The background image shows a hillside in Nepal. In the foreground, there are several large, mature trees with thick, gnarled trunks and dense foliage. Behind the trees, a white building with a brown roof is visible. The overall scene is a rural, hilly landscape.

Periodic Market Systems in the Tankhuwakhola Watershed – A Remote Hill Region of Dhankuta District, Nepal

Shambhu P Khatiwada
Department of Geography Education
Tribhuvan University

Introduction

- **Periodic market now has emerged as an integral subject in geographic inquiry. Such markets are held periodically particularly in the rural region of developing world in a manner to reduce both travel distance and time of marketing needs of the people – both producer and consumer.**
- **Periodic markets, locally called 'Hat-Bazaar' are common trading activities in many of agrarian, societies today.**
- **"Periodism is an essential element of rural indigenous market structure in most developing countries today, as indeed it was of medieval Europe" (Hodder & Lee, 1974, p.138).**
- **"Periodism is an universal characteristics of rural market place they seem to have been, exchange in traditional agrarian societies (Good, 1972, p. 211).**
- **"Periodic markets are the nodes of temporal convergence of surrounding rural population, such nodes may be defined as the place where, people (producer, consumer and traders) converge to buy and sell at regular interval" (Hill & Smith, 1972, p.345).**

Continued...

- **"There were some problems of frequent repetition of activities within certain time interval is presumably due to lack of "storage facilities, elementary transportation facilities and population density too low to support continuous trading" and permanent marketing with regular intensity (Hodder & Lee, 1974, p.142).**
- **So, the most unique feature of a network of periodic market places in the rural region is their spatio-temporal synchronization.**
- **The agrarian economy encourages the growth of periodic markets where rural people sell their surplus product in a local markets and also buy other things needed for their daily life.**
- **Local consumers and traders come into direct contact in these markets with their products and services. Most of these market places are exchanged vertical and horizontal movement of goods between rural and urban products.**

