

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF NAWALPURIYA THARUS

(A Case Study of Kumarwari VDC, Nawalparasi)

A Thesis

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By

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

It is hereby, recommended for the approval of the thesis entitled **Socio-economic Condition of Nawalpuriya Tharus: A Case Study of Kumarwarti VDC, Nawalparasi** prepared by **Sunil Raj Devkota** under my guidance and supervision as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for Master of Arts in Rural Development. Therefore, this thesis has been recommended for its evaluation.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by **Sunil Raj Devkota** entitled **Socio-economic Condition of Nawalpuriya Tharus: A Case Study of Kumarwarti VDC, Nawalparasi** has been approved by this department in the prescribed format of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This Dissertation is forwarded for the acceptance.

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Acknowledgement

This thesis has been prepared for partial fulfillment of requirements of master's degree in Rural Development. The study entitled as " **Socio-economic Condition of Nawalpuriya Tharus: A Case Study of Kumarwarti VDC, Nawalparasi** " has been completed under the supervision and guidance of Prof. Dr. Mahendra Singh, of Central Department of Rural Development, T.U, Kirtipur So I express my heartfelt gratitude towards Prof. Singh for his supervision, suggestion and encouragement to complete this work.

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Abstract

Nepal is renowned as the country of villages where most of the people live in rural areas. It is a country of multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. One hundred and three castes/ethnic groups live throughout the country. Among them Tharu is the fourth largest ethnic group of Nepal. Tharus are those people who have been almost isolated and neglected by the respective governments. Tharus are basically agriculture peasants. They are less studied ethnic groups of Nepal and are inhabitants of Terai and inner Terai. Among the different clans of Tharus of Nepal Nawalpuriya Tharus and Rautar Tharus are settled in Nawalparasi District. The settlement of Tharus in Nawalparasi district is in considerable number with comparison to the other districts.

Present study entitled "Socio-economic Condition of Nawalpuriya Tharus: A Case Study of Kumarwanti VDC" deals with general objectives to analyze the socio-economic condition of Nawalpuriya Tharu in Tamsariya VDC of Nawalparasi District. The specific objectives of the study are to describe the socio-cultural practices of Tharu, to find out the economic condition of Tharu in the study area, and to trace out the factors of socio-cultural and economic changes of Tharu community. Primary and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data were collected through Household survey; key informant interview, observation and focus group discussion method using questionnaire and checklist and secondary data were collected through VDC office, private agencies, government offices, various published and unpublished reports. Sixty households were selected applying as random sampling method to find out the socio-cultural and economic pattern of the Nawalpuriya Tharus. Descriptive cum exploratory research design has been applied in the study.

So far as the researcher, the Nawalpuriya Tharu's socio-economic condition in Kumarwanti is concerned, the researcher has found them as illiterate, oppressed and backward. They have adopted different professions like-agriculture, animal husbandry, labour, carpentry etc since the ancient period. They have their own distinct customs, arts, morals, beliefs, language cultures and socio-economic institutions.

Nawalpuriya Tharus started to observe Hindu Festivals such as Dashain and Tihar at the cost of their own festivals such as Fagui, Jitia, Maghi etc. The way of worshipping their village deities, beliefs in spirits, typical dress pattern, and cluster type of settlement pattern distinctly differ from other ethnic groups. On the one hand, due to

the domination of Pahadiyas' Tharus are losing their native culture, philosophy of life style, self confidence about their own traditions, language and beliefs. But on the other hand, due to the domination of other migrants from hills like 'Phadiyas' some significant changes are seen in education, health sector, sanitation, economic activities and way of life style of Nwalpuriya Tharus in Kumarwari VDC.

Based upon the findings, the thesis suggests some recommendations to increase socio-economic condition of Tharus in Kumarwari VDC. It mainly highlights the low literacy rate of Nawalpuriya Tharu people so there should be special kind of incentive to the children of this tribe for education. They are not trained with any vocational guidance so proper training for mobilization of internal resources is required. Moreover, they must be ensured about the importance of education; native culture, language; their indigenous knowledge and be aware made of the bad aspect of them. So planners, policy makers and rural developers should cover up their needs and problem.

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Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|---|
| CBOs | Community Based Organizations |
| CBS | Central Bureau of statistics |
| CERED | Centre for Educational Innovation and Development |
| DDC | District Development Committee |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| HMGN | His Majesty Government of Nepal |
| MOLD | Ministry of Local Development |
| NPC | National Planning Commission |
| SLC | School Leaving Certificate |
| T.U | Tribhuvan University |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |