

CHAPTER - ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Poverty is a multi-sectoral phenomenon. It is the creation of human beings. It is a situation under which a section of society is deprived of basic necessities of life such as health, education and housing. Such kind of society is characterized as belonging to the state of mass poverty. People cannot fulfill their minimum basic consumption needs. Both developed and developing countries are suffering from it. Human needs have been increasing with the development of civilization. But people have not fulfilled their increasing demand with limited resources. The condition is that one third of world population is compelled to live belong the subsistence level especially in the backward and underdeveloped countries. Nepal is also one of such country.

Sarki is one of the untouchable castes according to Hindu caste hierarchy system. They are scattered in different areas of Nepal. Among them the Sarki of Sipapokhare VDC of Sindhupalchok in central Nepal are being the subject of this study. Being an untouchable caste with lower socio-economic status they are considered as improved shed with almost lost tradition of shoe making and low level workers. The Sarkis are untouched not only by the high caste persons but also by the researcher too until the date. They might have the demographic patterns different from other ethnic minorities of Nepal. Sarkis one of the most disadvantaged, backwarded and socially downtrodden segment of the population, they have been living in utter poverty from generation to generation. This study attempts to analyze the poverty conditions of Sarki community.

Nepal is a least developed country in the world. It has an economy of rural area based especially on agriculture and characterized by scare and underdeveloped resources increasing inequality, unemployment and increasing poverty. Poverty is a multidimensional and a situation of hunger, starvation, malnutrition inadequate housing, water supply, sanitary facility, resulting in poor living situation, suffering from many diseases. Distress and finally in death poverty is a dynamic, complex,

institutionally embedded and a gender and location specific phenomenon and the pattern and the shape of poverty vary by social group, location, season society and country. So, same definition of poverty is powerlessness, voiceless ness dependency, shame and humiliation, isolation. Some where poor people have lack of basic infrastructure like roads, transportation, pure drinking water and hospital, lack of education is also the manifestation of poverty. Thus, poverty reflects the picture of illiteracy, hunger, low per-capita income, disease and low living standard among other things.

Poverty is a world wide phenomenon prevailing ever where as a complex disease. Basically it is found in the third world with differential magnitude. The concept of poverty is very old and it had been extended with the development of human civilization, in simple terms, we can define poverty as a social phenomenon where a section of society is unable to fulfill their basic needs and have to spend miserable life. In the present world poverty is deep rooted in developing countries because of low economic growth rate against the high growth rate of population. Likewise, low income and poor agriculture policies and primitive technology are the main causes of poverty. Average per-capita income of the people is just US \$ 283 (Sarki is less than 250 US \$). So poverty is a burning and challenging issue of 21st century and it remains the most challenging problems for every nation.

Many economist experts and institutions have obtained the term poverty with different criteria. Amartya Sen has defined poverty, as the each other concept. Poverty and inequality related closely to each other but they are distinct concepts and neither subsumes the other, there is a good care for viewing the measurement of poverty not as is the often asserted as an ethical exercise, it can be argued that the frequently used (policy definitions) of poverty is fundamentally followed. The exercise of decreasing the predicament of the poor in term of the prevailing standard of the necessities does of the course, involve ambiguities, which are inherent in the concept of poverty, but ambiguous description is not the something as prescription instead, procedures and possible interpretation of prevailing standards requires recognition and appropriated treatment. (Sen, 1999)

Poverty in Nepal can be seen from for micro and macro perspectives. At micro level, it focuses primarily on individual's experience an extreme poverty, which is in

terms of low caloric intake per day, lack of basic health facilities, illiteracy high infant mortality, inadequate shelter and terms of high level of population growth, low productivity and lack of employment opportunities, technological land, administrative justice (ILO/IPEC Kathmandu, March 2002).

Poverty can be categorized into two group i.e. absolute poverty and relative poverty absolute poverty relates those households or individuals which/who have low income in comparison to the essential average income.

Poverty has two dimension low income which is in sufficient to maintain a dignified life, and low level of human capabilities, which restrict a citizen options to lead a life of his/her choosing. Poverty is a physical, weakness, isolation vulnerability and powerlessness it is a state of economic social and psychological deprivation occurring among people or countries lacking sufficient ownership control or access to resources to maintain minimal acceptable standard of living it represents an exclusion ally relationship. Where individual or state are divided access to an adequate package of resources Nepal human development report 2001, poverty reduction and government UNDP. Thus poverty is one of the serious problems of developing countries like Nepal. Where the majority of people are dependent of farming and they are largely below poverty line due to unemployment, income in equality, illiteracy, low income, low growth rate and lack of infrastructure. In the causes of poverty in sipapokhare VDC (Study area) are the lack of resources, growing unemployment rate, market imperfection technological backwardness, lack of condense resources. The socio economic variables such as caste location, occupation education to some extent with economic issues are responsible for poverty in study area.

Poverty in Nepal

Introduction

The world of poverty is the most challenging for every developing country like Nepal. Poverty has been described from different perspectives. Income based poverty, weakness in different aspect of human development and social exclusion are the main aspects of poverty.

The main indicator of income-based poverty is the percentage of people living below poverty line. Likewise human development capacity indicators are also equally

important because these indicators do not change as per the change in income based indicators. The typology of these capacities includes access to existing resources, human resource development and participation in social/political decision-making processes etc.

The people who are struggling for the basic needs, education and medicine, are known as poor. It means, poverty shows the situation of scarcity of these things. In Nepal, the first income poverty estimation was carried out in 1976/77. Then after every five year, NPC has been publishing the poverty report of Nepal. If we compare this report other developed countries, we get it in very poor condition.

The total population of Nepal is 26427399 where male are 11563921 and female are 11587502 (CBS 2007). Sarki share in national population 1.40 percentage and Dalit share in 10.83 percentage. Among them about 85 percent people still live in rural areas. In the beginning of the tenth plan, was estimated that 31 percent of population live belows poverty line. The Nepal living standard survey has estimated annual per-capita income of Rs. 4404 to meet the expenses on daily minimum average of 2124 kilo calories from food and non food items but the income level at the current price of 2001 turns out to be Rs. 6100.(CBS2007) Though it is very costly for Nepalese people to adopt it. That's why, the health conditions of Nepalese people is gradually decreasing.

Introduction of Sarkis

Background of Sarkis

The word Dalit is based on four-fold Varna (caste) system or Brahmanism such as Brahman, Chhetriya, Baishya and Shudra which developed from Hinduism. The caste division was also developed with feudal and patriarchal society. The group of Sudra are victim of caste discrimination and untouchables. They are considered as lower caste and they are seen as person who exists to serve to so call higher castes people. Sudras are address as second class human in Hindu society in Nepal. Then the sudra people have assigned the certain occupations and called higher caste people refuse them to change their traditional occupation. There are various instances of social boycotts occurred because of the contorting traditional occupations by Sarki/Dalit in Nepal.

More than, when the old legal was declared in 1910 B.S. since than untouchables is deeply rooted in the society. In the mind of upper caste people, Dalit are polluted by their work and polluting other by their physical contact, which is really a inhuman, unscientific set-up makes the perception to wards the Sarkis people and neglect then by various opportunities of the state benefits. Sarki people are being subset of hurtful discrimination segregation, exclusion and negation from public institution. They are economically exploited, political voiceless, socially humiliated and even treated as untouchable.

Present Situation of Sarki in Nepal

We all know, Nepal is the Hindu kingdom. Nepal has, therefore, a predominantly a Hindu population and caste system. In Nepal about 20 percent of the total population constitutes the service caste (so-called untouchables, low caste or Dalit) that is engaged in traditional occupation with low status. Hindu society recognizes a caste hierarchy of four classes of varnas. Brahmins include scholars and priests, chhetriya include rules and soldiers, vaisya include merchants as farmers and the shudra are considered as lower caste. And they are seen as persons who exist to serve to so call higher caste people. Shudra people have assigned by certain traditional occupation. Even now, the untouchability is deeply rooted in society. They are neglected by various opportunities of state benefits. "Dalit/Sarki people are discouraged to participate in the higher post of all three wings of governments". Various research have illustrate that there is no any participation of Dalit in three wings of government.

Though untouchables was declared illegal in 1963 by the country law of the land, but the practice was not made punishable. When the inset of multi party democracy reestablished in 1990, it was guaranteed to equalize as the fundamental rights of the people in a country against untouchables by constitutional. Despite of this positive law. Lack of effective implementation, the country has not yet success to wipe out untouchability. The main cause of backwardness of Sarki are we all seen the socio-economic, political, literacy rate, health. Justice system etc are explaining the following :

a) Socio Condition of Sarki

in Nepal Sarki have become victim of caste discrimination. Likewise they have been facing the atrocity of untouchability for about one thousand and six hundred years. Untouchability is practiced in drinking water, tea, still, hotels, lodges, milk cooperative, school, festivals and rituals, temples etc. Victims of bonded labor, child labor, street children faces violation of civil liberties, inferior or no people status, dehumanized, living and working conditions, impoverishment, bad health condition, high level of illiteracy and continuing social ostracism. Within the Dalit there is again another caste system making one groups superior to another and touchable and untouchable.

b) Economic Conditions of Sarki

Sarki are compelled to adopt traditional and under occupation as removing dead animals leather work has put them a low position in the traditional caste hierarchy. Dependence on upper class landowners for agricultural labor and perpetual subjugation force many of them to live as bonded labors. Though the tenth plan has laid emphasis on human resource programs for Dalits in various areas but till now it has not come into practices. The available statistics show that 3.1 Dalit have more than 21 ropani of land, 23 percent are land less, 48.7 percent less than 5 ropani and 15.6 percent Dalit have 6-10 ropani land. 60 percent Sarki female are employed and total 63 percent Sarki are employed in different work like leather work, labor, etc. In the Sarki caste, economically active population are 67.6 percent in the 10 years above (CBS, 2001). Most of the Sarkis hardly 1 percent of cultivable land Sarki have no access to other resources of the country and social serves. Only the high caste people have taken the advantage of development. The development plans are unable to reach the poor and marginalized people such as Sarkis.

c) Political Condition of Sarki

Sarki represented in the DDCs and VDCs is very rare. They are affected by feudal political society from 1958 onward till now only 14 Sarki become the MPS of upper and lower house and constitutional assembly representative. Till now there is least representation of Sarki in policy making body. This 1.4 percent Sarki population in Nepal is not represented in national politics. Thus Sarki are politically voiceless.

d) Education Condition of Sarki

according to tenth plan, the literacy rate of Nepal is not satisfactory. The achievement of 10th plan has presented, the literacy rate into groups. i.e. the nations literacy rate (above 6 years), which 62 percent, and the literacy rate (above 15 years) is 51.2 percent. Among them 41.2 percent are female and 63 percent of male.

e) Health Condition

average life expectation of Nepal is 61.9 years and average life expectancy of Dalit is 53.5 years old of Sarki. Comparatively the health condition of Sarki is very low in society. Due to the lack of clean drinking water their health condition is too poor. Besides lack of sufficient food, Sarki children are highly suffering from malnutrition.

f) Justice System

Since Sarki are marginalized people they have no access to justice. Sarki are humiliated and their minimum human right are violated in every walk of life. For example they are exclusion to entrance in temple, hotels and other many hindu rituals. In other side, visible participation of Sarki in field of justices is not seen. In this way we can analysis they are back of all sector of the society till 21st century.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problem of poverty is more serious in developing country like Nepal. Poverty is one of the obstacles for overall development of a country. The agriculture is the main stay of development in the developing country. Hence, for elimination of poverty the development of agriculture plays vital role. But the productivity in the agriculture sector is very low on account of lack of irrigation, fertilizer improved technology in crop, production, agricultural credit and farmer training etc.

Similarly, small and fragmented holding of land declining fertility of soil due to deforestation, floods, land slide, soil erosion etc. are also leading factors for lessening productivity. Disguised unemployment in agriculture sectors is one of the main causes of poverty due to lack of alternatives employment opportunity. Therefore it is difficult to develop the economy of the country as it is thought.

In Nepal, population is increasing at a faster rate. The rate of population growth is 2.24 percent per annum (CBS, 2001) but the income generation is very low, cultivable land is very scarce among the poor and there is vast inequality in the distribution of income and wealth. As consequences, the size of poverty is increasing day by day. In other words the gap between have and have not is widening in Nepal year by year.

As poverty reduction programmes could not reach the targeted groups and areas mainly the remote region as envisaged the country wise expansion of such targeted programmes has been a challenging task. Rampant poverty exists among those who have no access to opportunities for education and development of skill and technology are lacking obstruction. A major challenge therefore is to provide universal access to education and development.

The perspective of social exclusion, backward group and areas, it is a bitter reality that some groups in society are compelled to traditional social values. These groups are denied of any new opportunities created by development opportunities as they are extremely limited and so is their participation in decision making process. From this point of view poverty and HDI are of crucial importance as an effort to mitigate poverty of backward and low caste groups.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of the study is to investigate the nature of rural poverty and the major factors responsible for rural poverty in Sarki community in Nepal. The specific objectives are :

- Describe the nature of poverty in Sarki community.
- To find out the causes of poverty in Sarki community.
- To examine the present poverty situation of Sarki community in the study area.
- To recommend the measures of alleviation of poverty.

1.4 Rational of the Study

This study is basically concerned with the poverty problem of Sipapokhare VDC in Sindhupalchok district. There are so many problems like lack of employment

opportunities, lack of irrigation facilities in cultivable land, low level of income, low living standard, superstitions beliefs etc. So most of the people are facing poverty problem.

Though this study will make an effort of analyze only the poverty situation in Sipapokhare VDC. of Sarki communities in Sindhupalchok district. It also tries to present the incidence of poverty in the study area and show the relationship between poverty and other economic factors like income, employment, land holding etc. In the sense, this study will be significant because it is able to present the recent information and also to give some recommendation for poverty alleviation program and rural development which is help of the study area.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Every study has its own limitations. No study can be free from short comings and drawbacks because of the various problems and constraints and this study is not exceptional for this study only a small area is taken. This study has its own limited economic source, limited time and limited man power for the extensive study. So following are the main limitation of the study :

- 1) The present study confined to nature and level of rural poverty in Sarki community of Sipapokhare VDC. Therefore, the generalization of the result may or may not be equally relevant other Sarki community of rural area.
- 2) Only 50 households of the study area are taken as sample households and it is assumed that this sample provides representative picture of the sample VDC.
- 3) The study is based on field survey conducted in 2008.
- 4) The value of fixed assets and other current assets are not included in income, but income generating from these assets is included in the study.
- 5) The prices of all products are calculated on local current price.
- 6) Simple statistical tools are used to analyze data.

