake tanks of 5,000 liters capacity each, either once or twice a week. Around 49 families are dependent on a single tank for the drinking water. Besides this, five hands-pumps and a 'well' are other sources of water of the community.

None of the houses are supplied with private water supply connection. The community lacks the service of Public taps.

**4.7 Educational Status of the People**

The following figure represents the information obtained on literacy rate of the people of the study area.

Figure:5 Literacy rate of people in Shankhamul Squatter Settlement



The figure clearly depicts that 74 per cent of people are literate and 26 per cent are illiterate within the total population of the settlement.

Moreover, the following Table:8 present the level of education within the literate people of the study area. Among the literate population, 34.52 per cent have completed primary education; however, 20.64 per cent of the people have been able to pass SLC examination. Likewise, 17.8 per cent have completed their high school. Only 7.83 per cent has passed bachelor's level and above.

It is also shows that among the literate group, more males have achieved higher level of education than their female counterparts. About 9.7 per cent male have completed their bachelor's level and more, whereas only 5.5 per cent female accounted for the same.

Table: 8 Level of education of people in Shankhamul Squatter settlement

<b>Level of Education</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Primary	47	50	97
Secondary	33	21	54
S.L.C.	32	26	58
High School or Equivalent	28	22	50
Bachelor and above	15	7	22
Only Read and write	60	53	113
Illirate	63	76	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>533</b>

#### 4.8 Occupational Composition of People

The table-9 below presents the information on the occupation of people of the settlement. The people in the study area have different types of occupation. The table shows that highest numbers of people are involved in physical labors like construction works. Some of them are drivers, knitters. Some people of the community are job holders while some sell goods in the street. Over the past few years, foreign employment has changed their source of income; at present, 36 people have left the settlement for foreign employment in golf countries.

Table: 9 Occupation of the people in Shankhamul Squatter Settlement area

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Main Occupation</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	Physical Labor	37	12	49
2.	Driving	17		17
3.	Knitting	4	15	19
4.	Job	14	6	20
5.	With their own small business	7	3	10
6.	Vendor	2	5	7
7.	Social worker	-	2	2
8.	Foreign employment	26	10	36
9.	House wife	-	79	79
10.	Others	171	123	294
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>533</b>

#### 4.9 Monthly Income of the Households

The information obtained on the average monthly income of the households under the study area is presented in the Table: 10. Out of the 104 households, around 26 per cent of the households have monthly income of NRs. 10,000 or above. On the other hand, about 16 per cent of the households are surviving with a monthly income below 2000 NRs.

S.N.	Monthly Income (in NRS.)	Households	
		Number	Percentage
1.	> 2,000	17	16.35
2.	2,000-4,000	21	20.28
3.	4,000-6,000	19	18.27
4.	6,000-8,000	11	10.58
5.	8,000-10,000	9	8.65
6.	< 10,000	27	25.96
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Table: 10 Average monthly income of the households

#### 4.10 Expenditure of Households

The total household expenditure reflects the amount spent in different items including their basic needs. During the interview and group discussion, it is noticed that the income of some people is not sufficient for daily households needs. For that they depend on the loans from different sources. Moreover, the priority pattern of expenditure is as follows:

<u>Items of Expense</u>	<u>Percentage of Expenditure</u>
Food	60
Education	25
Medicine, Clothing and Others	Remaining percentage

#### 4.11 Loan

The study shows that about 30 per cent of the households used to take loans from their friends, relatives and neighbors. At the community level, the GyanJyoti Women Welfare

Saving and Credits Cooperative Ltd., established and managed by women of squatter communities provide easy access to loans. None of the governmental system provides loans to the squatters.

The major purpose of burrowing loan is for household expenses, education, and health care/medication. Some burrow loans for their business and on the occasion of social function.

#### 4.12 Habit of Saving

The study shows that about 70 per cent of the populations do monthly saving either below 100 NRs. up to 500 NRs. at maximum. Most of them save below NRs. 100/- while a very few proportion of them save up to NRs. 500/- in a month. Most of the community women do saving in GyanJyoti Women Welfare Saving and Credits Cooperative Ltd., established and managed by women of squatter communities.

