

# Level of satisfaction on Socio- Economic Condition of Occupation changed Dalit Caste in Kaski

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## Abstract

*With reference to the title “Level of satisfaction on Socio- Economic Condition of Occupation changed Employee in Dalit Caste in Kaski” has main purpose of the study to explore the socio-economic condition and their satisfaction level in Dalit community in Kaski. This study uses descriptive cum analytical research design with 300 sample taken from rural and urban area from Nepali, Bishwokarma and Pariyar caste. The purposive and stratified sampling was used as multi stage sampling system. Standard set of questionnaire was used to collect the data from primary sources and inferential statistics chi-square test was used to show the level of satisfaction. Data processing of the study used SPSS program. Level of satisfaction of occupation changed Dalit was average where there is significance association between occupation changed with overall satisfaction level but no occupational changed Dalit caste has no significant association with overall satisfaction at 5 % level of significant. It is highly recommended to make suitable policy by government that Dalit can change their occupation according to change in environment in Dalit caste to get high level of satisfaction from change in socio-economic situation.*

**Keywords:** Dalit, Economic, Employee, Occupation, Satisfaction

## Background

Occupation change or shifting from one occupation to another occupation has become one of major social phenomena in almost all country and society over the time. In the race of human civilization from very ancient age to modern and age of information technology significant social transformations have been taken places. And it seems to be happening due to changing time and demand of time. Over the passes of time human needs, wants and preferences are being changed and these changes forced to change the prevailing occupation of people to new occupation for earning and survival in new situation. Nepal is an agricultural country, which is characterized as large number of ethnic, cultural mosaic and plurality. Nepali society possesses the various religious, cultural, ethnic and linguistic constituents, which has sought shelter here at various periods of the history. Nepalese social structure is based on the varna

system, where different caste groups and individuals interact and are interdependent upon each other and their occupations (Chetry, 2010).

In Kaski, there are mostly Gurung villages. These villages tend to have a strong community spirit. The people share agricultural work, natural resource management, and other social and religious activities. Agriculture is the predominant activity in all of Kaski district. Kaski is a popular tourist destination. Many people are now migrating out of the remote villages. Overall Kaski is seen as one of the most developed but in reality this development is almost entirely confined to Pokhara and the close-by areas. The remote parts of Kaski is found as poor and underdeveloped as any of the other remote mountain areas of Nepal. In terms of agricultural indicators like the percentage of marginal and landless farmers, access to institutional credit, average number of livestock per farm, farm size, and percent irrigated area. Kaski is one of the poorest districts in Nepal. The major religion of this district is Hindu and also followed by Muslims too. The major caste in Kaski districts are Brahman, Gurung, Chhetree, Magar and Kami.

The development of road network is the backbone of occupational change in the rural life and its economic activities. This has opened the avenues to take advantages of agricultural potentially, local productions, tourism related business and employment opportunities. Besides that the increasing trend of foreign employment and technological changes, level of literacy and survivability problem associated with the traditional occupation are the major factors that are leading to occupational change in rural life. However, absence of long-term perspective and sustainable visions, ad-hoc practices in fulfilling the needs, under-utilization of resources as well as the returns, over investment against the desired benefits, improper utilization of resources, under mobilization of limited technical human resources, deforestation, superstition and lack of co-ordination among implementing agencies are identified as major constraints for development of the district. Consequently, it leads to create an inefficient environment with respect to rural infrastructure development that ultimately delays the fulfillment of peoples' expectations (DOLIDAR, 2014).

Normally the traditional occupations were based on division of people in society as per religion, culture and caste system; therefore, they were based on indigenous technologies. However, when those types of technology were unable to support the increasing demand of the people, changing preferences and, economic life of the people; technology became absolute. And people have to go for development and use of new and modern technologies which also lead to change in the occupation of people. Since development is a multifaceted term, it is divisive. The emerging concepts of power distribution, diversity and identity seem to have been revolving around

three tendencies in Nepal: those trying to maintain and promote the existing political economy as authoritarian and conservative position to reform it as liberal capitalist and social democratic position and those trying to restructure it in terms of a radical communist position in the 2000s. The concept of "New Nepal" was born to bring drastic socioeconomic transformation in a progressive way through agrarian reform and then developing productive forces and industrial relations to provide youth employment. However, existing systems and organizations do not appear to operate as intended, nor do they appear to have the capacity or willpower to affect the necessary changes. As a result, the major tasks of bridging gaps between societies and addressing the root causes of conflict, especially poverty and unemployment, have become more difficult (Sharma, Upreti, Manandhar, & Sapkota, 2014).

