

**DEFINING ETHNIC IDENTITY AMONG THE LIMBUS:  
An Analysis of Urban Setting in the Kathmandu District**

**Submitted To  
Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Central Department of Sociology  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement of  
Master of Arts in Sociology**

**Submitted By  
Laxmi Sambahangphe  
Exam Roll No.:280141  
Regd. No.6-1-999-2197-98  
Tribhuvan University,  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal,  
2009**

**TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
KRITIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**LETTER TO RECOMMENDATION**

This is to certify that **Mr Laxmi sambahangphe** has completed this dissertation entitled “**Defining Ethnic Identity Among the Limbus: An Analysis of Urban Setting in the Kathmandu District**” under my supervision and guidance. I therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

.....  
Mr. Jailab Kumar Rai  
Lecturer  
Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Tribhuwan University Kirtipur, Kathmandu

**TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
KRITIPUR, KATHMANDU**

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This dissertation entitled “**Defining Ethnic Identity Among the Limbus: An Analysis of Urban Setting in the Kathmandu District**” by **Laxmi sambahangphe** has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in **Sociology**.

Chairman: .....

Pro. Dr. Om Gurung

Supervisor: .....

Mr. Jailab Kumar Rai (Lecturer)

External: .....

Mr. Prem Bahadur Chalaune (Lecturer)

Date of examination: .....

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I would like to express all my hearty thanks and gratitude to supervisor sir Jailab rai of the central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Tribhuwan University Kirtipur , for his valuable time, motivation and guidance with some remarkable practical suggestions which helped me a lot to accomplish this research .Perhaps, without his support and guidance, this work would have been impossible.

Likewise, I would like to express my deep gratitude and sincere thanks to the Head Department Prof. Dr. Om Gurung for his warm and complementary support.

Specially, I would like to thanks them for their co-operation and positive response showed to me without any hesitation during the study.

Finally, I am very much indebted to the members of my family who always been helpful and positive to complete my study time. So I would to extend my sincere gratitude to all them and my colleagues who from I have given me helps directly and indirectly\in course of preparing this work.

**Laxmi sambhangphe**

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
Recommendation	2
Acceptance	3
Acknowledgement	4
Contents	5-6
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7-12</b>
1.1 Background of the Study	7
1.2 Statement of the Research Problem	9
1.3 Research Objectives	11
1.4 Rationale of the Research	12
1.5 Organization of the Study	
<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>13-24</b>
2.1 Conceptual Review	
2.1.1 The Concept of Ethnic Identity	
2.1.2 Ethnic Identity and Minority Groups	
2.1.3 Ethnic identity and Nationalism	
2.1.4 Characteristics of Ethnicity and Nationalism	
2.2 Empirical Studies	
2.2.1 Limbus and Findings	
2.2.2 Spiritual Belief	
2.2.3 Limbus and Their Administration	
<b>CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>25-26</b>
3.1 Rationale of Site Selection	
3.2 Research Design	
3.3 Sampling Procedure	
3.4 Nature and Source of Data	
3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques	
3.5.1 Questionnaire	
3.5.2 Key informants Interview	
3.6 Data Analysis	
3.7 Limitation of the Study	
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: STUDY AREA AND DATA ANALYSIS</b>	<b>27-31</b>
4.1 Physical Setting	
4.2 Social Cultural Setting	

4.3 Profile of the Informants	32-35
4.3.1 Educational Status	
4.3.2 Occupation	
4.3.3 Language Preference	
4.3.4 Marriage Trends	
CHAPTER FIVE: CULTURE AND PRACTICES	32-42
5.1 Introduction to Rituals	
5.2 Sappok Chaumen	38
5.3 Yangdang Phongma	
5.4 Marriage Ceremony	41
5.5 Death Rituals	46
CHAPTER SIX: FEASTS AND FESTIVALS	43-47
6.1 Limbu and their Festivals	
6.1.1 Dashain Tihar	
6.1.2 Practice of Celebrating Dashain and Tihar	
6.1.3 Indigenous Manner of Dashain and Tihar	
CHAPTER SEVEN: LIMBU AND THEIR OPINIONS	48-53
7.1 Debate of Emerging Arguments and Practices	
7.2 Rituals	
7.3 Culture	
CHAPTER EIGHT: FINDING, SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	54-56
8.1 Findings	
8.2 Summary	
8.3 Conclusion	
REFERENCES	57-60
ANNEX-1	61
ANNEX-2	62