

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF CHEPANG
COMMUNITY**

(A Case Study of Sarikhet VDC of Makawanpur District)

A THESIS

Submitted to:

Central Department of Rural Development

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**in Particular Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Master of Arts**

In

Rural Development

Submitted by:

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September 2011

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled “**Socio- Economic Condition of Chepang Community (A Case study of Sarikhet VDC in Makawanpur District)**” has been prepared by Mr. Amar Dip Sapkota under my supervision in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development. I hereby recommend this thesis to the evaluation committee for evaluation and approval.

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APPROVAL SHEET

We certify that this thesis entitled “**Socio Economic Condition of Chepang Community (A Case Study of Sarikhet VDC in Makawanpur District)**” submitted by Mr. Amar Dip Sapkota to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in particular fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. We accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The present study entitled “**Socio Economic Condition of Chepang Community (A Case Study of Sarikhet VDC in Makawanpur District)**” is an attempt to give an overall picture of Chepang Community of Sarikhet VDC. This study is dedicated to all the people of the VDC, as without their help this study could not have been completed.

It is a matter of great pleasure and privilege for gratitude to Associate Prof. Dr. Uma Kant Silwal, Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, for his valuable guidance with exceptional promptness and me to express my profound regarding. His wise counsel and guidance provided me the inspiration to go ahead with work.

I am also indebted with the officials of Sarikhet VDC Office, teachers of Shree Mahendra Kiran Secondary School, Bal Bodh Primary School, officials of village health post, CBS. I wish to record my sincere thanks to local respondents, teachers and all officers for the valuable cooperation in filling the questionnaire without any hesitation.

I acknowledgement my deep sense of gratitude towards my parents, Mr. Subol Adhikari, my friends, Mr. Bikash Upreti, Mr. Dil Raj Joshi, Mr. Mukesh Panta, Mr. Basanta Sitaula, Miss Maiya Dahal, Miss Rama Dhungana, Mr. Namaraj Timalina and Miss Sita Gautam for encouraging and providing me the congenial environment and support to complete this research work and their continuous support in my effort.

I do not claim this research work to be very exhaustive in nature because of various constraints during the study. I hope this small effort of mine will be great value to those who are interested about the Chepang Community of Sarikhet VDC and all other future researcher of this area.

Amar Dip Sapkota

September 2011

ABSTRACT

The research is descriptive and explanatory in nature. The study has assessed the overall status of the Chepangs of Sarikhet VDC, Makawanpur. Interviews were taken with the selected samples of the elderly. An attempt was also made to look into their problems through interactions, and observations the random sampling method was adopted to select the respondents, and they were asked semi-structured questions. The findings taken from the research were interpreted, and recommendations were made accordingly.

Chepang have been considered as one of the indigenous groups of Nepal. The census of 2002 has revealed that the population of Chepang is 52,237. The Chepangs have their own language, which belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family. The Chepang language is close to languages of Thami and Hayu. The Chepangs mostly bury their dead body. The dead body is bathed and new clothes and garlands of flower are put on the body and wrapped with burial cloth. A box is made of the barks of sal, in which the dead body is kept and buried. Chepangs are two types, viz Pukunthae and Kachhare. It is a matter of fact that in the past Chepangs were living in isolation and roaming like nomads having no contacts with the outside world. However, with the passage of time they have been improving themselves and developing relationship with other people and have been living in the society. The influence of modernization has less effect on their life.

There lies abject poverty among the Chepangs in the study site. Still they rely on wild food to solve their hand to mouth problems. Nearly 42% of the respondents were found married at early age. Similarly, the education level of the respondents was also found very low. About 64.28% of the male respondents were illiterate followed by 83.33% female. Majority of the respondents were found holding agriculture as their major occupation. While assessing the religion of the respondents, about 49% of the respondents were found Hindu, 31% Buddhist and the rest 20% Christians.

They were found living with meager income. Very few of the respondents had knowledge of family planning awareness. Similarly, majority of the respondents were found discriminated by the elites giving a loan and exploiting labor, the people of higher castes and some of them were found discriminated on charges of untouchability. Very few of the respondents were found holding sufficient land for food production. The food produced in their land is not sufficient to run their livelihood even for the period of half a year. Chonam, Dashain, Tihar, Maghesakranti and Saune sanessakranti are the major festivals that are celebrated by the Chepangs.

Hence, to overcome the problems of Chepangs and increase their living standard, their indigenous settlement must be protected and secured. Special measures must be adopted by the government to control the out migration of the Chepangs. Similarly, special quota should be allotted for Chepangs in the sectors like education, health, job, etc to increase their living standard and broaden their outlook. Chepangs are still not consulted in decision-making process at the local and national level. Hence, their participation is essential to make any program related to them success. Participatory management approach should be applied in the study site to make any program related to Chepangs a sustainable and durable one.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CBS:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDA:	Central for Economic Development and Administration
DDC:	District Development Committee
FP:	Family Planning
INGO:	International Non-Governmental Organization
NEFIN:	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
NCS:	Nepal Chepang Sangh
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
SLC:	School Living Certificate
TU:	Tribhuvan University
VDC:	Village Development Committee
WWW:	World Wide Web

