

**LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY OF MUSHAR COMMUNITY
A CASE STUDY OF BAIJANATHPUR VDC, MORANG**

**A Dissertation Submitted to Faculty of Humanities and
Social Sciences for the Partial Fulfillment of
The Requirements for the Masters
Degree in Sociology**

**Submitted by:
Kedar Prasad Ghimire**

**Central Department of Sociology /Anthropology
Tribhuvan University
Katmandu, Nepal
September, 2009**

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
KIRTIPUR

Letter of Acceptance

This thesis presented by Kedar Prasad Ghimire entitled "Livelihood Strategy of Mushar Community: A Case Study of Baijanathpur VDC, Morang" has been accepted as partial fulfillment of requirement for the Master Degree in Sociology.

Expert Committee

Chairman

Dr. Om Gurung

External

Mr. Jailab Rai

Supervisor

Mr. Uddhav Rai

Date:.....

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
KIRTIPUR

Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Kedar Prasad Ghimire has completed this dissertation entitled "Livelihood Strategy of Mushar Community: A Case Study of Baijanathpur VDC, Morang" under my supervision and guidance in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology. I, therefore recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

Date:

Mr. Uddhav Rai
Lecturer
Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
Nepal

ACKNOIWLEDGEMENT

I express my deepest gratitude and like to extend my sincere thanks to my guide L. Uddhav Rai, Department of Sociology and Anthropology for his valuable advise, guidance, countless admires and constant encouragement. I am successful to present this thesis in this form due to his continuous guidance and kind behavior.

Special thanks also go to Dr. Om Gurung, Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology for his initial encouragement for the study of whole Mushar community. It was his advice that touched my heart and moved me toward the community for research.

My sincere appreciation and thanks are due to all the community people, respondents, and interviewed individuals and especially to Mr. Futilal Rsidev who carefully guided me going door to door during the whole research period to out my fear.

My sincere regard is also due to Kulkulia Rsidev, an active female of the community for her unforgettable support and service, to the youth of community who familiarized me with the local institutions and club. The regard is also due to them who sometimes dropped tear from their eyes while reciting their story of life and to them who complained me as I used to miss them during the research due to cluster sampling.

I am also beholden to my wife Januka Ghimire for her continuous support in typing and collecting references, to my both sister Durga Ghimire and Shashi Ghimire for their unforgettable help during the survey time.

September 2009

Kedar Prasad Ghimire

ABSTRACT

Mushar are marginalized caste group people deprived of various basic facilities like education, health, communication, electricity and other services that are the essential factors for the development of the modern citizen. The present thesis “Livelihood strategy of the Mushar community: a case study of Baijanathpur VDV, Morang” is formulated according to the statement of the problems. The main objectives of this thesis are: to describe socio-cultural condition, to examine the livelihood strategies and to find out the change in livelihood of Mushar community due to modernization. To get the objectives, 75 households are taken to the cluster sampling out of 323 households.

Mushar people of Baijanathpur VDC practices multifarious strategies to maintain their livelihood. Such practices include wage labor, agriculture, animal husbandry, migration, investment and saving. Agriculture, with lesser impact of modernization is yielded to wage-oriented agriculture. Year-long food deficiency and loss of Mohi authority, is attributed to weaken the agricultural situation of Muahar community people. Animal husbandry, particularly poultry, despite of any hybrid animals and sufficient land for shedding and cultivation is mounting up due to the developed market in nearby village. Rickshaw pulling, Rajmistri, Janman, labor at factory and industry are the chief wage- related activities which are of utmost importance livelihood strategy of majority households of Mushars. Emigration to India, though traditional, particularly to Delhi and Punjab, is increased which is much helpful to support their livelihood and the occupation is suffice to introduce them with outside world. Saving at banks and co-operatives is significant. The consumption of modern equipments like Motorcycle and car is totally not seen but the use of television, DVD, CD, VCD and mobile increased with untapped electricity. The expenditure is below the poverty line which is, more precisely, less in education and health. With uneven income and sources for earning, the Mushar community might be the victim of social discrimination and the Mushar community people might be discriminated as haves and haves not group which might collapse the unity and cohesiveness of community in future. So, the Mushar community people are afflicted despite of some changes.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	Page
List of Abbreviations	
Glossary	
List of Table	
List of Figures	
<u>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</u>	1
<u>1.1 Background</u>	1
<u>1.2 Statement of the Problem</u>	4
<u>1.3 Objectives of the Study</u>	5
<u>1.4 Significance of the Study</u>	5
<u>1.4 Scope and Limitations</u>	8
<u>CHAPTER II : LITERATURE REVIEW</u>	9
<u>2.1 Development</u>	11
<u>2.2 Modernization</u>	12
<u>2.3 Dependency Theory</u>	12
<u>2.4 Sustainable Development</u>	13
<u>2.5 Literature Related to Livelihood and Livelihood Strategy</u>	13
<u>2.6 Livelihood Assets</u>	14
<u>2.7 Literature Related to Mushar</u>	14
<u>CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY</u>	18
<u>3.1 Study Site and Reasoning for Selection</u>	18
<u>3.2 Research Design</u>	19
<u>3.3 Universe and Sample</u>	20
<u>3.4 Nature and Source of Data</u>	21
<u>3.5 Data Collection Technique</u>	21
<u>3.5.1 Households Survey</u>	22
<u>3.5.2 Observation</u>	22
<u>3.5.3 Key Informant Interview</u>	22
<u>3.5.4 Questionnaire</u>	23
<u>3.5.5 Field-notes</u>	23
<u>CHAPTER IV: GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA</u>	26

