

## **Rules on Social Reform of *Newar* Community 1958 B.S.**

### **by Chandra Shamser Jung Bahadur Rana**

Whereas, you the *Newar* people unnecessarily spend money (*Tadak Bhadak*) in the social activities to be performed according to your caste system; and because of it the other poor people are unable to meet the expenses due to such demonstration effect on it, and they are suffering from loans; and

When we tried to inquire the ladies and gentleman of Three cities (*Kathamndu, Patan and Bhaktapur*) it has been revealed that the expenses on social activities are unnecessarily high; and those people who were inquired also are of the opinion that His Highness may arrange for to minimize (to cut) the cost of social activities in such a way that activities could be continued but unnecessary expenses could also be controlled; and they have signed on it as well; and

Hereinafter, from this date, we have made the following arrangements and issued following *Istihar* (Notification), in such a way that everyone could be able to continue their social activities; and in this *Istihar*, we have set tentative amount to be spent in the particular social activity; and

Now, therefore, no one either a rich or a poor person (*Chota Bada*), shall give, receive, bring or take in excess of the same; if the police or anybody else reports that someone has given, received, taken or brought more than as mentioned hereunder and it is so proved, both the persons who give or receive shall be punished for violation of the command (*Hukum*) and Act (*Ain*),

Now, therefore, abide by the following norms in the course of performing the following social activities.

### **Followings**

No one from the maternal side shall go to feed curd and bitten rice by any time before the delivery (last month of pregnancy) of a woman.....1

At the time of birth of first baby one from husband side may send vermilion (*Sindur*) and betel nut (*Supari*) to the maternal side of the bride (*Maiti*).....2

The maternal side (*Maiti*) shall not go to feed curd and bitten rice to the pregnant woman.....3

At the time of *Chhaiti Karma* (Sixth day celebration of a new baby), one may gift a *Cholo* (typical Nepali garment), one *Kuruwa* of salt and *Sisunpalu* (typical *Newari beverage*) .....4

At the time of *Nwoaaran* (naming ceremony) send only the following items and do not send any other commodities for a party (*Bhoj*).....5

**For the baby**

<i>Mimichalan</i>	.....1
Golden Ring	.....1
Silver Ring	.....1
Pillow with mustard	.....1
Sleeping mattress ( <i>Dasana</i> )	.....1
Blanket ( <i>Sirak</i> )	.....1
<i>Macha Kathi</i> (Three pieces of woods to be used for sleeping of the baby)	.....1
Mat ( <i>Sukul</i> )	.....1
A pair of clothes to the lady who is engaged in oil massage to the mother (pregnant lady)	.....1
A Towel ( <i>Pachhaura</i> ) for the Son-in-law	.....1
Bitten rice Two <i>Pathi</i>	.....1
A bowl ( <i>Kahatara</i> ) of curd/yoghurt	.....1

Rice Two <i>Mana</i> .....	1
The head of the family (male) shall go to see the face of the baby for the first time and present only Fifty Paisa to the baby; no one shall bring brothers, friends ( <i>Istamitra</i> ) and relatives ( <i>Kutumba</i> ) in this occasion; one shall present only one and half <i>Mana</i> of salt from the side of the son-in-law on this occasion only for one guest.....	6
When a lady goes to see the face for the first time with <i>Angacha Bichar</i> (small ring), one from the maternal side shall go only with the following items ( <i>Sarjam</i> ); she shall not carry any item for a party ( <i>Bhoj</i> ); no one shall go with any other close or distance relatives ( <i>Nata Kutumba</i> ); and one may organize a <i>Bhoj</i> only for One or Two friends or porter ( <i>Bhariya</i> ) and give only One and half <i>Mana</i> of salt to the main person amongst them, do not present anything to others.....	7
A bowl of curd .....	1
A Golden Ring .....	1
Ghee Half <i>Pau</i> .....	1
Meat One <i>Ser</i> .....	1
Gift in cash ( <i>Daskheena</i> ) Fifty Paisa .....	1
A piece of cloth .....	1
A silver ring .....	1
Half <i>Pau</i> of <i>Chaku</i> .....	1
Ginger and <i>Juwanu</i> of Two Paisa .....	1
Two <i>Kuruwa</i> of Rice .....	1
<b>Food Feeding ceremony (<i>Pasni</i>) of a baby</b>	
Send <i>Pooja</i> (worship) items as usual	
Items which may be carried from the main <i>mawali</i> house of the baby- .....	
Two <i>Pathi</i> of bitten rice .....	