- 7) The analysis completely depends upon primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected from household survey through structured questionnaire.
- 8) This study may not applicable at macro level because it does not cover the situation of whole nation and this study may be unable to provide exact information's about research problem due to lack of scientific measurement system on natural measures and local economy.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study has been organized into six chapters. The first chapters is an introduction of the subject matter which includes background of the study, objectives and rationale of the study. Similarly, various studies are made in the second chapter through review of the literature. The third chapter is about research methodology of the proposed study. The fourth chapters is the description of the study area. The fifth chapter is data presentation and data analysis. The six chapter are focuses on summary, conclusion and recommendation.

CHAPTER - TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

The problem of poverty has one of the most challenging problems particularly in remote areas of the country. Poverty in rural area is basically caused by low productivity of agricultural sector, high growth rate of population, poor agricultural policy and topographical growth rate of population, poor agricultural policy and topographical disadvantage. Many studies and researcher and the economists have tried their best of deal with poverty problem in the context of Nepal there are a only few in number a review of selected literature in this field has been attempted.

2.1 Theoretical Issues and Concepts

Poverty is the deprivation occurring among the people or individual without basic amenities of life. It is the life without freedom of choice and action. There is lack of adequate food, shelter, education and health and income to support the basic minimum needs. It can also be defined as economic, social and psychological deprivation occurring among the people or countries lacking sufficient ownership, control or access to the resources to maintain the minimum standard of living (Shrestha, 2007).

Nepal is one of the poor countries ranking 136th in UNDP 2005. Rural areas dominate Nepal about 85 percent of the population lives in rural areas. Rural areas are poverty ridden and about 35 percent of the rural people are poor and 48 percent Sarki are poor in Nepal. They are living with low life standard without enjoying even the basic amenities. Poverty in rural areas is reflected in low level of income, low level of literacy and poor health status.

Poverty thus is the state of having little or no money and/or material possessions. It is a relative term and may be defined as an economic condition that is inadequate to meet basic needs of a person (Kunwar, 2003). Generally three types of poverty have been defined.

- a) Absolute poverty occurs when people fail to receive sufficient resources to support a minimum level of physical health and efficiency that often expressed in terms of calories or nutritional levels.
- b) Hardcore ultra-poverty lines in below the absolute poverty line its half by the gestation as rule of thumbs.
- c) Relatives poverty is defined as the general standards of living in different societies and what is culturally stated as being poor rather than some absolute level of deprivation.

Besides above, the term subjective poverty is relatively new entry in to the field or poverty research, which is based on surveys that use household's own assessment of the minimum amount of income or consumption needed by the people like them. Rural poverty is usually is looked upon as the outcome of impoverished natural resources. Both explanation contain elements of truth, but these elements need to better integrate. Thus, poverty is a result of various factors attributed to a continuing condition of underdevelopment. Many efforts have been made to conceptualize poverty and inequality. Three school of though emerged to explain the cause and effects of poverty and inequality as :

- **Conflict School :** This stresses on the inner conflict contradictions and dialectics of power, as forwarded by Karl Marx; It does not accept the legitimacy of prevailing economic order.
- **Culture School :** It views the culture of the poor as the reason for the existence of poverty. One of the major proponents of these school is Oscar Lewis(Devkota, 2006).
- **Functional school:** This emphasis on the aspect of harmony, consensus and functionalism, as propagated by Talkott Parson, Kingsley David and Wilber Moore.

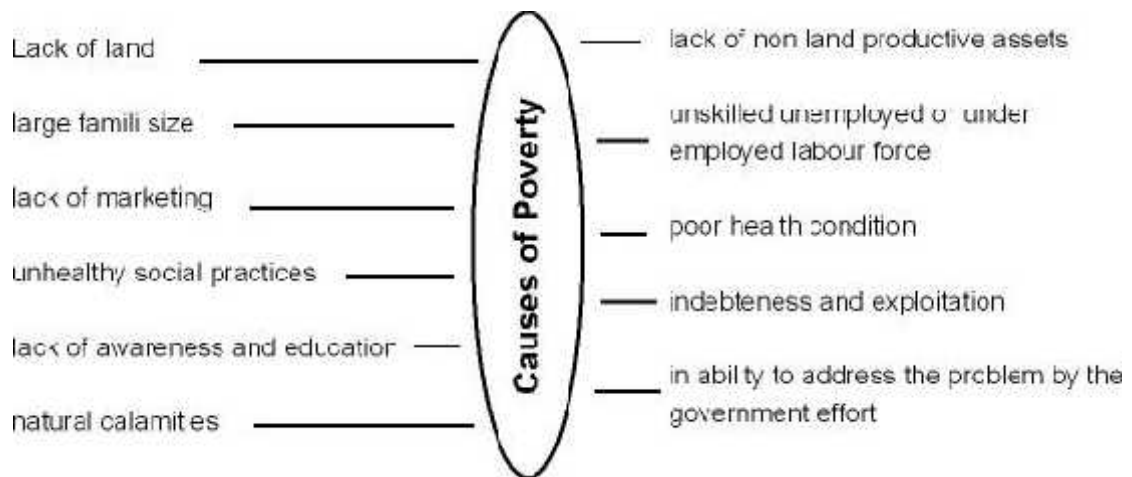
Poverty is that condition in which a person either because of inadequate income or non-envisaged expenditure doesn't maintain a scale of living high enough

to provide his physical and mental efficiency and to enable him and his natural dependents to function usefully according to the standards of the society of which is a member.

2.2 Causes of Poverty

The main causes of poverty are : over population, in balance distribution of resource of global economy, living standard not matching with the income, insufficient education and low opportunities for employment, environmental degradation individual irresponsibility and dependency, indebtedness, unemployment, loss of jobs or means of livelihood, illness, mental disturbance, accident and litigation.

Figure 1 : Causes of Poverty



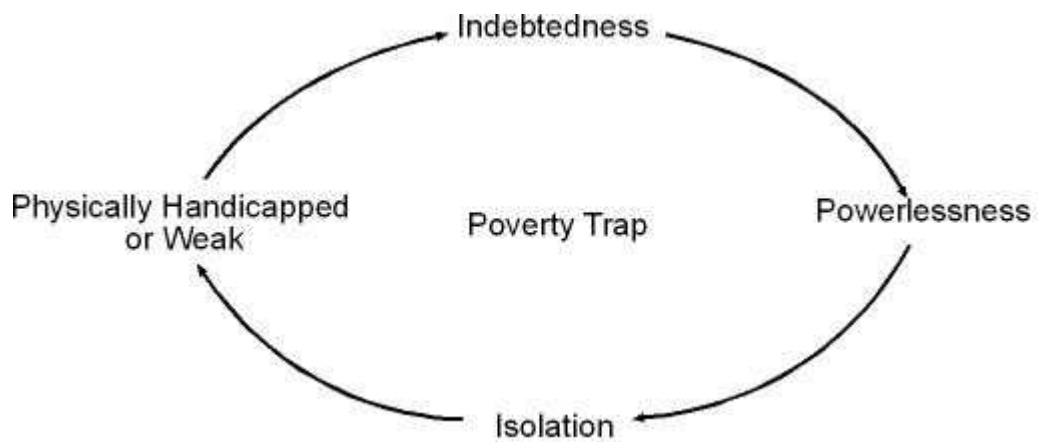
In addition, bad habit, over expenditure, laziness and reluctance in utilizing labor as capital, are responsible factors that cause the poverty.

Problems of poor families are the clusters of disadvantages. These are physical weakness, vulnerability, powerlessness and isolation. Poor people are really dispersed, less responsive to each other, divided and isolated (Chambers, 1983).

2.3 Poverty Trap

It is a condition from where one can come out. The poor should try to come out from the trap and try to enter in the main stream of the economy in which they live. Slavery and debt bondage never give the way for coming out from the vicious circle of poverty because the son cannot repay the inherited loan for life long.

Figure 2: Poverty Trap



Poverty brings despair, anger or lack of interest in everything and makes the poor self-humiliated. Poverty increases the oppression and notorious behavior of the money lenders, litigation of land despites, alcoholism burglary, sex abuse and girls trafficking. Racial religious, language or sex discrimination or prejudices are also other factors (Chamber, 1983).

2.4 Classification of Poverty

- **Absolute Poverty** : Occurs when people fail to receive sufficient resources to support a minimum level of physical health and efficiency that often expressed in terms of calories or nutritional level. Poverty measures that define poverty as either income or consumption below constitute the earliest and broadest class of poverty measures.
- **Hard Core or Ultra-Poverty** line is below the absolute poverty line its half by the gestation as rule of thumb.
- **Relative Poverty** : The most common approach to a relative poverty standard is to choose some income or consumption cut-off that can be expressed as a proportion of the median for society as a whole.
- **Subjective Poverty** : Subject definitions of poverty are a relatively new entry into the field of poverty research. These definition are based

on surveys that use household's own assessment of the minimum or just sufficient amounts of income or consumption needed by people line them. (Ruggles, P. 1990)

2.5 Level of Poverty

The first attempt of define and quantity the level of poverty in Nepal was made by national planning commission in 1976/77 through a survey an employment income distribution and consumption patterns. The minimum subsistence level of income and expenditure were used for derivation of the poverty line. An income level of Rs. 2 per capita per day at 1976/77 prices was taken as the minimum subsistence level. This out of level was based on the expenditure required to buy food, giving average daily intake 2256 calories and value of the lowest actual daily consumption of other basic necessities. This criterion at that time gave a poverty estimated of 40.50 percent (NPC vol. IV, 1978, p-32).

The first income poverty estimation on scientific basic was carried on the 1976/77. Which estimated Which estimated that 33 percent of total populations live below poverty line. The incidence of poverty was high in mid-western and far-western development regions along with rural areas highly affected. The next survey of 1984/85 estimated that 41.2 percent, in other survey 1990/91 was estimated that high incidence of poverty fall on landless and small farmers the latest extensive household survey was conducted in 1995/96 to evaluate poverty and measure living standard of the Nepalese people. Another survey of the beginning of the tenth plan that 31 percent of populations live below poverty line. The Nepal living standard survey (1996) has estimated annual per-capita income of Rs. 4404 to meet the expenses on daily minimum average of 2124 kilo calories from food and other non-food items requirement too. The income level at the current price of 2001 turns out to be Rs. 6100.

2.6 Nature of Poverty

The nature of poor had been analyzed by taking into consideration the various factors like the size of land holding, literacy, family size of land holding, literacy, family size and monthly income by ethnic groups etc, in a study by Dahal and Shrestha primary data are used to analyzed the cause of poverty from data collection a

village of Panchthar district. Brake even technique is used to determine the world point. To analyze the poverty they gave used the minimum subsistence norms and sen's poverty index in this study they have indentified the rural poor in Nepal into two categories via marginal farmers and small farmers. This study further argues that the poverty problem originates in agriculture productivity levels in the rural sector and has considerable implications for inter class and interpersonal relations (Dahal and Shrestha, 1987).

Sarki belongs to the down caste and migrated from India at the beginning. Sarkis are Chammars in other words. Sarki occupy in the rank of untouchable, according to Hindus caste system. Although they are minority in number, they can be found all over the country. They are Sudras and their traditional occupation in leather work. (Mahato, 1993)

This could be called the great purge and after happened the people who were directly on the receiving and found out of their dismay, that they had become or made themselves out castes by their greed and thought leisure. Being shunned by society in general. They dropped to the lend of the Manu and gradually occupied themselves in the trade where they are found even now tanning leather and making of mending shoes similar to the cobblers of India, called Mochi; the emergence of this new breed created a new name for them and they became the ancestors of today's Sarki people. Thus, it is stated that the Sarki are no difference in genetic and other ritual features from their of their misadventure they are differentiated and ostracized (Gautam and Thapa, 1994).

It is found that almost all parts of the kingdom. The Sarki people mainly pursue their time old profession of stitching and repairing shoes and other leather goods. Today it can also be seen that they have become total agriculturists at places while in some areas they are dominating the field of rural constructional technological works with their diligence and expertise as carpenters and stone masons. Whatever it is, the Sarkis are emerging as an economically well of group of other Dalit tribes of Nepal. (Sharma, Chhetri and Sita, 1994)

These do exist a number of septs within the Sarki tribe as in the case with all other tribes in Nepal. Septs or thars like Mangrati, Rokai, Bailkoti, Bisunkal, Koirala,

Dooturo Kaiya, Bhokotaero Kaiya, Dulal, Ramtel, Bisunkhe, Migar etc. are some that are mentioned to show their similarities with the Brahmin and Chhetri. Though they consider themselves of one large family and hence traditionally interrelated, they are not permitted to inter many among their own thar or thar exogamy is the standing practice and the marriage of one Sarki to a kami, Damai or any other hypogenous marriage also is not preferred as they emphasis on Jat endogamy (Gautam and Thapa, 1994).

The Sarki communities the economic conditions conflict between brothers conflict between mother wives and brothers are some reasons behind the disintegration of joint family. But main cause is economic because more young Sarkis like live in their own earns and does not want to give other. (Khanal, 2002)

The economic sources of Sarki are not so broad. They have been pursuing their traditional occupation agriculture. Even today majority of the old members of the community are engaged in agriculture. Among the total population agriculture, masonry, carpentry, wage labour, job in India is the important economic activities of Sarkis. Majority of Sarki thinks that their children should follow practice traditional agriculture occupation. Most of the Sarkis want to send their children to India for the job. But there is no change in their daughters occupation. Even today they like their daughters to be engaged in household affairs.

Amartya Sen's "Poverty and famines" was published in 1971, it shows lively picture of poverty in Asia and Africa it also answers the questions like what causes famines and how serve poverty is we can understand this hungry wound with the help of above book. This is based on secondary data; the Author has used statistical tools significantly(sen 1971).