Sometimes occupational change may lead towards positive change in the life of people and society but sometime it may lead to loss of many things. The people and society may lose their unique identity, skills, capacity which may be a base for new and modern technology applicable in different fields of human life as well as they may be a base for livelihood and economic life for the next generation. It's a social change that initially proceeds on the basis of identity, contributing to enhance their self-esteem, self-confidence and status (Manandhar, 2014). Modernization in traditional technology and occupation is essential for the support to changing needs, wants, and preferences of people which may have synergy benefits but completely shifting from one occupation to another occupation does not seem to be more desirable. The development of road networks, opening doors for foreign employments, increasing level of literacy, political changes, geographical mobility of domestic and foreign people, development and access to information technology, and challenges for the rural survival are gradually leading to change in traditional occupations to new and modern occupations.

In Nepal, especially in mountain and hilly areas significant changes seem to be taking place in traditional farming and caste system occupation to non-farming and other occupations. Occupational change is a common type of social phenomenon in every society and country from traditionally adopted occupation to new and modern occupations due to various reasons. It may take place in various ways such as completely shifting from one occupation to another occupation or modernization in the traditionally adopted occupation in the same generation or in one generation to another generation. People are shifting from one occupation to another but is the occupation change socially and economically justifiable? That is the major concern of this research work whether occupation changed Dalit caste are actually satisfied or not. So a hypothesis is developed to test level of significance among Dalit caste.

Ho = There is no significant relationship between level of satisfaction on socio economic condition to occupation changed Dalit caste.

## Data and Method

This research work used multi stage sampling techniques. Under the first stage of sampling plan, the purposive sampling was used because this study was based on people living in the rural and urban areas of Kaski district and the village municipals of Kaski district was assumed to be rural areas. In the second stage of research work researchers tried to collect necessary data from primary sources from sampled areas. Three caste: Nepali, Bishwokarma and Pariyar were the main variable for the present analysis of occupation change in urban and the rural life. 100 sample is taken through each each caste. It was taken because of equal treatment of the sample data even though there was well known population. Likewise, the independent variable were survivable problem, lack of manpower, high cost low return, low productivity, climate change, and lack of modern technology. Similarly, education, foreign employment, import of technology, geographical mobility, development of road networks, information technology were the intervening variable and government policy and programs, ethnic group and occupation, caste system and occupational skill were the moderating variable for this research work. A set of questionnaire was designed to collect the information. Especially primary data was collected by visiting the selected areas and using structured questionnaire. The necessary secondary data was collected from the library, article, journal, books and other second hand resources including in-depth interview. In order to go ahead with these processes and find out the solution to identified problem, descriptive as well as analytical research design was adopted and implemented. For reliability and validity of survey, pilot survey had been taken to make survey more reliable and accurate. The responses were categorized, tabulated, processed and analyzed. While analyzing data, simple statistical tools like; frequencies, mean, mode, maximum, minimum, percentage are used. The collected data was processed and analyzed using MS-Word, MS-Excel and SPSS software.

## Results and Discussion

Table 1  
*Respondent Background of Dalit Caste in Kaski*

Respondents background	Percentage of response
<i>caste</i>	
Nepali	33.3
Pariyar	33.3
Bishwokarma	33.3
<i>gender</i>	
Male	80.3
Female	19.7

<b>age</b>	
20-30	17.8
30-40	30
40-50	28.1
50-60	17.3
60-70	6.2
70 over	0.7
<b>area</b>	
Urban	50.0
Rural	50.0
<b>literacy</b>	
Illiterate	24.7
Just literate	24.7
Basic Level	26.0
Secondary	19.7
Higher Level	5.0
<b>Religion</b>	
Hindu	96.0
Cristian	4.0
<b>Family type</b>	
Joint	34.7
Nuclear	65.3

*Sources: Field survey, 2020*

The data were collected from three castes (Nepali, Bishowkarma and Pariyar) in equal basis. The responses were collected in an equal proportion from urban and rural area of Kaski district. Proportion of male and female respondents are 80.3% and 19.7% respectively. The respondents are classified into six categories. Highest label of respondents lies under 40-50 years of age and lowest falls under more than 70 years categories. Proportion of illiterate and just literate is same (24.7%) whereas higher level educated respondents are only 5%. Most of the respondents are following Hindu religion that is 96 % and just 4 percentages are following Christianity. The family type is more under nuclear that is 65.3 %.

