

Socio-Economic Condition of Dalits
A Case Study of the Kamis Shesh Narayan VDC
Kathmandu, Nepal

A Thesis
Submitted in partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements
for the award of the Degree of Masters of Arts
in Rural Development

Poorna Bahadur Balami
Central Department of Rural Development
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Tribhuvan University
Kathmandu, Nepal
April 2009

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled "**Socio Economic Condition of Dalit: A case study of the Kamis in Shesh Narayan VDC, Kathmandu District**" has been prepared by Poorna Bahadur Balami for the partial fulfillment of requirement of Master of Arts in Rural Development, under my supervision and guidance is recommended for the for the final evaluation.

.....

Suman Baskota

Lecturer

Research Supervisor

Central Department of Rural Development

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that this thesis entitled "**Socio Economic Condition of Dalit: A case study of the Kamis in Shesh Narayan VDC, Kathmandu District VDC**" submitted by Poorna Bahadur Balami has been examined. It has been declared successful for fulfillment of the academic requirements towards the completion of Masters of Arts in Rural Development.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

.....
External Examiner

.....
Suman Baskota
Lecturer
Research Supervisor
Central Department of RD
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

.....
Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka
Head
Central Department of RD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my research supervisor Suman Baskota his thorough guidance, encouragement, motivation and support throughout the study period. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka, Head to the Central Department of Rural Development. Likewise, I am indebted to the members of research committee for providing me with resourceful ideas and suggestions.

My special thanks go to brothers Bidur and Binod Durtraj (Sunar) and for their assistance and kind cooperation in collecting the primary data. I am no less thankful to all the respondents of Kamis Community of Shesh Narayan VDC: - 3, Ikhapokhri, Ktm.

I am proud and delighted to thank my parents as well as my wife Sarita Balami, daughter Sushmita Balami and all my family members for their Inspiration and encouragement to achieve my goals. I thank University Computer and Photocopy Service, for his excellent computer work.

Mistake and errors occur in human activities and work. Therefore I would apologize in my mistake.

Poorna Bdr. Balami
Talku,Dudechaur Kathmandu
April, 2009

ABSTRACT

This study socio economic condition of Dalit: A case study in Shesh Narayan VDC which lies in the south part of Kathmandu district. It was focused to examine Socio-Economic condition of dalit in Nepalese society. The specific objectives of the study were following 1) To find the literacy condition of Kamis 2) To study the social and cultural aspect of Kamis 3) To analyze the economic condition of Kamis.

The research design of this study was both descriptive and analytical. Regarding, all 35 households of Kamis were taken as census methods. The data were both qualitative and quantitative nature and both primary and secondary sources were used for data collection. The primary data were collected through field visit and secondary data were collected from various official sources and publication and also different previous research documents. To collect data different techniques and tools were used. Different techniques were households' survey, observation, interview and tools were structured and unstructured, took information from other caste group and key information interview. Data were analyzed through tabulation with short description. The study was focused in the specific area i.e. Shesh Narayan VDC ward No:- 3 with limited time framework.

There is no doubt that Nepal has a very diverse from various caste ethnicity and language. Among these various castes that has been a glory to the country; ironically the Kamis falls under the category of untouchables, but has been slowly decreasing day by day. The dependent population is 30.5 percent and 69.5 percent people are economically strong. There no caste based discrimination in the public sectors except the people of upper caste houses. They are not allowed to enter the upper caste houses. In this community 61.2 percent male are literate and only 38.8 percent female are literate. The literacy of female is low in this in this area competitively male people. Only 28.6 percent respondents are illiterate. No female have passed above SLC level but only 6.5 percent male has passed above SLC. There is no people who passed masters level.

Most of the kamis family has low income so that their life style is lower than other upper caste peopled. They choose their priest among their nearest relatives son in law and Bhanja. If they aren't available they among their others for their activities. The kamis fall under the Aryan group. Which is influnced by the religion of Indo- Aryans but almost all are kamis are Hindu in this community area only 5 houses hold families are follower of Christian religion. Most of the cultural activities are the same as the upper caste like Bramin and Chhetri All respondents want to free from the caste based discrimination totally. They expressed that it could be over thrown through education, eliminating poverty, awareness and strict law.

There are not being able to do agriculture as they don't own enough land, thus they have to buy all the food products from the market. Most of the kamis people changed their indigenous occupation due to the Bali Pratha and they started the sliver making business. Bali Pratha is also remaining in this community and they could not modify due to the lack of economic efficiency. Women of these families are busy in tailoring, households and hanging beads and women who work indigenous help their males in Aran. Their saving is low due the low income and high expenditure because of the lack of the education and indigenous can't earn much income.

CONTENTS

Recommendation Letter

Approval Sheet

Acknowledgements

Abstracts

Contents

List of Tables

Abbreviations/Acronyms

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Background of the Study 1

1.2 Statement of the Problem 3

1.3 Objectives of the Study 3

1.4 Limitation of the Study 4

1.3 Significant of the Study 4

1.4 Organization of the Study 5

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW 6

2.1 General Review 6

2.1.1 Caste System 6

2.1.2 Dalit and Untouchability 8

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METODOLOGY 11

3.1 Population and Rational for the selection of the Study Area 11

3.2 Sample Size and Technique 11

3.3 Research Design 12

3.4	Nature of Data	12
3.5	Tools and Techniques of Data	13
3.5.1	Households Survey	13
3.5.2	Observation	13
3.5.2	Interview	13
3.6	Analysis of Data	14
CHAPTER IV: INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA		15
4.1	Geographic Location	15
4.2	Natural Resources	15
4.2.1	Forest	15
4.2.2	Water	16
4.3	Social Setting	16
4.3.1	Population	16
4.3.2	Caste and Ethnic	17
4.3.3	Language	18
4.3.4	Religion	18
CHAPTER V: SOCIAL CONDITION OF KAMIS		19
5.1	Introductions of Kamis of Shesh Narayan VDC	19
5.2	Population of Kamis	19
5.2.1	Caste Discrimination on Different Places	21
5.2.2	Untouchables	22
5.3	Education	23

5.4	The Social Life Style	26
5.5	Family System	26
5.6	Condition of Women	31
5.7	Social and Political Awareness	32
5.8	Major Finding of Social Condition	32
CHAPTEER VI: CULTURAL CONDITION OF KAMIS		35
6.1	Language	35
6.2	Food and Habit	35
6.3	Clothing/ Ornaments	35
6.4	Ritual Passage	35
6.5	Birth rituals	36
6.6	Birth ceremony (Anna Prasan)	37
6.7	Bartaman (Shaving Hair)	37
6.8	Marriage	37
6.9	Death Rituals	38
6.10	Religion	39
CHAPTER VII: ECONOMIC CONDITION OF KAMIS		41
7.1	Introduction	41
7.2	Occupation	41
7.3	Housing	43
7.5	Land Ownership	43
7.5	Situation of Agriculture Production	44
7.6	Income, Expenditure and Saving	45

7.7	Live Stock	48
7.9	Causes of Economic Backwardness	48
7.9.2	Situation of Traditional Occupation	49
7.9.3	Burden of Loan	49
7.9.4	Traditional Agriculture System	49
7.9.5	Lack of Health Facilities	50
7.9.6	Lack of the Women's Participation	50
7.10	Major Finding of Cultural and Economic Condition	50
CHAPTER VIII: COCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS		52
8.1	Conclusion	52
8.2	Recommendations	53
8.2.1	Works that the Government should Carry Out	53
8.2.2	Works that the Non Governmental Organizations Should Carry Out	54
8.3.2	Recommendation for Further Research	55
REFERENCES		56
APPENDIX		

LIST OF TABLES

Table No. 4.1	Distribution of Population of Shesh Narayan VDC by Wards Households and Sex	17
Table No. 4.2	Distribution of People in Habiting in Shesh Narayan VDC by Caste and Ethnic	18
Table no. 5.1	Distribution of Population of Kamis by Sex	20
Table No. 5.2	Distribution of Population of Kamis by Age Group	20
Table No. 5.3	Distribution of Untouchables area by the Respondents	21
Table No. 5.4	Distribution of the Feeling of Respondents to Abrogate Caste Based Discrimination	22
Table No. 5.5	Distribution of Literacy and Illiteracy of Kamis by Sex	24
Table No. 5.6	Distribution of Educational Status of the Respondents	24
Table No. 5.7	Distribution of Educational Status of Family Members	25
Table No. 5.8	Distribution of School Sending their Children Status	26
Table No. 5.9	Distribution of Family According to the Family Size	27
Table No. 5.10	Distribution of Family According to Type	27
Table No. 5.11	Number of Sons and Daughter of the Respondents	28
Table No. 5.12	Marrying age of Family Members of Respondents Age Group	28
Table No. 5.13	Types of Marriage Done by the Respondents	29
Table No. 5.14	Distribution of Respondents of Opinion for inter caste marriage	29
Table No. 5.15	Opinion about Widow Marriage by the Respondents	30
Table No. 5.16	Opinion About Dowry System by the Respondents	30
Table No. 5.17	Opinion about Bali Prtha of the Respondents	31
Table No. 6.1	Distribution of the Religion of the Respondents	40

Table No. 7.1	Distribution of Occupation by the Respondents	42
Table No. 7.2	Distribution of Types of the House of the Respondents	43
Table No. 7.3	Distribution of Landholding by the Respondents	44
Table No. 7.4	Distribution of Agriculture Production	45
Table No. 7.6	Distribution of Respondents by Household's Expenditures (in thousand)	46
Table No. 7.7	Distribution of Respondents by Households Saving (in thousand)	47
Table No. 7.8	Distribution of Live Stock by the Respondents	48