Table: 11 Monthly saving of the households

S.N.	Monthly Saving (in NRS.)	Households	
		Number	Percentage
1.	> 100	53	50.96
2.	200	8	7.69
3.	300	4	3.85
4.	400	3	2.88
5.	500	5	4.81
6.	Not Saving	31	2.81
7.	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100 %</b>

#### 4.13 Categorization of Poor



During the field survey, we have asked to categorize themselves either as poor, or very poor, or not poor. The information obtained from the respondents reveals that above 60 per cent of the total populating ranked themselves as 'very poor' and around 20 per cent ranked them as poor. However, some did not respond to the question.

### **Case Study: One**

Punam Timilsina was born in 2030 B.S. at Ramechhap district in Nepal. She has been residing at Shankhamul Squatter Settlement since 18 years. She can read and write, she has a small vegetable shop near in her settlement. Her monthly income is very low (around 1200-1500 NRs), but great respite to her poor landless family.

In her origin, due to lack of earning opportunities and poor infrastructures of development, Timilsina's family were in search of good place to settle; thus due to financial problem and lack of basic needs her family ultimate destination turns to be the squatter settlement in Shankhamul. She has a daughter and a son. Her daughter is 18 years old, she studies at class 12 and works in a private office and she earns 3500 NRs. per months, her son is 16 years old and he is studying at class 9.

She always wakes up early in the morning, collects vegetables and sells it. She is not satisfied in her work because her income is very low and it is very difficult to manage her family expenditure. Some times her daughter supports her in fulfilling family requirements. She wants to change her occupation but she does not have any alternatives due to lack of land and better income opportunities. She requested to the government that they should be provided with enough land and permanent income opportunities. As the settlement is located in the bank of Bagmati river which is very polluted and dangerous to health. She has suffered from many diseases due to polluted water and lack of sanitation. She has a bitter experience of her life as a squatter (locally known as "sukumbasi").

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

## CROSSTABLATIONS, CORRELATIONS AND REGRESSION ANALYSIS

### 5.1 Crosstabulations

An attempt is done to investigate the crosstabulation between selected topics; they are level of education, age, sex and expenditure through SPSS analysis.

#### 5.1.1 Crosstabulation between age and level of education

The following table represents the data of level of education and age group in Sankhamul Squatter Settlement.

Table: 12 Age and level of education of respondent

S. N.	Age group	Level of Education					
		Illiterate	Secondary	SLC	IA	BA	Total
		Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage
1.	0-15	-	12 (41.38)	1 (3.45)	-	-	13 (12.51)
2.	15-30	2 (10.53)	7 (24.13)	12 (41.38)	5 (27.78)	-	26 (25.00)
3.	30-45	3(15.78)	4 (13.08)	8 (27.77)	5 (27.78)	4 (44.44)	24 (23.08)
4.	45-60	6 (31.58)	4 (13.08)	7 (24.13)	5 (27.78)	2 (22.22)	24 (23.08)
5.	60+	8 (42.11)	2 (6.89)	1 (3.45)	3 (16.66)	3 (33.33)	17 (16.35)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>19 (100%)</b>	<b>29 (100%)</b>	<b>29 (100%)</b>	<b>18 (100%)</b>	<b>9 (100%)</b>	<b>104 (100%)</b>

The above table clearly depicts that the crosstabulation between level of education and sex with in the respondents. During the field survey and group discussion around 42 per cent of respondent are illiterate and nearly 58 per cent respondent are literate. The large numbers of respondent are in productive age group.

### 5.1.2 Crosstabulation between level of education and expenditure

The study shows that the crosstabulation between level of education and expenditure of households in Sankhamul Squatter Settlement.

Table: 13 Crosstabulation between level of education and expenditure

<b>Expenditure</b>							
<b>S. N.</b>	<b>Level of Education</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Medicine</b>	<b>Clothes</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
		Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage
1.	Illiterate	10 (27.78)	5 (20.00)	1 (11.11)	2 (6.45)	1 (33.34)	19 (18.27)
2.	Secondary	6 (16.68)	9 (36.00)	4 (44.45)	10 (32.26)	-	29 (27.88)
3.	SLC	7 (19.44)	8 (32.00)	2 (22.22)	11 (35.49)	1 (33.34)	29 (27.88)
4.	IA	8 (22.22)	3 (12.00)	2 (22.2)	4 (12.90)	1 (33.34)	18 (17.32)
5.	BA	5 (13.88)	-	-	4 (12.90)	-	9 (8.65)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36 (100%)</b>	<b>25 (100%)</b>	<b>9 (100%)</b>	<b>31 (100%)</b>	<b>3 (100%)</b>	<b>104 (100%)</b>