Table 2

*Socio-Economic situation of occupation changed Dalit*

Variables	Percentage of response
<b>Residential type</b>	
Own	86.3
Rented	11.3
Caretaker	2.0
Other	.3
<b>Foundation of house</b>	
Mud Bonded Bricks_Stone	40.0
Cement Bonded Bricks_Stone	44.7
Concrete with Pillar	9.7
Trust	1.3
<b>Roof of the house</b>	
Straw/Thatch	1.7
Galvanized Iron/ Tile	69.7
Concrete/Cement	19.3
Slate (Stone)	5.0
<b>Wall of the house</b>	
Mud Bonded Bricks/Stone	32.7
Cement Bonded Bricks/Stone	62.7
Bamboo/wood	.3
<b>Source of Drinking Water</b>	
Free Tap	18.3
Tap with Charge	75.7
Well	5.3
other	.3
<b>Sources of cooking</b>	
wood	
yes	66.0
no	34.0
Biogas	

yes	6.3
no	93.7
<hr/>	
L.P. Gas	
yes	82.3
no	17.7
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Electricity (use in cooking)	
yes	13.0
no	87.0
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Source of Light	
Kerosene	1.3
Biogas	.3
Solar and Electricity	6.3
Electricity	91.7
others	.3
<hr/>	
Toilet Type	
Public	.7
Private Temporary	15.0
Private Permanent	83.7

*Sources: Field survey, 2020*

To explore the socio economic situation of sample castes basically residential type, foundation of house, roof of house, wall of house, sources of drinking water, sources of cooking, sources of light and toilet types are considered as construct. About 86.3 % respondents were living on their own house and just 2 percent were living as caretaker. Foundation of house was cement bounded bricks stone was 44.7% and only 1.3 % houses were founded based on trust. The roof of the house of 69.7 percent respondents were galvanized Iron/Tile where as 1.7 percent respondents' houses were roofed with Straw/Thatch. The wall of house of 62.7 percent respondents were cement bonded bricks or stone and less than one percent used bamboo or wood as a wall of their house. Most of the respondents were enjoying tap with charge as a source of drinking water that 75.7% and only 0.3 percent respondents were using other sources than free tap and well. About 66 % respondents were using wood as the sources of cooking, Biogas was also used by 6.3 percent respondents and L.P. Gas was also used by 82.3% respondents. Most of the respondents (91.7%) were using electricity as a source of light and less than 1 percent respondents were using biogas and other as the source of light. Out of total respondents 83.7 % were using their own private permanent toilet where as only 0.7 percent respondents were using public toilet.

Table 3  
*Situation of facilities of occupation changed employee*

Facility	Percentage of Responses
radio	
Yes	34.7
no	65.3
television	
Yes	69.0
no	31.0
Cable tv	
Yes	70.0
no	30.0
computer	
Yes	12.3
no	87.7
internet	
Yes	12.7
no	87.3
telephone	
Yes	4.3
no	95.7
mobile	
Yes	96.7
no	3.3
freeze	
Yes	20.3
no	79.7
cooker	
Yes	
no	90.7
induction	9.3
Yes	1.3



no	98.7
<hr/>	
Vacuum cleaner	
Yes	1.7
no	98.3
<hr/>	
oven	
Yes	
no	100
<hr/>	
By-cycle	
Yes	4.3
no	95.7
<hr/>	
Motor cycle	
Yes	27.0
no	73.0
<hr/>	
car	
Yes	8.7
no	91.3
<hr/>	
Washing machine	
Yes	
no	100

Sources: Field survey, 2020

Situation of facilities of occupation changed employee were found as following. Only 34.7 percent respondent had ration with them but 69 percent respondents were enjoying with television and out of total television user 70 percent were enjoying with cable television. Only 12.3 % respondents had computers, the internet user were 12.7 percent, only 4.3 percent respondents had telephone with them but the mobile owner were 96.7 percent, 79.7 percent respondents did not have freeze with them. Most of the respondent (90.7%) had cooker but only 1.3 percent respondent were using induction. Only 2 percent respondents were using vacuum cleaner and none of the respondents had Oven. About 95.7 percent respondents did not have by-cycle with them but 27 percent respondents had motorbike with them and none of them had washing machine.

