AN ASSESSMENT OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AMONG DIFFERENT WELL-BEING-RANKS

(With Particular Reference To Rasnalu VDC, Ramechhap)

A Thesis
Submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science Tribhuvan University
in the Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the
Degree of Master's of Arts
in Rural Development

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

The thesis work entitled "**An Assessment of Rural Electrification Among Different Well-Being-Ranks: With Particular Reference to Rasnalu VDC, Ramechhap**" has been prepared and submitted by Bimal Poudel under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

I forward this report with recommendation for approval.

… ……
Supervisor
Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka
Head of the Department

Date:

APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that the Thesis Report submitted by Bimal Poudel entitled **"An Assessment of Rural Electrification Among Different Well-Being-Ranks: With Particular Reference to Rasnalu VDC, Ramechhap"** has been approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science.

Evaluation Committee

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Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka

Head of the Department and Supervisor

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Prof. Dr. Panna Kaji Amatya

External Examiner

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I remain, however, solely responsible for any shortcomings or errors that may have crept into this undertaking.

Bimal Poudel

ABSTRACT

Every society is stratified and Rasnalu VDC is not an exception. About 4% of the total population of Rasnalu VDC is well-off (rank A), while 18% are the poorest of the poor (rank D). In Rasnalu, most of the populations belong to the Sunuwar caste while other residents include Tamang, Lama and Chhetri. The best-off segment of the population is generally living outside the community in other parts of the country or in other country.

The differentials in social service consumption exist among the various strata of the society. The illiteracy rate is much higher among the rank D (poorest of the poor section) for the other ranks, their access to employment in service sector is much lower than the other groups and most of them are employed as daily wage labor.

Only 67% of the households from rank D are electrified, whereas 87% of the total households from rank A are. Cut-Out system of tariff rates are favored if the service quality of the Cut-Out system is improved. Among the households that have energy meter installed, average unit consumption of the rank A is 16.75 units per month while the average consumption of the rank D is seven units. Electricity has mostly substituted battery and kerosene. Previously, a majority of the households from rank A consumed batteries worth NRs 50 per month prior to electrification, half of the total households from rank D did not have a radio/cassette. Most of the households from rank A stated that the present tariff rate is affordable while 62.5% of the households from rank D reported that it is expensive. An average number of the total bulbs and tube lights in a household of rank A accumulates to 337.5 W, whereas for rank D it is only 110.45 W. Almost all rank A households have a radio/cassette whereas only 33.3% of the total households from rank D have radio/cassette. Thirty-eight percent (37.5%) of the households from rank A have television; 12.5% have the electric rice cooker.

A majority of the households in Rasnalu VDC have not enjoyed an income or employment because of the accessibility of the electricity. Within people's perception and practice, electricity has been experienced and understood as a synonym of lighting. Relief from the burdens of kerosene and battery has been recognized as the benefits of electricity. Few households from rank C and D have benefited from the provision of electricity during the night. A large number of women (80%) from rank D have delayed their routine for going to the bed following the introduction of electricity facility and only 36% of the men have this

experience. Few households believe that their children's educational performance has improved following the electricity facility.

Twenty percent of the households from rank A intend to buy an electric rice cooker and the same percentage of households from rank D plan to buy radio as electronic appliances. Many people think that they can use electricity for income generating activities and employment; most of them envision running a grinding mill. Their lack of experience means their knowledge and skill regarding technologies is very weak.

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BHA	British Hydropower Association
BOOT	Build, Own, Operate and Transfer
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDRD	Central Department of Rural Development
CFL	Compact Fluorescent Lamps
CRED	Community Rural Electrification Department
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FUG	Forest User's Group
FY	Fiscal Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOs	Governmental Organizations
GW	Giga Watt
HHs	Households
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
HPL	Himal Power Limited
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
JMHP	Jhankre Minihydro Power Plant
JREDP	Jhankre Rural Electrification and Development Project
km.	Kilometer
KW	Kilo Watt
LSMS	Living Standard Measurement Surveys
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MW	Mega Watt
NEA	Nepal Electricity Authority
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRs.	Nepali Rupees
PoP	Poorest of the Poor
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
RE	Rural Electrification
RETRUD	Renewable Energy Technology for Rural Development
SAGUN	Strengthened & Action Governance Utilization of Natural Resources
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
TOE	Tons of Oil Equivalent
TV	Television
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Aid for International Development
VCD	Video Compact Disc
VDC	Village Development Committee
W	Watt
WB	World Bank