A bowl of curd	.....
A unit of <i>Pooja Bhag</i>	.....
<i>Sagun</i> of eggs (Chicken/Duck) upto Eight in number	.....
<i>Labeda</i> (typical Nepali garment) upto <i>Saatan</i> (nature of clothe) to the baby	.....
For the mother (of the new baby)	.....
<i>Pharia</i> (Sari) of <i>Goun</i> and <i>Rangit</i> <i>Cholo</i>	.....
<i>Pachhaura</i> of <i>Nainsut</i> (typical cotton)	.....
Do not present any ornaments	

Guests from the both sides including distance relatives (*Nata Kutumba*) and daughters shall not give any gift including curd, bitten rice and clothe, in case a whole family is an invitee (*Chulheinimta*), they shall put together the ghee and sugar upto the cost from (?) to Fifty *Paisa* and touch it with the lips of the baby.....8

Do not send any gift from the *Mawali* on the occasion of First birthday of the baby.....9

**On the occasion of *Chuda Karma, Bratabanda* and *Budha Pasni***, one may take the items such as a unit of *Pooja* item, Two *Pathi* of bitten rice, a bowl of curd, a pair of clothes as a *Sagun* (holy gift) from the *Mulghar* of *Mawali*; the other close or distance relative(*Nata Kutumba*) and entire family invitees (*Chulhainimta*) shall not go with bitten rice, curd and clothes, but they can take Six eggs, in maximum of a duck or chicken as a holy gift.....10

Activities to be done by the maternal side if the girl is in husband's home or husband's side if she is staying in maternal home at the time of fixing a date in relation to ***Barha (Keeping in Gufa)*** of a girl.....11

Do not send anybody for *Ko Chikana Sayake* (oil massage), do it from the side of the family where she is residing (staying) in.....

Feed Four *Mana* of *Chusaya Musaya* (pop corn and soybean).....  
Four *Mana* of bitten rice and a bowl of curd to the girl who is in *Gufa* and her friends, do not send anything else.....

**Send the following items for the day of taking out the girl from *Gufa***

Two *Pathi* of *Sarua Rice* .....1  
A unit of *Pooja* items including *Sagun* items for *Sindur* performance.....1  
Two *Pathi* of bitten rice.....1  
A bowl of curd.....1  
*Faria upto Chhitgaun, Cholo upto Panela and Pachhaura* of *Nainsut*.....1  
Do not present any other cloth/e to the girl and it shall not be necessary to send *chhusamusaya* for *Paniwahachhuaya*

**To be performed at the time of marriage function.**

At the time of exchanging *Supari* let it exchange a *muthi* not more than Ten in number *Supari*, do not present money and any types of fruits.....12

At the time of presenting *Lakha* in the past *Lakhamari* (typical *Newari* food item) used to be of 3 to 4 *Ser* in weight, now onwards, send *Lakhamari (Roti)* of One *Ser* each and the number of *Lakhamari* shall be as usual, send a *Kaiyo* (bunch) of banana, Four *Mana* of *Khuwa*, Two *Pau* of Fish and a bowl of curd; do not send any other items in this occasion.....13

Do not feed or send *Sisawusa* (fruits; peas, salt etc. which is served after the *Bhoj*).....14

Do not accept more than Ten Rupees instead of *Roti* (bread) in *lakha*.....15

On the occasion of *Kalye nhayake* (putting on of a *Kalli*, i.e. an ornament which is used on legs) send only a unit of *Kot Pooja*, a pair of a *Kalli Banpalu* in one dish plate, a bowl of curd, Twenty Four numbers of *Kale Roti* (typical bread) upto the weight of Half *Pau* (250 grams) each, a *Kokasi* as a holy gift; do not send any other food items including fruits.....16

**To be done by the groom's side on the occasion of marriage procession day.....17**

Send people as usual and different items (*Sarjam*) also as usual on the occasion of *Dudhanke* (a cloth which is used to cover up the bride) .....1

Do not light the *Jhar, Phanas, Dewalgiri, Jwosbatti*, electric lamp at the place of *Jantijama* .....1

Do not fly *Aatasbazi, Bhaichampa, Anardana, Gowara, Chandrajyoti* etc.; and do not carry with dancing party.....1

One may take a team of *Gujratirosam* musical instrument or/and *Bhajan* (songs relating to God) who can afford it.....1

Do not take more than Forty to Fifty people other than the relatives who are very much essential for the marriage procession (*Janti*); do not take more people just for show off (*Bhadak*).

Items which may be given to the *Dokomisa* (friend of bride).....

*Phariya* (Sari) upto *Gaun* (type of cloth).....

*Cholo* (typical Nepali garment) of *Rangit*.....

Matching *Patuka* (piece of cloth which is uses to fasten the waste) and *Pachhaura*.....

Do not permit her to put on the ornaments.....

Distribute *Pan Masala* to the people involved in the marriage procession as per your capacity.....

For the sake of lights use *Musayal Chirak* or candle in Twenty to Twenty Five numbers appropriately taking into consideration of the number of the people involved in the procession.....

**To be done by the bride side for welcoming the people engaged in the marriage procession.....18**

Do not cause any show off in preparing beds to the guests.....

Do not light *Jhar, Phanas, Duwalgiri, Gaslight*, electric light.....

Do not fly *Aatasbazi, Bhaichampa, Gowara, Chandrajyoti* etc.....

Do light *Panas, Khadalu, Sukunda* and candle; serve the guests *Pan Masala and Tamakhu (Hukka)* as per your capacity.....

Give a *Bhoj (party)* to the guest (*Janti*: people who come in the marriage procession) for *Dudhanke* as usual; give them One Paisa each as a *bayadam*; do not give them any *Phamoj*.....

Send not more than Two attendants (*Samelu*) along with the girl (bride).....

Do not send additional musical party from the bride side; do not send extra people with her rather use the same people to transport *Jokot* (a deep big plate made of *Pittal*), *Sukunda, Masayal* and holy *Pooja* materials who came from the groom side for the same job.....

Use Two people to transport the box (*Sandus*) in which gifts given to the bride are put.....

Use only one person to transport *Petaro*.....

Use one person to transport *Charkha, Vaita, Dhanu, Pooyuribatta* and *Sukul*.....

Use people as per necessity to hold the cattles.....

Do not make *Charkha Viata* from any metal; the invitees who are invited as a entire family shall give Fifty *Paisa*, if they come as a husband and wife they will give One Rupee, and who comes single he/she will give Fifty *Paisa* as a *Daijo* (marriage gift to the bride from maternal side).....

If someone wants to give utensils and cattles he/she is permitted to give.....

**The bride is permitted to use the following items**

- Cholo* upto *Kinkhap*.....
- Pharia* other than *Tas* or *Kinkhap*.....
- Khasto* upto *Dopatta*.....
- Patuka* of *Chudari Rangit*.....
- Do not permit to put on more.....

**To be done from the groom's side when bride enters into home.....19**

Give a *Bhoj* (party) to the porters who are transporting different goods and materials of the brides and also give them upto Two *Paisa* each as a *Vaidam*; do not give them *Phamoj* and extra item or money at all.....

After arranging a *Bhoj*( party) to the invitees, give them a *Roti* (bread) each which could be of Four to Five *Tola* in weight; and also give them *Mosipo* (a packet of herbal spices).....

