

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Nepal is one of the small countries in the world. Situated in the lap of the Himalaya, it is located in between the latitude 26° 22' to 30° 27' north and longitude 80° 4' to 88° 12' east and elevation range from 90 to 8848 meters. The average length being 885 km. east to west and average breadth is about 193 km. north to south. Geographically it is divided in three regions: Mountain, Hill and Terai. The country is bordering between the two most populous countries of the world.

Nepal is multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-lingual country where more than 60 ethnic groups can be found. It is meeting ground for different people and culture situated at the natural boundary and the watershed that's runs through the middle of the largest continent in the world. Nepal has traditionally attracted and given shelter to people from all direction, east, west, north and south. So development is equally important along with the geographical space in the process of national development. Almost all ethnic groups are considered as poor, some belongs to upper class from the point of view of social, political and economical aspect but the national development must cope with them all which requires the social, cultural and economical improvement of those communities. Otherwise not only Nepal but all others poor countries will remain poor forever.

The first fired Pottery dates on 6500 BC and is linked with early horticulture and agriculture. By that time the Sumerians in the Eupharates Valley had made pots and other objects of Sun baked clay. Egyptian Pottery began from 4500-2457 BC which consisted of bottles and bowels, with well-developed glazing techniques and ovens. Greek Pottery advanced from the Neolithic period and was found at Cnossus. The Egyptian Pottery was carried by the Phoenician merchants. The Authenian vase was the major piece of Greek Pottery. Plants and animals figures are found in early vases from 2500-600 BC and legendary subjects are on the black figured vases of 600-500BC. The red figured vases of 480-450 are commonly regarded as representing the best. The Romans are also famous

for Pottery making. Chinese Pottery has been called the worlds best (Dictionary of Anthropology, cited by Regmi).

The culture of Pottery is so ancient that its origin is still unknown. However the technique of Pottery is believed to be developed first by the Potters of ancient Sumeria. It is believed to be invented first in the Neolithic period (New Stone Age). So the Neolithic period was originally signified the cultural stage in which human invented group stone tools and Pottery. However, later it has been known that the Potteries including the ground stone tools were present in the world even prior to the Neolithic period. So it can be concluded that Pottery was originated in the world prior to the Neolithic period (Ember and Ember, 1994).

Potteries are very important tools to study the societies from the archaeological point of view. No other art traces the story of mankind on the earth as clearly as the Pottery. Though the clay Potteries seem fragile, they are considered as one of the least perishable of all things of all ages. Firing of Pottery is a chemical change i.e. the fired Potteries never change into clay again. The fired Pottery has a great resistance to atmospheric influence so they remain on the earth for thousands of years to tell the story of mankind and its civilization on the earth. The Potters convey so many things about the contemporary culture and nature through their Potteries. We find many evidences to support that the Potteries have been an important tool to study the civilization of Mesopotamia, Sindhu, Harappa, etc. are some of the examples, which were carried out studying the potsherds (Herskovits, 1996).

The art of Pottery is very old in Nepal. From the pre-historic studies, it is found that Nepal valley (Kathmandu valley) was a large lake. Manjushree (a Buddhist monk) made an outlet to flow the water in to outside and established Kantipur city. The history of Pottery is considered as old as history of the Kathmandu valley. There were many potsherds unearthed during excavation in different places in the valley, which supported the idea to be true.

There are lots of temples made of bricks, statues and other things still today to convey the development of Pottery in Nepal from very early time. The bricks and statues of Chatur Maharaja made of terra-cotta in the famous Mahabouddha temple shows the

talent of Nepali arts in terra-cotta. It is supposed to be more than hundred years old. There are so many *Ankhihyals* (Pigeon window, called Windowket also) seen in the houses of the Potters in Bhaktapur. Those artistic clay products are supposed to be two hundred to four hundred years old. This implies that art of Pottery is also one of the main elements of our rich and prosperous cultural heritage.

In the modern societies, however all the Prajapatis are not necessarily the Potters. Culture is determined by the relation of environment and technology. Environment and technology are the major factor for the change of society, culture and occupations. Economic activities, population structure, social organization, marriage and kinship system, occupation history and so many other social activities are continue changing in the time process on the basis of modernization and environment. Occupation is major strategy of people to adopt in the society.

Prajapatis are also one of the typical occupational caste groups, which are also changed from their ancient structure as the way of time. The Prajapatis are mainly found in the Kathmandu valley. The main dwelling places of the Prajapatis in the valley are Sankhu in Kathmandu district, *Lubhu* in Lalitpur district and Thimi, *Bolanchhe*, *Toulanchhe*, and *Choulanchhe* in Bhaktapur district. Among them, Madhyapur Thimi municipality of Bhaktapur district is very famous for Pottery making. The selected study area, Nagadesh (Ward no. 4) is one of the highest Potters dwelling area in the Madhyapur Thimi Municipality. There are still about two hundred of the Potters having adopting Pottery as their inherited occupation.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Some Potters produce heavy and bulky earthenware vessels especially red or brown in color with a taste of rustic simplicity and easy portability. In ancient times, the market of Pottery was rural areas and even at present the market has not so expanded, nor there any significant change in technology and traditional patterns. Moreover, the art are not so much enterprising and the finishing is also not good. They are reluctant to introduce new techniques because they do not want to take risk of new patterns.

The Potters are one of the occupational caste groups of the Newar caste culture. In spite of belonging to Newars, they are not in position that the average Newars are entertaining

in the society. They are culturally rich and servicing the society and the economy even though in small scale from generations through their occupation. They are considered as the bottom level Newars. Division of labor in the Newar caste structure is so scientific and amazing that many scholars from Nepal and foreign nationals have been made several studies on them. But, Potter though belongs to Newar themselves are undermine in such studies.