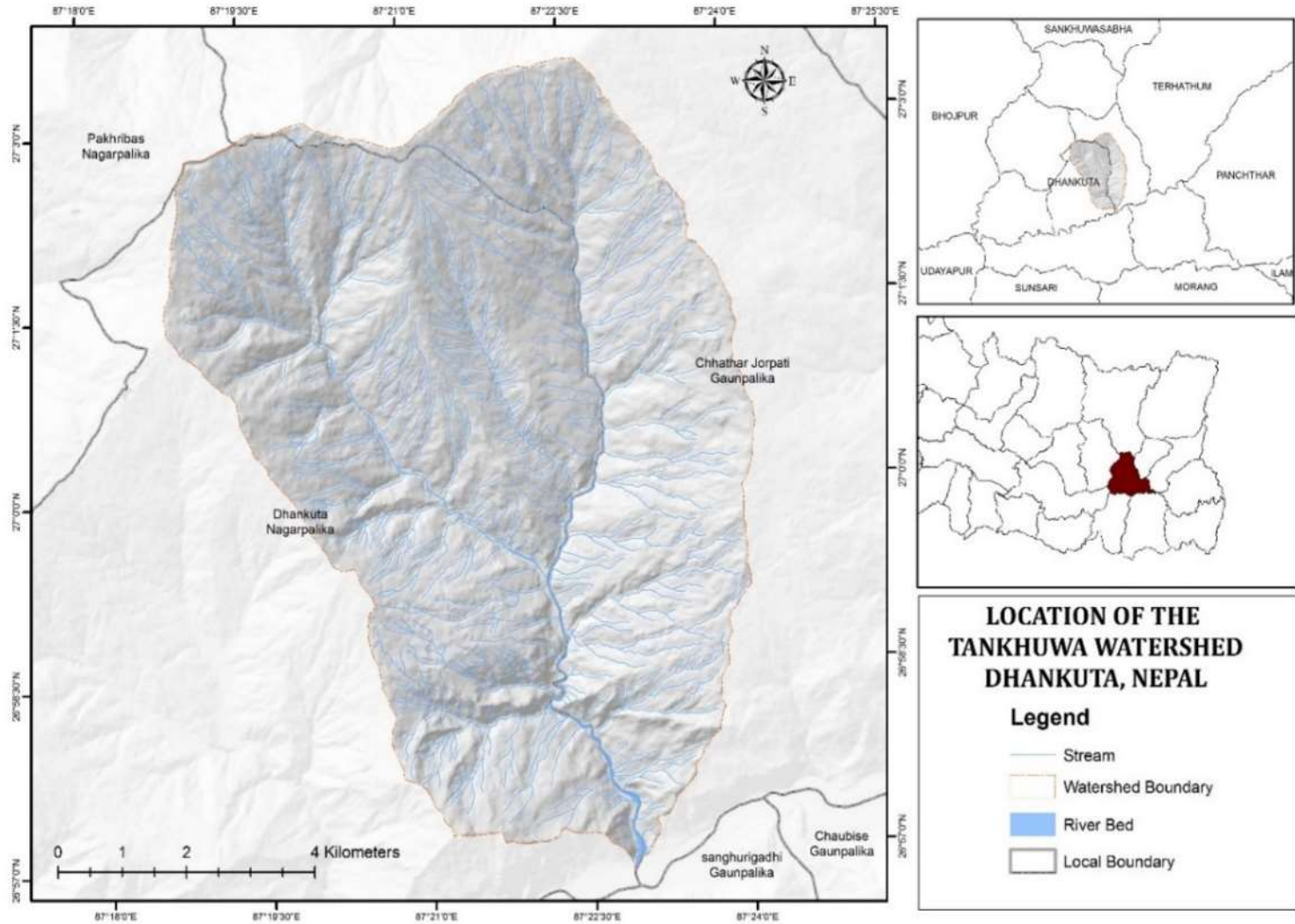
Objectives

This paper, attempts are being made to analyze the nature, function and growth of periodic markets in the Tankhuwakhola watershed of Dhankuta district, eastern hills of Nepal, which is characterized by remoteness in terms of rugged topography, road accessibility, and sparsely population distribution of diverse ethnicities and castes.

Materials and Methods

- This paper draws data from adopting a mixed- research method and mainly based on both primary and secondary data sources.
- Primary data were generated from field observation, focus group discussion, and in-depth interview surveys.
- Photos and video are another sources of data generation.
- Secondary data such were also collected from the DDC, Municipal and Gaunpalika profiles.

Study Area



Study Area

The study area lies in the Tankhuwakhola watershed on the eastern hills of Nepal and southern slope of the Tinjure-Milke Mountain Range.

The area comprises of a hilly terrain of remarkable grander with metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. The steep and rugged topography makes more than 95 percent area of the hill-slope.

The study area is made with the distinctive topographic features, such as *Lekh*, *Kachhad*, and *Basi* and comprises the narrow river valley, undulating hill slopes with flat upland terraces (*Tars*) and steep slope.

Terrain



Contd...

Tankhuwakhola watershed has extended from 27°59' to 28°5'10" Northern latitude and longitudinal extension of 83°41'45" to 83°52'14"E (Fig.1).

This watershed has covered an area of 73.93 sq.km by the 50 percent areas of Dhankuta Municipality and about 25 percent of Chhathar-Jorpati Gaunpalika.

The latest population enumerated of this watershed was 25583 in 2011 (CBS, 2014). There were 10984 (42.9%) male and 14599 (57.1%) female and with 4.2 average family sizes.



Result and Discussion

Nepal is overwhelmingly an agrarian country. Traditionally, agriculture has been a major occupation for livelihood. With progress in science and technology, contribution of the agriculture sector to the economy is declining while that of industries and services sector is gradually increasing. The share of the agriculture sector in GDP is 28.9 percent while about two third of the population is engaged in this sector and it was 90% of the population in 1980s (MoF, 2016/17).