The Table-13 above presents the information on level of education and expenditure of the households. It reflects the amount spent in different items including the basic needs, during the interview and group discussion. It shows that, illiterate people spent their large number of income for food and so on, but literate people spent their large number of income for education, medicine, clothes and food respectively.

### 5.1.3 Crosstabulation between sex and level of education

The information's obtained from the field survey, below table shows the crosstabulation between sex and level of education of people of the settlement.

Table: 14 Crosstabulation between sex and level of education

S.N.	Level of education	Male	Female	Total
	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage	Number/ Percentage
1.	Illiterate	3 (7.69)	16 (24.61)	19 (18.26)
2.	Secondary	13 (33.34)	16 (24.61)	29 (27.89)
3.	SLC	9 (23.08)	20 (30.76)	29 (27.89)
4.	IA	8 (20.41)	10 (15.39)	18 (17.31)
5.	BA	6 (15.38)	3 (4.62)	9 (8.65)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>39 (100%)</b>	<b>65 (100%)</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

During the field survey and group discussion it shows that around 18 per cent of people are illiterate, nearly 55 per cent of people are completed secondary and SLC level, 17 per cent people passed IA and only 8 per cent people are completed bachelors level.

## 5.2 Correlations

An attempt is done to investigate the relationship between sex, monthly income, expenditure and education through SPSS analysis.

Table: 15 Correlations between sex, monthly income, expenditure and education

S.N.	Name of Variables	CORRELATIONS			
		Sex	Monthly Income	Expenditure	Level of education
1.	Sex	1	.073	-.053	-.209 (*)
2.	Income	.073	1	-.178	.465 (**)
3.	Expenditure	-.053	-.178	1	.062
4.	Level of Education	-.209(*)	.465 (**)	.062	1

[\* Correlations is significant at the 0.05 level (2- tailed),  
 \*\* Correlations is significant at the 0.01 level (2- tailed)].

(Source: Field Survey)

The table: 12 clearly shows that there is significant correlation between education ( $r = .465$  \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ) and monthly income.

### 5.3 Regressions Analysis

#### Model: 1

#### A. Income and Education

#### Variable Entered /Removed

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	Education		Enter

Dependent Variable: Income

#### Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R	Std. Error of the
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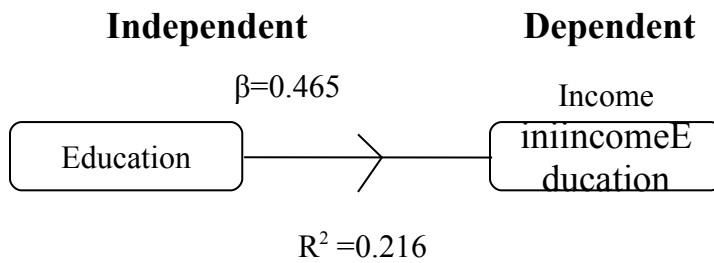
			Square	Estimate
	.465(a)	.216	.209	1.331

Predictors: (constant), Education

**Coefficients**

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
Education	1.325	.322.		4.121	.000
	.577	.109	.465	5.305	.000

Dependent Variable: Income



It is a description of dependent and independent variables; education is independent variable and income is dependent variable. The dependent variable (income) is explained by independent variable (education) in 21.6 per cent ( $R^2=0.216$ ). Shift independent variable (education) from one group to another the dependent variable (income) changes by the multiple of 0.0465( $\beta$ ). Which is significant at 0.000 level of significant.

