

**The Socio-Cultural and Economic
Condition of Tharu People**
(A Case Study of Benimanipur VDC, Pideri of Nawalparasi District)

A Thesis
Submitted to the faculty of
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Partial fulfillment of the requirement of the
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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled '**The Socio- Economic and Cultural Condition of Tharu People in Benimanipur VDC of Nawalparasi District**' is prepared by Sushila Rijal under my guidance and supervision for fulfillment of the requirement of Master's Degree in Rural Development. Therefore, this thesis is recommended for its further evaluation and approval.

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APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled "**Socio- Economic and Cultural Condition of Tharu People of Benimanipur VDC, Nawalparasi**" submitted by Sushila Rijal in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master Degree of Humanities in Rural Development has been approved.

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ABSTRACT

Nepal is a nation of various tribes, caste and clans differing in language, religion, custom and culture. Nepali cultural is a mixed culture where blend various national culture representing in three ecological regions, the mountain, the Hill and Terai. The Tharus are the Mongoloid in appearance and inhabit the Terai and Inner Terai of Nepal. Nawalparasi is inhabited by various ethnic groups. The Tharu is one of them and are indigenous group of this area. They have own type of traditional ethnic culture. This community, when studied historically seems to have engaged in agriculture. In addition to various other systems and ways of working this community has a lot of originality. This study deals with socio-cultural and economic condition of Tharu people in Pideri village of Benimanipur VDC of Nawalparasi district. General objective of the study is to find out the socio-economic and culture condition of Tharu people of the study area. For this study, 60 households are taken as a sample size from 120 total households of Tharu people of the study area by using simple random technique. To analysis this study, primary source of data is taken into account, which is collected by researcher herself with the help of household survey questionnaire, key informant interview and observation technique. Descriptive as well as quantitative statistical methods have been used to analyze the collected data.

The total population of 60 households is 342 composing 163 male and 179 female. Similarly, the populations of children under the age of 5 years are 20.19% which denote rapid growth of population. The people of the study area are mainly agricultural peasant as they adopt agriculture as their main profession. But they are still adopting the traditional agriculture pattern. They are backward in education and to adopt new technology. Their knowledge toward health and sanitation is very poor. They still believe in witchcraft instead of going to nearby hospital. They have own ways of performing birth, marriage and death ceremonies. They celebrate festival with great joy. They enjoy drinking alcohol like Jad and Raksi in ceremonies and festivals. Limited land, using traditional means and methods in agriculture, high fertility rate, poor educational attachment, lack of health facilities and excess use of liquor are the main factor of Tharu's poor socio-economic condition. Generally Tharus are known as honest, hardworking and peace loving people. Though, Tharu people are very hardworking but their economic condition is poor and they are living backward life.

Contents	1
Chapter- One	1
Introduction	1
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problems	2
1.3 Objective of the Study	3
1.4 Importance of the Study	3
1.5 Limitation of the Study	4
Chapter- Two	5
Literature Review	5
2.1 Origin of Tharu	5
2.2 Studies of Tharu	6
Chapter-Three	11
Research Methodology	11
3.1 Rationale for the selection of the study areas	11
3.2 Research design	11
3.3 Nature and sources of data collection	11
3.4 The universe and sample size	12
3.5 Techniques and tools of data collection	12
3.5.1. The interview schedule	12
3.5.2. Observation	12
3.5.3. Interview with Key informant	12
3.6 Method of data analysis	13
Chapter- Four	14
The setting of Benimanipur VDC	14
4.1 VDC profile	14
4.2 Natural resources and land use pattern	15

