

A Gender Analysis of Nepali Secondary School Textbooks

A

Thesis

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that this Thesis entitled “A Gender Analysis of Nepali Secondary School Textbooks” was prepared by Ms. Binu Sharma under my supervision. The researcher has met the criteria prescribed by Central Department of Sociology. I hereby recommend this thesis for final evaluation and approval.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that MA thesis entitled "A Gender Analysis of Nepali Secondary School Textbooks" submitted to Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University is entirely my original work, prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor, Dr. Krishna Bhattachan. I have fully acknowledged all ideas and information borrowed from various sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before. I shall be solely responsible if any evidence is found against my thesis.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines gender inequity in three Nepali school textbooks of two grades, and explores how textbooks reproduce culture of the dominant class in the society and also efforts that Nepali girls and teachers make to adopt, negotiate and resist the sexist indoctrinations of the textbooks. This thesis consists of two parts. The first part contains a content analysis of English, Nepali and Social Studies textbooks of grade 8 and 10, textbooks taught in the academic year 2071-2072 B.S in Nepal. The second part of the thesis analyzes the interviews conducted with the students and teachers of Nawalparasi district regarding their perspectives on the content of above mentioned textbooks taught in Nepal. The findings of the content analysis reveal that sexist indications permeate Nepali school textbooks. Compared to men, women have a pale presence in the books. Women and girls are depicted, for the most part, in the domestic sphere, and their role as mothers and nurturers are stressed in stories, poems, and illustrations. Analysis of the interviews indicate that despite the attempt of textbooks to reproduce patriarchal norms though sexist instructions, some Nepali women are endeavoring to destabilize the cultural and political structures that curtail their rights. However, there is limited awareness and interest in the women of the rural area.

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