Most of the Dalit people are poor and landless. Their traditional occupations are stigmatized by the society and even if some how they try to pursue it, they can not compete with the cheap products available in the market. Cheap products have displaced their means of livelihood (Bhattchan, 2003).

It is therefore, they are not only socially discriminated, but also economically back warded. Their low economic growth in comparison of other caste where per capita income in Dalit NRs 4940, Newars 11553 and other caste 7673 likewise per

capita US \$ in Dalit 764, Newars 1848 other 1186. The income of Dalit 0.110, Newars 0.289 and other 0.179 and human development indicators of Dalit 0.239, Newars 0.457 other 0.325. This situation show that Dalit is back warded caste in Nepal.

The civil society, NGOs, academic intellectuals along with backward indigenous people, women activist and disabled expressed their views in various consultation programs, which do not markedly differ on nature and structure of poverty. These discussion were held during the formulation process of the tenth plan and formulation of interim poverty reduction strategy paper and in the process of selecting indicators for monitoring poverty.

These discussions helped to defined those people as poor whose income does not allow two meals a day, two set of clothes in a year, do not have settled residence can not send their children for education and those people whose access to resources and skills necessary to earn livelihoods in denied.

There discussion categorically identify that the incidence of poverty is higher on occupational caste such as Mussahar, Chamar, Damain, Sarki, Kami, Kumal, Dadi, Jhangad, Dushad and other different social low castes such as Tamang, Rai, Limbu, Magar, Bhote, Tharu etc. are society backwards in the society. Landless, agricultural labours indigenous groups and people residing in remote areas are also identified as extremely poor.

(Nepal Ma Yojanabadha Bikash (Tenth Plan 2059/64) A book "Samajik Rupantaran Ma Dalit" it's overview is analyzed by social characteristics. Dalit are exclusion by society. So they are poorest of the poor anywhere in the society.

The final evaluation of the tenth plan has estimated that 31percent percent of population live below the poverty line. The Nepal living standard survey 2001, estimated the income level at the current price at Rs. 6100 to meet the expenses on dally minimum average of 2124 kilo calories from food requirements likewise the average farm size of holding for low income household is less than 10 hector. The lowest 25 percent income groups have only 37 percent of their land in plain and irrigable areas where as there are 54 percent of such lands with people of highest 25 percent income group.

Now a day government and various agencies initiated many Dalit reformatory and development programme over the last four decades. While considering constitutional of Nepal after the revolution is 1950, four constitution were made and in each constitution it is clearly mentioned, "All citizens are equal before law, no discrimination of people will be made on the basis of religion, race sex and caste etc."

At the program level national planning commission (NPC). Made special provisions for Dalits in the eight plan (1992-1997), ninth plan (1997-2002) and tenth plan (2003-2007) and 3 years interim plan (2007-2010). The eight plan of Nepal (1992-1997) conceived the essence of Dalit reformatory programs such as social security, scholarship schemes grass root level based project, social awareness campaign etc. similarly the ninth five years plan not only outlined five major objectives for Dalits upliftment but also put forward a vision of 20 years programs for elimination of all forms of discrimination likewise, it has focused on Dalit empowerment and development programme (NPC, 2002).

According to the tenth plan "In Title of Dalits and Neglected Communities" explain the Dalits who have been back warded from every aspect of socio-political, economic issues because of the prevalence of aged old poverty and social deprivation. In this section of population could not get social respect in practice due to existence of caste system and in human behavioral because of in effective enforcements of acts, which categorically has made the caste system punishable. In this way we can easily to say that Dalits are poorest of the poor in many aspects in Nepal.

A book "Chhapama Dalit" under in title "Dalit Jati ra Garibi". It's over-view has carry out two major points, which is "A type of occupation and what its situation and other, they left their traditional occupation. A survey shows about 40 percent Dalit are left, their own traditional occupation. Among them the train Dalits economic condition is so backwarded. It is further described that the main occupations of Dalit have agriculture labour only. Likewise 95 percent Dalits have no own land or they are landless. In the context of western Nepal, they also work as a bounded labour till now. A book Chhapama Dalit in Titler "Aarthik Sanderbha ma Dalit". It is analyzed that most of the Dalits are landless or they have of very few land of their own. Beside this, they have no alternative occupation which society accepted. So they are being backward caste in the Nepalese society (Chhapama Dalit, 2058).

Likewise another article entitle "Nepal ko Dalit Aandolan Ra Dalit Sangathan ko Bhumika". Its conclusion is there is only 2 to 4 Dalit person are success to get "Samshad" beside this the expected result has not carry out by Dalit revolution since 2004 B.S. to till 2046 B.S. but there is some positive change after the Democracy are established in 2046 B.S. some rules and program has been made for Dalit but it is not sufficient for upliftment of their living standard (B.K. Hira, 2058).

Similarly, the book "Nepal ma Dalit Uthanka Rananitiharu" under the entitle "Nepalma Dalit Uthan Ka jalda Balda Sawalharu". This article show that the main issue is preservation for Sarki in the different sector such as social, economic, level of state, political and non government sector with out participation of Dalit of all sector it is not possible for sustainable development of the Sarki. In the context of Sarki institution, there are so many institutions have been seen for so Sarki development. Among them "National Dalit Commission is one of the reliable and government institution. We all are hopeful that it would success to get Sarkis fundamental rights (D.B. Sagar, 2000).

According to, Dilli R. Dahal. He argues that two clear "discordance" models are constantly operating in the life of Dalits in Nepal making them subordinate and dependent throughout the years : i) Dalits are struggling for an egalitarian future in recent years keeping intact the dominant Hindu caste values of social stratification within them. This "exclusion model" within them reform their Hindu domination and ii) Dalit liberation model in Nepal operated more at the advocacy level than improving their economic condition. The overall approach to improve their fate moved towards the rights-based approach, giving minimal attention to economic independence. Thus their economic dependence on their patrons has remained virtually, alive even today, despite their struggles for "social equity" over the years (Hindu Nationalism and Untouchable Reform) (Dahal et. Al., 2003).

2.7 Poverty Situation in Nepal

The first attempt to estimate poverty in Nepal was in 1976/77. During that year NPC/N carried out a notional level survey on employment, income distribution and consumption pattern. Poverty level was specified in terms of basic minimum calorie intake. This level was 2250 calorie per head day in an average per capita

minimum income level Rs. 720 per annum was estimated to fulfill this requirement. This poverty level estimated about 36.2 percent of the population living below the poverty line.

Later survey also estimated the incidence of poverty on the basis of the same poverty line, i.e. 2250 per capita carried intake. A household budget survey was carried out by the Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepalese Central Bank, in 1984/85; this survey also helped estimating population below poverty line likewise, NPC also estimated poverty in 1992 and 1996. The trend of poverty in Nepal as envisaged by these studies is as follows :

Table 2.1: Poverty Situation and Trend in Nepal (1976-1996)

Survey	Population below the poverty line	Population below poverty line (Percent of total population)	Per capita poverty line income (Rs)	Per capita poverty line income(US\$)
NPC 1976/77	4,730,468	36.2	720	57.6
NRB Household survey 1984/85	7100048	42.6	1971	110.7
NPC estimate, 1998	9250971	49.0	4145	97.1
NLSS 1996	9426048	45.0	4560	80.3

(Source: Suman Sharma, *Nepal Country Report - Summary Report*, ACTIONAID, 1998)

It shows that the number of poor is increasing in both absolute and relative terms, except the estimates revealed by the 1996 survey. Moreover the decline in absolute poverty lies as shown by the last column of the table 1. Measured it terms of US \$ during the period 1984/85 to 1996/97 is because of the depreciation of Nepalese currently in terms of US \$, in other words, approximately 83 US \$ in 1996 could buy the same amount of stuff (the poverty line) as that of 111 US\$ in 1984/85 and 97 use in 1992.

Nepal living standard survey 1996 has been very helpful in calculating various poverty indices. The survey by CBS, 1996 deserves special attention because World

Bank (WB) has estimated poverty gap and severity of poverty also in addition to the head-count index using this data. World Bank estimates of these indices based on CBS 1996 survey are as follows:

Table 2.2: Poverty Measures for Nepal (Poverty line per capita income = Rs 4404)

Region/sector	Head count index (Percent)	Poverty gap index (Percent)	Squared poverty gap index
Ecological Belt			
Mountain	0.56 (0.059)	0.185 (0.027)	0.082 (0.015)
Hills	0.41 (0.031)	0.136 (0.014)	0.061 (0.008)
Terai	0.42 (0.025)	0.099 (0.009)	0.034 (0.004)
Sector			
Urban	0.23 (0.058)	0.070 (0.025)	0.028 (0.012)
Rural	0.44 (0.020)	0.125 (0.008)	0.051 (0.004)
National Average	0.42 (0.019)	0.121 (0.008)	0.050 (0.004)

(Sources: World Bank, 1999)

Data from 1995-96 and 2003-04 Nepal living standards surveys (NLSS I and II) carried out by the CBS are used to estimate trends in poverty incidence in Nepal during 8 years between these two surveys. Head count rates suggest that poverty has dramatically declined in Nepal between 1995-96 and 2003-04. In 2003-04, 31 percent of population was poor in Nepal, compared to 42 percent in 1995-96. Thus, the incidence of poverty in Nepal declined by about 11 percent points (or 26 percent) over the course of eight years, a decline of 3.7 percent per year. The incidence of poverty in urban areas more than halved (it declined from 22 to 10 percent, a change of 9.7 percent per year). While poverty in rural areas also declined appreciably, at one percentage point per year, its incidence remained higher than in urban areas.

Table 2.3: Nepal 1995-96 and 2003-04 Poverty Measurement

	Head count rate (P0)			Poverty Gap (P1)			Squared Poverty (P2)		
	1995-96	2003-04	Change	1995-96	2003-04	Change	1995-96	2003-04	Change
Nepal	41.76	30.85	-26	11.75	7.55	-36	4.67	2.7	-42
Urban	21.55	9.55	-56	6.54	2.18	-67	2.65	0.71	-73
Rural	43.27	34.62	-20	12.14	8.5	-30	4.83	3.05	-37

Source: Poverty trends in Nepal (2005)

**Table 2.4: Nepal 1995/96 and 2003/04 Poverty Measurements
by Geographic Regions**

	Poverty Head count Rate 1995/96, 2003/04, change in percent (A)			Distribution of the poor 1995-96, 2003/04 charge in percent (B)			Distribution of the population 1995-96, 2003/04 charge in percent (C)		
	Nepal	21.6	9.6	-56	3.6	4.7	30	6.9	15
Rural	43.3	34.6	-20	96.4	95.3	-1	93.1	85	-9
Total				100	100		100	100	

NLSS Regions									
Kathmandu	4.3	3.3	-23	0.3	0.6	118	2.6	5.4	110
Other urban	31.6	13	-59	3.3	4.1	23	4.4	9.7	121
R.W. Hill	55	37.4	-32	32.7	23.6	-28	24.8	19.4	-22
R.E. Hill	36.1	42.9	19	19.4	29.4	51	22.4	21.1	-6
R.W. Terai	46.1	38.1	-17	18.4	18.9	3	16.7	15.3	-8
R.E. Terai	37.2	24.9	-33	25.9	23.5	-9	29.1	29.1	0
Total				100	100		100	100	
Development Regions									
Eastern	38.9	29.3	-25	21	23.4	12	22.5	24.7	10
Central	32.5	27.1	-17	26.9	32.2	20	34.6	36.6	6
Western	38.6	27.1	-30	18.7	16.7	-11	20.3	18.9	-7
Mid-Western	59.9	44.8	-25	18.5	17.7	-4	12.9	12.2	-5
Far-western	63.9	41	-36	14.8	9.9	-33	9.7	7.5	23
Total				100	100		100	100	
Ecological belts									
Mountain	57	32.6	-43	10.7	7.5	-30	7.9	7.1	-10
Hill	40.7	34.5	-15	41.9	47.1	13	43	42.1	-2
Terai	40.3	27.6	-32	47.4	45.4	-4	49.2	50.8	3
Nepal	41.8	30.8	-26	100	100	100		100	

Source: Poverty trends in Nepal (2005)

In terms of the distribution of the poor across urban and rural areas, although the poverty rate in urban areas declined almost 3 times faster than it did in rural areas the concentration of the poor in urban areas actually increased from 4 to 5 percent of all poor. This higher concentration is due to a two fold increase in the urban population during the study period.

As per millennium Development Goals Report, people those who line the minimum of their life and earn less then US \$ 1 per day is considered to be poor. Worldwide, the number of people in developing countries living on less than \$ 1 a day was 980 billion in 1990. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly a third to 19 percent over this period. As per the report 24.1 percent of total population in Nepal living on lies than US \$ 1 a day and 68.5 percent of total population are living on less than US \$ 2 a day. (MDG, 2007)

The seventh plan (1985/86/ - 1990/91) made first attempt to formulate a distinct program with a long term perspective for poverty alleviation. The eight plan (1992/93 - 1996/97) and the Ninth plan (1997/98 - 2001/02) specifically had poverty reduction as their main objectives. The ninth plan also established long term targets and development indicators for all sectors based on their potential for alleviating.

In the beginning of 8th plan, 49 percent of the total population lived below the absolute poverty line Nepal living standard survey (NLSS), 1995/96, revealed that the initiatives towards the provision of infrastructure development, social justice and security together with the emphasis on utilization of the privates sector productive capacity helped to bring down the poverty level to 42 percent at the end of plan (NPC, 1992/93, 1996/97).

Poverty alleviation was sole objectives of the ninth plan. The implementation of the Agriculture Prospective Plan (APP) was the major means to alleviate widespread poverty in rural areas. The review of ninth plan includes the analysis on the progress made in poverty alleviation, overall socio-economic development, physical infrastructures development, and sector-wise physical progress. The plan aimed at reducing the poverty level to 32.0 percent during the plan period (NPC 1997/98-2001/2002).