4.3 Climate	15
4.4 Income Source	15

Chapter- Five

Analysis	17
5.1. Social Characteristics	17
5.1.1 Origin history of Tharu People	17
5.1.2 Population structure of Tharu people	18
5.1.3 Kinship	18
5.1.4 Types of Family	19
5.1.5 Family Size	19
5.1.6 Drinking water and sanitation	20
5.1.7 Health services	21
5.1.8 Education	22
5.1.9 Family planning	23
5.1.10 Garbage disposal	23
5.1.11 Work distribution in families	24
5.1.12 Leadership and Development	25
5.2 Cultural Characteristics of Tharu people	26
5.2.1 Birth	26
5.2.2 Name giving ceremony	27
5.2.3 Chhaewar	27
5.2.4 Marriage system	28
5.2.4.1 Arranged Marriage	28
a) The Exchange marriage	28
b) Bride Price Marriage System	28
5.2.4.2 Marriage by elopement (Urhi)	30
5.2.4.3 Re- marriage	30
5.2.4.4 Levirate and surrogate	30
5.2.5 Death	30
5.2.6 Clothing	31
5.2.7 Ornaments	31
5.2.8 Food and Drinking habits	31
5.2.9 Religion and festival	32
5.2.9.1 Maghi	32
5.2.9.2 Fagu	32

5.2.9.3 Dashain	33
5.2.9.4 Dewari (Tihar)	33
5.2.9.5 Jarma-asttami	33
5.2.9.6 Jitiya	34
5.3 Economics System	35
5.3.1 Occupation	35
5.3.2 Agriculture	36
5.3.2.1 Land holding size of the respondents	36
5.3.2.2 Rented in	37
5.3.2.3 Forms of tenants	37
a) Adhiya	37
b) Trikhut	37
c) Thekka	37
5.3.2.4 Classification of land	37
5.3.3 Labor Exchange	38
5.3.4 Livestock farming and poultry farming	38
5.3.5 Wage labor	39
5.3.6 Services holding	39
5.3.7 Fishing and Hunting	39
5.3.8 Making handicrafts	39
5.3.9 Liquor making	39
5.3.10 Annual Income	40
Chapter- Six	41
Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations	41
6.1 Summary	41
6.2 Conclusion	42
6.3 Recommendation	43
BIBLIOGRAPHY	45
ANNEX I	47
Housing survey Questionnaire	
ANNEX II	53
Questionnaire for key informant	
ANNEX III	54
Location Map	
ANNEX IV	56
Some photographs of Tharu Community	

List of Tables

Table 5.1	Distribution of Tharu population by age and Sex	18
Table 5.2	Distribution of households by family type	19
Table 5.3	Households by family size	20
Table 5.4	Source of drinking water of sampled households	20
Table 5.5	Toilet using practice of sampled households	21
Table 5.6	Treatment practice	21
Table 5.7	Level of education in Tharu community	22
Table 5.8	Distribution of respondents by using contraceptive devices in the study area	23
Table 5.9	Practice of garbage disposal of sample households	24
Table 5.10	Work distribution in families	24
Table 5.11	Distribution of respondents by knowledge on development	25
Table 5.12	Occupational status of Tharu people	35
Table 5.13	Land holding size of respondents	36
Table 5.14	Situation of livestock farming in the Tharu community	38
Table 5.15	Distribution of respondents by income sources	40

ACROYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Agriculture Development Bank
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HHs	Households
VDC	Village Development Committee
NGOs	Non Government Organizations
INGOs	International Non Government Organizations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund

Tharu Words

Adhiya- Share Cropping

Arani- Lunch

Baba- Father

Badka- Eldest Son

Badki- Eldest daughter

Bahuriya- Daughter in law

Baje- Grandfather

Bajai- Grandmother

Bani- Mother's elder sister

Beta- Son

Beti- Daughter

Bhauji- Elder brother's wife

Bhatu- Brother in law

Bhoto- Nepali vest

Chhewar- Head saving

Chhotka- Youngest son

Chhotki- Youngest daughter

Dao- Mother

Damad- Daughter's husband

Dewara- Brother in law

Dewari- Tihar

Fagu- Holi

Fui- Father's sister

Ghatwa karaina- A ritual performed to purify mother and new
born baby

Gurau- Shaman

Gunew- Knee length sari

Jeth- Husband's elder brother

Jarmatami- Krishana janmastami

Kaka- Uncle

Kaki- Aunty

Mama- Maternal uncle

Mami- Maternal uncle's wife

Maghi- First day of Magh

Mausi- Mother's youngest sister

Majhila- Second son

Mundri- Ear ring

Nanad- Husband's youngest sister

Sas- Mother in law

Sasura- Mother in law

Sudeni- Traditional mid wife

Sunpani- Water which is touched on gold

Trikhut- A type of crop sharing system

Thekka- A type of crop shaing system

Tikuli- Tika