Poverty and indigenous peoples of Nepal

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Abstract
This study analyzes nationally representative sample of women (N = 10793) to quantify the magnitude and predictors of poverty among indigenous peoples of Nepal. The study estimates the risk of poverty among the major ethnic groups in Nepal. Cross-sectional data from the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2006 (NDHS 2006) was used. Step-wise multivariate logistic regressions were conducted. The results show that significant variations exist in the risk of poverty between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. Tamangs were at the highest risk of poverty among the indigenous peoples. The disparity between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples remained significant even after controlling for human capital, occupation, geography and other individual characteristics. Attention to the intrinsic development practices are needed to determine if these variations are reflective of the variations in institutions, including the elite capture of the community resources.

Key word: poverty, indigenous, geography, Nepal

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