Feed the *Samilu* (lady who accompanies the bride) until the bride is to be returned to her maternal home which is known as *Liladhu*, and give a *Cholo* of *Chhit gawan* for each of them on the departure day.....

Curd, *Sagun* (holy items), and *Pooja* items which may be brought by the *Mawali* and daughters who are the invitees in the marriage ceremony.....

A bowl of curd.....

A *Pachhaura*.....

Do not bring other than those items and other relatives and friends (*Istamitra*) shall not bring anything.....

**Gifts which may be given at the time of *Sapayake* (items essential for hair style/ makeup).....20**

A pair of cloth/e including a *Pharia* of *Gawan*, *Pooja* materials as usual and based on the capacity; do not send any food items.....

Send somebody with fruits and *Masala* within Four days; do not send *Bichaku* (sweets which are gifted to see the face).....21

**Activities relating to *Khwasoya* and items to be carried for the same.....22**

Four pieces of *Lakhamri* (special *Newari* sweet item) upto the weight of One *Ser* each.....

A bundle of sugarcane with Ten to Twelve piece (*Lankra*).....

Fruits in Four dish plates (*Thal*).....

A *Kisti* (flat plate) of *Masala*.....

Different types of breads in Four dish plates.....

A *Panthalia*.....

A bowl of curd.....

If a person who can afford to give clothes, he/she may give.....

A *Cholo* upto the *Pat*.....

A *Pharia* upto *Gawan*.....

A *Khasto* of duplicate *Dhaka*.....

A *Patuka* of *Rangit chudary*.....

When people also have to go over there in this occasion, include only the family members who are so gathered for the same.....

Hire upto Three porters to transport the gifts.....

One who goes for *Khwasoya* he/she shall give from Two Rupees to Fifty *Paisa* taking into consideration of the relationship and the party (*Pachha*).....

Do not do (give or take) anything in excess.....

Serve *Pan Masala* according to your capacity who come for *Khwasoya*.....23

After the marriage of the daughter, till the date, the women of the maternal side of the bride who used to decide to go to the groom's house they use go along with the *Thayabi* (food items for a party decorated in a dish plate) as a *Phamoj*; now,

hereinafter, such a tradition has been restricted, do not go in such occasion and do not pay anything for the same.....	24
Till the date the castes ( <i>Jaat</i> ) who had not a tradition of using <i>Doli</i> (special means of transport to be used in transporting the bride) to keep the bride they shall not use <i>Doli</i> in carrying the bride, in such a case the bride will go on foot as in the past.....	25
The castes who were not using <i>Gujrati</i> and <i>Rosan</i> musical group in the marriage procession they shall not take such teams hereinafter also.....	26
Give a <i>Bhoj</i> (party) to the porters who transport goods and materials, who transport the <i>Doli</i> and the <i>Samelu</i> .....	27
<b>Items which may be given to the daughter-in-law (<i>Buhari</i>) while sending her as <i>Liladhu</i>.....</b>	<b>28</b>
A piece of <i>Cholo</i> upto <i>Pat</i> .....	1
A piece of <i>Pharia</i> upto <i>Goun</i> .....	1
A piece of <i>Patuka</i> of <i>Rangit Chundari</i> .....	1
A piece of <i>Khasto</i> upto duplicate <i>Dhaka</i> .....	1
<b>Items which may be given to the Son-in-law (<i>Juwai</i>) as a <i>Duchayak</i> (welcoming the Son-in-law) after the <i>Bhoj</i> (party).....</b>	<b>29</b>
A piece of <i>Pachhaura</i> upto <i>Nainsut</i> .....	1
A piece of bread ( <i>Roti</i> ) upto Two <i>Pau</i> .....	1
A packet of spices <i>Pan</i> and a packet of herbal spices may be served to the guests who come along with the groom (Son-in-law) .....	1
No fruits and other food items shall be sent and feed time and again to the daughter after her marriage.....	30
After the nut ( <i>Supari</i> ) is handed over in making the final decision of marriage and before the marriage ceremony takes place, if the <i>Tihar</i> -festival occurs in between it shall not be necessary to send any thing for <i>Mha Pooja</i> (a culture of self-worshipping of the <i>Newar</i> community) to the girl side from the boy side, though it was a tradition in the past.....	31