**Model 2**

**B. Income, Education and Occupation**

**Variables Entered/Removed**

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
	Occupation and Education	.	Enter

Dependent Variable: Income

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
	.468(a)	.219	.203	1.336

Predictors: Occupation and Education

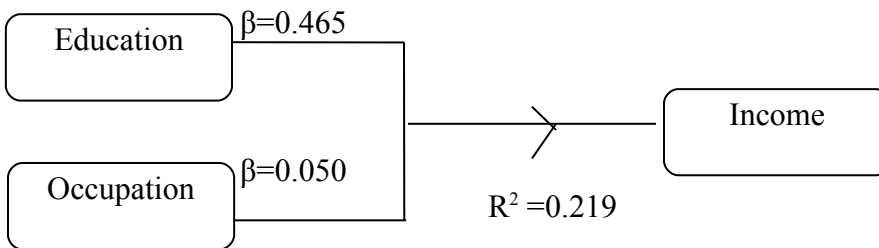
**Coefficients**

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
Education	.578	.106	.465	5.292	.000
Occupation	.044	.078	.050	.572	.569

Dependent Variable: Income

**Independent**

**Dependent**



Here education and occupation are independent variable and income is dependent variable. Dependent variable (income) is explain by independent variable (education and occupation) in 21.9 per cent ( $R^2=0.219$ ).

Shift independent variable (education and occupation) from one group to another the dependent variable (income) changes by the multiple of education 0.465( $\beta$ ) and occupation 0.050( $\beta$ ). Which education is significant at level of 0.000 level of significant and occupation is significant at level of 0.569 level of significant.

**Model 3**

**C. Income, Education, Occupation and Sex**

**Variables Entered/Removed**

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
-------	-------------------	-------------------	--------

	Sex, Education, and Occupation		Enter
--	--------------------------------	--	-------

Dependent Variable: Income

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
	.500(a)	.250	.227	1.315

Predictors: Sex, Education and Occupation

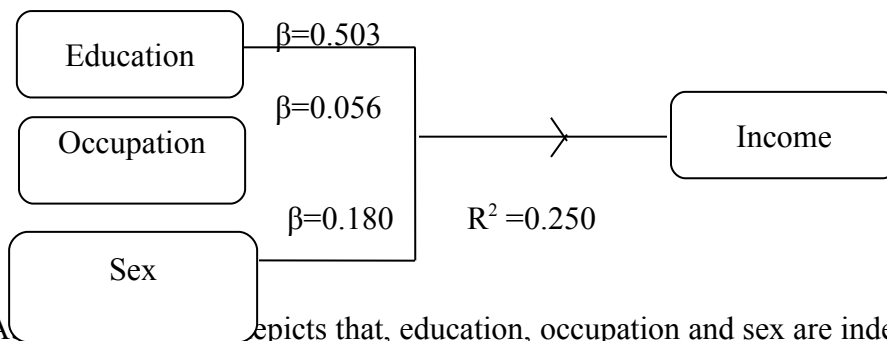
**Coefficients**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.106	.674		.156	.876
Education	.624	.110	.503	5.680	.000
Occupation	.050	.077	.056	.648	.518
Sex	.554	.273	.180	2.034	.045

Dependent Variable: Income

**Independent**

**Dependent**



A path diagram depicts that, education, occupation and sex are independent variables.

The dependent variable (income) is explained by independent variable (education, occupation and sex) is 25 per cent ( $R^2=0.250$ ).

Shift independent variable (education, occupation and sex) from one group to another the dependent variable (income) changes by the multiple of education 0.503( $\beta$ ), occupation



0.056 ( $\beta$ ) and sex 0.180 ( $\beta$ ). Which education is significant at level of 0.000 level of significant, occupation is significant at level of 0.518 level of significant and sex is significant at level of 0.045 level of significant.

**Model 4**

**D. Income, Education, Occupation, Sex and Expenditure**

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
	Expenditure, Sex, Occupation and Education,	.	Enter

