

**Educational Status of Dalits**  
**A Study of Gaunshahar VDC Lamjung**

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## **RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

The thesis entitled, **Educational Status of Dalits, A Study of Gaunshahar VDC, lamjung** has been prepared and submitted by Roshan Baral under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

I forward this report with recommendation for approval.

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**Supervisor**

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## **APPROVAL LETTER**

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by Roshan Baral entitled "**Educational Status of Dalits, A Study of Gaunshahar VDC, lamjung**" has been approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Thesis entitled "**Educational Status of Dalits, A Study of Gaunshahar VDC, Lamjung**" has been prepared for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for Master's Degree in Rural Development. It reveals the actual educational level of the *Dalits* of Gaunshahar VDC, Lamjung.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Yogendra Bista. His valuable guidance and encouragement out through the research work has made possible to shape it in this form.

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**Roshan Baral**

## Abstract

*The intrinsic human value of education – its ability to add meaning and value to everyone's lives without discrimination is at the core of its status as a human right. But education is also an indispensable means to unlock and protect other human rights as well. Under the country's circumstances Dalit community is found to be way back in the opportunities of gaining the educational opportunities. Basing on this fact the study is conducted with the objective of revising the educational status of Dalits, their regularity to the institutions and the major factors working as barriers for their education. For the purpose a preliminary visit to the study site was done in order to identify the representative Dalit settlement for study. A total of 195 Dalit houses were identified and 40 of those were selected for sampling. The sample was selected from each ward on the weight basis. The first household was selected randomly and after that every fifth household was selected for the study.*

*From the study it was found that the population of the households was dominated by economically active people (16-59 years of age) and the land holding of the households was found very pitiable as average land holding was about 2.5 ropani with a great majority of them having their food sufficiency for less than three months. Having less amount of land, the cattle rearing was also not significant, mostly dominated by the number of goats. In regard of occupation, the majority of people are laborers, with some noteworthy number involved in abroad work. Over two third of the people were found living in brick and mud house, with an average family size between six and seven members. Still about one third of the houses were devoid of toilet.*

*The literacy percentage was found outstandingly terrific with approximately two third of the people literate but the level of knowledge and awareness is in contrary with the statistical data and the most of the literates were up to or under primary level. The main objective of educating the children in their opinion was to secure the future of the children and over two third were very optimistic towards girls' education where more than half of the women population was found literate. Though most of the children were regular, still over one third were found to be irregular to institutions where the weak economic condition played a vital role for the reason and only about one third of the children were equipped with sufficient stationary goods. A drop out of rate of over one third of children is another major setback, where child's unwillingness was found to be the major reason for this. Less than one third of the parents were found to be assisting their children's education by any means and just above one third of the households have taken an adult literacy class which is something to cheer for.*

*Thus from the study it is concluded that though the literacy level of the Dalits of study area is found quite gleaming statistically, the actual level of knowledge and consciousness is very poor in terms. The prospect towards the education among the Dalit households was found quite encouraging and their attitude towards education very affirmative. Though most of the members had been admitted to school at times, they had to leave the studies because of economic problem and other constraints. The female literacy rate is also found to be quite adorable but the level of education in this case also being much poorer. The regularity is also the main concern where poor economic condition played a major role. The poor economic condition, lack of awareness among parents, dirty environment among the community etc were found as the main obstacles to restrict their education.*

*The study indicates that it is necessary to create awareness about education and its outcomes in coming future. Educational enhancement among Dalits is essential to change the attitudes and behavior within Dalits and to bring change in the inter-community culture. The prevailing caste-based discrimination is to be mitigated. Special kind of incentive to the children of this community for education should be offered and a regular class for 'adult education' is required to conduct which will be proved to be a one step push forward for the adult of this community.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Recommendation

Letter of Approval

Acknowledgement

List of Tables

List of Figures

Acronyms/Abbreviation

### **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study	4
1.4 Significance of the Study	4
1.5 Limitation of the Study	5
1.6 Organization of the Study	6