<u>4.1</u>	<u>Location and Physical Setting</u>	26
<u>4.2</u>	<u>Natural Resources</u>	26
<u>CHAPTER V: MUSHARS AND LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY</u>		30
<u>5.1</u>	<u>Livelihood Strategies and Outcome</u>	36
<u>5.1.2</u>	<u>Animal Husbandry as a Means of Earning Livelihood and Impact of Modernization</u>	47
<u>5.1.3</u>	<u>Wage Labor as a Means of Earning Livelihood and Impact of Modernization</u>	50
<u>5.1.4:</u>	<u>Migration as a Means of Earning Livelihood and Impact of Modernization</u>	52
<u>5.1.5</u>	<u>Investment/Saving as a Means of Earning Livelihood and Impact of Modernization.</u>	54
<u>5.1.6:</u>	<u>Consumption as a Means of Earning Livelihood and Impact of Modernization</u>	55
<u>5.1.7</u>	<u>Pattern of Expenditure at Food, Cloths, Health, Education and Festivals</u>	59
<u>5.1.8</u>	<u>Evil Activities as a Means of Earning Livelihood</u>	61

<u>CHAPTER- SIX: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</u>	60
6.1 <u>Summary</u>	60
6.2 <u>Conclusions</u>	65
6.3 <u>Recommendation</u>	70

<u>REFERENCES</u>	72
--------------------------	-----------

<u>Appendix-1: Household Survey Questionnaire of Livelihood Strategy of Mushar Community</u>	75
---	-----------

<u>Appendix-2: Socio-economic and cultural situation of Mushar Community (Check List)</u>	82
--	-----------

<u>Appendix-3: Socio-economic and cultural (key informant interview)</u>	83
---	-----------

Appendix-4: Map of the Study Area	84
--	-----------

Appendix-5: Photos and Illustrations	85
---	-----------

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table-1: Population Distribution of the Study Area by Sex</u>	27
<u>Table-2: Distribution of Population of VDC by Age Group</u>	28
<u>Table-3: Population Distribution of VDC on the Basis of Castes and Ethnic Groups</u>	29
<u>Table-4: Distribution of Respondents Involving at Various Organizations and Decision Making</u>	32
<u>Table-5: Distribution of Respondent by Ages Group</u>	33
<u>Table-6: Distributions of Respondents by Sex and Literacy</u>	34
<u>Table-7: Distribution of Respondents by Main Occupation</u>	35
<u>Table-8: Distribution of Respondents by Food Surplus</u>	38
<u>Table-9: Distribution of Respondent Having Income from Agriculture</u>	41
<u>Table-10: Distribution of Respondent Having the Idea of Using Fertilizer/Insecticide/Pesticide</u>	43
<u>Table-11: Distribution of Respondent by Using Tools and Equipments</u>	44
<u>Table-12: Distribution of Respondents Getting Money in Advance Then and Now.</u>	46
<u>Table-13: Distribution of Respondents Rearing Various Kinds of Animals</u>	47
<u>Table-14: Distribution of Respondent Selling Milk Product Then and Now</u>	49
<u>Table-15: Distribution of Respondents by Various Forms of Wage Labor and Income</u>	50
<u>Table-16: Distribution of Respondents Going Abroad for Earning Livelihood</u>	53
<u>Table-17: Distribution of Respondent Having Income from Emigration</u>	53
<u>Table-18: Distribution of Respondents Having Investment/Saving</u>	54
<u>Table-19: Distribution of Respondents Having the Idea of Investment Then and Now</u>	55
<u>Table-20: Distribution of Respondents by the Consumption of Various Tools and Equipment</u>	56
<u>Table-21: Distribution of Respondent by the User of Means of Communication</u>	57
<u>Table-22: Distribution of Respondents Having Annual Expenditure</u>	59
<u>Table-23: Annual Expenditure at Education</u>	60
<u>Table-24: Annual Expenditure at Health</u>	60

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure-1: Conceptual Framework of the Study</u>	7
<u>Figure-2: Distribution of Respondents by Land Holding Ownership</u>	36
<u>Figure-3: Different Strategies Adopted by Households to Maintain Food Deficiency</u>	40
<u>Figure-4: Distribution of Respondent by Shared Land Then and Now</u>	42
<u>Figure-5: Distribution of Households Producing and Non Producing the Sell Items</u>	45
<u>Figure-6: Distribution of Respondent Having Income from Animal Husbandry</u>	48

Abbreviations

B.S	-	Bikram Sambat
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CD	-	Compact Disc
DDC	-	District Development Committee
DFID	-	Department of International Development
DVD	-	Digital Versatile Disk
Et.al	-	and others
F/I/P	-	Fertilizer/Insecticides/Pesticides
H.H	-	Household
Km	-	Kilometers
NRs	-	Nepalese Rupees
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
INGO	-	International Non-Governmental Organization
RDA	-	Rastriya Dalit Ayog
TV	-	Television
T/M	-	Traditional and Modern
U.P	-	Uttar Pradesh
UNDP	-	United Nation Development Program
VDC	-	Village Development Committee

Glossary

Adhiya	-	Half share
Baijun	-	Eggplant
Byajmarauni	-	Interest less
Bayar	-	Plum
Char Muli	-	Old member of house
Dakait	-	Rubber, Dacoit
DhrmaBhakari	-	Religious institution
Dalit	-	Low class people in the caste hierarchy such as Blacksmith
Kodali/Kodalo	-	A spade with a long handle
Khukuri	-	Curved knife
Lauka	-	Squash
Mohi	-	Tenant of land
Mohi Adhikar	-	Tenant right at land
Musuro	-	Lentil
Raga	-	Male-buffalo
Tarkari	-	Curry
Theka	-	Contract, lease