

**THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF RURAL POVERTY**  
**(A Case Study of Dalit Community of Chiuridanda**  
**V.D.C., Khotang District)**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements**  
**for the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in**  
**Rural Development**

**By**

**Parshu Ram Bhattarai**

**Roll No. : 2604**

**Regd. No. : 9-2-223-327-99**

**Batch: 5<sup>th</sup> (2062/064)**

**Central Department of Rural Development**  
**Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Tribhuvan University**  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**February, 2009**

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that this thesis entitled "The Nature and Causes of Rural Poverty (A Case Study of Dalit Community of Churidanda V.D.C., Khotang District)". This has been prepared by Mr. Parshu Ram Bhattarai under my supervision as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

To the best of my knowledge the study is original and carries useful information in the field of study of "Churidanda" V.D.C. I recommend it for evaluation to the Thesis committee.

.....

Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha

Associate Professor

Thesis Supervisor

Central Department of Rural Development

T.U, Kirtipur

Date :- February, 2009

## **APPROVAL LETTER**

We certify that this thesis entitled " The Nature and causes of Rural Poverty (A Case Study of Dalit Community Churidanda V.D.C., Khotang District)" Submitted by Mr. Parshu Ram Bhattarai to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in Rural Development has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

### **Thesis Committee**

.....

Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka

Chairman

Central Department of Rural Development

T.U. Kirtipur

.....

External Examiner

.....

Dr. Chandra Lal Shrestha

Thesis Supervisor

Date : 2009

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**Parshuram Bhattarai**  
2009

## ABSTRACT

*Poverty is very complex. The phenomenon of poverty is as old as the human society. Poverty is lack of basic needs, food, clothing, housing clean water health services etc. It is multifaceted in feature. Poverty is as old as human civilization. Dalit is one of the largest community of Nepal. Agriculture is the backbone of our country and dalits are extremely depended on this sector and spread all over the country.*

*A sample of 60 households are taken out of total 103 households for the study. The head of households were interviewed to examine the source of income, expenditure of their respondents. Poverty is highly correlated with source of income, size of landholding, educational level, main occupation, employment family size.*

*General objective of the study is to assess the nature of rural poverty in Chiuridanda VDC of Khotang district. However, the specific objectives, were :*

- a) To examine the rural poverty of dalit community.*
- b) To analyze the relationship between poverty and other factors employment, education and land holding.*
- c) To find out the causes of poverty and suggest appropriate policy measures to reduce poverty.*

*The methodology of data collection consisted to personal level interviews with prepared mixed questionnaires schedule. The sample households were taken from stratified random sampling. Sixty households survey data and some secondary data are used for the analysis and discussion.*

*The study had showed that out of the total households taken in case study 66.66 percent is joint family and agriculture being main occupation 71.66 percent is the major economic characteristics of the study area. Similarly this study had drawn out that 53 percent (0.5 - 5 ropani) occupied small landholding size which is insufficient in comparison to their family structure. In respect to Dalits 58.28 percent of the total study area occupied in which is was found that majority were i.e. 61.67 percent illiterate. They are engaging the majority i.e. 90 percent were engaged in traditional pattern of agriculture activities.*

*Dalit people went to abroad for selling labor, children deprived from good education, poor health, unemployment indebtedness and social discrimination.*

*To alleviate poverty from study area. Farming system should be improved alternative employment opportunities should be created, knowledge of family planning skill development programmes, discouragement of bad habits should be increased.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE	i
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	ii
APPROVAL LETTER	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABSTRACT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLE	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	xv

## CHAPTER - ONE

### INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Background of the Study
  - 1.1.1 Poverty in Nepal
  - 1.1.2 Nature
  - 1.1.3 Condition of Dalit in Nepal
  - 1.1.4 Causes of Poverty
- 1.2 Statement of the Problem
- 1.3 Objectives of the Study
- 1.4 Significance of the Study
- 1.5 Scheme of the Study

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

- 2.1 Level of Poverty
- 2.2 Nature of Poverty
- 2.3 Causes of Poverty
- 2.4 Conceptual Framework of Poverty Reduction

## **CHAPTER - III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Research Design
- 3.2 Selection of the Study Area
- 3.3 Survey Population and Sample Selection
- 3.4 Nature and Sources of Data
- 3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques
  - 3.5.1 Questionnaire Survey
  - 3.5.2 Key Informant Interview
  - 3.5.3 Focus Group Discussion
- 3.6 Data Processing and Analysis
- 3.7 Limitation of the Study

## **CHAPTER - IV**

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

- 4.1 Introduction
  - 4.1.1 Physical Setting
  - 4.1.2 Climate
  - 4.1.3 Settlements

- 4.1.4 Natural Resources
  - 4.1.4.1 Land Resources
- 4.3 VDC's Wise Population of Dalits
- 4.4 Caste/Ethnic Distribution of Total Population of Chiuridanda VDC in Khotang
- 4.5 Ward wise Caste Distribution of Sampled Population
  - 4.5.1 Ward wise Distribution of Sampled Population
- 4.6 Family Structure the Respondents by Age and Sex
- 4.7 Educational Status of VDC
- 4.8 Social/Cultural Discrimination
- 4.9 Socio-economic characteristics of Dalits in Nepal
- 4.10 Agriculture of Chiuridanda VDC

## **CHAPTER - FIVE**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

- 5.1 Introduction
  - 5.1.1 Nature and the Major Factors of Poverty
- 5.2 Social Characteristics
  - 5.2.1 Types of Houses in Study Area
  - 5.2.2 Types of Family of Study Area
  - 5.2.3 Occupation of Households in the Study Area
  - 5.3.4 Occupational Status of Sample HHs of Respondent
- 5.3 Educational Level of the Study Area
- 5.4 Health Condition of the Dalit People
  - 5.4.1 Satisfaction from Health Services in the Study Area
  - 5.4.2 Toilet having Household in the Study Area
  - 5.4.3 Source of Drinking Water in Study Area
- 5.5 Economic Characteristics

