

PARTICIPATION OF DISADVANTAGED GROUPS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(A Case Study of the Satar Community in Surunga VDC, Jhapa)

A Thesis

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By

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

The thesis entitled **“Participation of Disadvantaged Group in Rural Development: A Case Study of the Satar Community in Surunga VDC, Jhapa”** was prepared by Khyam Prasad Shiwakoty under my supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Rural Development. To the best of my knowledge the study is original and provides useful information to the field of participation of disadvantaged group in rural development.

I, therefore, recommend it for evaluation to the dissertation committee.

7th August, 2006

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The thesis entitled “**Participation of Disadvantaged Group in Rural Development: A Case Study of the Satar Community in Surunga VDC, Jhapa**” submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, by Khyam Prasad Shiwakoty has been approved by the undersigned members of the Dissertation Committee.

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ABSTRACT

Present study was carried out in order to deal with the participation of a disadvantaged ethnic group in development with reference to the Satar community of Surunga VDC, Jhapa. The specific objectives of the study were stated as: to study the participation of the Satar Community in local organizations i.e. NGOs, CBOs, VDC and ward committee, to evaluate their participation in decision-making process, to assess the accessibility of the Satar Community to the services and facilities provided by the HMG, NGOs and other formal and informal organizations and to identify the major obstacles in participation of development work.

The study was based on primary data collected from the field survey. The household heads and elected members from the Satar Community were the real respondents of this study. Simple random sampling was adopted for the selection of the households. Household questionnaire was the main tool of the data collection. Key informants' interview, focus group discussion and published and unpublished documents were also used in this study.

The study indicates that the participation of the Satars status in local institutions like NGOs/INGOs and development process is not satisfactory. Their representation in the community based organizations is nominal. The Satars are hard workers and they have no significant role in decision making process. They are socially and economically backward. They should be mainstreamed in socio-political affairs of the nation. Based on the findings of the study, the following major recommendations are made:

1. Educational status of the disadvantaged group (Satar community) should be improved through targeted programmes like informal education.

2. Implementation of VDC level programmes by the representatives of disadvantaged groups can develop their confidence in decision making process.
3. Social inclusion programs will be more helpful in changing the attitudes of the disadvantaged groups.
4. Political culture should positively be discriminated for the disadvantaged groups
5. Easy access to citizenship will encourage them in every activity of the society as well as nation.

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ACRONYMES

CBOs	: Community Based Organizations
CBS	: Central Bureau of Statistics
COs	: Community Organizations
CPN (UML)	: Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist and Leninist)
DG	: Disadvantaged Group
DDC	: District Development Committee
FAO	: Food and Agricultural Organization
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion
FUG	: Forest User Group
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product
HD	: Human Development
HDI	: Human Development Index
HDR	: Human Development Report
HH	: household
HMG	: His Majesty Government
HSS	: Higher Secondary School
INGO	: International Non Governmental Organization
LSGA	: Local Self Governance Act
LSG	: Local Self Governance
NC	: Nepali Congress
NER	: Net Enrollment Rate
NGO	: Non Governmental Organization
NPC	: Nepal Planning Commission
PCL	: Proficiency Certificate Level
PF	: Percentage Frequency

PTA	: Parents Teachers Association
PLDT	: Panchayat Land Development Tax
PRA	: Participatory Rural Appraisal
RCC	: Rod, Concrete and Cement
RPP	: Rastriya Prajatantra Party
SAAPE	: South Asian Alliance for Poverty Alleviation
UNCDF	: United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programmes
VDC	: Village Development Committee
WB	: World Bank
WDR	: World Development Report