

**Socio-Economic Condition of Tharus**  
**A Case Study of Mazgaun-9, Manpur, Dang**

**A Dissertation**

Submitted to the Tribhuwan University,  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithwi Narayan Campus in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Master Degree in  
**Sociology**

*By*

**Rabin Acharya**

**Roll No: 24/060**

**T.U. Registration No. 21436-95**

Tribhuvan University  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Prithwi Narayan Campus  
Pokhara, Nepal

April 2010

## **Letter of Recommendation**

This is to certify that **Mr. Rabin Acharya** has completed this dissertation entitled **Socio-Economic Condition of Tharus of Mazgaun-9, Manpur VDC of Dang District** under my supervision and guidance. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

Date: April 9, 2010

---

Sarad Kumar Poudel  
Teaching Assistant  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Prithwi Narayan Campus  
Pokhara, Nepal

### **Recommendation by Editor**

This is to certify that I have read through the draft of dissertation entitled Impacts of **Socio-Economic Condition of Tharus of Mazgaun-9, Manpur VDC of Dang District** by **Mr. Rabin Acharya** as language editor and made necessary corrections and improvements there in. I have been impressed by his intelligible presentation of the facts through the medium of plain and correct English.

Date: April 9, 2010

---

Bishwo Raj Adhikari  
Reader  
Department of English Education  
Prithwi Narayan Campus  
Pokhara, Nepal

## **Approval Letter**

This thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Condition of Tharus of Mazgaun-9, Manpur VDC of Dang District** submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology; Prithwi Narayan Campus by **Mr. Rabin Acharya** has been approved by the undersigned members of the Dissertation Evaluation Committee.

### **Members of Dissertation Evaluation Committee**

---

(Sarad Kumar Paudel)  
Supervisor

---

(Prof. Dr. Dil Bahadur Chhetri)  
External

---

(Shanti Bhushal)  
Head  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Prithwi Narayan Campus

Date: April 9, 2010

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I have been able to give final shape of this dissertation with the help and assistance from different persons and institutions. First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thank to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus and its chairperson Shanti Bhusal for providing me an opportunity and a favourable environment for the preparation of this dissertation. I am very much grateful to my dissertation supervisor Mr. Sarad Kumar Poudel, Teaching Assistant at the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus, for valuable and insightful guidance he provided in the course of preparing this dissertation. I also express my thanks to Dr. Biswo Kallyan Parajuli and all of the faculty members at the department especially Mr. Amrit Kumar Bhandari for their astute suggestions and advices they provided in the course of preparing this dissertation. I must thank Mr. Ishwor Shrestha also for typing and bringing this dissertation into this form through his sincere, skillful and professional computer works.

At last, I must express my sincere gratitude to all of my family members for helping me in all moments and courses I had to go through while preparing this dissertation.

April 9, 2010

Rabin Acharya

## Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>x</i>

### CHAPTER ONE

#### **INTRODUCTION 1-12**

1.1	Background	1
1.2	Statement of Problem	6
1.3	Objective of the Study	8
1.4	Definition of the key terms	8
1.5	Rationale/Importance of the Study	8
1.6	Limitations of the Study	9
1.7	Conceptual Framework of the Study	9
1.8	Organization of the Study	11

### CHAPTER TWO

#### **Literature Review 13-20**

2.1	Tharu as an Ethnic Group of Nepal	13
2.1.1	Introduction to Tharus of Nepal	13
2.1.2	Tharu Language	13
2.1.3	Physical Characteristics of Tharus	14
2.1.4	Origin of Tharus	14
2.1.5	Occupation of Tharus	14
2.1.6	Tharu Social Organization	15
2.1.7	Tharu Marriage	17
2.2	Overview of Relevant Literature:	17

## **CHAPTER THREE**

<b>Research Methods</b>	<b>21-23</b>
3.1 Rationale of Selection of the Study Area:	21
3.2 Research Design:	21
3.3 Nature and Source of Data:	22
3.4 Data Collection Techniques and Tools	22
3.4.1 Interview Schedule	22
3.4.2 Observation	22
3.4.3 Focused Group Discussion	23
3.4.4 Key-Informant Interview	23
3.5 Method of Data Analysis	23