Dependent Variable: Income

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
	.537(a)	.288	.260	1.288

Predictors: Education, Occupation, Sex and Expenditure

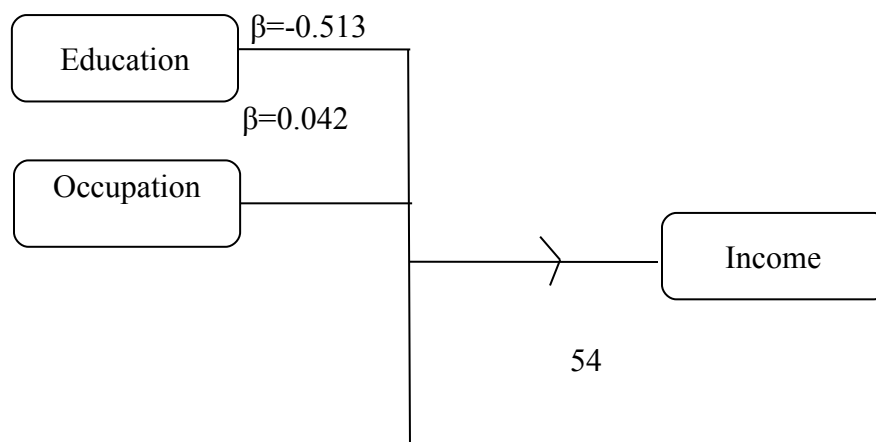
**Coefficients**

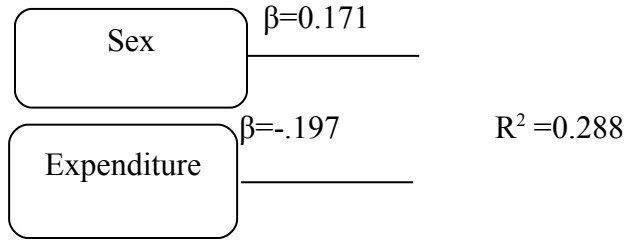
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.710	.710		1.000	.320
Education	.637	.108	.513	5.913	.000
Occupation,	.037	.075	.042	.489	.626
Sex	.527	.265	.171	1.974	.051
Expenditure	-.225	.097	-.197	-2.314	.023

Dependent Variable: Income

**Independent**

**Dependent**





Here; Education, Occupation, Sex and Expenditure are independent variables. The dependent variable (income) is explained by independent variable (education, occupation, sex and expenditure) is 28.88 per cent ( $R^2=0.288$ ).

Shift independent variable (Education, Occupation, Sex and Expenditure) from one group to another the dependent variable (income) changes by the multiple of education 0.513 ( $\beta$ ), occupation 0.042 ( $\beta$ ), sex 0.171 ( $\beta$ ) and expenditure -0.197 ( $\beta$ ). Which education is significant at level of 0.000 level of significant, occupation is significant at 0.626 at level of significant, sex is significant at 0.051 level of significant and expenditure is significant at level of 0.023 level of significant.

Beta also called intercept value between the dependent and independent variables. It gives that when independent variable has zero (0) values, in otherwise this value when regression line cut the Y-axis. If there is positive values the regression line cut the Y-axis above the origin (0, 0). If the value is the negative the regression line passes through Y-axis below the origin (0, 0) the standard coefficient value also known as the coefficient of regression of related independent variables. It also called regression coefficient. It represents the slope of the regression line. If the regression coefficient is negative then the value of dependent variable decrease at the same time the values of independent variables increase. In this analyzed income is dependent variable and education, occupation, sex and expenditure are independent variable.

## T- Test

There is significant difference between income and education while doing T-Test.

There is no significant difference between education and occupation, sex and expenditure while doing T-Test.

## CHAPTER- SIX

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.1 Summary

**The summary of Key findings is outlined as follows;**

1. The Sankhamul squatter settlement was started in 2030 B.S. with three households. At present, the settlement comprises hundred and four households, in 56 ropanis of public land, totaling a population of 533, with an average household size of 5.13.
2. Majority of households has started to squat in that area in hope of improving the quality of their lives through better jobs and income in addition to the natural

disasters such as landslide, flood and famine at their birth place that caused loss of property ultimately forcing them to become squatter.

3. More than fifty per cent of the houses in the settlement are Kachhi type. However, every house has electricity and toilet. The main source of drinking water is the water supplied in tanker by Water Corporation, in addition to few hand-pumps and a well in the community.

4. The population of male is higher than female. The average sex ratio is 109.

5. About one-fourth percentage of the total population is under 15 years of age whereas only 5.25 per cent of the population is above 60 years of age. Surprisingly, 0.56 per cent of the total population continues to survive in the settlement even after 75 years of age.

6. Highest number of female lies in the age group 20-24 years whereas the age group 15-19 years accounted for the highest number of male.