A major element of the poverty reduction strategy of the tenth plan is to close the gap as rapidly as possible by mainstreaming the deprived communities and regions in the development process. It has also the sole objective of poverty alleviation. It targets to reduce the poverty level up to 30 percent at the end of plan period (NPC 2002/03 - 2006/07).

At present, the three year interim plan has set its main goal to prepare a basis for economic and social transformation for building a prosperous, modern and just Nepal. The main objectives of this plan are to realize changes in the life of people by reducing poverty and existing unemployment and establishing sustainable peace. It targets to reduce the poverty level from 31 to 24 percent at the end of three years plan period. A large number of factors are responsible for the cause of poverty in Nepal. Amongst them is low productivity in agriculture, unemployment, illiteracy, high growth rate of population, low calorie intake, lack of basic health facilities, high infant mortality rate and low per capita income. Peace and security are the basic factors of development that affect the whole system of the country (NPC, 2007-2010).

Jain (1981) focused on the various poverty problems in Nepal and recommends some long term policies to reduce it. His study is based on the sample survey done by National Planning Commission. He categorizes the poor people into two groups "poorest of the poor and the poor about poverty line" in the former case he takes the people who have income less than NRs 2 per day in 1971 prices and he calculated that 36.2 percent of the total population falls in this group. In the latter case, there falls the people whose per capita daily income ranges from NRs 2.00 to 2.68 and he estimated that 15.8 percent of the total population lies in this group. Thus 55 percent of total population is poor in Nepal. He recommends some policies for additional income generation in order to raise the living standard of the poor people of Nepal. (Jain, 1981)

Aryal (1994) in his research paper, "Poverty in rural Nepal" has analyzed the nature of poverty problem by establishing relationship with various socioeconomic characteristics, such as level of education, ethnic group and employment. In this study, he used primary data collected in Purn Jhanga Jholi VDC of Sindhuli District. In order to show the incidence of poverty in the study area, he has used various statistical tools such as Gini-coefficient, Lorenz curve, Sen's poverty index, Chi-

square test etc. Break even point is used to determine the wolf point hold and 43.03 percentage of people are absolute poor and 18.57 percentage of households and 16.91 percentage of people re relative poor. (Arayal, 1994)

David Seddon, in his book "Nepal: A State of Poverty" has examined the cause of poverty in Nepal. According to him increasing population agricultural crisis and the wide gap, between rich and poor are the main reasons for poverty. The writer has taken primary data for the analysis of poverty through field survey between 1974 and 1982. The writer has also used secondary data. The writer has given due consideration on the struggle for basic essential of life. Mr. Seddon has recommended some policies giving high emphasis on the role of government (Seddon, 1987).

Anil Prasad Gautam in this study has examined the course of poverty in Nepal. According to him, low rational per capital income and consequently low consumption expenditure heavy unemployment along with misemployment, explosive growth rate of population, inadequities of income regional disparities, in appropriate technology, capital deficiency, selection of wrong investment strategies, lack of education, lack of skill development program and a number of social factors are also responsible (Gautam, 1996).

Sharma (1996) in his study mention that absolute and relative poverty line and measures the extent of poverty. For this purpose, Keynesian consumption function, Lorenz curve, Wolf point, Sen's index, relative earn deviation, Gini coefficient etc. are used as statistical tolls. This study is based on primary data and only 100 households were selected from Panchanagar VDC of Nawalparasi of the time of survey. He has identified the nature of poverty problem by establishing characteristics such as, major occupation, size of land holding, illiteracy, ethnic group etc. The study shows that 60 percent of households and 61.12 percent of sampled population are living below absolute poverty line. Most of the people spent income on liquor consumption, smoking, ambling, cinema and traditional festivals (Sharma, 1996).

The root causes of high variation in poverty in Nepal one economic and social exclusion of women, disadvantage ethnic and caste groups, powerlessness and risks, which mainly derive from socio-economic and natural characteristics and atypical location of the country. Poverty in Nepal varies by geographical, economic and social

factors. They have become the basic factors exploring poverty. On the aggregate although the poverty has decreased over the period from 1995/96 to 2005/04, the decrease was not proportional, across regions, castes and ethnic groups. The World Bank's Nepal Country Assistance Strategy (2004/07) specifically outlines that progress towards attaining the MDGs in Nepal has been slow (World Bank, 2004).

Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) has been established as an autonomous institution, funded by World Bank. The Annual Report 2005/06 of PAF, express that nearly one third of the Nepali population is still living in absolute poverty-deprived of basic amenities of life such as food, clothing, shelter, health, education and drinking water PAF is directly linked with the fourth pillar of the tenth plan/PRSP of government of Nepal that is the "Targeted program" which emphasizes the need for special programs to bring the excluded communities in the mainstream of development. PAF intends to bring prosperity of the poor who are at the bottom of the economic ladder (PAF 2005/06).

Aryal (2007) carried out a study on socio demographic differentials of poverty in Nepal. The main objective of the study was to investigate the socio-demographic differential of poverty at household level. The study revealed that the variables like household size, number of children ages 0-14 years, potential labor force, adult dependency ratio, literacy status and residential status of household were found to be the main differentials of poverty at household level. Poverty incidence was overwhelmingly varied by development regions, eco-bells and rural urban residence with largely scattering. This study further confirms that poverty of Nepal it enormously rural in characteristics (Aryal, 2007).

Asian Development Bank (ADB), in its country operations business plan of Nepal, during 2007. It has expressed the views regarding progress and achievements made by Nepal in the context of recent political and social developments. It started that Nepal has made significant progress in poverty reduction and poverty incidence has declined from 42 percent in 1996 to 31 percent in 2004. However, poverty levels are unevenly distributed among various caste and ethnic groups and by region. For example, poverty in rural areas remains much higher than in urban areas. Despite the decade long complicit, Nepal has also made progress on some of the millennium development goals (MDGs), such as those related to poverty, gender equality,

tuberculosis, and child mortality. Although some improvement has also been made in primary education, material health, and HIV/AIDS, the corresponding MGD targets in these areas are unlikely to be met by 2015. However with the end of the conflict and the peace process in progress, development space has increased considerably in Nepal, and the country has the opportunity to accelerate progress on poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs. (ADB, 2008/2010)

The Human Poverty Index (HPI) for developing countries focuses on the proportion of people below a household level in the some dimensions of human development as the human development index having a long and healthy life, having access to education and a decent standard of living. By looking beyond income deprivation, the HPI represents a multi-dimensional alternative to the \$ 1 a day (PPP US \$) poverty measure. The Human Poverty Index (HPI) is 38.1, which ranks 84th amongst 108 developing countries. The HPI measures severe deprivation in health by the proportion of people who are not expected to survive age 40. Education is measured by the adult illiteracy rate. And a decent standard of living is measured by the un-weighted average of people without access to an improved water source and the proportion of children under age 5 who are underweight for their age. (HDR 2007/08)

Shrestha (2007) analyze and describe the role of energy in rural poverty alleviation. According to the recommendations made in the paper, increase in per capita energy consumption and replacement of conventional energy sources by renewable energy sources geothermal energy and modern application of biomass based energy sources is imperative for reducing rural poverty. The paper also summaries and describe on the state of poverty and energy consumption in Nepal, human development and energy consumption, possibility of replacing conventional energy sources in Nepal and how energy helps to reduce poverty (Shrestha, 2007).

CHAPTER - THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

In this study analytical cum exploratory research design has been used. It makes an attempt to describe and assemble the necessary data to document, nature, dimension and cause of rural poverty. The data were collected mainly of qualitative rather than quantitative in its nature. It is hoped that this research design may fulfill the objectives of the study and this analytical might be helpful in guiding further research in the topic.

3.2 Selection of the Study Area

Sarki community in Sipapokhare VDC, Sindupalchok is selected for the study. The study area comprises ward no. 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 of the VDC. The study area is selected due to following reasons:

- 1) The researcher is better familiar with the area.
- 2) Easy accessibility to the area.
- 3) No such study has been done so far in the area.
- 4) Mobilize within the available limited sources.
- 5) It is important and interested field.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

Present study is based on primary as well as secondary data and qualitative and quantitative data. Primary data were collected from field survey using questionnaire, observation, and interview tools and techniques. Field survey was conducted to the respondents where they were interviewed and filled up questionnaires. Secondary data was collected from, books, journals, dissertation, brochures, newspapers, magazines, reports from ADB, World Bank, Winrock, PAF and other relevant materials available from else where the various websites are also surfed for obtaining data regarding poverty. The institutions and agencies as CBS, NPC, DDC, VDC and local news etc. are visited to get relevant data.

3.4 Sampling Procedure

In total 35.46percent households were taken as samples in this study. Out of 141 households 50 households were selected using simple random sampling methods under the probability sampling. The sampling structure is presented in following table.

Table 3.1: Sampled Sarki Households and Population by Wards & Sex

Ward No.	Total HHs	Total Population	Sampled households	Sampled Population		Total
				Male	Female	
4	15	82	5	12	11	23
5	8	43	3	8	10	18
7	62	338	22	56	59	115
8	40	280	15	43	46	91
9	16	88	5	15	13	28
Total	141	769	50	134	139	273

Source: Field Survey, 2008

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

Different methods of data collection were applied depending on the context and use of procedure. To generate the primary data, the structured questionnaire semi or unstructured interviews and observation as well as focus group discussion methods were applied.

3.5.1 Questionnaire

Structured questionnaire was used to collect the primary data from respondents in the field. Those respondents who could not filled-up their questionnaire themselves were asked their responses and these were recorded by the researcher himself in the field.

3.5.2 Field Visit and Observation

The study area was visited and the condition of people was observed. The photographs show the pictorial representation of the actual ambient situation of the people of Sipapokhare VDC the researcher himself observed user's daily activities, attitudes, behaviors and the conditions. And other activities of the study population

were observed minutely while staying in the field. The practical aspect of the people which was far from oral behavior has also been captured by observations. House construction, living condition, condition of rural poor were also observed.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interview

Unstructured interview was taken to those people of the field who are actually key and responsible for the several actions of the area and topic of concern. The key informants were interviewed on the nature and dimension of rural poverty. The key informants were social workers, teachers, knowledgeable person and people involved in development activities.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

The focus group discussion is used in Sarki community with the participation of women, men, and disadvantage groups. The discussion focused more on cause of poverty, issues, challenges and possible method for minimizing their poverty.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

After collecting the data from field area the raw data were coded, edited and quantitative data were tabulated, some of them were presented in pie charts bar-diagrams for the visible analysis of data by the help of computer software such as MS-Word and MS-Excel. In the case of qualitative data these were analyzed descriptively in the paragraphs.

CHAPTER - FOUR

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

4.1 Introduction of Sindhupalchok District

Sindhupalchok district is a Himalayan district. It occupies 1.73 percent of the total land of Nepal and it is the biggest district of central development regions. It lies on 27°26' North to 27°12' Northern longitude and 85°26' East to 86°4' East latitude. The total area of the district is 2542 sq.km. This district is touched with China and Dolakha in the east, Kathmandu and Nuwakot in the west, China and Rasuwa in the North and Kavre and Ramechhap in the south. Sindhupalchok district has capability to compete with other districts in the matter of Natural resources. "Tatopani Dhara" Lamtang National Park, Helambu, Bhotekoshi rafting and Bungee jumping are the chief centers for internal and external tourism. Sindhupalchok district is situated in the range of 2450 ft. to 23238 ft. from the sea level mainly Sunkoshi, Bhotekoshi, Balefe, Indrawati and Melamchi are the main rivers of this district.

There are three electoral sectors, 13 Elakas and 79 VDCs in this district. Sindhupalchok district has the majority of ethnic groups (mainly Tamang). Even though this district is very near from capital city Kathmandu. Many people are forced to survive under the line of poverty concept of social evil forms like caste division, untouchability are deep rooted in this district. Farmers are using traditional Agriculture system. Sindhupalchok is far behind in the case of education, health and transportation.

4.2 Demographic Status of Sindhupalchok District

Table 4.1 : Demographic Status of Sindhupalchok District

S.No.	Name	Number/Percentage/rate
1	Total Population	341828
2	Male	170472 (49.88percent)
3	Female	171356 (50.12percent)
4	Average Family Size	5.44
5	Literacy Rate	40.6 percent
6	Male (Literacy Rate)	51.8 percent
7	Female (Literacy Rate)	29.5 percent
8	Poverty	37.0 percent
9	Total Agriculture Land	33245 ha
10	Population Density	120.32 per km ²
11	Total Area	2542 km ²
12	Dependency Ratio	90.22
13	Dalit Population	7.02 percent
14	Occupation (Agriculture)	84.48 (HHs)

Source : DDC Profile, 2064

In this district, out of total population there are 49.88 percent male and 50.12 percent female. Average family number is 5.44. In comparison to the National educational condition this district has very poor status. 37.0 percent of people out of total population are under the line of poverty and majority of people are engaged in farming. There are 7.02 percent of Dalit out of total population.

4.3 Caste/Ethnic Distribution of Total Population in Sindhupalchok

Table 4.2: Caste/Ethnic Distribution of Total Population in Sindhupalchok

S.No.	Caste	Population	Percentage
1	Tamang	94614	32.21
2	Chhetri	55199	18.79
3	Newar	33924	11.55
4	Brahmin	33724	11.48
5	Sherpa	15852	5.4
6	Sanyasi	10775	3.6
7	Kami	10762	3.6
8	Majhi	5096	1.63
9	Magar	4578	1.56
10	Gurung	4561	1.55
11	Damai	4234	1.44
12	Thami	3993	1.36
13	Sarki	3600	1.23
14	Other (Out of 58 caste)	64918	18.99
Total	71 Caste	341828	100

Source : DDC Profile, 2064

This district has the majority of ethnic peoples 57.85 percent of total population is occupied by the ethnic groups. Tamang, Newar, Sherpa, Magar, Gurung, Majhi etc are the major ethnic groups of this district. Only 34.49 percent is occupied by Brahmin and Chhetri while talking about Dalit population it occupied 7.02 percent of the total population. Inside Dalit there is majority of Kami caste group. They occupy 3.6 percent of the total population of Dalit. While Sarki community occupies 1.32 percent . In this way this district has unequal distribution of ethnic population.