In spite of the popularity and the supplies of domestic utensils and tourist oriented goods, the Potters of Thimi are hard hit, for they are no more prized for their labor and effort. The Potters of Chapachon though live in the valley and in spite of being rich in art, culture, traditions, rituals, are completely isolated, i.e. their exposure and cultural contact with other communities is comparatively low. They are not recognized even in their territory.

In spite of the inflationary spiral in price level, the position of Potters has not changed much. This shows that Pottery making is not lucrative job. They are sticking to this same job just because of their traditional occupation. Besides, they have no immediate alternative job which gives them high profit. The Potters hold an important role in preserving and flourishing Nepali art and culture. They not only make Potteries of various domestic purposes but they do produce various types of decorative articles viz. toys, masks, statues, candle etc which resembles traditional Nepali handicrafts and cultures.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to find out the socio-economic status of Potters of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality. The specific objectives are:

-) To find out the role of Pottery in the economy of Potters
-) To find out the attitudes of new generations toward Pottery

1.4. Significance of the Study

Although there are many small and cottage industry in Nepal, Pottery making is one of the prominent industries in Kathmandu valley. Bhaktapur district is very specialized in Pottery making. They are engaged in this job from generations as an integral part of their culture. They are creating self employment for them and in other hand serving the nation by preserving the culture of the country.

In developing countries like Nepal, the pre-requisite for development is protection and development of existing skills of the country. So it is also a moral duty of state and citizens to act toward the conservation of these Potters. The Potters of this study area are decreasing and those engaged in this occupation, which is strongly mingled with their culture and traditions, are not satisfied. New generations are not positive toward this occupation. They have to face lots of problems regarding their occupation, such as with the raw materials, unhealthy competition with the modern utensils made up of plastic and metals, low profit etc. It is assumed that the lack of systematic market and trainings are some of the problems that have led Potters into a declining economic status and has forced many Potters to divert themselves from their traditional hereditary occupation.

There has been shifting of occupation among Potters rapidly in recent years. If this trend continues for some years, there may be lack of traditional Potters who fulfil our needs as well as preserve our culture. So it is required to change the existing negative attitude of both, young and old generations toward Pottery.

1.5. Limitations of the Study

Every social science research is not beyond the limitations and it is not the exception of that. This study was conducted at Nagadesh of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur district, so the findings of the study may not be generalized in the exact condition of other occupational caste in the other area of the country.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. The Newars

The beginning of Newar civilization is estimated to be around the 6th century BC. Newar community was divided in 64 caste groups, which also exists at present. Classification of the Newar caste into sub-caste groups is quite interesting and unique. There is a well managed system of division of labor as according to their case, they are sub grouped and ranked in order by the rules of the caste hierarchy.

The Newar people are the indigenous inhabitants of the Kathmandu valley. They are seen in large number in the three districts of Kathmandu valley and other major towns. Though the out going migration of the Newars to the other places and in coming migration of other caste group sin the valley have declined the proportion of the population in composition of the Newars in the valley, they are still in majority as compared to the other ethnic groups separately.

There are various thought put forward by the scholars about the origin of the Newars. Dr. Regmi put forward his opinion the Newars may have an ancestry connected with both the Kirantis and the Lichhavis, the one time rulers of Nepal. The Newars, though is an ethnic group but it is injustice to describe them just a as group only, rather they are single community comprising of various occupational groups or castes within them, which make it a single strong community. The Newars were a nation apart until they merged into the larger Nepal. So unlike in other ethnic groups, one can find Newar caste structure a strong social and occupational structures in which some are the tailors, some are the cobblers, some are the barbers, some are priests, some are potters doing their occupational activities as their hereditary occupation. There is strong caste hierarchy in Newar caste structure which generally doesn't existing single ethic group. In the Newar caste structure the caste hierarchy plays strong role defining one's status. Marriage is strictly prohibited out side their caste group so there is caste endogamy among the Newars.

2.2. The Potters

2.2.1. Origin and the Oral History

There is no formal record of history of Pottery in Nepal. Even we find the history of Nepalese Pottery divided as:

Ancient period: In this period, no substitute of vessel and comparatively soil vessel production was flourished.

Medieval period: In this period metallic vessels were made but the importances of soil vessels were not decreased. This period was from 9th to 19th century. This was Malla period.

Rana period: This period was not good for Pottery industry. Ranas started to import foreign good and many cottage industries were left. This period was 1846 to 1950.

Present period: (1951 up to now) this is shiny period of cottage industries. No more was done for people up to 1982. After 1982, various measures are taken to develop Pottery industry and few institutions are also active in this field.

From the period of Prithvi Narayan Shah, or mostly after the period of Jaysthiti Malla, the Potters have been perceived as the lower caste people among the Newars in the valley. Moreover, the Potters of Pottery square Bhaktapur are dominated than of other than where in Bhaktapur are. As these Potters production are generally black in colours, they are called black Potters (Haku Kumah) in local language. All the sub-division of Jyapoo intermarries and interdines with one another, subject to earlier remarks in respect of the Bhadgaon Jyapoos. Further, it may be noted that on enquiry several Jyapoos of Bhaktapur that they do not intermarry or interdines with the Kumahal (Potters section which make black earthen wares and are regarded as inferior), whereas the Potters section which makes red earthenware are not regarded as inferior (Sapkota , 1998).

But surprisingly the Potters belonging to the Tharu caste groups of the inner Terai and other Potters group too in Nepal do not call them Prajapati. What ever other caste may call themselves but the Tharu Potters should have their surname Prajapati because they are comparatively in close contact with the Indians due to geographical nearness as they live in the southern Terai and the Tharus have lot of cultural similarities with the Indians. In Nepal, too the Potters belonging to the Newar caste group are surnamed as Prajapati. For the reason the Potters of Nepal are supposed to have relationship with the Potters of

India. The hypothesis has sufficient points to proven it. The Newars are also supposed to have migrated from India long time ago. They are even linked to the Nayars of south India (Nepali, 1965).