If a bride has to go for *Bhai Pooja* (worshiping of the brother) on the occasion of *Tihar* festival for the first time after her marriage she may take with her different items costing not more than Two Rupees as a *Sagun* (holy items) and do not take any other items for *Bhoj* (party) exceeding to that amount.....32

Do not send *Liku* (holy gift of fruits) to the Son-in-law on the Fifteenth *Marg Sudi*.....33

Do not send anything to the Son-in-law on the occasion of *Tihar* for *Mha Pooja* from the maternal side of the bride.....34

On the occasion of first *Dewali Pooja* of the daughter and listening of holy *Mantra* after her marriage, one may send *Pooja* items, a he-goat, Four *Mana* of bitten rice for *Sagun*, Four *Mana* of *Saya bazi*, and other essential items for *Samaya*; do not send other items for *Bhoj* (party) and clothes in this occasion.....35

Do not give any gift of *Mungi* and *Rahar* (types of beans/lentils) who returns from a foreign country or any other place in the country outside of his/her locality.....36

There is a tradition that on the occasion of *Gokarna Ausi* (day of the new moon) and *Mata Tirtha Ausi* people go for feeding to their parents; those days are *Pitri* (ancestors) *Ausi*; therefore it is justified to give *Pinda* (holy item which is offered to the ancestors) to their parents who are already dead and to give *Sida* (food items) and donate cow to the *Brahaman* in the name of parents who have already died; but it is not justified to feed parents who are still living; in these occasions one is permitted to take their parents to *Gokarna*, *Gayaji*, *Matatirtha*, considering these places are as good as *Kashi* for pilgrimage and it is also permitted to cook food on one's own hand and feed it to their parents at such holy places.....37

**To be done after returning from the pilgrimage.....38**

People who have just returned from a pilgrimage they may distribute only holy water (*Jal*) and *Prasad* (holy food item) to other people; do not distribute clothes, *Tika*, mirror, small box (*Batta*) on such an occasion; do

- not go with a musical band or crowd to welcome those people who are returning from pilgrimage; only Ten to Fifteen people may go for their welcome along only with *Pan*, *Masala* and *Supari*; do not carry *Mugi* and *Rahar* while visiting those persons when they return home.....1
- Close and distance relatives (*Nata Kutumba*) who are the invitees of the pilgrimage party may go only with *Sagun*, they will not gift anything else.....1
- While constructing building, temple, *Pati* (inn), *Pauwa* or *Sattal* etc.,** no one shall provide *Pan*, *Masala* and other items and feed it to the organizer (constructor).....39
- On the occasion of *Guthi Pooja*, *Vrata* (religious fasting), *Utsav* (festivity) and *Yaggaya*,** no one shall provide any gift except *Mahritope* and *Sagun*.....40
- On the occasion of a marriage of a girl with the *Subarna Kumar*,** the parents and family members of the girl shall do what it is necessary according to their tradition, the other close and distance relatives (*Nata Kutumba*) shall not be required to do *Warhyanchhuaya*.....41
- Traditions to be followed on the death of a person**.....42
- Daughters, Mother-in-law and Father-in-law may send paddy, *Paiga Kathal Baja* and *Kasaibaja* as usual, according to their capacity, for the purpose of taking the body to the holy place for cremation.....1
- When any woman goes with *Bichar* (bread, fruits etc.) do not cry from outside, come with *Te* ( ) and *bichar*.....1
- No one shall send *Anta Bicha Manhi bichar* while sending *bichar*.....1
- The daughters, *Maiti* and *Mawoli* shall send the following *Bichar*, the others who are on distance relations and friends (*Nata Istamitra*) are not allowed to send anything.....1
- One *Pathi* of bitten rice.....
- A bowl of curd.....
- Ghee costing.....

