

# **Dalits in Bureaucracy: A Case Study from Selected Government Offices in Kathmandu, Nepal**

**A Dissertation**

**Submitted to Tribhuvan University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Central Department of Anthropology in Partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology**

**Submitted By  
Hom Bahadur G.C.  
Anthropology  
Roll No. 62/o59**

**Central Department of Sociology/ Anthropology  
Tribhuvan University  
Kritipur, Kathmandu  
2010**

Tribhuvan University  
Central Department of Sociology/ Anthropology  
Kiritipur, Kathmandu

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This is to certify that the thesis “Dalits in Bureaucracy: A Case Study from Selected Government Offices in Kathmandu” has been prepared and completed by Hom Bahadur Gc under my guidance and supervision. Hence, I recommend it for final evaluation.

---

Binod Pokharel  
Reader  
Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology  
Tribhuvan University  
Kiritipur

Date: April 2010

**Tribhuvan University**  
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Kirtipur

**LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE**

This dissertation entitled ‘Dalits in Bureaucracy: A Case Study from Selected Government Offices in Kathmandu, Nepal’ prepared by Hom Bahadur Gc has been accepted, evaluated and approved as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master Degree of Arts in Anthropology.

Dissertation Committee

---

Binod Pokharel  
Supervisor

---

Tika Ram Pokharel  
External

---

Dr. Om Gurung  
Department Head

**Tribhuvan University**  
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Kirtipur

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First of all, I would like to thank thesis supervisor Mr. Binod Pokharel, Reader Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology, for his valuable, scholarly and ever stimulating guidance and inspirations, which have paved the way for the present thesis work. I am also indebted to Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology and its head prof. Dr. Om Gurung for supporting my research thesis in Anthropology.

At last, but not least, I like to provide my sincere thanks to those personalities who gave me precious time giving their suggestions. My sincere gratitude goes all authors whose books, thesis, reports and seminar paper have been used to complete this dissertation. Similarly, I like to express my thanks to my wife Mrs. Saraswoti GC for her assistance and typing this thesis. I should not forget to express my sincerity to all the respondents who gave me their significant time with valuable data while preparing this dissertation.

Hom Bahadur Gc

April 2010

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of recommendation	ii
Acceptance letter	iii
Acknowledgement	v
List of Table	xi
List of Chart	xii

### Chapter I

<b>Introduction</b>	page
1.1. Overview	1
1.2. Background	1
1.3. Statement of the problem	5
1.4 Objectives	8
1.5. Justification and signification of the study	8

### Chapter II

<b>Review of the literature</b>	9-19
2.1. Overview	9
2.2. Theoretical studies	9
2.3. Empirical studies	12

### Chapter III

<b>Research Methodology</b>	20-25
3.1 Site selection and Rationale of the selection of site	20
3.2 Research design	21
3.3 Nature and sources of data	21
3.3.1. Primary data	

3.3.2. Secondary data	
3.4 Universe and sampling	21
3.5 Method of data collection	22
3.5.1. Interview	
3.5.2. Questionnaire	
3.5.3. Field observation	
3.5.4. Information from key informants	
3.5.5. Case study	
3.6 Data analysis and presentation	24
3.7 Limitation of the study	24
3.8 Organization of the study	25

## **Chapter IV**

<b>General background and perspective about study people</b>	26-39
4.1. Historical perspective and Dalits	26
4.2. Old legal code and Dalits	28
4.3. Political perspective and Dalits	29
4.4. Educational perspective and Dalits	35
4.5. Religious and cultural perspective and Dalits	39

## **Chapter V**

<b>Data analysis and Presentation</b>	40-51
5.1. General background	40
5.2. Social and cultural status of respondents	40
5.2.1 Social status	40
5.2.1.1. Education	
5.2.1.2. Age and sex of Dalit respondents	

5.2.1.3. Birth place of Dalit respondents	
5.2.1.4. Marital status of Dalits respondents	
5.2.1.5. Family size of Dalits respondents	
5.2.1.6. Dalit's position in bureaucracy	
5.2.2 Cultural status of Dalit respondents	45
5.2.2.1. Religious status of Dalits respondents	
5.2.2.2. Caste composition of Dalit respondents	
5.2.3 Economic Status of Dalits respondents	47
5.2.3.1. Income	
5.2.3.2. Land holding size	
5.2.3.3. Own house and problems in getting house rent in Kathmandu	
5.3 Non Dalit's behavior against Dalit staffs in working place	49
5.3.1. Untouchability	
5.3.2. Caste discrimination	
5.3.3. Discrimination in refreshment training and study	
5.3.4. Less chance and discrimination in other sectors	

## **Chapter VI**

<b>Cultural and social change amongst the Dalit bureaucrats</b>	52-62
6.1. Overview	52
6.2. Cultural change	52
6.3 Changes seen in Dalit bureaucrats	53
6.3.1. Involvement in Sat Sang and change in social behavior	
6.3.2. Acceptance of new food culture and change in life style	
6.3.3. Acceptance of using new technology	
6.3.4. Acceptance and change in education, politics and health	
6.3.5. Struggle for changing economic behavior	
6.3.6. Acceptance of new dialects and change in traditional thinking	

6.3.7. Acceptance and adaptation of modern dressing	
6.3.8. Encouragement for arrange and love marriage and discouragement against other marriage	
6.3.9. Change in religious thought and ritual activities	
6.3.10. Changing behavior in occupation and caste	
6.4. Social change	60
6.4.1. Changing status in health	
6.4.2. Change in education and traditional thought	
6.4.3. Social mobility and stratification	
6.4.4. Alcohol drinking	
<b>Chapter VII</b>	
<b>Summery, Finding and Conclusion</b>	63-
7.1 Summery	63
7.2. Finding	64
7.3. Conclusion	65
References	67-70
Terminology	71

## LIST OF TABLE

	Page
1. Population distribution by caste and ethnicity, 2001	2
2. Spatial distribution of Dalit population in Nepal	4
3. Caste division according to legal code	6
4. Number of total bureaucrats and total Dalit's representation in selected offices	20
5. Caste division of Muluki Ain-1854	28
6. Comparative chart of Representation in legislative parliament	32
7. Representation of Dalit and other castes in government (2007-2065)	33
8. Literacy rate of Dalit in comparison with other castes	36
9. Graduate and above by ethnicity/caste, 1991-2001	37
10. Access of some Dalits in education	38
11. Educational status of Dalit respondents	40
12. Age and sex status of Dalit respondents	41
13. Birth place of Dalit respondents	42
14. Marital status of Dalit respondents	43
15. Family size of Dalit respondents	44
16. Dalit respondent's position in bureaucracy	45
17. Religious status of Dalit respondents	46
18. Classification of Dalits bureaucrats by sub castes	46
19. Percentage of landholding and land less respondents	47
20. Total respondents having home and land in Kathmandu	48
21. Number of non-dalit respondents for eating together with Dalits	49
22. Dalits bureaucrats in refreshment training	51
23. User of new technology	55
24. School used by Dalit respondents to their children	56

25. Comparative study of dialects used by Dalit bureaucrats	57
26. Way of marriage	58
27. User of different hospital	60
28. Percentage of liqueur user and not user	62

### **LIST OF CHART**

	Page
1. Educational achievement by ethnicity	36
2. Marital status of Dalit respondents	43
3. Family size of Dalit respondents	44
4. Way of marriage	58