4.4 Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Nepalese Society

The caste and race is very famous in Nepalese society. According to national census 2001. There are various caste areas and among them about 13.07 percent are Dalit. It means that community which is neglected by society and marginalized by the state. The Dalit caste is categorized on the following headings.

Table 4.3 : Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Nepalese Society

S. No.	Caste	Population	Male	Female	Percent
1	Kami	895954	432937	643017	3.94
2	Damai	390305	188329	201976	1.72
3	Sarki	318989	153681	165308	1.40
4	Chamar	269661	138878	130783	1.19
5	Mushahar	172454	88041	84393	0.76
6	Dissuade	18525	52173	76352	0.75
7	Sonara	145088	72331	72787	0.74
8	Lohar	82637	42270	40367	0.36
9	Tatme	76512	39606	36906	0.34
10	Khapte	74972	38643	36329	0.33
11	Dhoti	73413	38350	35063	0.32
12	Shatar	42698	21515	21183	0.19
13	Bantar	35839	18139	17700	0.16
14	Chidimar	12296	6516	5780	0.05
15	Dom	8931	4631	4300	0.04
16	Gaine	5887	2857	3030	0.03
17	Badi	4442	2152	2290	0.02
18	Halkhor	3621	1848	1776	0.02
19	Pathar Katta	552	286	266	0.01
20	Undefined Dalit	173401	85063	8838	0.76
21	Total	2946157	1458246	1487911	13.07

Source : CBS, 2064

Table shows that total Dalit are 2946157 which male are 1458246 and female are 1487911 in Nepal in the year 2058. This covers 13.07 percent of the total population. Among them Kami, Damai, Sarki and Bantar are highly spread all over the country. The table decoct that patharkatta are in negligible percent.

4.5 Study area Description

There are 79 VDCs in Sindhupalchok district and Sipapokhare is one of them. The total area is 10.6 sq.km. This VDC is neither rich nor poor in natural resources. It is bounded by Kunchowk and Bhotsipa VDCs in the east, Bandegaun and Indrawati river in the west, Badegaun in North and Bhimtar in the south. Thulikhola and Sisnekhola are the main rivers of this VDCs while talking about forest there are twelve community forests. In the sector of education there is one higher secondary school, one lower secondary and 10 primary schools. One sub-health post, one police station, three NGOs, two women co-operative, eight milk production co-operatives, two saving and credit co-operatives limited and one junior Red-cross circle are other facilities while are giving services to the people in this VDC. Traditional values and beliefs are deep rooted in this VDCs. Even though people have traditional and conservative thinking the concept of untouchability is being common among the people looking to population distribution. There is the majority of Brahmins community and Tamang and Sarki respectively. Except farming there is no any other sources of income. In side farming - wheat, maize, rice are the chief crops of this VDCs Animal husbandry is also another minor source of income, but there is no any professionalism on any sector. Even though there is one muddy road, it is not utilized properly. Labour and wages, overseas employment and few numbers of government services are another sources of income on which people have to fulfill their daily and basic needs.

4.6 Demographic Status of Sipapokhare

According to Sipapokhare VDC. office register 2064. The total population of this VDC. is 4938 out of which 2468 are male and 2470 are females. The total household are 835. Table 4 present the ward-wise and sex-wise distribution of population of study area.

Table 4.4 : Demographic Status of Sipapokhare VDC

Ward No.	Total HHs	Male	Female	Total Population
1	120	363	355	719
2	192	602	580	1182
3	65	174	173	347
4	71	202	199	401
5	68	193	210	403
6	39	109	104	213
7	108	306	303	609
8	84	236	255	491
9	106	283	291	573
Total	853	2468	2470	4938

Source : VDC Office record, 2064

This table show that the total population of the study area is 4938 (according to VDC record 2064). In the study area population of female is greater than population of male. The total household are 853, among them ward no. 2 has 192 houses which is the biggest and ward no 6 has 39 households which is smallest ward. Average family size is 5.78 per household.

4.7 Caste/Ethnic Distribution of Total Population in Sipapokhare VDC in Sindhupalchok District

Table 4.5 : Caste/Ethnic Distribution of Total Population

S.No.	Caste/Ethnic Group	Total Population	percent of Total Pop ⁿ
1	Brahman	1174	23.77
2	Chhetri	1090	22.07
3	Tamang	872	17.65
4	Newar	788	15.95
5	Sarki	635	12.85
6	Kami	142	2.87
7	Damai	100	2.02
8	Sonar	40	0.81
9	Magar	32	0.64
10	Thakuri	28	0.56
11	Un-identify	18	0.36
12	Other	11	0.22
13	Bhujel	8	0.16
Total		4938	100

Source : VDC Office record, 2064

This table shows that the total population is 4938 in sipapokhare VDC. The cast wise distribution of total population, Brahman 23.77 percent Chhetri 22.07 percent, Tamang 17.65 percent, Newar 15.95 percent, Sarki 12.85 percent, Kami 2.87 percent, Damai 2.01 percent, Sonar 0.81 percent, Magar 0.64 percent, Thakuri 0.56 percent, un-identify caste 0.36 percent, Bhujel 0.16 percent and other 0.22 percent the total population of Sipapokhare VDC.

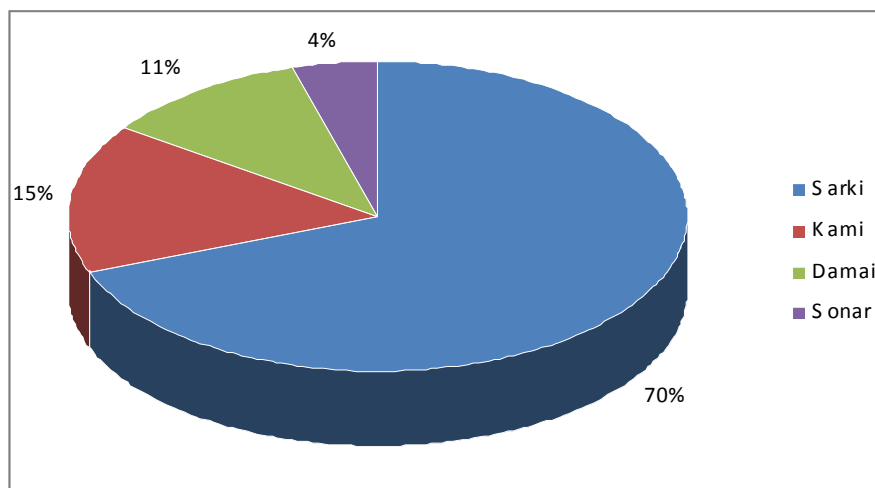
4.8 Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Sipapokhare VDC in Sindhupalchok

Table 4.6 : Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Sipapokhare

S.No.	Caste	Population	Percent
1	Sarki	635	69.24
2	Kami	142	15.48
3	Damai	100	10.90
4	Sonar	40	4.36
Total		917	100

Source : VDC Office record, 2064

Figure 3 : Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Sipapokhare



Sindhupalchok is one of the least developed district of Nepal. There are different types of community i.e. Brahman, Chhetri, Tamang, Newar, Sarki etc. Among them Sarki have very poor condition because they are known as untouchable in the society. Most of them are involved in seasonal migrant work. Therefore, they can only maintain poor subsistence level.

Table shows that total Dalit are 917 in sipapokhare VDC. The caste wise distribution of Dalit community, Sarki 63.24 percent, Kami 15.48 percent, Damai 10.90 percent and sonar 4.36 percent, the total population of Dalit. This Dalit population covers 18.56 percent of the total population of sipapokhare VDC.

4.9 Socio-Economic Condition of Sarki Community in Sipapokhare VDC.

The main occupation of the people of this VDC. is agriculture 85 percent of people are engaged in agricultural work but professional agriculture train has not been starts yet only 10 percent people are engaged in job. Among them 5 percent are in overseas employment, 3 percent are in business and other social work activities. Wage and labour is another source of this people. Mainly people work for six months in their field and do other activities i.e. wage and labour for six months. The number of economically active population is 71.04 percent. In this VDC. 28 percent female and 43 percent male are literate. As a whole, this VDC. has only 35 percent literacy rate. In comparison to district and nation this is very low number of literacy rate. While talking about population density, there are 456 members per one sq. km in this VDC. This is also one of the good example of dense population in hilly region.

Multi caste group people are living together in this VDC. All people live in their own caste group. Among them Sarki is also one of them. Mainly in ward no. 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 have thick population of Sarki people. Sarki village are built in narrow and slope lands. Due to the concept of untouchability they are prohibited to touch water, good and also to enter other caste people (so called high caste group). Inside Sarki there are many other sub divisions, such as Rokka, Bayalkoti, Bishunkhe etc. School is very near from their community but their children do not go to school regularly even though they have done admission in school. People of this community starts to drink alcohol and Cigarette at the age of 14-15 so it has given bad impact to the children. Even though their production easily sets market they have very poor living standard in comparison to other caste. Their neatness and house structure are showing these things very clearly. Every Sarki community has same condition. They do not have any role in decision making. By household are doing leather work and their economic status is also somehow good.

CHAPTER - FIVE

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Poverty is a multidimensional and multi-sectoral phenomenon. There are several views on poverty expressed by different writers and researcher most of them, however, state that rural poverty is characterized by a small land holding, low income and a substance oriented approach to agriculture. As someone talks about the poverty problems in Nepal, it implies rural poverty and hence it has a link with land ownership because land is the most important source of rural income and status. The dynamic of poverty, inequality and nutritional deficiencies are related to each other through complex chain of interaction. Each of there phenomenon's reinforces the other and they are all influenced of the same time by a number of other socio-economic parameters.

In this chapter the nature, causes of poverty and it's relation with other variable such as education, income size of landholding etc. are taken into consideration regarding this problem. We know that poverty has a strong correlation with the socio-economic structure of Sarki community in Sipapokhare VDC. Sindhupalchok District.

5.1 Demographic Status

Out of 141 households of the Sarki caste of the VDC, 50 households were been selected for field survey. The selection of sample households in each ward is made on the basis of probability proportional to size. The table presents the ward wise and sex wise distribution of sample households and population.

Table 5.1 : Total Population of Sampling Households

S.N.	Ward	HHs	Male	Female	Total Pop
1	4	5	12	11	23
2	5	3	8	10	18
3	7	22	56	59	115
4	8	15	43	46	91
5	9	5	15	13	28
Total		50	134	139	273

5.2 Age and Sex Status of the Sample Households

Age group shows the financial, economic and health condition of this place. Age group plays the role of development index of each country to know the condition or progress of the development we should know what percentage of total population does 7-14 age group occupy and from the study of 7-14 age group we can also find out in which rate human developing is taking place. If there is high number of people between 14-49 age group we can easily say that their economical activities runs in smooth and progressive way. But if there is high number of dependent population the society should face the poverty.

According to age and sex study of area selection the population structure is as below :

Table 5.2: Population by 5 years Age Group and Sex

Age Group	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total Pop	Total percent
Below 14	56	41.79	62	44.60	118	43.22
14-59	70	52.23	71	51.07	141	51.64
60 +	8	5.97	6	4.31	14	2.12
Total	134	100	139	100	273	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Figure. 4: Population by Age Group and Sex

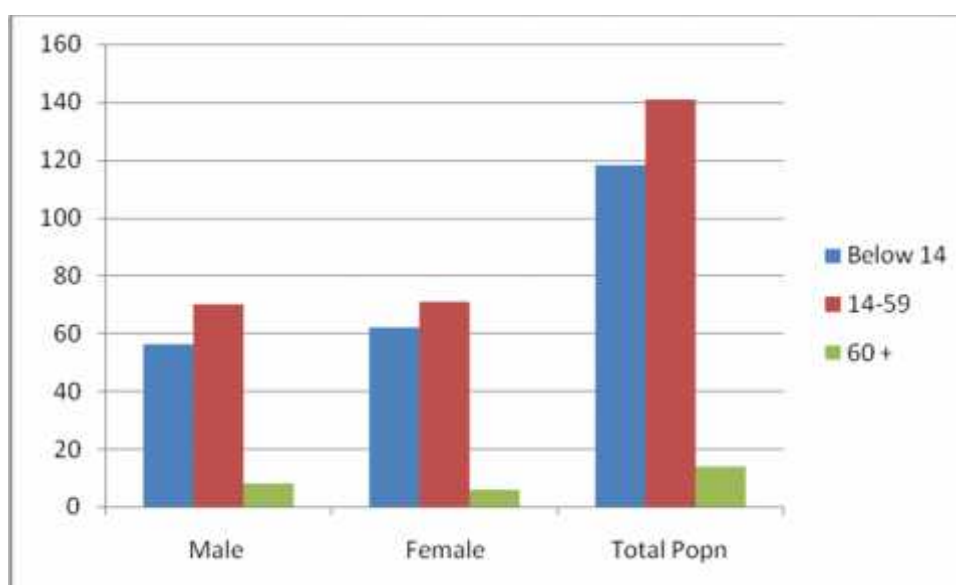


Table 5.2 shows that out of total sampled population 43.22 percent are below 14 years, 51.64 belong to the age group of 14-59 years. In the same way 5.12 percentage people are above 60 years. It indicates that, in the study area high percentage of people are economically active. It means 48.32 percent Sarki people are regarded as economically dependent population. Here, below 14 years age group is considered as child and above 60 years indicate the retired life.

5.3 Housing Pattern of Sampling Households

House is a basic need on important indicator of measurement of poverty level. If people have modern houses we can easily assume that they are rich. But if they have unscientific and unhygienic houses we can understand that there are poor. So, there is a relationship between housing pattern and poverty. If people have good houses they are rich and of they have small houses they relatively poor.

Table 5.3: Types of House among the Respondents

Types House	Number	Percentage
Hut and tiled roof	26	52
Small huts	24	48
Concrete	-	0
Total	50	100 percent

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Figure. 5 : Types of House among the Respondents

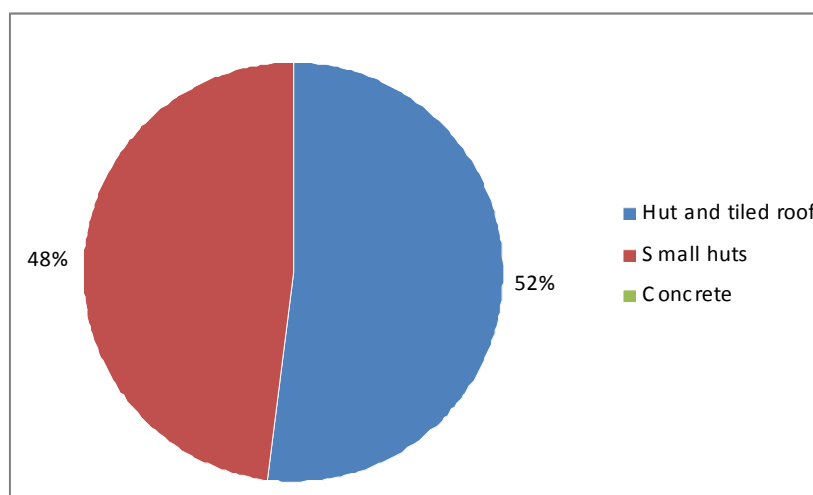


Table no 5.3 Shows that, so 52 percent of the sampled households have hut and tiled roof house, 48 percent have small huts, house and 0 percent have concrete house.

Sarki's settlement was separate from that of other castes groups. Their settlements were either isolate or in periphery of village in agglomerated condition. Their locality was generally known as 'Sarki Gaun" meaning, locality of the Sarki. The house were found simple and unmanaged mode by locally available materials like bamboo, hay, straw rope, mud etc.

5.4 Distribution of Household by Family Size

Household size also determines the level of income and the degree of poverty. It can play the positive as well as negative role for income and expenditure. If all households members are skilled and employed, the role will be positive and the household members are unemployed, there will be a high dependency ratio and thus negative impact on the income level and so the poverty.

Table 5.4: Distribution of HHs by Family Size

S.N.	Family Size	No. of HHs	Percentage
1	1-3	6	12
2	4-6	29	58
3	7-10	14	28
4	11 above	1	2
	Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Figure 6 : Distribution of HHs by Family Size

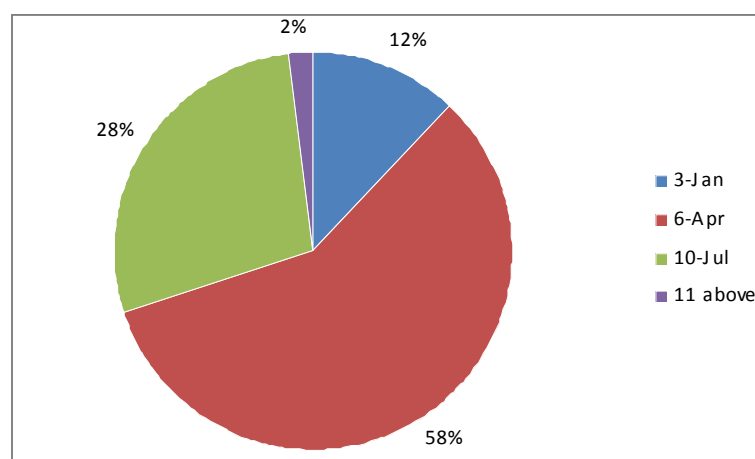


Table 5.4 indicates clearly that most of the households have 4 to 6 members due to joint family structure as well as ineffective family planning program. Similarly, the religious duties and attitude of the people is that without son they could not enter in to the heaven after death, which leads the family in large size. The average family is 5.46 people per household.

5.5 Education Status

Sarki community is very back-warded in the field of education. Most of Sarki are uneducated. They are unable to get the opportunity of education. Table 5.5 shows the educational status of sampled population.

Table 5.5: Percentage Distribution of the Education Status of Sample Population by Sex of Sarki

Education Status	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total Pop ⁿ	Percentage Pop ⁿ
Illiterate	31	23.13	48	34.53	79	28.95
Literate	93	69.40	90	64.75	183	67.03
Secondary Level	7	5.23	-	-	7	2.56
Higher Education	3	2.24	1	0.72	4	1.46
Total	134	100	139	100	273	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Sarki people are in very poor condition of education. Even though literacy rate is seen high maximum literate people can only do simple calculations and write their names. In the case of literate people male belongs 69.40 percent and women belongs 64.75 percent. Through informal education they are capable to write their names but they do not have attended the formal classes. The number of female is greater than male who can't even write their names. While talking about percentage 23.13 percentages male and 34.53 percentages female can't write their name properly. There is very less number of people who have completed secondary level education (5.23 percent male and 0 percentage female). There are three males and one female who

have completed their higher secondary education. So, from this data we can say that this Sarki community is very back in education sector.

Maximum numbers of Sarki people are engaged in labor works the main cause of it is the low educational status. And those who are economically fit are interested in higher education. Even though now all children are admitted in school but they do not have attended class regularly.

5.6 Occupational Status

There is a relationship between the occupational status and poverty. Sarki community have adopted various types of occupation like agriculture, wage labor, animal husbandry and services etc. out of all there occupation they give more preference to agriculture. As Nepal is an agricultural country. So, most of the people depend on subsistence agriculture as their main source of economy. They grow various types of crops, like maize, millet, wheat, paddy, potato, ginger, turmeric etc. Except these, only few respondents are engaged in the cash crop products to gain income but it is very little contribution for their economy.

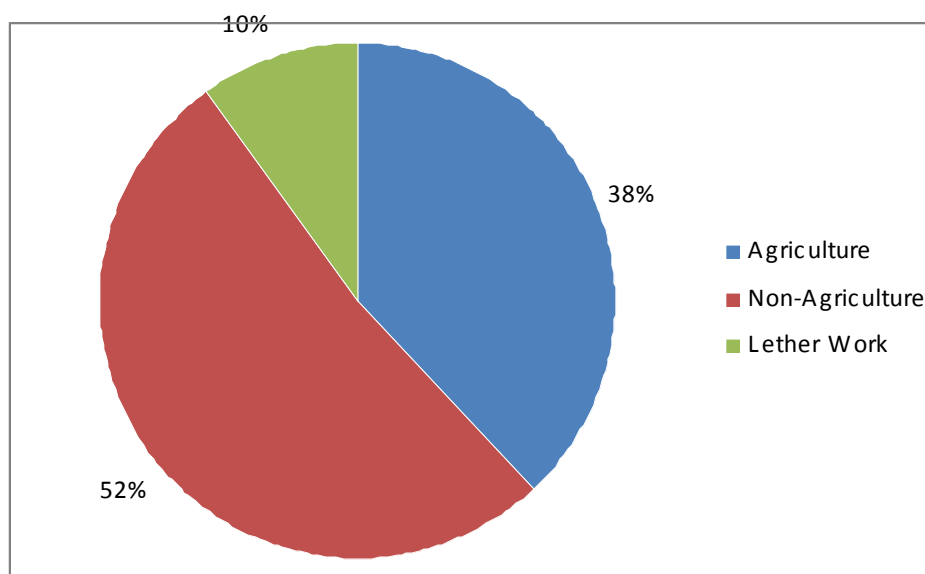
An individual's occupation plays crucial role in determining his economic status. In other words the income levels of every households or individuals are highly influenced by the main occupation in which they are involved. The largest presented of people in the study area is engaged in agricultural and wage labor, and it is their main occupation due to low productivity of land small size of land holding etc their income is low. The following table shows the occupational status.

Table 5.6 : Occupational Structure of Total Household

S.No.	Occupation	Number	Percentage
1	Agriculture	19	38
2	Non-Agriculture	26	52
3	Leather Work	5	10
	Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Figure 7: Occupational Status



In general, despite of the occupation of Sarki recognized by their caste table 5.6 shows that non-agriculture is main occupation in the study area. About 52 percentages of the households depend on the non-agriculture (labour, foreign labour, business etc) sector. Agriculture sector are involved 38 percent of total household and only 10 percent household involved in their traditional leather work. The main crops of this region are corn, paddy, wheat and barley. It is planted in 2 times in a year the khet and one times as the bari. The structure of land of these Sarki is not favorable for agriculture. Small land is plain and other more land is slope. Irrigation facility is not provided. Rest lands are fully depends upon monsoon.

5.7 Landholding Size by Sample Households

Nepal is primarily an agricultural country. More than 78 percent of the economically active population in Nepal is estimated to be involved in agriculture. Land is the major factor of production which determines the possibility of the quality as well as quantity of output. Therefore land is a very important matter for a study concerning rural poverty. Land differs in quality. Not all area of land is equally valuable and productive. Some parts and kinds of land have more value in use than others and therefore a fair distribution of those types of land is very important for poverty alleviation. In general there is positive relationship between landholding and level of income. Most of the people in rural area are poor due to their landlessness or

insufficient land to generate income. The following table shows the nature of landholding according to categorized households of the study area.

Table 5.7: Distribution of Land-holding of Sampled Households

S.No.	Size of Land (Ropani)	Total HHs	Total Percentage
1	1-3	7	14
2	4-6	14	28
3	7-9	9	18
4	10-12	8	16
5	Above 13	9	18
6	Landless	3	6
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey 2008

Table 5.7 shows that 7 households have up to 1-3 Ropani 14 percent of the total land. Like that 28 percent household occupied only 4-6 Ropani. These types of farmer are known as marginal farmers. 18 percent households have occupied 7-9 Ropani. 16 percent have household occupied 10-12 Ropani and 18 percent households occupied 13+ Ropani. These two types of land 10-12 and above 13 Ropani which is sufficient if it is compared with the family size. It is proved that the increasing in the land asset decreases the below poverty line. So, land holding can be taken as one of major determinant of poverty from above table. The table further shows that 6 percent households are landless in the study area. Most of those landless households even do not have any land for house. These people earn their livelihood through their wage labor. The condition of those households who belong to 1 to 7 Ropani of agriculture land are comparatively very poor and condition is very pathetic.

5.8 Sources of Income

The main income source of the people of study area is agriculture, wage labor, leather work and foreign employment. Thus the present study concentrated on the different source of income of Sarki community is shown in the below table.

Table 5.8 : Source of Income of Total Household (Per Year)

S.No.	Source of Income	HHs	percent	Total Income	percent	Average Income
1	Agriculture	19	38	877000	37.28	46157
2	Wage labor	18	36	715000	30.39	39722
3	Leather Work	5	10	250000	10.64	50000
4	Abroad/Remittance	8	16	510000	21.69	63750
Total		50	100	2352000	100	47040

Source : Field Survey, 2008

Figure 8 : Source of Income of Total Household (Per Year)

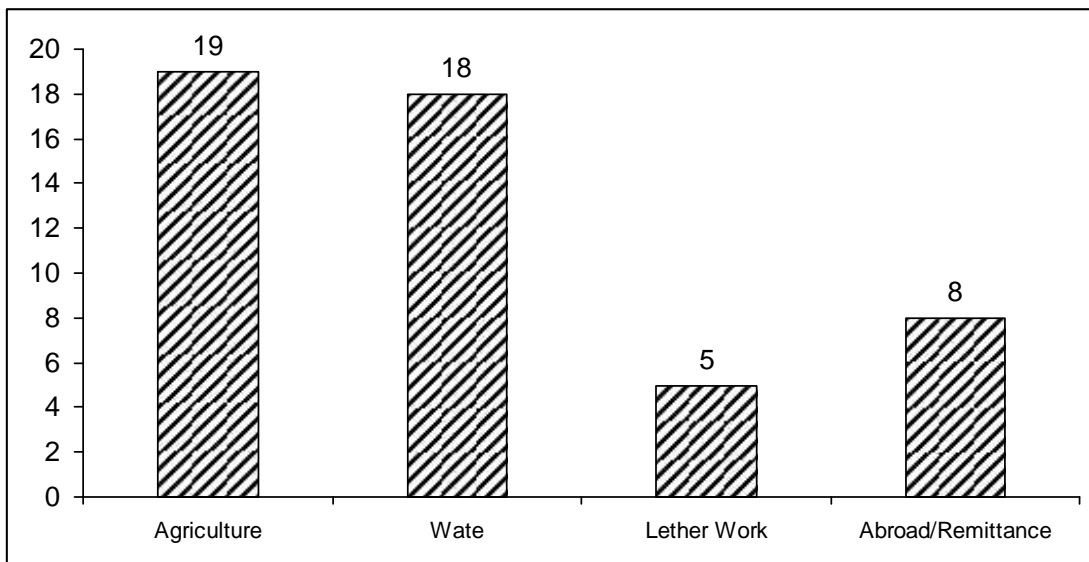


Table 5.8 shows that Sarki are able to earn 37.28 percent income by agriculture sector and 30.39 percent of income by agriculture sector and 30.39 percent of income from wage (Agriculture, Non Agriculture, labour) 70.64 percent income to be Sarkis leather work. It is clear that their income is from abroad is 21.69 percent. Therefore, majority of total populations' income source is non-agriculture sector. The table further shows that high average income source is foreign employment and low average income source is wage labor.

5.9 Source of Loan of Sample Household

Sarki community of the study area has been found to be backward, using within the vicious circle of poverty. They have been unable to fulfill the basic

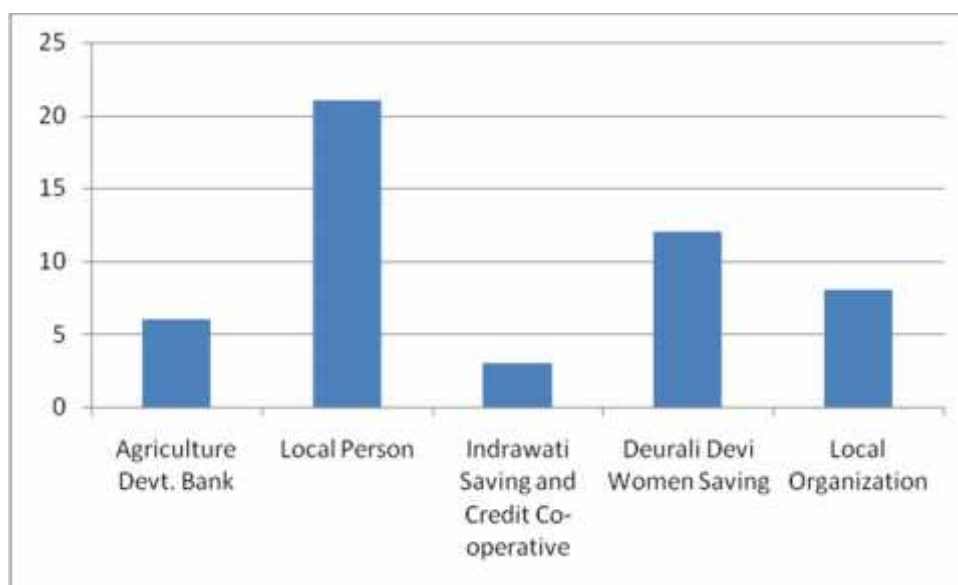
requirements for all seasons. Thus, they have been preferred following sources of credit for loan purpose.

