SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF CHAMAR COMMUNITY

(A Case Study of Samsi VDC in Mahottari District)

A Dissertation Submitted To

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Science in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.

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2011

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This Thesis entitled ***"Socio-economic Condition of Chamar Community: A Case Study of Samsi VDC in Mahottari District."*** has prepared by Birendra Kumar Yadav under my supervision and guidance. I hereby recommend this Thesis for approval and acceptance.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This thesis entitled ***"Socio-economic Condition of Chamar Community'':A Sociological Study of Samsi VDC in Mahottari District"*** Submitted by Mr**.** Birendra Kumar Yadav to the Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in Sociology has been found satisfactory. Therefore, this thesis accepts as partial fulfillments of the requirement of master degree of arts in sociology.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All the successful attempts are the result of contribution of some co-operative hands. A number of individuals have helped and encouraged me in various ways in completing this study. Though I may not be able to mention the names of them, I here with wish to express my special gratitude to the following individuals.

First, I am highly indebted to my respected teacher, Mr. Surendra Mishra for his valuable guidance and supervision to conduct and complete the thesis.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my gratitude to my parents, whose unending inspiration and immense love have brought me to the present status. Similarly, I am grateful to my friends Mr. Arun Kumar Yadav, Mr. Sunil Kumar Yadav, Mr. Gopal Yadav, Mr Dharbendra Kumar Jha, Mr. Mukesh Kumar Jha, Mr. Mukesh Kumar Yadav, Mr. Kapil Dev Prasad Yadav, Miss Nutan Mukhiya, Mrs. Sarita Kumari Yadav, Mr Shailendra Kumar Yadav and Mr. Upendra Kumar Yadav. I am deeply indebted to Mr.Asafi Sah , the secretary of the Samsi VDC, who helped me in this work right from its inception and whenever I needed the help. I am also greatly obliged to all the respondents who helped me collect the required information. I express my sincere thanks all those who helped me directly or indirectly.

Finally, especially thanks go to maternal uncle Mr. Yogendra Prasad Yadav who inspired me to study the Sociology and Mr. Arun Kumar Yadav for splendid word processing and printing this document.

Birendra Kumar Yadav

ABSTRACTS

The aim of the study is to give a short description of the Chamars, a socially dominated caste group of Nepal, regarding their socio-economic status. They are found mainly in Terai Region. Chamars are poorest and backward caste people in Nepal. They are born in poverty, live in poverty and die in poverty. Their life and socio-economic status is still under the smoke of cloud. So, the question is how deeply these social trends affected their daily livelihood and what change it has brought to their socio-economic status. This research attempts to focus on the various aspects of socio-economic life of the Chamar community.

The general objective of the study is to identity the socio-economic condition of Chamar people and the specific objectives are as follows: To provide an ethnographic study of Chamars, To identify the problems of Chamar community and To explore the cultural pattern of Chamar.

For this purpose, the Samsi VDC of the Mahottari district is selected purposively. There are 90 Chamar households. The total population of those households is 450. The Chamars are, in general, Hindus. They worship Hindu Gods and Goddesses. The festivals of the Chamars are similar with Brahmins and Chhettris. They mainly celebrate Chhath, Dashain, Tihar, Maghe Sakranti etc. They play their traditional and modern types of band (Baja) as well. Therefore, people invite them to play their band on weddings.

The Chamars are poor and exploited by the high caste group like Brahmin, Chhettri etc. Most of them are landless. Therefore, they are backward in every field. They are uneducated and backward. They have forgotten their traditional way of life. In the study area, it is hardly to see their traditional type of occupation, dress and ornaments. Although they have their own native language, they prefer to speak Nepali language.

Though caste based discrimination is not as rigid as it was in the past, some discriminations still exist in the study area. They are not allowed to enter the house of

Brahmins and Chhettris as well as religious places. The water of a well is not used at the same time by the higher caste people and the Chamars.

The conclusions found from the study area as follows:

The economic condition of the Chamars of Samsi is very poor. The majority of Chamars in the VDC consist of the landless, the marginalized or small farmers, who do not have enough land or other means of production for survival. The literacy percent of the Chamars are very low and they hardly complete their schooling. The higher education attended person is nil in the Chamar community. They practise diverse culturalal activities; they practise their religion, customs, traditions and their social values in a strong and rigid manner. The Chamars have been subjected to economic exploitation, oppression and poverty. They are still being exploited by the so called non Dalits in many ways; opportunity, status, education etc. Early marriage, unplanned family, economic disability, illiteracy, lack of decision making power, simplicity, landlessness, exploitation, conventional approach in agriculture are the main constraints for the socio-economic development of the Chamars of the Samsi VDC.