Table 4

*Involvement in economic activities*

Factors	Percentage of Responses
Bank Account	
Yes	81.0
No	19.0
Share Investment	
Yes	38.0
No	62.0
Own Land	
Yes	75.0
No	25.0
Land Area	
none	24.7
1 ropani below	37.7
1 to 5 ropani	26.3
5 to 10 ropani	9.0
10 to 15 ropani	.7
15 and more	1.7

*Sources: Field survey, 2020*

Most of the respondents (81%) had their own bank account. Out of total respondent, only 38% had an experience of share investment. The 75% respondents were the owners of land rest were land less. About 24.7 percent respondents were land less, 37.7 % respondents had less than one ropani and only 1.7 percent respondents had more than 15 ropani land with them.

## Situation of receiving social services

Table 5

## Situation of Receiving Social Services

Health services	Percentage of Responses
Dhami_Jhakri	
yes	14.0
no	86.0
Baidhya	
yes	1.0

no	99.0
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Local Health Post	
yes	36.3
no	63.7
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Private Clinic/Nurshing Home	
yes	44.7
no	55.3
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Govt. & Community Hospital	
yes	78.7
no	21.3

*Sources: Field survey, 2020*

Even today 14% respondents' visit to Dhami/Jhakri for their health related problem. Only one percent frequently visits to 'Baidhya' for the same problem. About 36.3% respondents were getting service from local health post and private clinic. Nurshing Home were also providing services to 44.7 percentage respondents. Out of total respondents 78.7 percentage respondents were visiting Government and Community Hospitals.

Table 6

*Situation of social involvement*

factors	Percentage of Response
<hr/>	
Social Involvement in institution	
Yes	27.7
No	72.3
<hr/>	
Position of engaged institution	
Executive Board Member	8.7
Ordinary Member	19.0
none	72.3

*Sources: Field survey, 2020*

Only 27.7 percent respondents were involving in social institutions. Only 8.7 percent occupied the position of executive board member and 19 % were only ordinary members and most of the respondents' (72.3%) had involved in activities of social institutions.

Table 7

## Current Own Occupation

Types of Occupation	Percentage of response
Tailoring and Bandsman	14.7
Agriculture Labour	7.3
Industry Labour	1.3
Contractor	1.0
Farmer	10.7
Iron_metal_ Blacksmith	3.0
Goldsmith	1.7
Transport Related Job	9.0
Teaching	2.7
Foreign Employment	16.0
Defence Force	1.3
Carpenter	7.0
Trade and Business	10.3
Tourism Related Job	2.7
Private Sector Job	.3
Govt. Sector Job	9.3
others	1.7
Total	100.0

Sources: Field survey, 2020

Current occupation of the respondents were more in foreign employment that was 16% followed by tailoring and bandsman (14.7%), farmer (10.7), trade and business (10.3%), government sector job (9.3 %), transport related job (9%) and agriculture labour (7.3%). The least proportion of respondents was in private sector job that was only 0.3 percent.

Table 8.

## Occupational Change Condition

Occupational change condition	No Change	Partially Change	Completely Change	Total
Percentage of Response	36.7	17.0	46.3	100.0

Sources: Field survey, 2020

Out of total 46.3 percent respondents had changed their previous occupation and only 17 percent respondents had changed their prevailing occupation partially.

Table 9  
No Occupation Changed situation of Respondents

Occupational change condition	No Change	Percentage of No Change		Total
		Traditional syle	Modern style	
Percentage of Response	36.7	71.1	28.9	100.0

Sources: Field survey, 2020

Table 9 shows that those who did not change their occupation, 71.1 percent of them still used traditional style.

