

**CONSTRAINTS IN THE SOCIO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES: A
CASE STUDY OF THE DALITS OF PALAKOT AREA
IN BAGLUNG, NEPAL**

by

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled Constraints in the Socioeconomic Development of Backward Communities: A Case Study of the Dalits of Palakot Area in Baglung, Nepal has been prepared by Mr. Bijaya Raj Pant, under my direct supervision, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. I, therefore, recommend for its evaluation and acceptance by the thesis evaluation committee.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that the thesis, submitted by Mr. Bijaya Raj Pant, entitled Constraints in the Socioeconomic Development of Backward Communities: A Case Study of the Dalits of Palakot Area in Baglung, Nepal has been approved by the Department in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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Bijaya Raj Pant

Date:

Abstract

It is clear that Nepal is an amalgamation of diversity in terms of natural and cultural features. So many mysterious as well as superstitious values and norms of Nepalese society have presented the country as a complex cultural combination. Traditionally, Nepalese society has inherited deep roots in the Hindu caste system, with hierarchy of different groups of people within the system.

Traditional social systems and beliefs have made some communities of society socially and economically backward. Dalits of Nepal are one of the communities within Hindu caste system whose social, economic health status and participation in social and political activities are lower compared to other communities. They have been suffering from inhuman prejudices, and unbearable discrimination throughout the country. Various practices have been carried out in order to uplift living standard of such communities in different time periods but the Dalits have yet been surviving in miserable conditions. Progress and prosperity of the countryside is being disturbed by such conditions. In this context, this study is an attempt to identify barriers in the socioeconomic development of the Dalit community concentrated only in the Palakot area of Baglung district.

The overall socioeconomic condition of the people in this area is approximately similar to the rest of the Nepalese countryside. Sarki, Damai and Kami are the Dalit castes in this area. Population of the Dalits covers 19.08 percent (842) of the total population in this area who live in 143 households. About 48 percent (70) of total households have been taken as respondents using the stratified sampling method.

In spite of so many promotional practices, there is no remarkable alternation, progress and prosperity in the overall socioeconomic condition of the Dalits in this area. Unfavorable customs and superstitious thinking in the society, on one side, economic backwardness, on the other, have compelled them to survive miserably. Inherent traditional occupations of the Dalits have been going towards vulnerable condition due to lack of competitive capacity and advancement. Likewise, inadequate promotional practices and lack of continuity of appropriate programmes are also the major factors behind the backwardness of these communities.

Social and economic developments are closely related, i.e., they are interdependent variables. Thus, equal emphasis should be given on social and economic factors for the overall development of Dalit communities.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
BCE	:	Before Common Era
BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	:	District Development Committee
Etc.	:	Et cetera, i.e. and so on.
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Production
HDI	:	Human Development Index
HDR	:	Human Development Report
INGO	:	International Non-Government Organization
KM	:	Kilo Meter
NDC	:	Nepal Dalit's Commission
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
NHRC	:	National Human Rights Commission
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
PDDP	:	Participatory District Development Programme
Rs	:	Rupees
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
TU	:	Tribhuvan University

UDC	:	Underdeveloped Countries
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children's Fund
US	:	United States
WWW	:	World Wide Web