CONTENTS

Page

Recommendation Letter *ii*

Approval Letter *iii*

Acknowledgement *iv*

Abstract *v*

Contents *vii*

List of Tables *x*

List of Figures *xi*

CHAPTER – ONE: INTRODUCTION **1**

1.1 General Background 1

1.2 Statement of Problems 3

1.3 Objective of the Study 4

1.4 Importance of the Study 5

1.5 Limitations of the Study 5

1.6 Organization of the Study 6

CHAPTER – TWO REVIEW OF LITERATURE **12**

2.1 The Chamars 12

CHAPTER – THREE: RESEARCH METHODS **16**

3.1 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area 16

3.2 Research Design 16

3.3 Nature and Source of Data 16

3.4 Universe and Sampling Procedures 17

3.5 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection 17

3.5.1 Techniques 17

3.5.1.1 Household Survey 17

3.5.1.2 Observation 17

3.5.1.3 Key Informant Interview 18
3.5.1.4 Focus Group Discussion 18
5.3.2 Tools 18
3.5.2.1 Interview 18
3.5.2.2 Checklist 18
3.6 Classification & Editing of Data 19
3.7 Data Analysis and Interpretation 19

CHAPTER - FOUR SATTING OF THE STUDY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTCS OF RESPONDENTS 20
4.1 Location of the Mahottari District 20
4.2 The Samsi Village Development Committee: the Study Area 20
4.2.1 Physical Setting 20
4.2.2 Climate and Soil 21
4.2.3 Population Distribution 22
4.2.4 Occupation Status of Samsi VDC 23
4.2.5 Economy of the Villages 24
4.2.6 Educational Status 24
4.2.7 Health Facilities 25
4.2.8 Transportation 25
4.3 Demographic Characteristics 26
4.3.1 Household and Family Size 26
4.3.2 Age Composition 26
4.3.3 Structure of Family 27
4.4 Social Status 28
4.4.1 Respondents by the Language Spoken 28
4.4.2 Respondents by Their Costumes 28
4.4.3 Respondent by Age at Marriage 29
4.4.4 Respondent's Preference for the Child 30
4.4.5 Respondents' Use of Family Planning Method 31

4.4.6 Perception of Respondents on Causes of Illness and Preference of Treatment 32
4.4.7 Respondents' at Decision Making 34
4.5 Economic Status 35
4.5.1 Occupational Status of Respondents 35
4.5.2 Land Ownership 37 4.5.3 Respondents by Adequacy of Food Grain 38
4.5.4 Housing Conditions of the Chamars 39
4.5.5 Respondents Source of Fuel 40
4.5.6 Respondents' Water Sources 40
4.5.7 Literacy Status of the Respondents 40
4.5.8 Educational Status of the Chamars 40
4.5.9 Respondents by Income Sources 43

CHAPTER – FIVE: CULTURAL PATTERN OF CHAMAR COMMUNITY 46

5.1 The Cultural Pattern of Chamar Community 46
5.1.1 Origin and Distribution 46
5.1.2 Population 46
5.1.3 Physical Feature 47
5.1.4 Occupation Status of Chamar Community 47
5.1.5 Family and Social Organization 47
5.1.6 Settlement Pattern and Houses 48
5.1.7 Food and Drinks 48
5.1.8 Dress and Ornaments 49
5.1.9 Language 49
5.1.10 Birth and Death Rate 50
5.1.11 Marriage 51
5.1.12 Religion and Festivals 51

CHAPTER – SIX SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION 54

6.1 Summary 54
6.2 Conclusion 56
6.3 Recommendations 57

REFERENCES **61**

APPENDIXES

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table No. 2.1:	Hindu Caste System Table No. 4.1: Number of Villages in the VDC	8
Table No 4.1:	Number of Villages in VDC	21
Table No. 4.2:	The Households and Population of the Samsi VDC	22
Table No. 4.3:	VDC Population by Age group and Sex	23
Table No. 4.4:	Distribution of Total Household According to Non-agricultural Economic Activities	24
Table No. 4.5:	Literacy Status of the Samsi V DC (above 6 years)	25
Table No. 4.6:	Household and family size	26
Table No. 4.7:	Ward wise Age Composition on Chamar Community	26
Table No. 4.8:	Respondents by Family Structure	27
Table No. 4.9:	Respondents by Their Mother Tongue	28
Table No. 4.10:	Respondents by Their Dresspattorn	29
Table No. 4.11:	Age at Marriage of the Respondents	30
Table No.4.12:	Respondent's Preference for the Child	30
Table No. 4.13:	The Contraceptive and its Distribution	32
Table No. 4.14:	Cause of Illness as Perceived by Respondents	32
Table No. 4.15:	Preference of Treatment by Respondents	34
Table No. 4.16:	Decision Making in the Chamar Community	34
Table No. 4.17:	Primary Occupational Status of the Respondents	36
Table No. 4.18:	Source of Secondary Occupational Status	36
Table No. 4.19:	Land Ownership Pattern in the Study Area	37
Table No. 4.20:	Adequacy of Food Grain among the Chamars of the Samsi VDC	38
Table No. 4.21:	Housing Condition of the Respondents	39
Table No. 4.22:	Sources of Fuel for Cooking	40
Table No. 4.23:	Educational Status of the Chamars	42
Table No. 4. 24:	Income Sources of Respondents	43

LIST OF FIGURE

		Page
Figure No. 4.1:	Respondent's Preference for the Child	31
Figure No. 4.2:	Cause of Illness as Perceived by Respondents	33
Figure No. 4.3:	Decision Making in Chamar Community	35
Figure No. 4.4:	Land Ownership Pattern in the Study Area	37
Figure No. 4.5:	Sources of Fuel for Cooking	40
Figure No. 4.6:	Literacy Status of the Respondents	42