

OCCASIONAL PAPERS IN  
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

VOLUME VIII

Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
2003

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[2003] 10

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**Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**2003**

## Occasional Papers in Sociology and Anthropology

### Published by

Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

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**Year of Publication 2003**

**Volume VIII**

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**Computer Typesetting :** Academic Computer Service, Kirtipur  
Krishna Karki Printing  
Tel :331887

### Printing

Modern Printing Press  
Kantipath  
Kathmandu  
Telephone:

## EDITORIAL

Institutionally speaking, the Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology has become fully adolescent but it is increasingly facing the challenge to collect a dozen of articles from the fastest growing population of the sociologists and anthropologists in one of the poorest conflict-ridden societies of South Asia. Whether we agree or disagree, we must realize openly that the generality of us are busy for beating our own drums and there has been very little or no concerted effort for giving the continuity to publish this Occasional Papers. The editorial board is not boastful for publishing the present volume replete with highly academic articles in sociology and anthropology of Nepal. But it has a sense of contentment for being successful in giving continuity for its publication with its modicum of effort. Unequivocally, giving continuity to such an activity is definitely better than staying indolently with hands folded and criticizing others with jaundiced eyes.

The present volume has been made possible by the contributions of a number of sociologists, anthropologists, and other scholars. Therefore, the editorial board acknowledges all the contributors of this volume of Occasional Papers. It contains articles written in the field of sociology, anthropology and social psychology. Professor R.R. Regmi has made analytical discussion on the issues of ethnicity and identity in Nepal. He has given emphasis on the participation to solve the ethnic problem in Nepal. Dr. Om Gurung has also presented an analytical discussion on the *Lagi-Lagitya* relations in Jumla district of the Karnali region. This article highlights the prominent features of inter-caste economic interdependency in Jumla, which is a long-term hereditary contractual labour relation. Mr. Laya Prasad Uprety has analyzed the non-economic benefits of the participatory action research as perceived by the researchers working with the adoption of adaptive and collaborative management approach on community forestry and members of the community forest user's group themselves. Mr. Binod Pokharel presents a longitudinal analysis on the changing pattern of forest consumption of Dhankuta district in eastern Nepal for the period of 10 years from 1991 to 2001. Ms Meena Poudel and



Mr. Youba Raj Luitel have critically analyzed gender advocacy with the adoption of social relation approach and the utilization of the framework of institutional analysis. They attempt to introduce the notion of advocacy in general and gender advocacy in particular. Dr. Samira Luitel has analyzed the position of *Dalit* women in caste system. She concludes that women of the *Dalit* communities are oppressed as women in their own society and also marginalised in all aspects of individual development. Mr. Man Bahadur Khatri has focused on the rituals and family shrines, which are associated with agriculture. The author has demonstrated the relationships among the landscape, rituals and the process of development. Mr. Jib Nath Prasai has critically analyzed the policy trends and development practices of rural water supply and sanitation activity. He also examines the roles of the beneficiaries to make the rural water supply and sanitation activity sustainable. Mr. Madhusudan Sharma Subedi's article is related with medical anthropology. The author has discussed the health -related issues, including the etiology of the diseases and the preventive and curative measures. Dr. Philip Tanner and Mr Dharendra Parajuli have quantified peoples' participation and psychological empowerment. The article primarily focuses on the concept of psychological empowerment as a basis for future research into the multifaceted phenomena of empowerment theory. Dr. Niranjana Sharma has focused on various forms of corruption. He discussed the corruption as psychological issue. Mr. Hari Har Ghimire has described the NGO/INGO- centered approach in Nepal. Dr. Kishor Raj Pandey and other co-authors have discussed the health care practices of infant patients at Nepal Medical College. Professor Ganesh Man Gurung has expressed obituary note to Prof. Gopal Singh Nepali. Finally, Bishnu Prasad Dahal has reviewed the book "Ordering Sherpa Through their Rituals: Symbolic and Interpretive Perspective".

Prof. Dr. Rishikeshav Raj Regmi  
 Head of the Department  
 On behalf of  
 The Editorial Board

## CONTENTS

1. ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY  
*Prof. Dr. Rishikeshav Regmi*
12. NOTES ON LAGI-LAGITYA RELATIONS IN JUMLA  
*Dr. Om Gurung*
18. PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY: A CASE STUDY OF A COMMUNITY FOREST USERS' GROUP FROM A HILL VILLAGE OF EASTERN NEPAL  
*Laya Prasad Uprety*
41. CHANGING PATTERN OF FOREST CONSUMPTION: A CASE STUDY FROM AN EASTERN HILL VILLAGE IN NEPAL  
*Binod Pokharel*
59. STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF ADVOCACY: GENDER ADVOCACY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN IN NEPAL  
*Meena Poudel*  
*Youba R. Luitel*
77. THE POSITION OF DALIT WOMEN IN CASTE SYSTEM  
*Dr. Samira Luitel*
88. AGRICULTURE AND RITUAL LANDSCAPE: A CASE STUDY FROM THE MAGARS OF ARGAL, BAGLUNG DISTRICT, NEPAL  
*Man Bahadur Khattri*
105. DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION FACILITY IN THE RURAL AREAS OF NEPAL: AN OVERVIEW  
*Jiba Nath Prasain*

- 128 HEALER CHOICE IN MEDICALLY PLURALISTIC CULTURAL SETTINGS: AN OVERVIEW OF NEPALI MEDICAL PLURALISM  
*Madhusudan Sharma Subedi*
- 159 QUANTIFYING "PEOPLES' PARTICIPATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT": A MODEL OF INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR IN NEPAL  
*Dr. Philip Tanner*  
*Dhirendra B. Parajuli*
- 193 CORRUPTION: A PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUE  
*Dr. Niranjana Prasad Upadhyay*
- 204 NGO/INGO CENTERED APPROACH: AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT  
*Harihar Ghimire*
- 218 THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS SEEKING HEALTH CARE FOR INFANT AND CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES AT NEPAL MEDICAL COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL HOSPITAL  
*Dr. Kishore Raj Pandey*  
*Phanindra Prasad Kafle*  
*Dr. Debendra Karki*
- 227 AN OBITUARY TO PROF. GS. NEPALI  
*Prof. Dr. Ganesh Man Gurung*
- 230 ORDERING SHERPA LIFE THROUGH THEIR RITUALS: SYMBOLIC/INTERPRETATIVE PERSPECTIVE (A REVIEW OF "SHERPAS THROUGH THEIR RITUALS" BY SHERRY B. ORTNER)  
*Bishnu Prasad Dahal*

## ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY

Rishikeshav Regmi, Ph.D.\*

These days ethnicity is much talked issues in the contemporary world, especially in the third world, so called underdeveloped countries by developed western countries. Personal identity as well as cultural identity Ethnic identity always materialise in relation to somebody else. "Identity is contextual in both derivation and expression-that is manipulable and changeable is now well known and is surely expectable, for it shares these features with all that is Cultural"(Berremann: 1983).It is almost impossible to delineate the boundaries of one cultural identity and the beginning of another.

### Ethnic Stereotypes

All men live in a symbolic environment, a substitute world in which objects and events fall into an orderly scheme. Life is much too complicated for any individual to respond to each item he encounters, but there is rarely time enough to examine it with care before handling it. Hence, objects and events must be classified, and men act as if all items in each category have the same characteristics. For example, no two chairs in the world are alike, but we assume that all chairs have certain common attributes and sit with confidence even upon a chair that we have never before encountered. To facilitate reference to these categories, each is given a level; words are names that designate categories. Much of the environment in which human beings make their ways then consists of objects that are classified and labelled. The symbolic environment is not

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