The word “Prajapati’ is composed of two words, *Praja* and *Pati* meaning respectively people and lord. So in this way, Prajapati literally means the land of the people but the Prajapatis don’t have concepts of their surname associated with Lord Brahma and Bishwakarma (the creators of all living beings and that of all the non-living things respectively according to the Hindu Mythology). It is said that Lord Brahma created all the living beings out of clay and lord Bishwokarma created all the necessary things for the living beings out of clay. So Brahma and Bishwokarma are called Prajapati. Hence, one of the Potters is given surname Prajapati and later they accepted their surname Prajapati. Even to date there are many Potters communities in India who call themselves Prajapati (Singh, 1979).

There is a controversy about the period of divisions of the Newar caste group into various sub-caste groups. Some scholars believe that the Newars were divided into Sixty-four sub-caste groups including the Prajapati in the reign of King Jayasthiti Malla in Nepal Sambat 515. But, many scholars are of the opinion that the caste system was privileged in Nepal even before king Jayasthiti Malla. So, Jayasthiti Malla is responsible only for codifying them upon systematic manner, which was greatly influenced by the high caste Hindu system of then India. In Bhasa Vamshavali, part II, Pandit (Pandit, 2023 BS) writes, in the reign of king Jayasthiti Malla the Potters were assigned to make earthen pots and sell them paying tax to the government.

At the time when Newars immigrated to the valley is even immemorial to the Newars themselves. The Newars are supposed to have been settled in the valley since the pre-historic time. There have been found many evidences to support the fact also. As the Prajapatis belong to the Newar themselves, they are also supposed to be in existence in the valley since the pre-historic time. Some of the scholars have the concept that the Potters were migrated from India as the Potters as they were there. But many of them are against it. According to them, the Potters were certainly migrated from India, but they were not classified as Potters when they approached to valley. A great historian late Babu Ram Acharya (cited by Manandhar) opines that the Potters of valley have migrated

to the valley from the Terai in order to make cooking vessels. Since then, they have inhabited in Bhaktapur making Potteries for their livelihood. But Dr. Chudamani Bandlua (cited in Manandhar) denies him with the antagonistic view that the Newar Potters of the valley are totally different from the Tharu Potters of the Terai in all aspects. He argues, if both (Newar and Tharu) Potters had been from the same origins at least they should have had dialects, which does not resemble that of the Tharu language in any respect. Newari language comes under *Tibeto-Burman* family while that of Tharu relates with *Indo-European* family.

Regmi in his book 'Ancient Nepal and Medieval Nepal' has classified the Potters into two types namely the *Dha-dampu Kumha* and *Hakumila Prajapati* (Regmi, cited in Sakha). But the classification of the Potters in the above mentioned two groups are not defined in his book. The Potters are classified in the basis of their specialty in Pottery making. For instance, Potters making black vessels are termed *Hakuja Kumha* and red vessel making Potters are termed *Hyanjya Kumha*. The Potters may also be classified into two categories-the early settlers and the newcomers on the basis of their origin. The Potters who are supposed to come from Simaraunagarh with the followers of Taleju Bhawani are supposed to be the new comers.

As the Newars may be a Hindu or Buddhist or even both, the Prajapatis too may be followers of Hinduism or Buddhism or both. Some Prajapatis call themselves Hindu and some Buddhist and many of them are even failing to identify their religion because they are commonly adopting both religious cultures and practices. Though the Potters are classified into many sub-groups on the basis of their variations in works, their origin, and even for no reasons, there is absence of caste hierarchy among them. All the Prajapatis are accepted for nuptial relationship and other religious and ceremonial purposes as well. Being the absence of caste hierarchy, all the Prajapatis enjoy equal societal status in the Potter community.

In the literature of Pottery, so much has been done in the field of Pottery in France and Germany. However in the context of Nepali language, the first book about ceramics was "Mritika Uddyog Ko Ruparekha" written by Karunakar Vaidya. This work was published by Madan Puraskar Guthi in 2015 B.S. This book has explained the history and importance of ceramics. Another book written in Nepali on Pottery is "Mritika Kala" by Sudhir Khatri,

which was published by CDC Kirtipur in 2034 B.S. and related with ceramic chemistry and had expressed fact that the importance of Pottery was higher in Nepal.

However, in the ethnographic research Nepali (G.S. Nepali, 1965) has provided a detail ethnographic setting of the Newar especially that of the Kathmandu valley. He writes that Prajapati is one of the occupational caste groups of the Newar caste structure. He writes that the Prajapatis belong to the Kuma caste and are given Prajapati as their surname. Obviously, most of them keep their surname Prajapati. However, there may be found some of the Potters too who keep their surname *Kumhale*. His study is an account of various ethnic groups of Nepal. So even the Newars are too short to be described and the Prajapatis far away.

Karki (1979) gives an account of the processes of Pottery making, statues making, toys and dolls making etc. in Nepali in detail but the Potters are out of the scope of the book. However, that book was useful in some extent to know the historical development of Pottery arts in the global as well as national context in general.

In a book written by the Vaidya and Gajurel (1979) there one finds a short description about Pottery making techniques. The book has focused more about the techniques employed by the Potters in Pottery making. As the book is concerned more on the Pottery making procedures, there is nothing mentioned on the ethnographic setting of the Potters. Bista (1987) has mentioned the Prajapati as one of the occupational caste group of the Newar caste structure. He writes that Prajapati belongs to the Kuma caste and are given Prajapati as their surname. Since his study is an account of various ethnic groups of Nepal. So even the description about Newars is too short and the Prajapatis are far away.

The study “Pottery making industry in Bhaktapur” done by Natimaiya Manandhar and Jamal Devi Manandhar in 1981, has mainly focused on employment, marketing and technology. They have explained the present situation of Pottery and structure of this industry. But the work is not analytic only explanatory. They have found some common problems and made recommendations to expand the market, to maintain quality, and increase the knowledge of produces and support producer economically. Likewise in another dissertation by Sakha (1983) on “Pottery Industry; A Case Study of Bhaktapur Town Panchayat” has focused mainly on the history of the Pottery production, existing

situation, marketing and problems of Pottery industry. She has pointed that the Pottery production is decreasing and the younger generation's interest is decreasing and leaving of Pottery occupation. She has recommended taking institutional arrangement, to provide credit facilities and as well as government's step toward solution of problems like that of raw materials, technology, and marketing.