Table 5.9 : Source of Loan of Sample Household

S.No.	Source	Number	Percentage
1	Agriculture Devt. Bank	6	12
2	Local Person	21	42
3	Indrawati Saving and Credit Co-operative	3	6
4	Deurali Devi Women Saving	12	24
5	Local Organization	8	16
Total		50	100

Source : Field Survey, 2008

Figure. 9: Source of Loan of Sample Households



The table shows that 42 percent people take loan from local person, 12 percent people from Agriculture Devt. Bank, 6 percent people from Indrawati Saving and Credit Co-operative Limited, 24 percent people from Deurali Devi Women Saving, and 16 percent people from local organizations (User groups, production groups etc). These are the formal loan taking institutions in the study area but majority of the people of the area borrow money from local money lenders which is very easy due to the free of collateral to take this.

5.10 Food Available Pattern of Study Area

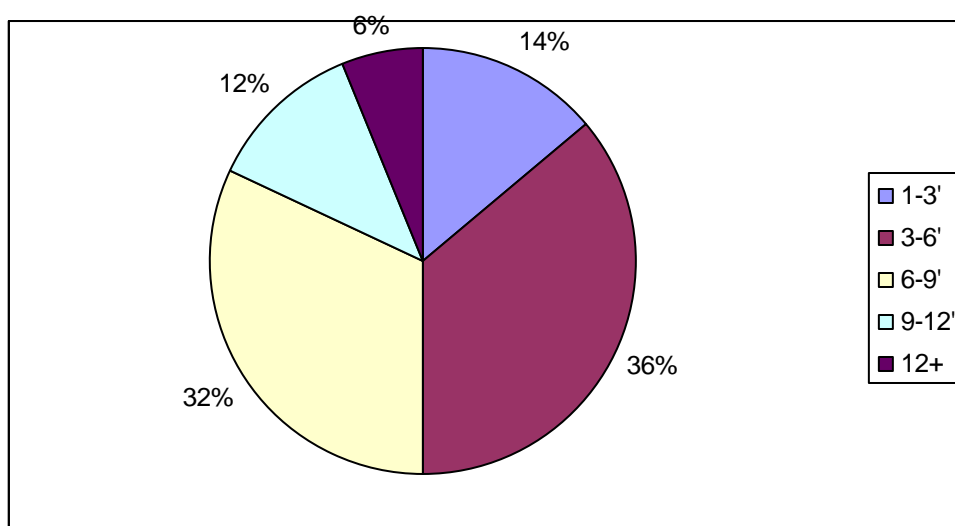
Sarki people are far behind in each and every sector of the society. They do not have proper nutritious food. They can't eat sufficient food from their own production. Due to slope land and lack of proper irrigation system they have less production in their available lands that's why they can't fulfill their hungry belly properly from their own production. Following table shows the food available pattern of study area.

Table 5.10 : Food Available Pattern of Study Area

S.No.	Food Available (Months)	HHs	Percentage
1	1-3	7	14
2	3-6	18	36
3	6-9	16	32
4	9-12	6	12
5	12+	3	6
Total		50	100

Source : Field Survey, 2008

Figure 10 : Food Available Pattern of Study Area



There is only 6 percent of total Sarki people who have enough good to eat and also can save some amounts of food from their own production more than 12 months. 12 percent of people have enough food for 12 months where as 32 percent of people

have enough food only for 9 months. And 36 percent of people can eat only for six months as their own production. Now remaining 14 percent people have enough food for 3 months only. In this way, even though they work hard to grow crops they can not fulfill their hungry belly nicely and this is also one of the major reasons behind their passive participation in development activities. Mainly, they invest their time in had labor for their food.

5.11 Health Facility Using Pattern

Health service is also one of the factors of poverty index. In this scientific age there is massive progress in health sector but till now people of country like Nepal are not getting health facility properly. Due to poverty many people are dying untimely and there is also belief in Dhami & Jhakri. So, marginalized people like Sarki have poor health condition.

Table 5.11 : Health Facility Using Pattern

S.No.	Institution	Maternal Health Users		Other Health Service User	
		HHs No.	Percentage	HHs	Percentage
1	Hospital	8	16	21	42
2	Health Post	2	4	18	36
3	Clinic	-	-	1	2
4	Dhami & Jhakri	9	18	10	20
5	Sudeni	31	62	-	-

Source : Field Survey, 2008

Till now Sarki people have strong belief on traditional health services. For delivery case only 16 percent go to hospital and 18 percent take the facility from Dhamis & Jhakris. 62 percent people take the facility from midwife workers (Sudeni). So this shows the poor condition of people. But if they are economically capable they would go to the hospital for other treatment also they do not go to the hospital rather they consult with Dhamis and Jhakris. So, we can say that health condition of this community is very poor.

5.12 Income and Expenditure Analysis of the Study Area

The principal sources of income and expenditure in the Sarki community include agricultural and non-agricultural sources. Agricultural income sources include the production of crops and livestock whereas non-farm income sources include wage labor in the market, and industries. The observed status of the income and expenditure in the Sarki community has been presented and analyzed from the folk perspectives. The annual per capita income of Sarki of the study area was calculated. The per capita income of Sarki of the area has found NRs. 47040 (Per HHs). Similarly the annual per capita expenditure of Sarki community of the area with total population of 50 HHs was calculated and it has found NRs. 48260 the annual saving per HHs was calculated and found negative. The average credit per household was also calculated and was found to be NRs. 7760. (Appendix - 2)

The data has shown that there is not too much low income and saving. There has also found that no much credit per household. These all have indicated not sever poverty. But the Sarki of the study area has been facing the vicious circle of poverty. The main causes have been found to be their drinking habit and lack of access to credit providing formal institutions like Banks.

The Sarki of the area have found to be expending most of their income on wine, health and festival and Jatra. Although the figure has shown good saving, but they have not saved and all of it and even more than, it spend on un-productive i.e. drinking of wine, gambling etc.

Most of Sarkis of the study area have been found to be un-productive and Pakho land. So they have not been able to borrow the lone in one hand and rich people of the territory have not also believed on them for credit. (Appendix - 2)

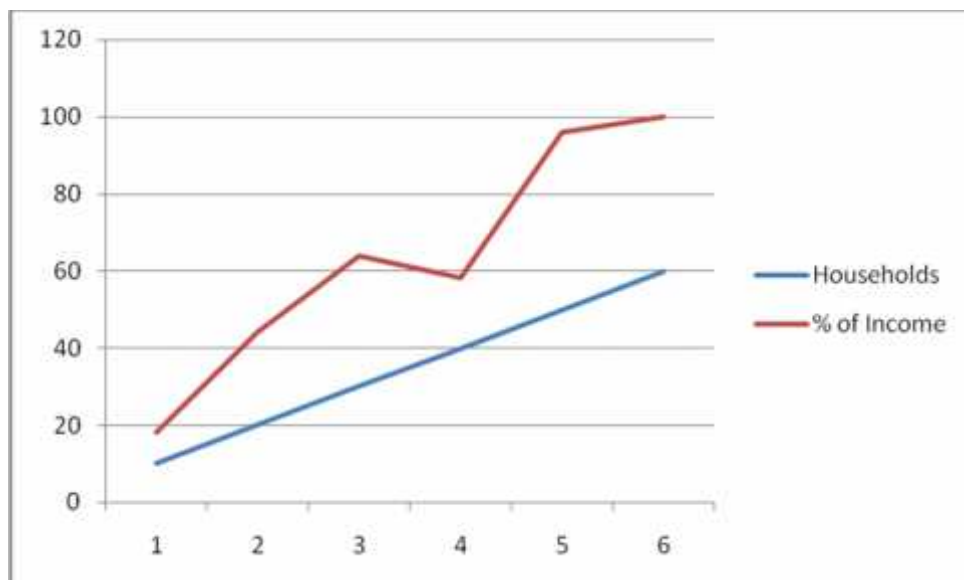
Table 5.12 : Income Distribution Among Sampled HHs per capita by Deciles group

Income Group (000)	Mid value (y)	Cum mid value	percent of mid value	No. of HHs (x)	Cumulative (x)	percent cum x
0-20	10	10	2.77	9	9	18
20-40	30	40	11.11	13	22	44
40-60	50	90	25	15	37	64
60-80	710	160	44.44	7	44	58
80-100	90	250	69.44	4	48	96
100-120	110	360	100	2	50	100

Source : Field Survey, 2008

The table 5.12 shows that 18 percent household earn only 2.77 percent of the total income where as 0.16 percent top income household receives 9.14 percent of total 4 percent household (2 HHs). This indicates that, there is high disparity in the income distributions among the Sarki households.

Figure. 11 : Income Distributions among Sample HHs



The Lorenz curve shows the difference between equal distribution of income and actual distribution of income. The area between Lorenz curve and the line of equal distribution is known as the area of concentration. The basic notion is that the greater the area of concentration, the larger magnitude of income inequality & vice-versa. The Lorenz curve shows inequality of income distribution.

5.13 Causes of Poverty among Sarki Community

The following are the main causes of poverty in the Sarki community. Findings from the field study.

- ❖ **Landlessness:** in the study area size of land holding of poor is very small than non-poor. There are 98 percent households but their average land (Pakho, Bari, Khet) are 9.58 percent Ropani in the study area.
- ❖ **Indebtedness:** low landholding, un-productive landholding poor people have problem in getting institutional loans because of the lack of collateral. Through different rural credit programs without collateral provision such as providing group loan. But these programs have not yet brought all poor household within the focus groups of their programs consequently poor households are bound to borrow money from local person, businessmen, etc. The rate of interest on their loan is very high generally ranging from 30 to 45 percent per year. It shows average 7500 credit per year per household.
- ❖ **Lack of Education:** literacy rate is one of the determinants of poverty which also contributes to make people poor especially of income poor. It is because high rate of illiteracy among poor causes them seeking lower wage labor. Consequently, the cycle of lower level of education, then lower paid job, then lower level of income, then lower investment on education, again low level of education and lower level of income keep poor people in vicious circle of poverty.
- ❖ **Cultural practices:** many cultural practices induce Sarki people towards poverty. Sarki spend big amount of money for their daughter marriage, birth festival and drinking wine.
- ❖ **Low wage rate:** Sarki men earn NRs. 90 to 110 per day without lunch. Similarly the Sarki women earn about NRs 60 to 80 with one time breakfast.

As the rate of market is rising by day, it is difficult for them to solve even the hand to mouth problem.

5.14 Causes of Non-Participation of Development

In general the term participation means the insightful involvement of local people. In broad since it is the process of qualitative and quantitative involvement of stakeholder in all steps of project like need identification, planning, and decision making process, implementation, benefit sharing and monitoring and evaluation. Participation is the right of people to involve in economic socio-cultural and political etc. field without obstacle. Following causes have been found responsible for non-participation of Sarki community in development activities.

Table 5.14: Causes of Non-Participation in Development

S.No.	Causes	Number	Percentage
1	Uneducated	24	48
2	No interest	12	24
3	No one informs	10	20
4	Dalit	4	8
Total		50	100

Source : Field Survey, 2008

From the table 5.14, it is concluded that 48 percent uneducated, 24 percent of people no interest, 20 percent no one informs and 8 percentage people Dalit, the causes of non-participation of development activities.

5.15 Causes of Backwardness of Sarki

Most of Sarki of Sipapokhare have been found to be backwarded from generation to generation in one hand and backwardness has been also found to be accelerated by indebtedness avoid in developmental activities by elite class in other hand.

5.15.1 Causes of Economic Backwardness

Economic of the community plays a significant role in the development of the community including its inhabitants. The other factors that influence the economy are the political aspect education and the socio-economic aspect. The major causes of economic backwardness of the Sarki observed were follows.

5.15.2 Economic Causes

A) *Low Productive Land*

Productive land is engine of economic growth; it gives support in management of family affairs. But 90 percent Sarkis' ownership land is non-productive land. So it was one of the factors of their economic backwardness.

B) *Low Wage Rate*

High income work fulfills the family needs easily. Sarki only get Rs. 90-110 per day as their wage rate. As the rate of market is rising by day to day, it is difficult for them to solve even the hand to mouth problem. They can not think about other necessities expect simple daily meals.

C) *No Livestock Rearing*

The study has revealed that 65 percent Sarki people have not practiced livestock rearing. Many people earn much from livestock keeping. They solve their problem through big business deals of lakh, but it was not found in the study area.

5.15.3 Educational Causes

A) *Illiteracy*

Education is the way towards success and beautiful life but 28.95 percent people were found to be illiterate in the study area. This had made them far from the opportunities.

B) *No Technical Education*

Technical education (leather work, plumbing, wood work etc.) helps to get jobs easily but in the study area the respondents were found lacking technical education. While interviewing them about education no one had any technical education.

C) *Lack of Awareness*

Through survey, it was also found that the respondents were not well aware about education, politics, health and sanitation. This has compelled them to make compromises like missing of opportunities and sometimes contract diseases.

5.15.4 Social Causes

A) *Caste Discrimination*

Caste discrimination on the basis of traditional caste hierarchy is a vital cause of backward in Dalit community. It has not only discouraged their self-esteem but also has stopped them doing business like hotel, tea shop in the study area 32 percent people were found affected by caste discrimination.

B) *Cultural Practices*

Many cultural practices induce Sarki people towards poverty. Sarki spend big amount of money for their marriage ceremonies, Jatra and other festivals.

