How Successful Is the Land Distribution to 'Freed Bonded-labourer' (Mukta Kamaiya) in Nepal

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SUMMARY

Nepal has a long history of forced/bonded labour system and slavery. An example of the system is Kamaiya system of bonded-labour that originated in 1950s. The Government of Nepal abolished this system on 17 July, 2000 and liberated/freed all the bonded-labourers since the date. The freed bonded-labourers are termed as Mukta Kamaiya in common. About 27,570 families have been identified as Mukta Kamaiya. After the abolition of the system, the government launched different programs for rehabilitation of the Mukta Kamaiya families and individuals. Land distribution is the major component of the program. The latest report shows nearly 2,300 hectares of land has been distributed to 17,174 families, covering 62% of the targeted families. After nine years of being freed, still 40% of the families are dreaming for proper rehabilitation with a piece of land. On this ground, the paper aims to assess, through a desktop research, the success of the land distribution program.

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