Another study "Market Survey of Ceramic Products in Kathmandu" done by Mahendra Raj Sapkota on July 1994 has classified ceramic products into 5 categories, viz., electrical goods, tiles and sanitary wares, crockery, table ware, and water filter candles. Demand and supply of these products are analyzed in this work. The study has pointed out the small share of local ceramic goods in the market and found that there is domination of imported goods. This work has suggested producing such goods which are able to compete such as table wares. The survey work about Dhanusha district named "District Survey of Traditional Potters" by J. Danish done in 1990. This work has examined the number of Potters and their condition and involvement of Tharus in Pottery industry. The study found that the Pottery industry is competing with cheaper Indian goods. A base study regarding Pottery production in Surkhet district by Shivahari Maharjan has done in 1990. He found that the cost of production is high because of high demand and low supply. He suggested to provide health education and to assist local Tharus.

Similarly, the study has been done by Sapkota (1998) from Ethno-Sociological point of view. But the study is concentrated more on the socio-cultural setting of Bolanchhe Tole of Bhaktapur. Ganesh Khanal (1999) has studied on "Pottery Industry in Nepal; A Case Study of Bhaktapur District, Nepal" with an objective to analyze marketing area of Pottery produced in Bhaktapur and to analyze the problems of Potters. He found that the production technology is old and modernizing is required. He pointed out the less interest of new generation toward Pottery, however he is positive toward the future of Pottery industry. He has made few recommendations, such as, to increase production area, to provide credit, technology, raw materials by the government, and also marketing as well as tax-free facility should be provided.

The study "Impact of Modernization on Occupational Caste Group; A Case Study of the Prajapatis (The Potters) of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, Bhaktapur, has done by Mithu Regmi (2000). She found that the Potters of study area are not profit oriented. They are

facing problem of modernization and shortage and irregular supply of raw materials and the decreasing market. They are suffering from the provision of double tax. Aluminium as well as plastic goods are replacing clay products. She has made few recommendations, like technological intervention, marketing facilities, and training and upgrading of the technology.

From the study of above mentioned literature on Potters and Pottery, we find that all the literatures are more or less focused on Pottery and less on Potters. The available literatures are not sufficient to give an account of the Potters if they are seen from the view of ethnographic or socio-economic pattern. Though some of the authors have mentioned about the Potters of Kathmandu valley vis-à-vis that of Bhaktapur but they are not sufficient because they all have generally described about the culture of Pottery not the culture of the Potters and the problems and prospects of Potters regarding.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Rationale of Selection of the Study Area

From the very beginning Bhaktapur has been very famous for Pottery industry. The art of Pottery making is so admirable and skillful that any one can get attracted by it. The proposed study was carried out in Nagadesh, ward no. 7 of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur district. There are about 200 families of Potters at present involving in day to day preparation of Potteries and also few families who gave up their tradition of Pottery making. This was the reason behind the selection of the study area.

3.2. Research Design

This study was undertaken to assess the socio-economic status of Potters of Madhyapur Thimi municipality. The present study has descriptive type of research design.

3.3. Nature and Sources of Data

The data collected were both qualitative and quantitative in nature. This study included both primary and secondary sources of information. The **primary data** were collected through fieldwork while the **secondary data** were obtained from different sources like municipality/village profile, available literatures, articles and various published and unpublished sources.

3.4. Universe and Sampling

There were about 200 households of potters and out of this a total of 40 households (17 percent of the total) were taken by the lottery method of simple random sampling method to generalize the sample size.

3.5. Data Collection Techniques

3.5.1 Data Collection Techniques

Primary data for the present study were collected through semi-structured interviews, Focus Group Discussions, field observations and key informants interviews.

a. Semi-structured Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the selected respondents to obtain the necessary information regarding the participation of the women.

b. Interview with Key Informants

Interviews were taken with the key informants, such as the old potters, local youths and teachers.

c. Field Observation

All the described and needed information was not obtained only through surveys and interview methods. Therefore, observation visits were made to have detail overview of pottery occupation and social status of potters.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

The collected information were categorized and classified. Information were tabulated and analyzed as per the study objectives. Both quantitative and qualitative tools were used to analyze the information and results were presented in descriptive forms.

CHAPTER FOUR

STUDY AREA

4.1. District Overview

Bhaktapur is one of the three districts of the Kathmandu valley lies in Bagmati zone of central development region. It is the smallest district of Nepal. It has an area of 119 sq. km. It lies on an average elevation of about 1331m from the sea level. It is surrounded by three districts, Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Kavrepalanchok. Administrately, Bhaktapur is divided into sixteen VDCs and two Municipalities. Total population according to the census 2001 is 225461, out of which male and female populations are respectively 114798 and 110663.

4.2. General Characteristics of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality

4.2.1. Profile of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality

Madhyapur Thimi municipality is one of the five municipal cities of the Kathmandu valley. Roughly it lies in the centre of Kathmandu valley. It covers 11.47 square km area. It lies to the western part of Bhaktapur district. There lies Manahara River to the west and Hanumante River to the east of this Municipality. Similarly, Duwakot VDC to the northern side and Balkot and some part of Lalitpur district to the southern part of this municipality. This municipality is divided into 17 wards. This Municipality lies at 8 km. east from Kathmandu.

4.2.2. The Climate

Climatic condition of this region is predominantly cold temperate and sub-temperate. The average temperature in the hottest months of the year, July and August, is 35⁰ and in the coldest months, December and January, 1⁰. The annual mean temperature is 19⁰c. The district gets 123.1 ml annual rainfall in average (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004).

