

**MEDICAL ETHNOBIOLOGY AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE
SYSTEM OF THE LAPCHA IN NEPAL**

(A Case Study of Fikkal VDC, Ilam District)

**A dissertation submitted for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Master's Degree of Science in Zoology**

By:

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to recommend that the dissertation entitled “**Medical Ethnobiology and Indigenous Knowledge System of the Lapcha in Nepal**” has been carried out by Pradip Tamang for the partial fulfillment of M.Sc. Degree in Zoology. The original work was conducted under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge this dissertation work has not been submitted for any other degree.

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On the recommendation of supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nanda Bahadur Singh, this thesis submitted by Pradip Tamang is approved for examination and submitted to the T.U. in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Masters Degree of Science in Zoology.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

This dissertation work submitted by Pradip Tamang entitled “**Medical Ethnobiology and Indigenous Knowledge System of the Lapcha in Nepal**” has been approved as a partial fulfillment of requirements for the Masters Degree of Science in Zoology

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DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I hereby declare that work presented in this thesis has been done by myself and has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of any degree. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged by reference to the authors or institutions.

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ABSTRACT

Lapcha are one of the Endangered Indigenous Nationalities of Nepal. Ethnomedicinal data and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) system of Lapcha of Fikkal VDC of Ilam district was documented through key informant interview, group interview, participatory observation and informal interview with local people during the field work. They were found to have rich and profound indigenous knowledge on the use of plants and animals for various purposes. Analysis of data revealed that local Lapcha people had a rich tradition on the usage of 19 animal species belonging to 10 order and 13 families and 61 plant species of medicinal values belonging to 35 families and 58 genera for medicinal purposes for their primary health care services. The different medicinal plant and animal species were used for the treatment of 36 and 21 different disease/ailments; respectively. The respiratory tract infections, gastrointestinal disorders, skeletal-muscular problems and dermatological infections were the most frequent ailments/diseases treated. The findings revealed by the present study have also been supported by the works done on other part of the country.

Key words: Ethnobiology, Indigenous Knowledge, Traditional Medicine, Medicinal Animals and Plants, Lapcha, Ethnic Community.