

**Socio-Economic Status of a Magar Community:
A Case Study of Birendranagar VDC, Chitwan, Nepal**

by

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Recommendation Letter

This is to certify that the thesis entitled Socio-Economic Status of a Magar Community: A Case Study of Birendranagar VDC, Chitawan, has been prepared and submitted by Bijay Pun in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. It is therefore forwarded for evaluation by the Examination Committee.

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Approval Letter

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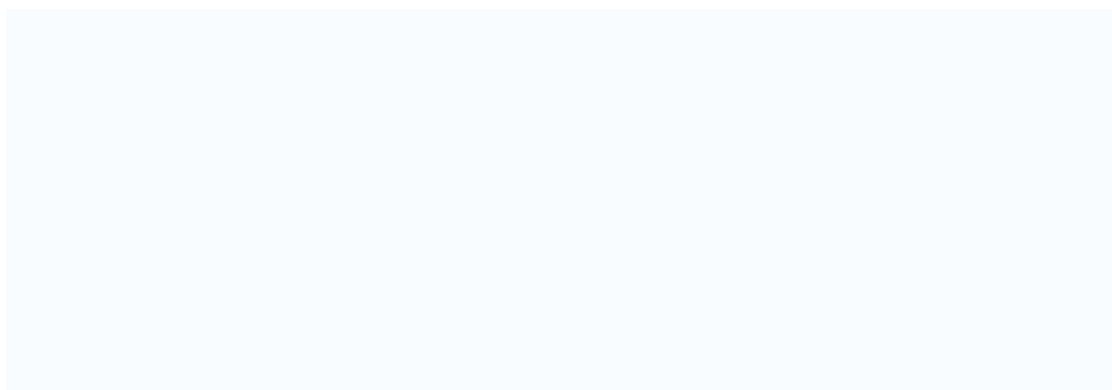
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Abstract

Socially and culturally Magars are considered to be far lagged behind because of different factors, which are definitely rather dynamic in nature and the condition of these people is also changing, though all the changes do not take the positive trend. Magars who have written its own history through their bravery in many wars and have been honored the image of honesty. These people live primarily in the jungle or nearby the jungle establishing own community. They use the resources found in the jungle and they celebrate many ceremonies worshipping the nature. These people are very simple and honest who do subsistence farming for their livings and they mostly uneducated, besides some portions of new generation, and they do not have know-how for being commercialized. They have no gender discrimination, which sometimes seems to raise a question, why could not the Hindu acculturation affect their attitudes on genders?

As such, the present study attempted to discover the interplay of different variables for deciding the socio-economic status of Magar (Pun) of the study area, Birendranagar VDC, Chitawan, it also tried to illustrate some peculiarities culturally to other ethnic groups and helped seekers to understand the historical background (origin) and the mythology of Magars (Pun). For the study, survey was done at three wards, 5, 8, and 9 and households surveyed were 15, 20, and 15 in a random sampling respectively. For the part of mythology and culture, different people were interviewed for the purpose of cross validation and for the part historical background secondary sources have been taken. Coded and analyzed the data taken, interpretation was done through different sophisticated statistical tools.

The results were not the exact as it had been assumed; they were found to have good awareness level and for the awareness level, access to the media is the main reason behind. Their economic level was found to be very dependent upon intervening variables like rain falling, fertility of the lands, geo-physical of the land et cetera so the condition of the people, though sufficient for the majority, was found to be very sensible. At the time of the survey, many fields were found without plantation and the reason was no rain fall which means there will be low sufficiency of food that year.

Religion has been separately discussed and due to the missing of the history, they cannot be claimed to be aboriginal Hindus; Buddhists neither. Social status was also found to be good because the awareness level found to be good and the real practices were enough to validate their responses. Other social aspects of the community were found to have some pitfalls which contributed for the present status of Magar people under domination of Brahmanism; these were because of the loss of own identity in terms of language factor and cultural factors (religion and many ceremonies) so that the dominant factor never realized in practice the community to be different than them (for example, Newar community of Kathmandu valley has its own identity).

Ethnic conflict might be possible in future, if all ethnic groups are not well-addressed. Through the research, a kind of against-feelings towards the Brahmins and Chhetris was found and might become full fledged because these people are simple and mostly uneducated and deprived so they can easily manipulated. Pokhareli people have been nearly shaping into full-fledged.

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Abbreviation and Acronyms

BS	Bikram Sambat
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
C	Degree Celcius
ha	Hectre
kg	Kilogram
km	Kilometer
ml	Mililiter
%	Percent
Rs.	Nepales Rupees
sq. km.	Square Kilometer
TV	Television
VDC	Village Development Committee
WGIP	Working Group on Indigenous Populations
WHO	World Health Organization