Table 10  
Situation of social discrimination

Statements	Highly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Highly Disagree
Still there is caste discrimination in your society	24.0	56.0	7.0	10.3	2.7
Still there is inter caste discrimination in your community	15.3	53.7	8.7	20.7	1.7
Nowadays inter caste marriage accepted in your community	9.0	46.0	17.0	24.0	4.0
Overall Satisfaction on own socio-economic condition	5.3	63.0	13.7	17.3	.7

Sources: Field survey, 2020

Table 10 shows the situation of discrimination in those community where they were living. About 56% respondents believed that there was still caste discrimination in their society but only 2.7 percent believed that there was no any discrimination. More than fifty percent (53.7%) believed that there is still inter caste discrimination in their community where as only 1.7 percent did not agree with this statement. About 46 percent respondents' responded that inter caste marriage was accepted in their community but only four percentage respondents did not agree with this statement. More than sixty percent (63%) respondents were satisfied with their own socio-economic condition where as only 0.7 percent respondents highly disagreed with this statement.

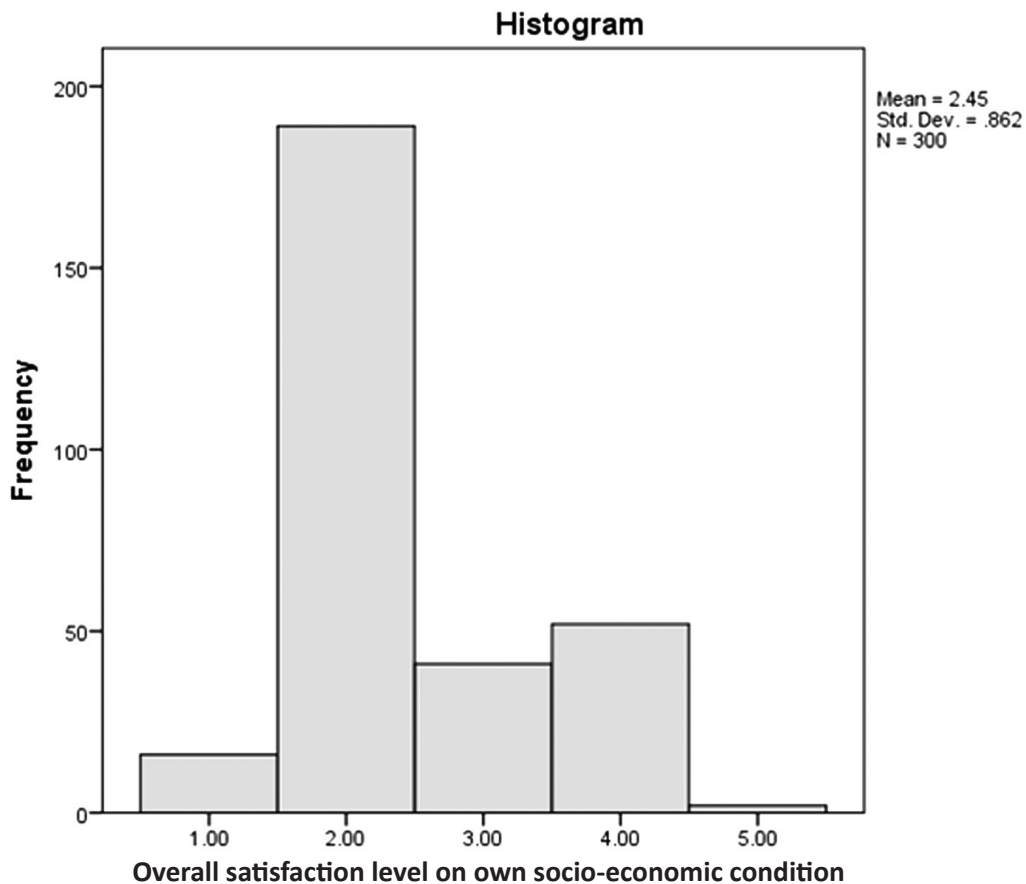


Figure 1  
Overall satisfaction level on own socio-economic condition

Figure 1 explains the overall satisfaction level on socio-economic condition of Dalit caste in Kaski. It shows that highly satisfied =1 and highly dissatisfied =5, just satisfied were high in comparison to other level of satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