4.2.3. Demographic Feature

According to the Municipality Report 2004, total household is listed as 9551, total population 47,751 of which males are 24,747 and females are 23, 004 (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004).

4.2.4. Language, Caste and Religion

The long and complex cultural history of Thimi encompasses an extraordinary natural heritage. There are many traditional fairs (Jatras) and festivals continue to be observed. There are so many temples, shrines in Thimi. Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is known for its diverse art, culture, festivals, dance, traditional music and life style. Most of the people of this area are Hindus, while some are Buddhist and few people are both, Buddhist and Hindu.

4.2.5. Natural Resources

4.2.5.1. Land

Land is most exploited and utilized natural resources in the study area. Most of the people are involved in agriculture. On the basis of availability of irrigation facilities, land is classified as Bari (dry cultivated land) and Khet (paddy cultivated land). The distribution of land area is 15416 (77%) ropanies occupied by farming, 1615 (12.6%) by residential area, roads, rivers and guthi land covers 3377 (10%) ropanies. About 47% of people are still following farming profession (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Report 2004).

4.2.5.2. Water

The main sources of water are rivers and ponds. The main rivers are Manahara River and Hanumante River to fulfil the water supply to the people for their livelihood. There are about 2565 private, 15 public water taps, 48 water wells and 107 deep water well for supply of water needs (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004).

4.2.6. Infrastructure Development

Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is linked with black top road to Bhaktapur municipality. Frequent bus services are available making easy access to the people for marketing and for educational purposes. Exam Controller Office, High School Education Development

Project, Distance Learning Centre, Janak Sikchhya Bikas Kendra, SOS Balgram, each Cinema Hall and Children Park are situated in this Municipality.

Similarly, 108 NGOs including UNESCO are providing social and educational services to local people. The main large scale industries of Municipality are Hukum Pharmaceuticals, Pashupati Spinning Mills, Him Electronics, Simca laboratories and other small industries include matches factory, furniture Udyog etc.

Government organizations and offices include two sections each of Agriculture Development Banks and Nepal bank, three of Rastriya Banijya bank, and each of Nepal Telecom, Nepal Electricity Corporation, Water Supply Corporation, and District Forest Office (Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004).

4.2.7. Health Services

Being Municipality, there is good access of different types of health facilities to its inhabitants. The number of health institution within this municipality up to 2004 has been listed below.

Table 1: Status of Health Facilities

S.N	Types of Service	No. of Services	Remarks
1.	Health Post	5	Ward no. 3,4,7,14 and 16
2.	Private Clinic	12	
3.	Hospital	1	National Tuberculosis Centre
4.	Polyclinic	1	

Source: Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004.

4.2.8. Educational Status

There are good provisions for the purpose of education to the inhabitants of Municipality. The number of educational institution within this municipality up to 2004 has been listed below.

Table 2: Status of Educational Institution

S.N	Name of Educational Institutions	Private	Government	Total
1	Primary School	35	6	41
2	Lower Secondary School		2	2

3	Secondary School	8	7	15
4	Higher Secondary School	3	1	4
5	Technical School	-	1	1
6	Campuses	2	1	3
	Total	48	18	56

Source: Madhyapur Thimi Municipality Annual Report 2004

CHAPTER FIVE
SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

5.1 Social Profile

5.1.1 Age and Sex Structure

Age play an important role for human beings. Man can achieve his target in a fix time of his age. If every man actively participates in economy, social, religious and other organization then they can achieve their goals for their life. By this, not only a single man but a family, village and a country can run smoothly on the way of development. Without participating in these institutions the country always remains underdeveloped. But for active participation, the age of the human being is very important. Before 15 and after 60 it is not known as suitable age of active participation. It is like a universal truth that the age between 15 to 60 is suitable for participating in every economic and other activity. If this age group did not function properly then no any country can be developed.

Table 1: Age and Sex Structure

S.N	Age Group (in years)	Male	Percentag e	Female	Percentag e	Total	Percentage
1	Below 15	35	22.44	32	25.80	67	23.93
2	15-60	95	60.89	68	54.38	163	58.22
3	60 above	26	16.67	24	19.82	50	17.85
	Total	156	100.00	124	100.00	280	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2007

The above table shows that the population of the respondent was higher in the age group of 15-60 with 58.22 percent. The age groups of the respondent of below 15 were 23.93 percent while the age groups of 60 above were 17.85 percent. The table also shows that female population in the age group 15-60 was the highest with 54.38 percent while the male population in the age group 15-60 was the highest with 60.89 percent. It was found that the male voices had more dominance during the interview as the female hesitated to answer in front of them.

From the above table we found that the total population of 40 households are 280 and among them 22.44 per cent male and 25.80 per cent female are in below 15 while 60.89 per cent male and 54.38 per cent female are in between age of 15-60 and 16.67 per cent male and 19.82 per cent female are age of 60 or above than it.

5.1.2 Educational Status

Education is a better means through which human beings may step into a brighter side of life. Education is a learning process. It is an acquisition of such knowledge and skill as it will help the individual to earn his/her livelihood and find a place in adult society. It is a harmonious and all-round growth and development of human power of mental and physical. Education is an essential factor for the development of the society. It also helps to achieve upward mobility.

As there is good provision of schools and the municipality is near to capital city, educational status is good in this area. Most of the parents have sent their children for pursuing education. It is to be noted that despite most of the potters are illiterate they have sent their children to the school. Here the educational status is found out from the three groups consisting, illiterate, under matriculation and higher education.