- 5.5.1 Land Holding Size and Poverty
  - 5.5.1.1 Types of Landholding
  - 5.5.1.2 Method of Agricultural practice in the Study Area
  - 5.5.1.3 Sufficiency of Agriculture Production in the Study Area
- 5.5.2 Annual Income from Husbandry
- 5.5.3 Sources of Income in the Study Area
- 5.5.4 Unemployment and Underemployment Situation in the Study Area
- 5.6 Credit Facilities and Its Uses
  - 5.6.1 Access to Rural Credit
  - 5.6.2 Use of Rural Credit
- 5.7 General Expenditure of Respondents (on food and non-food item)
- 5.8 Role of Different Organization in Antipoverty Activities
  - 5.8.1 Participation in Planning and Implementing Policy in Study Area
  - 5.8.2 VDC Works to Increase Income of the Villager's
- 5.9 Employment and Poverty
  - 5.9.1 Education and Poverty
- 5.10 Causes of Rural Poverty in this Study Area
  - 5.10.1 Occupation
  - 5.10.2 Size of Landholding
  - 5.10.3 Education
  - 5.10.4 Gender Disparity
  - 5.10.5 Family Size

**CHAPTER - SIX**  
**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 Summary
- 6.2 Conclusion
- 6.3 Recommendations

References

Appendix

## **LIST OF TABLES**

- Table 2.1 : Survey Indicators of Poverty Management
- Table 4.1 : Population of Dalit in Nepal
- Table 4.2 : VDC's where Dalits are in majority and minority
- Table 4.3 : Total Caste wise Distribution in Chiuridanda VDC
- Table 4.4 : Ward Wise Distribution of Dalit Caste
- Table 4.5 : Ward wise Distribution of Sample Size
- Table 4.6 : Percentage of Age and Sex Structure of Respondents  
Population
- Table 4.7 : Educational Status of VDC
- Table 4.8 : Household Having Land, Livestock and Poultry
- Table 5.1 : Types of Houses in Study Area
- Table 5.2 : Types of Family
- Table 5.3 : Occupation of Households
- Table 5.4 : Occupational Structure of Sampled Household
- Table 5.6 : Toilet Satisfaction from Health Service
- Table 5.5 : Educational Status of the Respondents
- Table 5.7 : Toilet Having Household
- Table 5.8 : Sources of Drinking Water
- Table 5.9 : Distribution of Land among Sampled Household
- Table 5.10 : Types of Land Holding
- Table 5.11 : Method of Agricultural Practice
- Table 5.12 : Sufficiency of Agriculture Production
- Table 5.13 : Income from Animal Husbandry
- Table 5.14 : Sources of Income
- Table 5.15 : Employment Situation
- Table 5.16 : Access to Rural Credit

Table 5.17 : Use of Rural credit by the study area

Table 5.18 : General Expenditure (Food and non-food item)

Table 5.19 : Participation in Planning and Implementing Policy in Study  
Area

Table 5.20 : VDC Works to Increase Income of the Villager's

Table 5.21 : Population Distribution by Working Age Group

Table 5.22 : Educational Status of Respondents

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

- Figure 4.1 : Total Caste wise Distribution in Chiuridanda VDC
- Figure 4.2 : Ward wise Distribution of Sample Size
- Figure 4.3 : Percentage of Age and Sex Structure of Respondents  
Population
- Figure 4.4 : Educational Status of VDC
- Figure 5.1 : Types of Houses in Study Area
- Figure 5.2 : Occupation of Households
- Figure 5.3 : Occupation Status of Sample HHs of the People
- Figure 5.4 : Educational Status of the Respondents
- Figure 5.5 : Sources of Drinking Water
- Figure 5.6 : Distribution of Land among Sampled Household
- Figure 5.7 : Method of Agricultural Practice
- Figure 5.8 : Income from Animal Husbandry
- Figure 5.9 : Sources of Income
- Figure 5.10 : Utilization of Rural Credit
- Figure 5.11 : General Expenditure of the Study Area
- Figure 5.12 : Population Distribution by Working Age Group

## **ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

ADB	=	Asian Development Bank
ADB	=	Asian Development Bank
CBO	=	Community Based Organization
CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDRD	=	Central Development of Rural Development
DDC	=	District Development Committee
Dec.	=	December
Dr	=	Doctor
e.g.	=	For or an example
EDR	=	Eastern Development Region
GDP	=	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	=	Gross National Income
HDI	=	Human Development Index
HDR	=	Human Development Report
HHs	=	Households
HMG	=	His Majesty's Government
IRDP	=	Integrated Rural Development Program
Km	=	Kilometer
MA	=	Master's of Arts
MDG	=	Millennium Development Goals
Mr.	=	Mister
NESAC	=	Nepal South Asia Centre
NGO	=	Non-government Organization
NLSS	=	Nepal Living Standard Survey
No.	=	Number
Nov.	=	November

NPC	=	National Planning Commission
NRB	=	Nepal Rastriya Bank
NRs	=	Nepalese Rupees
PPP	=	Purchasing Power Parity
Prof	=	Professor
RD	=	Rural Development
SFDP	=	Small Farmer Development Program
SLC	=	School Leaving Certificate
Sq	=	square
TU	=	Tribhuvan University
TUCL	=	Tribhuvan University Central Library
UN	=	United Nations
US\$	=	American Dollar
VDC	=	Village Development Committee
WB	=	World Bank
WDR	=	World Development Report