



Knowledge and Perception among Indigenous, Marginalized and Deprived People of Far Western Region about the Constitution of Nepal

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Authors DK, AP and RKP designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors AP and DK managed the analyses of the study. Authors RP and AB managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Aims: Indigenous people in Nepal have their own culture, resources, customary law, language, land of territories, and politics from the ancient time. Different constitution and laws of Nepal were promoting the cultural diversity by enhancing the knowledge, skills, and rights of them. Still, we do have to lack proper and appropriate instructions on the right of them. The aim of the study is to identify the need and expectations of indigenous, marginalized and deprived people of the far western region of Nepal.

Study Design: The study was descriptive cross-sectional. Two-stage 30 cluster sampling technique was applied for the study purpose. 462 indigenous, disadvantage and marginalized people were selected on the proportion based random technique.

Place and Duration of Study: The study was conducted on January 1st to December 31st, 2017 in the far western region of Nepal.

Methodology: Two-stage, 30 cluster sampling technique was applied for the study purpose. The quantitative data were collected through interview using the pre-tested structured and semi-structured questionnaire.

Results: 83% of the participants were interested in dealing with the issues of indigenous peoples of Nepal. Till date, almost 32% of the Nepali indigenous participants were don't care about the voting rights. Likewise, 27% of the participants' perceived economic situation of Nepal is worse than previous.

Conclusion: Indigenous marginalized and deprived people of far western region perceived the social exclusion and are not aware in the constituent assembly election. They are not aware and happy with the social, political and economic situation of Nepal.

Keywords: Constitution; deprivation; indigenous people; knowledge; marginalize people; perception.

1. INTRODUCTION

The term democracy is a system of governance in which the human rights of the citizens are respected, the concept of theory of separation of power and checks and balance, the concept of good governance are realized; the concept of independent judiciary, and the rule of law are encouraged, the voices of the minorities, powerless, voiceless, marginalized and vulnerable groups would be heard; and inclusiveness is promoted in every area of life [1]. According to the 2011 census of Nepal, the indigenous people (Adivasi Janajati) of Nepal comprise 35.81% of the total population of 26,494,504, although indigenous people's organizations claim a more data of more than 50%. The 2011 census also listed the population as belonging to 125 caste and ethnic groups including 63 indigenous peoples, 59 castes including 15 Dalit castes, and three religious groups including Muslim [2].

Indigenous people in Nepal have their own language, culture, land of territories, resource, customary law, and politics from the long history. Different constitution and laws of Nepal were promoting the cultural diversity by enhancing the knowledge, skills, and rights of them. In fact, with the provision of basic human rights, low deprived caste, marginalized and indigenous population are excluded and oppressed by their voices. The knowledge and perception of various excluded groups/communities, including marginalized, indigenous, Dalit, and non-Hindu religious groups is different than other groups. The main objective

of the study is to identify the need and expectations of indigenous, marginalized and deprived people of the far western region in Nepal.

2. METHODS

This study includes the quantitative strategies to obtain information about the objective of the study. The study was the descriptive cross-sectional and conducted from January 1st to December 31st, 2017. The indigenous, marginalized and disadvantaged people residing in the far western region were the study population. Two-stage 30 cluster sampling technique was applied for the study purpose. In the first stage, five districts out of nine districts of the far western region were selected randomly. From each district, five village development committees (VDC) and one municipality (total 30) were selected again randomly considering each selected VDC and municipality as study cluster. In the second stage, total 462 indigenous, disadvantage and marginalized people (30* 7 + 10%) were selected on the proportion based random technique (based on the proportion of target population in each cluster). The quantitative data were collected through interview using the pre-tested structured and semi-structured questionnaire. Data collected were analyzed using frequencies, percentages and mean calculations. The ethical clearance was taken from the institutional review board of the university. Verbal and written consent was taken from the participants before starting the data collection.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A detailed analysis of the response of the movement on building and institutionalizing the inclusive democracy concerning the indigenous and deprived population in far- western region of Nepal. Each of the categories is separately analyzed concerning age, sex, marital status and perception and practice of the People's constitutions.

3.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics

More than half (56%) of the participants were male. Almost one-fourth (25%) of the participants were belonging to age group of 21-30 years. The mean age of the participants was 45±2 years. The age of the male participants was more than the female participants. Similarly, the majority of the participants (74%) were married followed by 16% unmarried and 9% widow/widower, divorce or separate. The majority (96%) of the participants were Hindu (Table 1).

3.2 Social Inclusion of Indigenous People

Out of total participants, the majority (83%) of the participants were interested in dealing with the

issues of indigenous peoples of Nepal. Similarly, more than half (55%) of the participants mentioned for the necessity of social inclusion for indigenous peoples. Only (39%) participants were confident in the possibility of social inclusion in Nepal. Almost one third (34%) of the participants were thinking about the indigenous peoples in Nepal are socially excluded. (Table 2) The different study shows the social inclusion is for forms of conflict in ethnic mobilization towards civic, distribution of power, authority and resources in the multiethnic community [3–5].

3.3 Knowledge about the Constituent Assembly Election

More than half (51%) of the participants were involved in the voting during the constituent assembly election. Till date, almost one third (32%) of the Nepali indigenous participants don't care about the voting rights. Relatively few (17%) of the participants know about the results of the constituent assembly election. More than half (55%) of the participants mentioned current constituent assembly were representing the indigenous groups. (Table 3) The indigenous ethnic groups, women, Dalits, are severely affected in different forms [6,7].

Table 1. Distribution of participants by gender and age

Variables	Male		Female		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Age groups (Years)						
Less than 20 years	2	0.4	10	2.2	12	2.7
21-30	54	12.1	57	12.8	111	24.9
31-40	53	11.9	30	6.7	83	18.6
41-50	55	12.3	15	3.4	70	15.7
51-60	33	7.4	34	7.6	67	15.0
61-70	22	4.9	32	7.2	54	12.1
Above than 70	30	6.7	19	4.3	49	11.0
Total	249	55.8	197	44.2	446	100.0
Marital status						
Married	15	3.4	198	44.4	332	74.4
Unmarried	134	30.0	59	13.2	74	16.6
Divorce, separated	20	4.5	20	4.5	40	9.0
Total	169	37.9	277	62.1	446	100.0
Religion						
Hindu	162	36.3	264	59.2	426	95.5
Buddhist	3	0.7	10	2.2	13	2.9
Muslim	2	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.4
Christian	2	0.4	3	0.7	5	1.1
Total	169	37.9	277	62.1	446	100.0

Table 2. Social inclusion of indigenous people

Social inclusion of indigenous people (n=446)	Frequency	Percent
Necessary for social inclusion of indigenous peoples		
Yes	243	54.5
No	68	15.2
May be	65	14.6
I don't care/ know	70	15.7
The possibility of social inclusion of indigenous peoples in Nepal		
Yes	174	39.0
No	68	15.2
May be	65	14.6
I don't care/ know	139	31.2
Thinking about the indigenous peoples in Nepal are socially excluded		
Yes	153	34.3
No	68	15.2
May be	85	19.1
I don't care/ know	140	31.4

Table 1. Knowledge about the constituent assembly election

Knowledge about the constituent assembly election (n=446)	Frequency	Percent
Voting during the constituent assembly election		
Yes	228	51.1
No	75	16.8
I don't care	143	32.1
Results of the constituent assembly election		
Yes	75	16.8
No	228	51.1
I don't care	143	32.1
Representing indigenous groups in the current constituent assembly		
Yes	244	54.7
No	58	13.0
I don't care	144	32.3

Table 2. Perception on the situation of Nepal

Perception on the situation of Nepal (n=446)	Frequency	Percent
Thinking about the political situation in Nepal		
As previous	361	80.9
Better than previous	58	13.0
Worse than previous	27	6.1
Think about the social situation of Nepal		
As previous	321	72.0
Better than previous	58	13.0
Worse than previous	67	15.0
Think about the economic situation of Nepal		
As previous	267	59.9
Better than previous	58	13.0
Worse than previous	121	27.1

3.4 Perception on the Situation of Nepal

The vast majority (81%) of the participants perceived the political situation in Nepal like previous. One out of ten (13%) of the participants perceived the political situation in Nepal better

than previous [8]. Similar to political situation, the majority (72%) of the participants perceived social situation of Nepal like previous and (15%) participants perceived worsen than previous. Likewise, the majority (60%) of the participants perceived economic situation of Nepal like

previous and less than one-third (27%) participants mentioned worsen than previous (Table 4). In ethnically divided countries, the concentration of power resources in an ethnic group does not facilitate democracy, but instead their dispersion favors democracy [9].

4. CONCLUSION

Indigenous marginalized and deprived people of far western region perceived the social exclusion and are not aware in the constituent assembly election. They are not aware and happy with the social, political and economic situation of Nepal. Thus, unless and until discrimination in its whole forms end, no development can be expected. Nepal has been in calamity due to complex and chronic problems such as the tendency to authoritarianism, political instability, corruption, poverty, bad governance, mounting foreign debt, underdevelopment and widening inequality and discrimination based on caste, religion, class, and religion.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, the patient's written consent has been collected and preserved by the authors.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

As per international standard or university standard, written approval of Ethics committee has been collected and preserved by the authors.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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