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

<b>Introduction of the Study Area</b>	<b>24-32</b>
4.1 General Profile of Dang District	24
4.2 Introduction to Study Area	26
4.2.1 Water Supply and Sanitation of the Study Area:	27
4.2.2 Transportation	27
4.2.3 Education	27
4.2.4 Communication	28
4.2.5 Electricity	28
4.2.6 Local NGOs	28
4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents	28
4.3.1 Age Composition of Respondent Tharus of Sample Households	28
4.3.2 Marital Status of the Respondents	30
4.3.3 Family Size and Type of the Respondents	30
4.3.4 Educational condition of the respondent	31

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

<b>Socio-Cultural and Religious Pattern of Tharus of the Study Area</b>	<b>33-56</b>
5.1 Socio- Cultural Pattern of Tharus	33

5.1.1 Food Habits of Tharus:	33
5.1.2 Costumes	34
5.1.3 Settlements and House of Tharus	34
5.1.4 Language of Tharus	35
5.1.5 Art and Technology	36
5.1.6 Marriage System	37
5.1.7 Health and Treatment System	38
5.1.8 Superstitious Method to Cure Disease	39
5.1.8.1 Rath Lausari	39
5.1.9 Status of Women	39
5.1.10 Festivals of Tharus	40
5.1.11 Rituals of Tharus	47
5.2 Religious Pattern of Tharus	53
5.2.1 Religion of Tharus	53
5.2.2 Deities of Tharus	53
5.2.3 Gurubaba	54
5.2.4 Maiya	55
5.2.5 Daharchandi and Panch Pandev	55
5.2.6 Dhamarajwa (Dharmaraj)	55
5.2.7 Saura	55
5.2.8 Khekhri	56
5.2.9 Spirits or Raksa	56
5.2.10 Purbi Bhawani or Patnahi Bhawani	56

## **CHAPTER SIX**

<b>Economic Condition of Tharus of Mazgaun</b>	<b>57-70</b>
6.1 Land Ownership	57
6.2 Adhiya Land Holding	58
6.3 Food Supply Situation	59
6.4 Occupation	60
6.5 Crop Sharing System	61



6.6	Agriculture Calendar	62
6.7	Division of Labor in Agriculture Sector	64
6.8	Livestock	65
6.9	Income and Expenditure	67

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **The Changing Factors of Socio-economic Life of Mazgau (Dang)**

<b>Tharus</b>	<b>71-77</b>
7.1	Galling Factors 71
7.1.1	Tax collection system of Rana-regime 72
7.1.2	Eradication of Malaria 72
7.1.3	Governmental “Abolition of ‘Birta’ Land Programme 73
7.1.4	Land Reform Program of the Government 73
7.1.5	Usage of More Alcoholic Drink in their Festivals 73
7.1.6	Migration 74
7.1.7	Lack of Applying the Means of Family Planning 74
7.1.8	Lack of Awareness 74
7.1.9	Traditional Agriculture and livestock 75
7.2	Raising Factors 75
7.2.1	Tenancy Rights 75
7.2.2	Establishment Multi-Party System 75
7.2.3	Helping By NGOs 76
7.2.4	Raising Educational Status and Awareness 76
7.2.5	Contacting with Christianity and Maoist Party 76

## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 78-82**

8.1	Summary of the Findings	78
8.2	Conclusion	80
8.3	Recommendation	80

## **REFERENCES CITED**

## **List of Table**

<b>Table Headings</b>	<b>Page</b>
4.1 Ethnic Composition of Dang	25
4.2 Age Composition of Respondent Tharus of Sample Households	29
4.3 The population composition of sample households by age and sex	29
4.4 Family type of sample household of Tharus.	31
5.1 Type of Marriage of Sample Households	37
6.1 Landholding size of Tharus of Sample households	58
6.2 Adhiya land holding of sample households	59
6.3 Main Occupation of Member of Sample households	60
6.4 Farming System of Tharus of Sample households	61
6.5 Holding of livestock of Sample households	66
6.6 Distribution of annual households income by income size groups	68
6.7 Distribution of annual households expenditure by expenditure size groups	69

## **List of Figures**

<b>Fig.</b>	<b>Headings</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.1	Conceptual Framework showing interaction between Socio-Cultural and Economic Aspect	10
4.1	Family Size of Sample households	30
4.2	Respondent's Educational Status	32

## **Acronyms**

TU	Tribhuwan Univeristy
VDC	Village Development Committee
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCO	Public Communication Office
BASE	Backward Society Education
HELP	Help Education Literate Program