

NATURE OF RURAL POVERTY IN DAMAI COMMUNITY

**A Case Study of Paiyunthanthap VDC of Baglung District,
Nepal**

A Thesis

Submitted to

The Central Department of Rural Development

**Faculty of Humanities of Social Sciences in partial fulfillment
of the requirement for the degree of Master in Arts in R.D.**

By

Shalika Ram Sharma

M.A. II year

T.U. Regd No.:6-1-221-96

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

August 2006

RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that this thesis entitled "Nature of Rural Poverty in Damai Community: A Case Study of Paiyunthanthap VDC of Baglung District" is an independent work of Mr. Shalika Ram Sharma completed under my guidance and supervision for the partial fulfillment of requirements of Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development. To the best of my knowledge, this study is an original and carries useful information about rural poverty in Damai community. I, therefore, forward this report for the final evaluation.

.....

Prof. Dr. Mahendra Singh

Supervisor

Central Department of Rural Development

T.U. Kirtipur

Date:

APPROVAL LETTER

We certify that this thesis entitled " Nature of Rural Poverty in Damai Community: A Case Study of Paiyunthanthap VDC of Baglung District" submitted by Mr. Shalika Ram Sharma has been accepted as a partial fulfillment for the requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

Evaluation Committee

.....

Dr. Mangala Shrestha
(For Head of Department)

.....

Prof. Dr. Puskar Kumar Pradhan
(External)

.....

Prof. Dr. Mahendra Singh
(Supervisor)

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to all persons who supported me in completing this study. My work would never have been completed without their contributions, valuable suggestions and encouragement. First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my teacher and thesis supervisor Prof. Dr. Mahendra Singh founder Head of the Central Department of Rural Development of Tribhuvan University, for his valuable and continuous guidance, ordinal cooperation, constructive comments and supervision in carrying out the study and completing the thesis. Similarly, Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka, Head of the Department, is the valuable source of inspiration who kindly added the best solution for a good conduct of the project research.

I am grateful to all the respondents and others who heartily co-operated with me by providing essential information, data and other necessary support for this research. Likewise, I heartily thank all those concerned institutions and agencies especially National Dalit Commission (NDC), NGOCC, Baglung, DYC Baglung and DDC Baglung that helped me during the research by providing valuable materials for the study. I am very much indebted to Ram Prasad Sharma a Lecturer of Forestry Campus, Pokhara and Ishwori Prashad Sharma, District Election Officer, Kailali for their encouragement, inspiration and support for completion of this study. I would like to express my special thanks to my friends Yogendra Raj Rijal, Suraj, Saud and secretariat of DYC Baglung for their encouragement.

Especially, I wish to keep on record my heartily appreciation to my family members, without whose help this study would not have become a successful outcome. Finally, I heartily thank Mr. Manique Dangol of the MM Computer Service for the typing and printing of the document.

July, 2006

Shalika Ram Sharma

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Poverty is that condition in which a person doesn't maintain a scale of living enough to provide his physical and mental efficiency and to enable him and his natural dependents to function usefully according to the standards of the society of which he is a member. Similarly, rural poverty is an economic condition that is inadequate to meet the basic needs of rural people. It is the main obstacle of nation's prosperity. Moreover, it is mainly rooted in backward class and communities in Nepal. In this context, Damai community is also one of the Dalit communities in which rural poverty is concentrated.

Damai is one of the lowest castes which are recognized as the tailor caste. There are 98 family names of Damai and their total population is nearly 2 percent of total population. But they are victimized by caste discrimination and they have been facing the atrocity of untouchability for about one thousand six hundred years. Economically no access on the resource of production, politically excluded, educationally illiterate and no access to justice are the main scenarios of Damais. In this context, research has been launched in Paiyunthanthap VDC of Baglung district. This research is justifiable because such kind of study has not been done yet in this area and it is hoped that this study is helpful in formulation plans and programmes for mainstreaming the excluded basically Damai communities.

Assessing the overall rural poverty in which Damai are affected is the general objective. Identifying the socio-economic situation of Damai community, measuring absolute and relative poverty and finding the causes of rural poverty in Damai communities are the specific objectives.

The research is mainly based on the micro level study about the rural poverty in Damai at Paiyunthanthap VDC of Baglung district. The research has based on primary as well as secondary data. Primary data have been collected

from field survey through semi-structured questionnaire. Similarly, secondary data have collected from CBS, NPC, national Dalit commission etc. The sample size is one third of the total population household. Similarly, average ratio, percentage Kynsian consumption function, wolf point, Gini coefficient and Lorenz curve are used to analyze data.

Rural poverty is deeply rooted in Damai community. 40 percent households are below absolute poverty line and 25 percent households are relative poor in Damai community. There is a considerable degree of inequality in the distribution of income (Gini- coefficient = 0.17, Field Survey, 2063). There is high proportion of unemployment and semi-employment which is the main cause of poverty. The land distribution is unequal, where positive relationship between land holding and income and negative relationship between land holding and poverty. The rural poverty is higher in illiterate people. Nearly 50% population is in non-working age group population where the lowest 50% household receive 37.62 percent of total per capita daily income whereas the richest 50 percent receive 62.38 percent of per capita daily income.

