

**SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF KUMAL
COMMUNITY IN POKHARATHOK VDC-3, BHAINSIPUR,
PALPA DISTRICT**

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
for the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled “**Socio-Cultural and Economic Status of Kumal Community in Pokharathok VDC-3, Bhainsipur, Palpa District**” is prepared by Uttam Aryal under my guidance and supervision for partial 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 is to certify that the thesis submitted by Uttam Aryal entitled “**Socio-Cultural and Economic Status of Kumal Community in Pokharathok VDC-3, Bhainsipur, Palpa District**” has been approved by this Department in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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ABSTRACT

Nepal is a nation of various tribes, castes and clans differing in language, religion, customs and culture. Nepali culture is a mixed culture where bending of various national culture representing in three ecological regions, the Mountain, the Hill and the Terai. The Kumals are the Mongoloid in appearance and inhabit the Terai, Inner Terai and close to the river valley of mid hills of Nepal. Palpa district is inhabited by various ethnic groups. The Kumal is one of them and indigenous group of this area and has its 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.

The study" Socio-cultural and Economic Status of Kumal Community of Bhainsipur Community of Pokharathok - 3 Palpa district" with general objective is to find out and examine various socio cultural and economic aspects. The specific objectives of the study are to analyze the socio-cultural aspects of Kumal community. To analyze their Economic aspects. To find out the problems faced by Kumal community.

Primary and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaire, interview schedule, key informant interview, and observation and secondary data were collected through previous studies, published and unpublished documents, from related literature and from government documents, CBS, Newspaper, leaflet and NGOs and INGOs working in Palpa district. Altogether 38 households of Bhainsipur Kumal Community were the study universe and descriptive and exploratory research design had been applied in this study.

The present study focuses the changing socio-cultural and Economic condition of Kumal and factors responsible for it. The Kumal or ethnic group is least studied group by native and foreign sociologists. The way of worshipping their village deities, believe in spirits, typical dress pattern and cluster type of settlement pattern distinctly differ from other ethnic groups. In one hand, due to the domination of 'high Castes' Kumal are losing their native culture, philosophy of life style, self confidence about their own traditions, language and beliefs. But on the other hand, due to the domination of 'High Castes. Some significant changes are seen in education, health sector, sanitation, economic activities and way of life style of Kumal Community in Bhainsipur Village.

Based upon the findings the paper suggests some recommendations to develop socio-cultural and Economic status of Kumal in Bhainsipur Village. It mainly focuses Kumal are one of the backward ethnic group of the country. So different awareness programme related to health, education, farming etc. should provide them.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
etc.	:	et cetera
HH	:	Household
HMG/N	:	His Majesty Government/Nepal
i.e.	:	That is
I/NGO	:	International/Non-Governmental Organization
Rs.	:	Rupees (Nepali Currency)
SA	:	Samuhik Abhiyan
SRDCN	:	Social Resource Development Centre-Nepal

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