7. Seventy four per cent of people are literate and 26 per cent are illiterate within the total population of the settlement. About 34.52 per cent have completed primary education; however, 20.64 per cent of the people have been able to pass SLC examination. Likewise, 17.8 per cent have completed their high school. Only 7.83 per cent has passed bachelor's level and above. More males have achieved higher level of education than their female counterparts.

8. Most people are engaged in labor works like driver and construction workers, some are job holders, vendors, some has small shops in their own house and 36 youths have left the gulf countries.

9. Around 26 per cent of the households have monthly income of NRs. 10,000 or above whereas about 16 per cent of the households are still surviving with a monthly income below 2000 NRs. They expense about 60 per cent of the total expense in food, 20 per cent in education and remaining percentage on cloth, medicine, transportation and others.

10. About 30 per cent of the households used to take loans from their friends, relatives and neighbors for household expenses, education, and health care/medication. About 70 per cent of the populations do monthly saving either below 100 NRs. up to 500 NRs. at maximum. Most of the community women do saving in GyanJyoti Women Welfare Saving and Credits Cooperative Ltd., established and managed by women of squatter communities. Community women have easy access to loans.

11. Majority of them ranked as 'very poor' by themselves. While a very few proportion ranked as 'poor' and none of them were ranked them as rich or not- poor.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

The present study revealed that a large percentage of the population in Shankhamul Squatter is still deprived of the basic needs including education, drinking water, sanitation and proper housing.

People living in Shankhamul Squatter Settlement are in continuous threats either naturally or legally. The major problems faced by these people are inadequate income sources, illiteracy, a limited supply of clean drinking water and poor sanitation-health.

On the other hand, squatter settlement itself is a major problem for proper planning and development of urban centers. Moreover, the increasing population of the squatters has contributed to making the already contaminated water of Bagmati River worse. However, to be a squatter in an already over-populated area of the cities and towns, is not a choice of an individual, rather it is a customary circumstance arisen due to several facts like incapability to afford the rented houses, loss of property, natural disasters, famine, low productive lands, internal-conflicts etc.

There is no universal "quick-fix" solution that can solve all the problems of squatting in all parts of the developing world. Considering the inevitability of squatting, the need is primarily for a change in attitude towards squatting, squatters and squatter settlements.

One such approach that has been receiving considerable attention from various government and public authorities has been the "enabling" approach, where instead of taking a confrontationist attitude, governments have strived to create an enabling environment, under which people, using and generating their own resources, could find unique local solutions for their housing and shelter problems.

It is well documented that education is the catalyst of change. In addition to the major component being responsible for changing human behaviour, education is an equally important indicator of socioeconomic development. The educational status of the squatters is essential to understand to make policies to empower these people with information, to provide knowledge, skills and to address other problems of the community.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

Based on the present study, following recommendations have been made.

#### Recommendations to the state:

- 1) Since all the people residing in this settlement are Nepalese citizens, it's the duty of Nation to bring them in the main stream of development by providing various opportunities so as to enhance the quality of their life.
  
- 2) A separate and concrete policy needs is essential at governmental level so as to address the actual problems and needs of the squatters. The government should address the issues of community leaderships to minimize the problems through multilateral consensus.

3) Nepal's national policy still seems to be rural poverty bias, so its time to give national policy priority to urban poverty issues. The concerned authorities should invest more resources on urban poverty research.

Recommendations to the Governmental & Non-governmental Organization:

- 1) Since a large percentage of the population in Shankhamul squatter are still deprived of adequate income sources, the government, NGOs/ INGOs should provide various vocational training or income generating activities to make them self-sustainable.
- 2) The squatters should be provided with loans at minimum interest rate without deposit, to supplement their basic needs, sanitation, and education.
- 3) The sanitation and health problems should be addressed effectively; otherwise it could turn out to be a catastrophe.
- 4) As considerable proportion of the community total population is still illiterate, educational programs should be further directed in an effective way.
- 5) The landless squatters should be given property rights on the lands they occupy or the government should provide them alternate permanent shelter.
- 6) The growing complexity of urban poverty should be recognized by various international and national organizations who are working towards the goal of poverty alleviation, in addition to the governmental sector.