Social, political and economic exclusion, social stratification system, accessless condition in resources, traditional occupation, illiteracy, high interest rate, untouchability, back warded mentality, lack of proper utilization of resources etc. are the main causes of rural poverty in Damai community. In this context, equitable distribution of land and transformation of traditional farming system are the main measure of reducing rural poverty. Social and economic expansion of infrastructure, enhancing the inclusion of Damai in each of the state's organ, providing the qualitative and practicable education, avoiding the social stratification avoiding untouchability etc. are other measures of reducing poverty. Therefore, we should aware and empower Damai to develop their capacity and increase the economic, political, decision making status and bring them into the main stream of national affairs.

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Recommendation	i
Approval Letter	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Tables of Contents	iv-vi
List of Tables	vii-viii
Executive Summary	ix
Abbreviation/Acronyms	x
CHAPTER-I: INTRODUCTION	1-8
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Damai and Nepalese Condition	3
1.3 Statement/Justification of the Problem	6
1.4 Objectives of the Study	8
1.5 Limitation of the study	8
CHAPTER-II: LITERATURE REVIEW	9-11
CHAPTER-III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	12-18
3.1 Research Design	12
3.2 Selection of Study Area	12
3.3 Nature of Data	12
3.4 Sources of Data	12
3.5 Sampling Procedure	12
3.6 Data Collection Tools and Techniques	13
3.6.1 Household Survey	13
3.6.2 Key Informant Interview	13
3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion	13
3.7 Variables and their operationalisation	13

3.8	Methods and Tools of Data Analysis	14
3.8.2	Absolute Poverty Line	14
3.8.3	Relative and Total Poverty	14
3.9	Calculation of the extent of Income Inequality and Distribution of Income among the sample Household	16
3.9.2	Lorenz Curve:	16
3.9.3	Gini-coefficient	17
3.10	Description of Variables:	17
3.10.1	Household	17
3.10.2	Total Households Income:	18
3.10.3	Total Household Consumption	18
3.10.4	Literate/Illiterate	18
3.10.5	Working Age Group Population	18
3.10.6	Main occupation	18
CHAPTER IV: INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA		19-30
4.2	District overview	20
4.3	Demographic Status	20
4.4	Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Nepal	21
4.5	Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Baglung district	23
4.6	Caste/ethnic Distribution of Total population in Paiyunthanap VDC	24
4.7	Caste Distribution of Dalit in Paiyunthanap VDC in Baglung District.	25
4.8	Age and sex status of the sample household	26
4.9	Educational Status:	26
4.10	Occupational Structure	27
4.11	Land Holding Size	28
4.12	Sources of income	29

CHAPTER-V: POVERTY SITUATION IN STUDY AREA	30-38
5.1 Poverty Lines and Population Under Poverty	30
5.1.1 Absolute poverty line and Absolute poor	30
5.2 Relative Poverty and Relative Poor	34
5.3 Total Poverty Line and the Total Poor	36
CHAPTER-VI: RURAL POVERTY OF DAMAI AND ITS NATURE	39-49
6.1 Measurement of the Poverty and its Extent	39
6.2 Measurement of Income Inequality in the Study Area.	39
6.3 Educational Level and Poor	42
6.4 Family Size and the poor	44
6.5 Land Holding Size and the Poor	45
6.6 Employment and poor	47
6.7 Causes of Rural Poverty in Damai Communities	49
6.8 Suggestion by Respondent for the rural Poverty Reducing in Damai	50
CHAPTER – VII: FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	50-53
7.1 Findings	50
7.2 Conclusion	51
7.3 Recommendations	52
Reference	
Appendices	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page No.
Table 1: Demographic Scenario	21
Table 2: Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Baglung District	23
Table 3: Caste/Ethnic Distribution of Total Population in Paiyunthanthap VDC.	24
Table 4: Caste Distribution of Dalit Community in Paiyunthanthap VDC	25
Table 5: Percentage of Age and sex structure of Respondents	26
Table 6: Distribution of Educational Status	27
Table 7: Occupational structure of Sampling HHs.	28
Table 8: Distribution of Land Among Sample Households	28
Table 9: Sources of Income of Sample Households	29
Table 10: Absolute Line in Various Studies	32
Table 11: Absolute poor households and population in different Studies.	34
Table 12: Relative poor Households and population indifferent Studies	35
Table 13: Absolute, Relative, total and Non-poor in the study area.	36
Table 14: Total Poverty Line and Total Poor in Different Studies	37
Table 15: Distribution of Mean Income among the absolute poor and 'non poor'	38
Table 16: Per capita Income Distribution by Deciles Group	40
Table 17: Income Distribution among Absolute Poor	42
Table 18: Educational level and the poor among the total	

sampled Household	43
Table 19: Distribution of Poor Household by the level of Education	44
Table 20: Family size and poverty among the absolute poor	45
Table 21: Land Holding size and Mean per capita daily income of Absolute poor Households	46
Table 22: Distribution of Population by Working Age Groups	47
Table23: level of Employment and Absolute Poor Household head	48

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

B.S	: Bikram Sambat
V.D.C	: Village Development Committee
DDC	: District Development Committee
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product
Ha	: Hectare
HDI	: Human Development Index
NGO	: Non- Government Organization
NHDR	: Nepal Human Development Report
NLSS	: Nepal Living Standard Survey
NDC	: National Dalit Commission
NPC	: National Planning Commission
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
WB	: World Bank
T.P	: Total Percent
CBS	: Central Burea of Statistics
ADB	: Asian Development Bank
GC	: Gini Coefficient
NO.	: Number
HHS	: Huseholds
GBB	: Gramin Bikash Bank