Table 11  
Descriptive statistics of overall satisfaction on own socio-economic condition

Descriptives			Statistic	Std. Error
	Mean		2.4500	.04978
Overall Satisfaction on own socio-economic condition	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	Lower Bound	2.3520	
		Upper Bound	2.5480	
	5% Trimmed Mean	2.4370		
	Median	2.0000		
	Variance	.743		
	Std. Deviation	.86215		
	Minimum	1.00		
	Maximum	5.00		
	Range	4.00		
	Interquartile Range	1.00		
	Skewness	.881	.141	
	Kurtosis	-.147	.281	

Table 11 shows overall descriptive statistics of overall satisfaction of socio-economic condition level of occupational changed Dalit cast from Nepali, Bishwokarma and Pariyar. The mean of overall satisfaction is 2.45 and standard deviation is 0.86

Table 12  
Distribution of respondent on overall satisfaction level and occupational change condition

		Occupational Change Condition			Total
		No Change	Partially Change	Completely Change	
overall satisfaction level	satisfied	83	30	92	205
	nutural	7	10	24	41
	dissatisfied	20	11	23	54
Total		110	51	139	300

Sources: Field survey, 2020

Table 12 gives an idea about the overall satisfaction level of the respondents who change their occupation completely, partially and those who do not change their occupation. Out of the total respondent 36.66 percent had changed their occupation and 75.45% were satisfied even though they had not changed their occupation. Only 18.18 percent were dissatisfied being with prevailing occupation.

Only 17 percent respondents had changed their previous occupation and 58.82 percent were satisfied due to their decision of partial change of occupation. About 19.61 % responses were neutral on this behalf.

More than 66 percent respondents who had changed their occupation were satisfied but only 16.54 percent who altered their occupation were dissatisfied with their decision of occupation changed.

Table 13  
A Chi-Square Tests Results

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.039a	4	.060
Likelihood Ratio	9.842	4	.043
Linear-by-Linear Association	.490	1	.484
N of Valid Cases	300		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 6.97.

Table13 explains the chi-square result of overall satisfaction level to occupational changed group in Dalit caste. There is significant association between occupation changed Dalit caste and satisfaction level of those caste (0 043).

Table 14  
Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by	Phi	.174	.060
Nominal	Cramer's V	.123	.060
N of Valid Cases		300	

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.  
b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Table 14 shows the association between the overall satisfaction and occupational changed Dalit caste. It shows low level of effect on overall satisfaction that is 0.174.



Table 15

Ditribution of respondent of overall satisfaction level and no change occupation

		No Change		Total
		Traditional Style	Modern Style	
overall satisfaction level	satisfied	21	12	33
	natural	2	0	2
	dissatisfied	9	1	10
Total		32	13	45

Sources: Field survey, 2020

Table 15 shows that no occupation changed Dalit caste.

Table 16

Chi-Square Tests Results

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.447a	2	.178
Likelihood Ratio	4.340	2	.114
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.890	1	.089
N of Valid Cases	45		

Table 16 shows that there is no significant association between no occupational changed Dalit caste to overall satisfaction. That is 0.114

Table 17

Symmetric Measures

	Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.277
	Cramer's V	.277
N of Valid Cases	45	.089

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Table 17 shows symmetric measure of overall satisfaction and no occupation changed Dalit group. Table 16 shows no significant association between overall satisfactions and no occupation changed Dalit caste therefore, there is moderate degree of effect on the overall satisfaction of no occupation changed Dalit caste.

## Conclusion

Occupation is one of the important determinants for sustainable socio-economic condition of respondents. Either traditional or modern or changed occupation, it is one of most significant component of socio-economic development. Overall, more than sixty percent respondents have changed their occupation either partially or fully. Those respondents who have changed their occupation partially or fully said that they are satisfied and there is significant association with occupational changed respondent and socio- economic condition. Similarly, those who do not change their occupation but modify and continue existing occupation have no significant association with socio-economic condition. Therefore it is good to change the occupation according to change situation of environment to maintain and achieve high level of satisfaction on socio-economic condition of Dalit caste in Kaski. So government has to develop suitable policy and situation to adaptation of occupation changed.

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