

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

We certify that this dissertation entitled “MEASUREMENTS OF LIVELIHOOD ASSETS OF *DALITS* IN FAR WEST DEVELOPMENT REGION OF NEPAL” was prepared by Mr. Kedar Chandra Bhatt under our guidance. We hereby recommended this dissertation for final examinations by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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Date: 12 April, 2016

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this Ph.D. Dissertation is my own work and that it contains no materials previously published. I have not used its materials for the award of any kind and any other degree. Where other authors' sources of information have been used, they have been acknowledged.

Kedar Chandra Bhatt

12 April, 2016

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted for the measurement and analysis of the livelihood assets of the *Dalits* living in different ecological zone belonging to three districts of Far-Western Development Region (FWDR). The study has developed the major livelihoods index, their components and sub-components, and how these assets index are different from people to people based on their location of living, occupation they engaged in, and membership they possess too. The activities of the people in which they are dependent for survival are the basis of livelihood assets. The study has made further analysis of the relationship between livelihood assets, policies and programmes, vulnerability context and livelihood strategies as per the framework used for livelihood analysis.

The main objectives of the study are: 1) to find out the socio-economic status and local livelihood strategies of *Dalits*, 2) to develop the livelihood asset index (LAI), and analyse their interrelationship; 3) to analyse public policies, plans and programmes in relation to livelihood enhancement and explore the gap; 4) to analyse the barrier factors for the better livelihood assets development of *Dalits*.

The study was conducted in between 2011 to 2015 AD by using both qualitative and quantitative methods, and was conducted in FWDR region selecting three districts representing three ecological zone of Nepal. The livelihood asset indices were calculated based on the formula used for the development of Human Development Index (HDI). The study targeted to the *Dalit* community especially, focuses on FWDR. The study highlighted the major determinants of livelihood assets by development of livelihood assets Index (LAI) with component index, such as human asset index (HAI), natural asset index (NAI), financial asset index (FAI), social asset index (SAI) and physical asset index (PAI).

The study revealed that policy and programmes affect the livelihood assets, and consequently the livelihood assets affect the livelihood activities, which finally results in the livelihood outcomes. The weak public policies and programmes in regard to the *Dalit's* development are the major barriers which have affected the livelihood assets of *Dalit*. The assets are core of livelihood and are affected by the weak or strong

provision in policy addressing the need of people. Strong policy provisions imply strong asset index, which determine the strong position of an individual in society, while weak policy provisions implies the weaker position of individual which determine the vulnerability of the individual in society for living. Hence the policy provisions directly affect the livelihoods assets of the people. This indicates that *Dalits* have had very few assets and more vulnerability of living which in turn made them disadvantaged and excluded from the mainstream of development. The result of the study revealed that there was not positive relationship between public policies and programmes as well as the livelihood of *Dalits*.

The result shows that the average index of livelihood asset (human, social, financial, natural and physical) has been found 0.281 value, Of the different livelihood assets, the social assets index was found to be the weakest (0.103) followed by financial (0.130), natural (0.379), physical (0.378) and human (0.410) asset index respectively.

The research finding contradict the general assumption of people that *Dalits* are backwarded due to economic condition, however, social asset was found to be the main barrier for livelihood development of *Dalit*, as it was the weakest among other livelihood assets. Furthermore, while looking into the trends of livelihood assets and their index value, it can further be concluded that while making the national policy for addressing the need of *Dalit*, only social empowerment was not enough for the overall development of *Dalits*. Both the economic and human parameters should also be taken into consideration. Public policies and programmes were not found supportive for the abolition of untouchability related challenges which *Dalits* have been facing the most. In the same way, public policies and programmes were also not practicable for the conservation of their caste based traditional occupations (e.g. folk dancing and songs-*Hudke*, *Damaha*, *Chhaliya dance*), potter (metal), tailoring, carpentry, bamboo weaving etc.). Therefore, appropriate measures should address the diverse issues embedded with the livelihood enhancement of *Dalits*.

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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

AD	Anno Domini
B. S.	Bikrarm Sambat
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CCI	Common Communication Index
CDO	Chief District Officer
CEI	Common Electricity Index
CFUGs	Community Forest Users' Groups
CI	Communication Index
CPI	Common Physical Index
CRI	Common Road Index
CWI	Common Water Index
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DDC	District Development Committee
DEO	District Education Office
DFID	Department for International Development
DFO	District Forest Office
DNGO	Dalits Non-government Organisation
DPHO	District Public Health Office
DRs	Development Regions
EGI	Equipment and Goods Index
EI	Education Index
ELI	Electricity Index
EMI	Employment Index
EMI	Employment Index
EQI	Equipment Index
F	Female
FAI	Financial Assets Index
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FC	Financial Capital
FEDO	Feminist <i>Dalit</i> Organisation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FI	Forestry Index
FWDR	Far-Western Development Region
FY	Fiscal year
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDI	Gender-related Development Index

GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GoN	Government of Nepal
Ha	Hectare
HAI	Human Asset Index
HC	Human Capital
HDI	Human Development Index
HH	Household
HHs	Households
HI	Health Index
HI	Health Index
HLS	Household Livelihood Security
HMI	Housing material Index
HMI	Housing Material Index
HPI	Human Poverty Index
HQ	Headquarter
IC	Interim Constitution of Nepal
ICI	Income and Cash Index
IDSN	International <i>Dalit</i> Solidarity Network
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IISD	Indian Institute of <i>Dalit</i> Studies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ISP	Index of Social Progress
Kg	Kilogram
LA	Livelihood Approaches
LAI	Livelihood Asset Index
LBMB	Law Books Management Board
LI	Land Index
LSI	Livelihood Security Index
M	Male
MI	Membership Index
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFALR	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MoFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
N	Number
NACDOR	National Conference of <i>Dalit</i> Organisations
NAI	Natural Assets Index
NC	Natural Capital
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations

NI	Network Index
NLSS	Nepal Living Standard Survey
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRs	Nepali Rupees
NWI	Network Index
OECD	Organisation for Economic and Development
P	Percent
PAI	Physical Assets Index
PAMS	Partnership Action for Mitigating Syndromes
PC	Physical Capital
PCA	Principle Components Analysis
PHO	Public Health Officer
PIP	Policies, Institutions and Process
PPI	Private Physical Index
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
QOL	Quality of life Index
Qual-Quant	Qualitative and Quantitative Methods
RI	Road Index
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
RSI	Relationship Index
SAI	Social Assets Index
SC	Social Capital
SD	Sustainable Development
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
SI	Saving Index
SKI	Skill Index
SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
SLF	Sustainable Livelihood Framework
SLI	The Sustainable Livelihoods Index
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
SSP	Senior Superintendent of Police
SVI	Saving Index
TYIP	Three-Year Interim Plan
TYP	Three-Year Plan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

VDC	Village Development Committee
WB	World Bank
WI	Water Index
WI	Water Index