Table 2: Educational status

Level	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	28	17.95	44	35.48	72.00	25.71
literate	104	66.67	66	53.23	170.00	60.71
Secondary	16	10.26	12	9.68	28.00	10.00
SLC and above	8	5.13	2	1.61	10.00	3.58
Total	156	100.00	124	100.00	280.00	100.00

Field Survey: 2007

It reveals from the above table that among total population of 280; 17.95 per cent male and 35.48 per cent female are illiterate. But after this, 66.67 per cent male and 53.23 per cent female are literate and their educational status is of primary level. Again in secondary level education there are 10.26 per cent male and 9.68 per cent female can be found. 5.13 per cent male and 1.61 per cent female are found to have obtained SLC and above level of education. In conclusion, we can know that most of the population is literate in this study area. Only few people are found illiterate but most of them are aged

male and female who didn't get chances to study at their time when they were young. All respondents think that education should be provided compulsory to their children for both boys and girls. The researcher found that most of the respondents are educated so they are interested to send their children to the schools.

5.1.3 Settlement Pattern

The settlement pattern of the study area is densely populated. The majority of private houses are made by brick and mud. There are some traditional types of houses but now the replacement of these houses, with modern houses is increasing rapidly.

5.2 Economic Profile

Economic condition of the household is the main factor to establish a good status or social prestige in the society. While discussing the general feature of the Nepalese economy, it is found that Nepal is an agricultural country. Most of the people live in the rural areas and adopt agriculture as their means of livelihood. Almost two third of the total area of the country is covered by hills and mountainous region. The cultivable lands are confined in tarai and inner tarai parts of the country. Nepal is facing many constraints on the way of development. Geographical and topographical feature of the country presents a big barrier which have always created obstacle in the development process. In the field of industrialization, the country has not achieved significant progress. Therefore, the level of poverty varies from village to village because of the topographical and landscape variation.

But in terms of Potters of the study area, it is different. They are not engaged in agricultural occupation to earn their livelihood in general. The Potters of Thimi are engaged in Pottery making occupation as their main occupation to meet their daily requirements. The role of Pottery is very important to meet daily requirement and for their livelihood. It plays vital role in overall economy of Potters. Many household are completely dependent on Pottery for their income, i.e. most of the households have single means of income, which is from Pottery. Agriculture is only sufficient to meet their food requirement for few months.

The Potters of Thimi have placed Pottery as their primary occupation. Agriculture is an allied occupation for most of them. The reason may be that agricultural land they possess are relatively small in size and are carried out in specified seasons as according to the crops but Pottery making does not require any specific time and seasons except rainy season.

5.2.1 Main Sources of Income

The economic condition of the people of the study area is satisfactory. They earn money sufficient to feed the household. Almost all the respondents are engaged in different types of occupation but majority in pottery making.

Table 3: Main Sources of Income

Main sources	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Service	3	7.5
Agriculture	2	5
Livestock	-	-
Pottery	35	87.5
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2007.

Here, from the above table it can be seen that for the majority of the respondents (87.5%) the main source of income was from pottery. While for 7.5 per cent the income mainly come from service and 5 per cent depended on other agriculture as a main source of income. No respondent was found whose main source of income was livestock. In conclusion, most of the people in the study area had pottery work as their main source of income.

5.2.2 Annual Income

As mentioned before, almost all of the respondents are economically strong to take care of themselves and their families; their annual income varies into different ranges. According to the types of job, size of land holding and other sources of income some has

their annual income in high level, some in middle while some has low. It can be interpret from the table below.

Table 4: Annual Income

Annual Income (In Rs)	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
20,000-40,000	2	5.00
40,000-60,000	8	20.00
60,000-80,000	14	35.00
80,000 and above	16	40.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Here, from the above table it can be seen that the majority of the respondents (40%) had annual income of Rs. 80,000 and above while 35 per cent annual income was Rs. 60,000-80,000 and 20 per cent had Rs. 40,000-60,000 of annual income. Rest 5 percent of people have annual income of Rs. 20,000-40,000.

5.2.3 Size of Land Holding

One of the major causes of the people's poverty is their ownership of the land as well as the ownership of limited quality land. Most of the agricultural land is in the form of '*khet*' that lays irrigated category that is very limited. Rest of the other land is the poorest of all that lies in two categories, *Sim* and *Chahar* of *Pakho*. Land distribution patterns seem to be dependent upon the rank or position of the caste and ethnic status of the people. Brahmin and Chhetri caste groups have more land, and the occupational castes are found more disadvantaged than the others.

Nepal is an agricultural country where more than 81 percent of the population depends on agriculture for their live hood. In the case of Nepal, if any person has a large amount of land and sells his agricultural products, he/she is known as a prestigious person. His political, social and economic status is ranked high in the society.

In this area, very few people are dependent on agriculture, so have only little land holdings in average.

Table 5: Size of Land Holding

Size of Land (Ropani)	Households	
	Number	Percentage
Less than 1 ropani	3	7.50
1-5	28	70.00
5-10	7	17.50
10 or more	2	5.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2007

The above table shows that out of total 40 households, all of them have their own land and no respondents were found landless. Here, we can see that 28 respondents (70%) own land between 1-5 Ropani, 7 respondents (17.50%) own between 5-10 Ropani, 3 respondents (7.5%) has less than 1 Ropani and only 2 respondents (5%) has more than 10 Ropani land.

5.2.4 Livestock

Sometime a source of subsistence can be livestock for people. For different purposes people keep different types of animals. For the purpose of ploughing they keep oxen, for meat and selling they keep goats, hens, ducks, pigeons, pigs etc and for milking and selling they keep cows, buffalos etc. These types of animal give money or any types of good in return so people are always eager to keep animals in their homes. By selling these animals they can get extra money for their daily needs. So those people who have some amount of land they can be found having livestock. In the study area very few people very involved in livestock keeping. Only few are keeping goat as a livestock. .

5.2.5 Role of Agriculture in Potters Economy

For almost all the Potters of Thimi, agriculture is their secondary source of income. However food requirement is not sufficient from their agriculture production. The Potters depend on agriculture for rice straw and wheat straw to fire the pots. So even in small scale agriculture is supporting their Pottery industry. Due to the small land holding and a great number of people dependent on it, it is almost unable to fulfill the food requirement for the whole year.