Recommendations to the Individuals:

- 1) As they live on land close to the Bagmati River, the people must be aware of its future consequences like flood, spread of diseases.

Any upcoming urban policy will be inadequate if it does not accommodate appropriate strategies to reduce vulnerabilities of urban poor population, including squatters.

Recommendations to the further Researchers:

- 1) In this research 21.7 per cent education phenomenon depends on occupation and monthly income. The remaining phenomena should be analyzed by further researchers.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX-1

#### Questionnaire sample

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**URBAN POVERTY IN NEPAL**  
***A CASE STUDY OF SHANKHAMUL SQUATTER SETTLEMENT IN KATHMANDU***

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1.
  - a. Name of Respondent: .....
  - b. Sex: .....
  - c. Age: .....
  - d. Level of Education:.....
- 2) Who is the head of your family?.....



3) How many members are there in your family? (Please give the details about their age, sex, relation and education level).....

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Level of Education</u>
1.	.....	.....	.....	.....
2.	.....	.....	.....	.....
3.	.....	.....	.....	.....
4.	.....	.....	.....	.....
5.	.....	.....	.....	.....
6.	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.	.....	.....	.....	.....

4) What is the type of your house/housing unit in use?

a) Pakki  b) Semi-Pakki  c) Kachchi  d) Others

5) Do you have supply of electricity in your house? a. Yes  b. No

6) Do you have the facility of toilet? a. Yes  b. No

7) What is the source of drinking water?

a) River  b) Underground tube-well   
 c) Public taps  d) Water supply tanker  e) Hand Pump

8) What is your occupation? Or your source of income,? .....

What type of your job it is?.....

How much do you earn? .....

9) Are you satisfied with your work? a. Yes  b. No

10) How many members of your family are employed?.....

(Please give the details about their type of job and monthly income)

<u>S.N.</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of job</u>	<u>Income (NRs.)/Month</u>
1.	.....	.....	.....
2.	.....	.....	.....
3.	.....	.....	.....

11) In total, how much does your family earn per month?.....

12) Is your income sufficient for consumption to the family members?  
 .....

13) How much money does your family spend on the following items in a month? a.

a) Food..... b) Education.....

- c) Clothing ..... d) Transport .....
- e) Medicine ..... f) Others.....
- g) Total.....
- 14) Does your family save any money? a. Yes  b. No
- If yes, how much ?.....
- 15) Are you borrowing money/loan from anyone? a. Yes  b. No
- If yes, how much?.....
- 16) What are the causes of squatting?.....
- 17) Since when are you residing in this settlements?.....
- 18) How do you categorize yourself?
- a. Very poor  b. Poor  c. Not poor
- 19) Are you aware of any poverty alleviation program? a. Yes  b. No
- 20) Does any Governmental/NGO have implemented the program for poverty alleviation in your area?.....
- If Yes, please name the organization.....
- 21) What is the impact of the poverty alleviation program in your family?
- .....
- 22) What are the suggestions for the government to make policy for the improvement of your settlement?.....

## APPENDIX-2

### Definitions of the Key Terms Used in Study

**Household:** Household refers to a group of people who normally live together and share a common kitchen.

**Type of house / housing unit:** Type of house / housing unit is determined on the basis of main construction materials of outer wall and roof of the house. The categories of houses are Pakki (permanent), Ardha –pakki (semi-permanent) and Kachhi (temporary)

Pakki house refers to that with both walls and roof made of permanent construction materials like cement, bonded brick, concrete, stone, slate, tile galvanized sheet. etc. Ardha-pakki house belongs to the category where either the wall or the roof is constructed with permanent materials and the other is constructed with temporary materials. In kachchi house, non-durable materials like wooden flakes, bamboo, straw/thatch, mud, unbaked bricks etc. are mainly used in both walls and roof.

**Toilet facility:** If households possess their own toilet that could be within the house or boundary of the house then such households are considered as households having toilet facilities. If the households do not have their own toilet are considered as households having no toilet facilities.

**Source of drinking water:** It refers to the household's main source of drinking water.

**Literacy:** Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write in any language with understanding and ability to do simple arithmetic. Literacy pertains to person at age of 6 years and above.

**Level of education:** level of education refers to the highest grade or year completed in school, college or university.

**Occupation:** The type of work done determines the occupation

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