

# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF KUMAL COMMUNITY**

**(A Case Study of Putalibazar Municipality, Syangja District)**

**A Thesis  
Submitted to  
Central Department of Rural Development  
The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
In Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for the Master's  
Degree of Arts in Rural Development**

**By  
Durga Prasad Poudel  
T.U. Regd. No. 31527-90  
Roll. No. 269**

**Central Department of Rural Development  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
April, 2009**

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. Durga Prasad Poudel has completed this thesis entitled “**Socio-Economic Status of Kumal Community (A Case Study of Putalibazar Municipality, Syangja District)**” under my guidance. This is his independent work for the fulfillment of the master in Rural Development. I recommend this thesis for final evaluation.

---

Prof. Dr. Mahendra Singh  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: .....

## **APPROVAL SHEET**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Socio-economic Status of Kumal Community (A Case Study of Putalibazar Municipality, Syangja District)**” submitted by Mr. Durga Prasad Poudel has been examined. It has been declared successful for fulfillment of the academic requirements toward the completion of Masters of Arts in Rural Development.

### **Thesis Committee**

---

External Examiner

---

Thesis Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Mahendra Singh

Central Department of Rural Development

T.U., Kirtipur

---

Head

Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka

Central Department of Rural Development

T.U., Kirtipur

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In writing this thesis, I have mostly relied upon my thesis approved at the Central Department of Rural Development, T.U. Kirtipur, on B.S. 2065-02-05. But various persons and institutions continuously supported my work. I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Prof. Mr. Mahendra Singh, for his most competent guidance, encouragement and constructive suggestions throughout my work. Similarly, I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Pradeep Khadka, Head of the Central Department of Rural Development for his invaluable suggestions. I also feel privileged to express my gratitude to all the teachers of Central Department of Rural Development for their gracious response to my queries.

I would like to thank all the non-teaching staff members of Central Department of Rural Development and all the staff members of Central library, T.U. Kirtipur for the help they extended to me during this project in various ways.

I am equally indebted to Mr. Hum Bahadur Kumal, Krishna Godar, Chiranjivi Bhandari, Bhuwan Bahadur Poudal, Jevalal Kafley, Mrs Bindu Poudel, who helped me in data collection. Thanks are also due to all the Kumals, teacher, social leaders of Pualibazar municipality who provided the support to me by answering all my questions in the interview. I would like to give thanks to any own daughter Bandana Poudel.

It is my most pleasant opportunity to express my gratitude to my elder Brother Gyaneshowr Pouldel who encouraged me in this thesis with all the warmth and affection. I also would like to thank my hearty friends Ghanashyam Neupane who helped me by Proof reading my thesis and Mr./Mrs. Rukesh Shrestha/Tara Maharjan for the efficient typing of the manuscript so as to bring the work into reality.

Durga Prasad Poudel

Date: April 2009

## ABSTRACT

*Nepal is one of the poorest countries in terms of economical condition but very rich in terms of caste, language, culture, traditional and bio-diversity. The development of ethnic diversity is very important for the development of a society as well as country. In Nepal from the very beginning we are very familiar to ethnic diversity and its importance for the development. But the ethnic groups of Nepal to some extent are in very backward position. Due to lack of knowledge and academic qualification they are living their lifestyle in their own way. They are still ignorant of importance of time, and education. They spend major sources of earning on the feast and drinking Jad, Raksi and Tobacco. Family size is very large due to the lack of education about family planning. They have less excess to development activities and political status so it is necessary to motivate them to take part in local level. Most of the Kumal people are living in rural area so Kumal people lies in poverty class.*

*The specific objectives of study is to find out the socio-economic condition of Kumals, to identify lifestyle of Kumal and to suggest measures for the improvement in their status.*

*Out of the 61 household only 25 households have been surveyed. Both primary and secondary sources have been used for the purpose of data collection. Questionnaire schedule, key informant interview, focus group discussion and observation have been used for primary data.*

*Kumals' are identified as one of the smallest groups of people living in Hilly and Terai region as well. They recognize themselves as one of the oldest groups of inhabitant of study area. Tradition and culture are the most important indicators of any particular culture groups. This study is focused on the study of the socio-economic condition of Kumal. Some of the specified problems have been recognized. In totality, study shows that Kumal community of Putalibazar Municipality is socially and economically deprived. So, the government should provide different program, allocation of special seats for Kumal in education, health and jobs for these indigenous community. Government should provide regular classes for special education to change their traditional mind, should provided the facility of low interest of loan for seeds and fertilizer. They are still not getting sufficient food to sustain their daily life.*

*It is hoped that this study of socio-economic condition of Kumal can be an important work. The, attempt will serve as a valuable document now and in future to formulate policies, strategies, development programm and projects for upliftment of the status of the Kumal to achieve the objectives of equity and development.*

*This thesis discusses status of Kumal people of Putalibazar Municipality, Syangja District, Gandaki Zone, Nepal.*