- **Periodic markets are mainly located in the eastern Tarai.**
- **Their number and frequencies are decreasing from east to the west as well as from south to the north.**
- **However, at least one periodic node is found in each district head-quarters in Hilly region.**
- **There are sixteen periodic nodes in Dhankuta district and out of them four markets observed in Tankhuwakhola watershed area.**

Growth of Periodic Markets in Dhankuta

The growth of periodic markets can be divided into three stages the growth of periodic markets can be divided into three stages:

- Growth before 1943 (one weekly market in district headquarter)
- Growth from 1943 to 1969 (two weekly and two fortnight markets);
- Growth from 1969 onward (16 weekly markets).

Types of Periodic markets

- **Weekly**
- **Biweekly**
- **Fortnight -**
- **'Mela-bazaar', Which are associated with religious and recreational importance rather than economic activities**
- **However, weekly, fortnight and Mela-bazars are only observed in the study area**

Hierarchical Structure of Periodic Markets

- **The system of periodic markets can be analyzed within the framework of central place theory. The theoretical explanation of central place model was developed by W. Christaller.**
- **Distribution Pattern of Periodic Markets**
- **Goods Inflow and outflow in Periodic Markets**

- **Most of the periodic markets receive goods and services from the surrounding rural areas. Peasant trader comes to market with their small quantity of surplus products.**
- **They exchanged their surplus products with goods which they cannot be produced.**
- **The ecological diversities with the vertical connections and seasonal variations in crop harvesting tree among the different regions harvest we are seemed important source of agricultural products for locale exchange in the periodic markets.**

Itinerant system

- Itinerant system is one of the most important aspects of periodic markets.
- It is used for the explanation of market participants.
- The term is defined as buyers and sellers, who visit several market places from home base.
- They can move from one market place to another market place or inter-market places.
- They select the periodicity of given market places in particular space for integration.
- This system cycle is composed of integrated sequence of market that takes place in a week.

- Consumer travel pattern
- Trader travel pattern
- **Trade Cycle of Periodic Markets**

(The trade cycle involves in the vertical and horizontal exchange system. Usually horizontal exchange is related to peasant trader, which includes locally produced goods. On the other hand, vertical trade is extra-regional trade, which includes manufacturing goods. The trade cycle is measured in terms of nature and size of markets.)

Spatio-Temporal Configuration

- The characteristic of periodic markets is their relative location with time and space.
 - Present study has applied this technique in one month market cycles.
 - There are four market days in a month in the study area, such as Sunday in Jorpati, Wednesday in Kajiman, Thursday in Dhankuta and Hile.
 - The location of periodic market is related to the distance to neighbouring markets like geographical distance, economic distance and time distance.
- Thursday is the main market day in the study area.
 - The market reaches its peak hours in between 11 to 2 p.m. After 2 p.m. the market reaches slack time. It is due to limited stock of goods.

Market Place at Dhankuta

Bihibare hat is a market place used by buyers and sellers of commodities, meeting in this place more or less strictly defined, at an appointed time or once a week (Thursday) over centuries.

Periodic market as a source of revenue for local governments



Periodic market as a place of interaction

- Place of social contact
- Place of information flow and communication
- Resource interaction among different elevation zones



Selling fruits, vegetables and tobacco

- It provides information about people's food habits and choice
- Items buying and selling in the markets



Fruits and spices



Tobacco



Sugarcane

Purpose for market participation

- **Sharing information about Kholabhawani puja**
- **Buying and selling tomato and pork**



Interaction among relatives



Tomatoes, Lower hill's Product



Pork and Buff

Arts and crafts

Arts and crafts are important items in the periodic markets. Most of the people produced like Nepali caps, Sal, traditional weapons, bamboo-baskets and so on in the hat,



Traditional weapons



Bamboo baskets



Live goats



Problems

- Drinking water
- Market place
- Lack of marketing stalls and sheds
- Toilet and sanitation
- Risk factor due to location along the road side
- Robbery

- **Drinking water for the people in the market should be provided.**
- **The place for the market should be different and spacious.**
- **Road or trail leading to the market should be convenient.**

Conclusion

- Most of the markets are changed into their meeting day with increasing population density and transportation facilities.
- Monthly and fortnightly markets are changed into weekly markets. They are primary base of permanent markets and urbanization in future.

