

**Continuity and Change: An Ethnographic Study
of the Danuwars of Bhalwai in Kamala Khonch,
Sindhuli District**

A Thesis

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In

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BY

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Recommendation letter

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It is certified that Mr. Madhu Giri has completed his dissertation entitled **"Continuity and Change: An Ethnographic Study of Danuwars of Bhalwai in Kamala Khonch, Sindhuli District"** under my guidance and supervision. I recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

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This dissertation presented by Madhu Giri entitled "**Continuity and Change: An Ethnographic Study of Danuwars of Bhalwai in Kamala Khonch, Sindhuli District**" has been accepted in the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in Anthropology.

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Abstract

This is an ethnographic study of rural Danuwar, an ethnic group of inner terai, which came to interact with the Parbatiya emigrants after the success of DDT spraying campaign against malaria in Bhalwai settlement of Kamala Khonch of Sindhuli district. Since 1960s, different caste/ethnic groups (Parbatiya) from hills and indigenous Danuwars have been living there together. Danuwars of Bhalwai have developed their own methods of identity management through the processes of persistence and change. The persistence and change are taken place more spontaneous, more locally informed dialectical interplay at the boundary. Danuwar Jagaran Samiti (DJS) has been trying to drive all the Danuwars into a common cultural territory of ethnic groups but the Danuwars of Bhalwai are unaware regarding modern ethnic consciousness.

Some of the distinct identity markers and continuation of Danuwars of Bhalwai include: Danuwari language, beliefs in god and goddesses, traditional occupations (fishing, hunting, and basket weaving), food habits, and rituals (marriage Sariyati and the three day cremation). Dress-ornaments, Chhodaki Nach and Manjani systems are observed changes among the Danuwars of Bhalwai.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
Recommendation letter	i
Approval letter	ii
Acknowledgments	iii
Abstract	vi
Table of Contents	vii
List of Photographs	ix
Abbreviations	x
Chapter-I: Introduction	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.4 Rationale of the Study	6
1.5 Organization of the Study	7
Chapter-II: Literature Review	8
2.1 Continuity and Change	8
2.2 From Tribe to Ethnic Group	8
2.3 Ethnic Group and Identity	10
2.4 Concepts of Ethnicity: Primordial, Modernist, Constructive/Synthesis	13
2.5 Review of Ethnographic Texts	15
2.6 Existing Literature of Danuwars	22
Chapter-III: Methodological Approach	26
3.1 Choice of Place, People	26
3.2 Data Requirement: Nature and Source	27
3.3 Tools and techniques of data collection	28
3.4 Participation and Observation: Watching and Listening	28
3.5 Field Experiences	30
3.6 Limitations of the Study	32

Chapter-IV: Danuwars of Bhalwai: Continuity and Change	35
4.1 Bhalwai village and Danuwars	35
4.2 History	39
4.3 Culture: Name Giving, Marriage, Death Rituals	40
4.4 Livelihood strategies: Traditional and Changed Occupations	44
4.5 Irrigation	49
4.6 Communal cattle grazing system	50
Chapter-V: Danuwars Identity: Local practices and Ethnic Consciousness	54
5.1 Identity	54
5.2 Language	56
5.3 Dress and Ornament	57
5.4 Chhodaki Nach	58
5.5 Commensality	61
5.6 Contexts of Social Interactions	62
5.7 Politics	64
5.8 Danuwar Ethnic Movements	68
5.9 Danuwar-Parbatiya consciousness	69
Chapter-VI: Continuity and Change –Some Concluding Remarks	72
Major Findings	75
Glossary of Danuwari Terms	77
References	80

List of Photograph

		Page No.
Photograph 1	Danuwar's usual gathering under mango tree	36
Photograph 2	Danuwar haouse and family members	36
Photograph 3	Participation of villagers to make kulo	53
Photograph 4	Metha checking attendance of kulo owners	53
Photograph 5	Reseatcher's participation on paddy plantation	54
Photograph 6	A Scene of communal participation on paddy plantation	54
Photograph 7	Crowd of Bol Bam	61
Photograph 8	Danuwar Natuwa dancing	61

Abbreviations

BS	– Bikram Sambat
CBS	– Central Department of Statistics
CNAS	– Centre for Nepal and Asian Study
DJS	– Danuwar Jagaran samiti
HH	– Households
IRDS	– Integrated Rural Development Society
KG	– Kilogram
MA	– Master of Arts
MESI	– Measuring Empowerment and Social Inclusion
NC	– Nepali Congress Party
NEFDIN	– National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities
NEFEN	– Nepal Federation of Nationalities
NGO	– Non-government organization
TU	– Tribhuvan University
UML	– United Marxist Leninist Party
VDC	– Village Development Committee