# LIST OF CONTENTS

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>CHAPTER-ONE</b>	<b>1-5</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problems	3
1.3 Objective of the Study	3
1.4 Scope of the Study	4
1.5 Limitation of the Study	4
1.6 Organization of the Study	4
<b>CHAPTER- TWO</b>	<b>6-11</b>
<b>Literature Review</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Theoretical Review	6
2.2 Studies in Nepal	7
2.3 The Kumals	10
2.4 Theoretical Application	11
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b>	<b>12-15</b>
<b>Research Methodology</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 Selection of the Study Area	12
3.2 Research Design	13
3.3 Nature and Sources of Data	13
3.4 Universe and Sampling	13
3.5 Techniques and Tools used in This Study	13
3.5.1 Data Collection Techniques	13
3.5.1.1 Interview Schedule	13
3.5.1.2 Key Information Interview	14
3.5.1.3 Observation	14
3.5.2 Tools	14
3.6 Data processing and Analysis	14
<b>CHAPTER- FOUR</b>	<b>16-39</b>
<b>Study Area and its Socio-Cultural Features</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1 Physical Setting	16
4.2 History of Kumal People	19

4.3	Physical Appearance, Dress and Ornaments	20
4.4	Division of Labour	21
4.5	Festivals	21
4.5.1	Dashain	22
4.5.2	Tihar	23
4.5.3	Teej	23
4.5.4	Saune Sakranti	24
4.5.5	Maghe Sakranti	24
4.5.6	Change in Celebration Patterns	24
4.6	Songs and Dances	25
4.6.1	Hyampai	25
4.6.2	Bhailo Nanch	25
4.7	Kinship	26
4.8	Socio-Economic Features	27
4.8.1	Birth Rites	27
4.8.1.1	Chhaiti	28
4.8.1.2	Nwaran (Naming ceremony)	28
4.8.2	Bhat Khubai (Pasni)	28
4.8.3	Marriage	29
4.8.4	Death Rites	30
4.9	Religion and Superstition	31
4.9.1	Nag- Nageni Pooja	32
4.9.2	Sikari or Banaskhandi Pooja	32
4.9.3	Deshantari Mai and Phirantari Mai Pooja	33
4.9.4	Mandali Bai and Semare Bai Pooja	33
4.9.5	Chandi Pooja	33
4.9.6	Baje Bajei Pooja	34
4.9.7	Kula Pooja	34
4.9.8	Bayn Pooja	36
4.9.9	Sema Pooja	36
4.10	Dhikur	38
4.11	Fishing	38
4.12	Hali Partha	39
4.13	Wage Labour	39

<b>CHAPTER-FIVE</b>	<b>40-50</b>
<b>Socio-Economic Characteristics</b>	<b>40</b>
5.1 Age and Sex	40
5.2 Occupational Distribution of Population	41
5.3 Income Distribution	42
5.4 Family Structure	43
5.5 Religion	44
5.6 Age at Marriage	44
5.7 Educational Status	45
5.8 Food Sufficiency from Own Production	46
5.9 Land Selling	46
5.10 Settlement Pattern	46
5.11 Treatment	47
5.12 Size of Land Holding	48
5.13 Family Size	49
<b>CHAPTER-SIX</b>	<b>51-54</b>
<b>Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation</b>	<b>51</b>
7.1 Summary	51
7.2 Conclusion	53
7.3 Recommendations	54
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>56</b>



## LIST OF TABLES

	<b>Pages</b>
Table 4.1: Land Utilization	16
Table 4.2: Climate and Temperature	17
Table 4.3: Population	17
Table 4.4: Number of Schools	17
Table 4.5: Students Number	18
Table 5.1: Distribution of Age and Sex	40
Table 5.2: Percentage Distribution of Household's by Occupation Putaliwzar Municipality	42
Table 5.3: Distribution of Annual income of Kumal Based on Agriculture	42
Table 5.4: Distribution of Family Structure	43
Table 5.5: Distribution of Religion	44
Table 5.6: Age at Marriage	44
Table 5.7: Educational Status	45
Table 5.7: Distribution on the Basis of Food Sufficiency	46
Table 5.8: Types of Roof of House	47
Table 5.9: Division of Respondents on the Basis of Preferred Treatment	47
Table 5.10: Distribution of Household According to Land Holding Size	48
Table 5.11: Household by Family Size	49

## GLOSSARY

Aakhat	:	Rice grains
Amishiyar	:	Same blood
Boksi	:	With craft
Dakshina	:	Presents
Dhikur	:	Rotating credit association
Ghatasthapana	:	Which means the establishing of the holy water vessels
Jaal	:	Fishing net
Jad	:	Home made beer
Jal	:	Water
Kachhad	:	Lion cloth
Khatiya	:	Stretcher to carry death body
Khudo	:	Molasses
Knnda	:	Cow dung
Kuldevata	:	Family god
Kundulo	:	A cage made of bamboo stick and nylon thread
Kutumba	:	Relatives formed with the marriage of daughter or sister
Lawa	:	Fried paddy
Laxmi	:	Goddess of wealth
Pattri	:	Leaf made disc
Perungo	:	A kind of bamboo basket
Pinda	:	A ball made of cooked rice
Raksi	:	Liquor
Tarul	:	Yam