5.2.6 Agricultural production for households

As stated before Potters of this area have very only little land, so agricultural production is insufficient to meet their annual food requirement. Agriculture is their secondary of tertiary means of income and subsistence. Almost all potters have pottery as their primary occupation and source of income.

Table 6: Agricultural Production for Households

S.N	Agricultural production sufficient for	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	0-3 months	20	50.00
2	3-6 months	11	27.50
3	6-9 months	6	15.00
4	9-12 months	2	5.00
5	Surplus	1	2.50
	Total	40	100.00

Field Survey: 2007

From the field survey, it is found that the agricultural production is not sufficient for meeting food requirements of potters. Agricultural production is able to meet the annual food requirement of only 2.5 percent household. It is sufficient for less than 3 months to highest proportion or 50 percent households. Similarly, it is sufficient for 3-6 months to 27.50 percent, 6-9 months to 15 percent and 9-12 months to 5 percent households.

5.2.7 Annual Income from their Pottery Occupation

Pottery industry has been one of the major incomes generating occupation for the Potters of study area. Almost all of the respondent's major source of income is from Pottery and occupies the major percentage of cash income. Pottery industry has been major source of income for the Potters of Thimi for generations.

Table 7: Annual Income of the Respondents from Pottery Industry

S.N	Annual income from Pottery industry	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 10 thousand	2	5.00
2	10-30 thousand	6	15.00
3	30-60 thousand	21	52.50
4	60-90 thousand	7	17.50
5	More than 90 thousand	4	10

	Total	40	100
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Field Survey: 2007

It is found that most of the households have annual income of 30-60 thousand from Pottery occupation i.e. 52.50 percent. 17.5 percent of households have percent have 60 to 90 thousand annual incomes, 15 percent have 10-30 thousand annual income. Likewise, 10 percent have more than 90 thousand and 5 have less than 10 thousand annual incomes.

5.2.8 Working Hours

As this occupation is domestic in nature, any fix time has not allotted for making Pottery. The working hours are not even, they may start very early in morning to late night. For this they don't have to encounter any problem as the Pottery industry is basically under individual ownership and can work for any time they want. Sometimes they are found working in the odd hours as well.

Table 8: Respondent's working Hours

S.N.	Duration of work (in hours per day)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	5	1	2.5
2	6	3	7.5
3	7	12	30
4	8	10	25
5	9	8	20
6	Others	6	15
	Total	40	100.00

Field Survey: 2007

It is found from the field survey that most of the respondents i.e. 30 respondents works for 7 hours a day. Similarly, 25 percent works for 8 hours a day, 120 percent works 9 hours a day, another 7.5 percent works 6 hours a day and 15 percent respondents have not any particular hours for work. They work any time cording to their will and required.

CHAPTER- VI

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1. The findings of the study can be summarized as below:

- The educational status of the Potters is in a progressive way. School enrollment of the children was also high.
- Although the historical occupation of Potters was pottery but lack of market and modernization, shifted them in to other occupations like business, services, wage labor etc.
- Very few Potters have their own cultivated land for survive them.
- Not any organization or Government agencies working for their betterment and for preserved their indigenous and traditional knowledge of making clay pot.
- They are following traditional means of production which has low productivity and also the finishing of product is nit attractive.
- Potters have been facing the problems of marketing of their products as well as of raw materials for their occupation.
- Main means of subsistence of Potters of study area is Pottery making, which also is a major source of their cash income.
- Majority of younger generations are not found positive toward their traditional occupation
- Because of urbanization, except *Gamala* (flower pot) demands of clay products are decreasing. Modern clay products are replacing their products.

6.2 Conclusion

This study focused on socio-economic condition of Potters of Madhyapur thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur district. They have distinct cultural practices. They are the traditional clay pot maker but later availability of plastics and metal vessel has reduced the selling of clay pots, which put them in economic crisis and forced them to changed in their traditional occupation and search for new occupation like wage labor, animal husbandry, business etc.

The changing scenario of the development has led the youngsters towards the post modern world. They want to do some other things, like white collar job. They say pottery occupation is not taken socially good and also the income from it is not high. So majority

of younger generations are not found positive toward their traditional occupation. Furthermore, many potter parents are also not interested to keep their children in such occupation. The pattern of occupational shifting among the Potters has been increasing in the study area.

If the Potters do not get them competitive against modern technology, highest financial input and a good market strategy, they will be unable to suffice in the time to come. Many of the Potters do not see future in Pottery occupation. So, many of the Potters have already left their occupation. In spite of these problems, the present Potters want to continue their traditional occupation.

Potters of Bhaktapur are dragging behind the changes by the process of development and modernization. They cannot continue the traditional occupation in such situation. They are lots of other alternative occupations for them to shift easily, where they shifted. Here we can say that the indigenous occupation of Potters is in danger, which means Nepalese culture also is in danger.

6.3 Recommendations

Based on the study following the recommendations made here to uplift the socio-economic status of potters:

- Although the people of this community are little bit literate but most of the people are under S.L.C. due to lack of money and school, Government and other organisations should provide facilities like scholarship, non formal education etc. too literate them.
- Their indigenous knowledge of pottery is in critical condition due to lack of competitive market, transportations and plastic vessels. Therefore, their skills, tradition and indigenous knowledge must be conserved through establishment of institution, encouragement and providing proper market of their products.
- The Potters of the study area are economically poor, therefore, Government should provide loan in nominal interest for agriculture, business, animal husbandry, and for other economic generating activities.
- Since potters are facing problems of raw materials, there is a need of establishing raw materials centre for regular supply of clay according to their need.

- Potters of Thimi are following traditional technology which gives low result as well as is time consuming. So their technology needs upgrading.. For this institutional arrangement should be managed.
- Public awareness program should be organized to create the positive attitude of people towards Potters and Pottery products so that Potters would be encouraged in their work.
- Appropriate measures and provision of good incentives should be introduced so that the uninterested new generation would continue their traditional occupation.
- Their efforts, skills and knowledge about pottery should be made published so that many people get aware of their contribution of preserving the cultures.