### **CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

2.0 Literature Review	7
2.1 Education	7
2.2 Ethnicity and Dalits	9
2.3 Inequality and Dalit	11
2.4 Dalits and Education	13
2.5 Dalit Related Issues	14

### **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Research Design	17
3.2 Study Site	17
3.3 Sampling Design	17
3.4 Nature and Sources of Data	18
3.5 Techniques of Data Collection	19
3.6 Analysis and Presentation	19

### **CHAPTER FOUR: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY AREA**

4.1 Location	20
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4.2 Features	20
4.3 Historical Importance	20
4.4 Climate	21
4.5 Flora and Fauna	22
4.6 Population Composition	23
4.6.1 Population Composition with respect to Ethnic Groups	23
4.7 Drainage	25
4.8 Transportation	25
4.9 Settlement Pattern	25
4.10 Communication, Electricity, Water Supply and Health Services	26
4.11 Institutions	27
4.12 Agricultural Development	27

## **CHAPTER FIVE: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

### **5.1 Socio Economic Status**

5.1.1 Age and Sex Composition of Households	28
5.1.2 Land Holding	28
5.1.3 Livestock Rearing	30
5.1.4 Residential Status	31
5.1.5 Occupational Status	31
5.1.6 Household Luxuries	32
5.1.7 Type of House	33
5.1.8 Family Size	33
5.1.9 Toilet Management	34

### **5.2 Educational Status**

5.2.1 Literacy Level	35
5.2.2 Objective of Educating Children	36
5.2.3 Girls Education	37
5.2.4 Vision towards Girls Education	39
5.2.5 Regularity to Schools/Colleges	39
5.2.6 Highest Level of Education of Household	41
5.2.7 Availability of Stationary Goods	42
5.2.8 Drop Out	43
5.2.9 Study Assistance to Children	45

5.2.10 Types of School 45

5.2.11 Adult Literacy 46

**CHAPTER SIX : SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Summary 47

6.2 Conclusions 50

6.3. Recommendations 52

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**APPENDIX**



## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 3.1: Description of Sampled Households</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Table 4.1: Monthly Temperature and Rainfall</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Table 4.2: Age Composition of the Population of the VDC</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Table 4.3: Ethnic/Caste Composition of the VDC</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Table 5.1: Sex and Age Composition of the Population of Households</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Table 5.2 Land Holding of Households</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Table 5.3: Food Sufficiency</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Table 5.4: Status of Livestock Rearing</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Table 5.5: Residential Status</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Table 5.6: Occupational Distribution</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Table 5.7: Household Luxuries</b>	<b>33 Table</b>
<b>5.8: Type of House</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Table 5.9: Distribution of Family Size</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Table 5.10: Toilet Management</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Table 5.11: Literacy level</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Table 5.12: Objective of Educating Children</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Table 5.13: Girls literacy level</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Table 5.14: Vision towards Girls Education</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Table 5.15: Regularity to Schools/Colleges</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Table 5.16: Reason for Regularity</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Table 5.17: Reason for Irregularity</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Table 5.18: Highest Level of Education of Household</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Table 5.19: Availability of Stationary Goods</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Table 5.20: Drop out level</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Table 5.21: Reason for Drop Out</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Table 5.22: Study Assist to Children</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Table 5.23: Type of School</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Table 5.24: Participation in Adult Literacy Class</b>	<b>47</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure 5.1: Objective of Educating Children</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Figure 5.2: Girls literacy level</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Figure 5.3: Availability of Stationary Goods</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Figure 5.4: Drop out level</b>	<b>44</b>

## **ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDP	Community Development Program
CEDA	Center for Economic Development and Administration
CDRD	Central Department of Rural Development
CERID	Research Center for Educational Innovation and Development
FEDO	Feminist Dalit Organization
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FUG	Forest User's Group
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HHs	Households
INGO	International NGO
Kg	Kilogram
km.	Kilometer
M	Meter
MoF	Ministry of Finance
NG	Government of Nepal
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NNLP	Nepal National Literacy Program
NPC	National Planning Commission
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
TV	Television
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Aid/Assistance International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
VHF	Very High Frequency
WB	World Bank