5.12.5 Others

From the field survey, other causes identified were:

- Absence of VDC program, especially for Sarki.
- Lack of technical and vocational trainings for them.
- No government policy on loan without collateral.

5.16 Working Organization

Different NGOs like CDECF, PASS Nepal, Sarki gaun sudhar samiti (SGSA) have been working in that area, to avoid the Sarki community from vicious circle of poverty. Human right education, empowerment, informal education, awareness program for Sarki community have been held by NGOs in different time.

5.17 How Rural Poor Live: A Scenario of the Study Area

It is the study conducted in rural area, Sipapokhare VDC where observation has found that people under the poverty line are living very hard miserable life. Some households are surviving on less than what is required or one half-fed, while others in the study area have been borrowing even for consumption. Most of the people do not possess their own land. Those who possess land are fragmented, vulnerable to land slide, lack of irrigation, sometimes fear of draught mainly difficult to cultivate. The land is used as the mortgage for borrowing money from rich people in the village. The rich people would charge interest rate even of 40 percent per month which proves vicious trap of poverty and due to that heavy burden of debt-interest they can't manage their life from their income.

Most of the Sarki people are backwardness. They were simple, torn and worn clothes usually provided by the rich people. As the pictures of children of poor households can show, they wear no shoes or slippers to protect their feet, wear second hand and inadequate clothes and look sick, hungry and dirty. Most of the children especially the daughters of poor household do not go to school one important reason behind it is that their parents do not feel that education is necessary and they have not birth certificate. Besides, they send their children to the home of rich people for work, as they become 9 or 12 years old. Poor people in this area think about identifying the means of satisfying hunger the work for the same purpose.

CHAPTER - SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

Poverty has become serious obstacle in the path of development of developing and developed countries. The most of rural areas are characterized by the poor in Nepal. But the natural of poverty in rural Nepal are not same for all areas. Its depends open the caste, socio-economic structure and other factors of the particular area. The main objectives of the study is to find out the causes of sarkis poverty, level of poverty and analyze the incidence of poverty and to make policy recommendation for alleviating poverty in Sarki community in the study area of the basis of field survey 2008 of 50 households and 273 population in Sarki community of sipapokhare VDC. Sindhupalchok.

Major findings of the study have been summarized as :

- The sample size of the study is 50 households with 273 populations.
- The main objectives of this study area is to analyze the poverty in Sarki community and recommend appropriate solution for its alleviation.
- The rural poverty is higher among the uneducated people in Sarki community.
- There is higher dependency ratio in the study area (48.32 percent).
- There is a high disparity in the landholding in the study area. Because most of the poor households are found to be low land, agricultural labors or marginal land labour.
- Women are more illiterate and children from poor households usually are not enrolled in school.

- The mean annual per capita income of the total sampled households is Rs.8615.38.
- The mean annual per capita expenditure of Sarki community is NRs. 8838.82.
- The average credit per households was also calculated and was found to be NRs. 7500.
- The average family size is 5.46 people per household.
- Housing pattern is hut and tiled roof 52percent, small huts 48percent.
- Occupational status 38 percent agriculture, 52percent non-agriculture, 10percent leather work.
- As regards the educational status of the respondents, 28.95 percent are illiterate, 67.03 percent literate and 3.02 percent are educated (Under S.L.C. and + 2).
- With regard to land holding pattern, 6 percent are landless, 18 percent have 13 ropani above, 16 percent are 10-12 ropani, 18percent are 7-9 ropani, 28percent with up to 4-6 ropani and 14percent HHs up to 1-3 ropani has been found.
- Agricultural production is not sufficient for fulfillment of basic needs, only 6 percent are could be fulfilled needs from agricultural production and 94 percent have no production to fulfill their basic needs.
- Of total 12 percent have borrowed loan from ADB (Agriculture Development Bank) and 42 percent from local persons, 6 percent from Indrawati Saving and Credit Co-operation, 24 percent from Deuralidevi Women Saving and Credit Co-operative and 16 percent loan given from local organization.
- As regards the causes of non-participation in development activities, 48 percent are due to uneducated, 24 percent have no interest, 20 percent were unaware and 8 percent due to Dalit.

- Health facility uses in 42 percent government hospital, 36 percent are health post, 20 percent dhama jhakri, 7 percent clinic.
- Maternal health uses in 16 percent hospital, 18 percent dhama jhakri and 62 percent are sudeni.
- Energy consumption pattern are 96 percent HHs users in fire wood.

6.2 Conclusion

Poverty is the evil of under developed countries including Nepal. The poverty is in rural areas and mainly be rooted in Dalit community i.e. Sarkis etc. traditionally the occupation of Sarki is leather work but their life standard is very low.

Majority of the people in Nepal live in rural areas. Thus it can be said that poverty is one of the major characteristics of the rural area of Nepal. Majority of rural population are depend on agricultural sector, but in agricultural sector the productivity is low so the poverty exists. Some of them are low productivity in agricultural sector, lack of agricultural credit. Fertilizers and irrigation likewise, small size of land holding, backward technology, unemployment problem, large family size, low literacy rate and other basic infrastructure etc. make poverty vicious circle.

The maximum percent of Sarki are dependent on agriculture sector but its productivity is very low access less condition of Sarki, social and economic exclusion, lack of education, low rate of wage and unskilled labour power etc are the other causes.

The research has been concluded that most of the people are illiterate and most of them are unemployed or semi-employed has remained their basic needs of life like food, shelter, clothing, health care, education etc remain unfulfilled.

6.3 Recommendations

One of the basis of major findings and causes of poverty the following specific are recommended to reduce poverty of Sarki in sipapokhare VDC. Sindhupalchok.

- Expansion of qualitative and practicable education.
- Avoid the social stratification and hierarchical system.

- In the study area most of Sarki households are landless. They should be provided with land for cultivation and house to live.
- Traditional fest and festivals of Sarki community seems to be unnecessary expensive, so the unproductive expensive habit should be minimized by providing awareness.
- The main cause of the economic and cultural poverty in Sarki community of the area has been found to be alcoholism and smoking. So, such habit should be minimized.
- Decrease the interest rate and enhance the access of poor sarkis in banking system.
- Equitable distribution of resource for all Sarki as same as called higher caste.
- Increase the awareness.
- Compulsory primary school for the children seems to be highly essential.
- There is excess labor force engaged in agriculture sector. It should be transformed into other productive sectors. Agro-based industries are to be established.
- Provide the irrigation facility.
- The status of women in the study area is worsening due to the illiteracy and unemployment so non-formal education and vocational training most be provided to uplift their condition.
- Provide reservation of employment in government and non-governmental organization.
- Integrated farming seems to be effective to increase production per unit land with small size in the study area.
- Provide health facility and other social facility.
- Provide the skill development training.
- The training provide for leather work seems to be reduce the poverty.

- Income generating programme must be lunched for poverty alleviation.
- Effective public participation programme lunched for poverty alleviation.
- Electricity, transportation and communication facilities should be expanded in the study area because these facility can develop the market for local production and these facilities can also help the establish the cottage industries which can raise the living standard of the poor.
- Local resources should be utilized as much as practicable in the programmes.

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Appendix - 2

Income and Expenditure Analysis

HHs	Family Size	Annual Income	Annual Expenditure	Annual Saving	Annual Credit
1	6	41000	49000		8000
2	6	43000	47000		4000
3	5	32000	38000		6000
4	5	45000	38000	7000	
5	6	54000	44000	10000	
6	6	73000	87000		14000
7	2	19000	29000		10000
8	7	109000	89000	20000	
9	4	50000	42000	8000	
10	5	45000	39000	6000	
11	5	23000	47000		24000
12	5	54000	65000		11000
13	3	75000	55000	20000	
14	5	35000	66000		31000
15	7	51000	70000		19000
16	7	91000	73000	18000	
17	4	29000	32000		3000

18	5	30000	37000		7000
19	7	92000	72000	20000	
20	6	72000	60000	12000	
21	5	14000	34000		20000
22	5	13000	35000		12000
23	4	12000	27000		15000
24	4	20000	30000		10000
25	5	17000	33000		16000
26	7	27000	37000		10000
27	5	51000	31000	20000	
28	5	64000	46000	18000	
29	6	84000	54000	30000	
30	7	91000	71000	20000	
31	8	78000	67000	11000	
32	4	30000	45000		15000
33	5	36000	41000		5000
34	5	52000	42000	10000	
35	7	73000	53000	20000	
36	7	47000	42000	5000	
37	9	60000	60000		
38	7	106000	71000	35000	
39	9	62000	54000	8000	

40	5	25000	35000		10000
41	5	37000	34000	30000	
42	5	16000	36000		20000
43	5	51000	41000	10000	
44	5	11000	31000		20000
45	2	59000	56000	3000	
46	6	20000	40000		2000
47	7	29000	39000		10000
48	8	13000	43000		30000
49	2	32000	37000		5000
50	9	49000	69000		20000
Total	273	2352000	2413000	341000	273000

Here,

Income/Expenditure Mean

Annual Average Income

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{\sum Y}{N}$$

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{\sum Y}{N}$$

$$\Sigma X = 2352000$$

$$N = 50$$

$$\text{or} = \frac{2352000}{50} = 47040$$

Where,

Annual Average Expenditure (Per HHs)

$$\bar{Y} = \text{Mean}$$

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{\sum Y}{N} = \frac{2413000}{50} = 48260$$

Y = Value of Item

$$\Sigma Y = 2413000$$

ΣY = Summation of values

$$N = 50$$

Σ = Summation

N = Number of terms

Annual Saving (Per HHs) Annual Credit (Per HHs)

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{\sum Y}{N}$$

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum Y}{N}$$

$$= \Sigma X = 341000$$

$$\Sigma X = 273000$$

$$N = 50$$

$$N = 50$$

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{341000}{50}$$

$$\bar{X} = \frac{273000}{50}$$

$$= 6820$$

$$= 5460$$

Annual Per capita Income

Annual Per Capital Expenditure

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{\sum Y}{N}$$

$$\bar{Y} = 235200 \text{ Rs.}$$

$$N = 273$$

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{2352000}{273}$$

$$= 8615$$

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{\sum Y}{N}$$

$$\Sigma Y = 2413000 \frac{2413000}{273}$$

$$N = 273$$

$$= 8838.82$$

Questionnaire for Household Survey

1) General information;

Name of Respondent:

Interview No:

Occupation:

Age:

Sex :

Ward No:

Education:

Date:

2) Family structure(According to Age, sex, Education, Occupation)

SN.	Name	Sex	Age	Education	Occupation
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

3) Types of Family

a) Single

b) Joint

4) Do your children go to school regularly?

a) Yes

b) No

If no why?

.....

5) Employment status of working age member

S.N.	Types of crops	Area(ropani)	Quantity(kg.)	Price(NRs.)
1.	Rice			
2.	Maize			
3.	Wheat			
4.	Millet			
5.	Mustard			
6.	Vegetable crops			
7.	Fruits			
8.	Others			
9.	Total			

11) What is your income from livestock?

S.N.	Livestock	Total number	Price(NRs.)
1.	Cow		
2.	Buffalo		
3.	Oxen		
4.	Goat		
5.	Duck		
6.	Pigs		
7.	Chicken		
8.	Others		
9.	Total		

11.1) Income from livestock productions:

S.N.	Name	Kg/Ltr./no.	Price(NRs.)
1.	Ghee		
2.	Milk		
3.	Cord		
4.	Meat		

5.	Egg		
6.	Chicken		
7.	Other		
8.	Total		

11.2) Other sources of your family income:

S.N.	Income source	Annual income(NRs.)
1.	Cottage industries	
2.	Labor wages	
3.	Rent	
4.	Salary	
5.	Business	
6.	Overseas	
7.	Other	
8.	Total	

12) If your total income is not sufficient for one year what is the reason behind that?

- a) absence of economically active member
- b) lack of economical opportunity
- c) dependency of all member in agriculture
- d) low income in own working field

13) Expenditure in fooding:

S.N.	Goods	Kg./lt./Pathi	Price(NRs.)
1.	Rice		
2.	Maize		
3.	Wheat		
4.	Millet		
5.	Vegetables		
6.	Milk/cord		
7.	Ghee/oil		
8.	Meat		
9.	Other		
10.	Total		

13.1)Expenditure in other things:

S.N.	Goods	Price(NRS.)
1.	Cloth	
2.	Education	
3.	Health facility	
4.	Feast and festivals	
5.	Tobacco and alcohol	
6.	Transportation and entertainment	
7.	Interest rate	
8.	Others	
9.	Total	

14) Does your total family income is enough to fulfill your basic needs?

- a) yes b) no

15) If your income cannot meet your family requirements ,what are the main causes?

.....

16) Have you lend money to others?

- a) yes b) no

16.1) If yes how much did you lend?

NRS.....

16.2) How much interest did you get for it?

- 17.3) Sources of borrowing money:
- a) agricultural development bank
 - b) Indrawati saving and credit co-operative
 - c) women saving and credit
 - d) local person
 - e) others
- 18) Which work your family members are engaged in?(above 15 years)
- a) agriculture
 - b) labor wages
 - c) cottage industries
 - d) business
 - e) study
 - f) others
- 19) What should be done to increase your income source?
- a) by giving proper education
 - b) increasing the wage
 - c) by giving skill development training
 - d) if others
- 20) Do you have toilet ?
- a) yes
 - b) no
- 21) What kind of energy is being used?
- a) firewood
 - b) bio gas
 - c) kerosene
 - d) others
- 22) What is the proper age of marriage?
- a) boy.....year
 - b) girl.....year
- 23) Where do you go to get health facilities?
- a) health post
 - b) hospital
 - c) dhama jhakries
 - d) others
- 23.1) Where do you go to get maternal health facilities?
- a) health post
 - b) hospital
 - c) dhama jhakries
 - d) mid wife
- 23.2) What are your major festivals to celebrate?

31) Does your VDC have done any programme to increase sarki communities' income?

.....

32) What is your personal opinion to reduce poverty from your area?

.....

34) Do you have participated in any co-operatives, CBOs, NGOs and other social group?

.....

35) What is your view to access empowerment ?

.....

36) In your opinion, what should be done to uplift your present condition?

.....