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Appendix-1

Questionnaire for Household Survey

District: __Bhaktapur _____

Name of the Respondent: _____

Caste: _____ Age: _____

M/F: _____ Municipality: __Madhyapur Thimi_____

Ward No. _____7_____

1. Household Information

Name of Head	
Sex	
Age	
Religion	
Marital Status	

2. Family Members

Male			Female		
0-15	15-59	60 above	0-15	15-59	60 above

3. Educational background of the family members

Condition	No.
Illiterates	
Primary level	
Secondary level	
SLC and above	

4. Family Occupation

Agriculture	
Livestock	

Government job	
Social service	
Trade/Business	
Pottery	
Others	

5. How much land do you have? (In ropanies)

- Agricultural Land _____
- Barren Land _____

6. How many live stocks do you have?

Types	Cattle	Buffaloes	Goats	Sheep	Others(specify)
Numbers					
Local/hybrid					

7. What is the annual income of your family? (In thousands)

- Less than 10 thousands
- 10-30 thousands
- 30-60 thousands
- 60-90 thousands
- More than 90 thousands

8. Agriculture production is sufficient for

-
- 0-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-9 months
- 9-12 months
- Surplus

9.

10. Since how long you are in this occupation? (in years) _____

11. What is your initial investment? (in thousands) _____

12. Have you taken any loan? Y/N

13. If yes what was the purpose of loan?

- To maintain day to day expenditure

- To cope with sudden expenditure
- To properly run pottery industry
- Upgrading of the technology
- Others (specify)_____

14. What is the type of your pottery industry?

- J Individual
- J Partnership
- J Cooperation
- J Others (specify)_____

15. How much amount of pottery do you produce a day? _____

16. How many hours a day altogether your family members engage in this job?

17. How much do you earn from a pottery in a year?

- J Less than 10 thousands
- J 10-30 thousands
- J 30-60 thousands
- J 60-90 thousands
- J More than 90 thousands

18. Income from pottery industry is

- J Satisfactory
- J Sufficient
- J More than sufficient
- J Extremely good
- J Less

19. Do you think real value of your product is achieved? Y/N

20. In your opinion market of clay product is

- J Increasing
- J Decreasing

21. Competition in pottery industry is

- J Increasing
- J Decreasing

22. What are the problems at present?

- Raw materials
- Production
- Marketing
- Credit facilities
- Modern utensils/products
- Demand
- Others (specify) _____

23. Do you interest to continue this occupation? Y/N,

24. What are the positive aspects of Pottery occupation to continue?

- Traditional occupation
- Occupation tightly bonded with culture
- Lack of identity and knowledge in new job
- Specialized in this occupation
- Lucrative
- Others (specify) _____

25. What are the positive aspects of Pottery occupation to continue?

- Less income
- High income in other occupation
- No appreciation/respect in the occupation
- No demand
- Lack of systematic marketing
- Others (specify) _____

26. Do you want your next generation to continue this occupation? Y/N

27. To attract new generation in pottery industry, what do you suggest?

- Credit facilities
- Trainings/ INGOs help
- Marketing facilities
- Upgrading of technologies
- Provision of raw materials
- Government policy
- Others (specify) _____

Appendix-II

Key Informant's Survey

1. How many potters here are involved in pottery occupation?
2. What is the overall situation of Pottery occupation at present?
3. What role Municipality and HMG/N are playing to uplift the standard of Potters?
4. How the Potters are taken in society?
5. Is their Pottery occupation is sufficient to run their livelihood?
6. Are they involving in any allied occupations other than Pottery?
7. How the Pottery occupation is contributing in livelihood of Potters?
8. What was their response to leave the occupation in which they have spent considerable number of years?
9. How the younger generations of Potters are taking this occupation?
10. How these generations can be attracted more to this occupation?
11. What is the attitude of parents to employ their new generations in this occupation?
12. What are the main problems of Potters regarding Pottery occupation?
13. Has any measures undertaken to cope with those problems?
14. How do you see the prospects of Pottery industry?
15. What actions are required to secure the future of Potters and Pottery industry?

Questionnaire for the Household Survey

District:

Name of the respondent:

Caste:

Age:

M/F:

VDC:

Village:

1. Household Information

Name of the Head	
Gender	
Age	
Religion	
Marital Status	

2. Family Members

Male			Female		
0-15	15-59	60 above	0-15	15-59	60 above

3. Education:

Condition	No.
Illiterate	
Primary Level	
Secondary Level	
SLC and above	

4. Occupation

Agriculture	
Livestock	
Government Job	
Social Service	
Trade/Business	
Labor	
Others	

5. Do you have land?

(a) Yes (b) No If yes, how much land do you have?

- Agricultural Land _____

- Barren Land _____

6. How many livestock do you have?

Types	Cow	Buffalo	Goats	Chicken	Pig	Others
No.						

7. What is your main source of income?

(a) Service (b) Agriculture (c) Live stocks (d) Pottery (e) Others

8. What is the annual income of your family?

(a) 20000-40000
(d) 80000 and above

(b) 40000-60000

(c) 60000-80000

9. Do you own house?
(a) Yes (b) No

10. Are there any family members, being involved in local clubs/NGOs?

(a) Yes (b) No If yes in which level?
(a) General member (b) Active member (c) Chairman (d) Others

11. What is the role of agriculture in your livelihood?

12. How many months does a agricultural production sufficient for you?

0-3 months
 3-6 motnhs
 6-9 months
 9-12 months
 Surplus

13. What is your annual income from your pottery occupation?

Less than 10 thousand
 10-30 thousand
 30-60 thousand
 60-90 thousand
 More than 90 thousand

14. How many hours a day you are working in this occupation?

5 hours
 6
 7
 8
 9
 others

15. What are the present problems you are facing in this occupation?

16. How you see the future of this occupation?

17. What types of steps should be tken to make this occupation more good?