Ginger Costing.....  
*Dhasa* (item required for pickles and vegetables).....  
Only Four types of items.....  
A dish plate of breads.....  
*Sakhar* costing.....

**For the purpose of *Shraadh* (obsequies rites),** the daughters, *Maiti* and *Mawoli*, in a case even the entire family is invited, shall only send those items which are traditionally offered to the *Pinda*; the other invitees shall send nothing else.....43

**On the occasion of the anniversary of the death,** only the daughter, *Maiti* and *Mawoli* shall perform *Ko Chikna Saik* taking with them the following items; no other items shall be taken with them and no other people except them shall present any gift on such occasion.....44

Mustered powder and oil as per necessity.....  
One *Pathi* of bitten rice.....  
Clothes as per the capacity and a bowl of curd to a person who performs cremating torch (*Dagbatti*).....  
Essential food items for that bitten rice.....

One may give a *Bhoj* and distribute money in such occasion; one may distribute Sixteen *Paisa* and *Gandi* per person to all if the whole family is invited, if couples are invited not exceeding Four people and for one person if a single person is an invitee may be given accordingly; never give more than that.....45

If any festival or occasion which is traditionally performed is mistakenly not mentioned hereinabove, one may spend an amount which is very much essential to perform it.....46

While performing such social activities, one who is spending less money on such occasion he/she shall spend the less amount, one who is spending more money for those activities he/she shall not increase any amount than that it is mentioned hereinabove, those who do not have capacity to perform these activities they shall

perform according to their capacity and those who were not performing any of these activities they shall not begin it with.

Done 1958 B.S.

### **Addendum**

One may perform his/here social activities as mentioned in the previous *Istihar* (1958); in this regard the senior citizens have advised us to add few items/areas in this regard; therefore one may also do as following, according to his/her capacity and position thereof; but there is no compulsion to increase the cost in such activities.....

### **Followings**

#### **When a man goes to see the face of newly born baby**

Anyone who is the member of the same joint family (using same kitchen) may go and give return gift of Three Fourth *Mana* of salt who gives the baby a holy amount (*Dakshina*) in *Paisa* (monetary term) and half a *Mana* (10) of salt who presents Fifty *Paisa* (*Mohar*) .....

#### **When a woman goes to see the face of a newly born baby**

The other item is as good as a man; One *Pathi* of bitten rice may also be added.....

#### **On the occasion of a *Pasni* (Rice feeding ceremony to a baby for the first time) of a baby**

A *Cholo* upto the quality of *Panela* or *Kasmira* to the mother.....

#### **While giving *Palhai* on the occasion of a marriage**

One may keep a bowl of curd, a bunch of banana and a plate of fruits.....

#### **Engaging in marriage procession (*Bariyad*)**

One may involve One Hundred people other than the relatives as per his/her capacity and position.....

#### **At the place where people involved in the marriage procession has to stay**

*Lalern* or lamp which can be lighted with kerosene may be used except any *Jharpanas*, *Dewal Giri*, Gas lamp and electricity.....

**In transporting marriage gift (*Daijo*)**

Send porter according to the weight of the gifts to be transported; do not send more people preparing a low weight package.....

**On the occasion of marriage**

In a case where entire family members are invited and there is not tradition of carrying any *Sagun*, one may carry with One *Pathi* of bitten rice and a piece of *Mahikasi*; and if there is a system of carrying *Sagun* or *Pooja* items, a bowl of curd and a piece of *Pachhaura* may be presented by the *Mawoli* and daughters in addition; it is prohibited to carry any other item.....

**One who goes to see the face of the newly married bride for the first time**

When one is interested to gift any clothes, he/she may give a *Pachhaura* of original or duplicate *Dhaka* as per his/her capacity, the other matters shall be followed as mentioned earlier (original *Istihar* of 1958 B.S.); and do not present any other relatives and friends (*Istamitra*) in this occasion except the close relatives.....

**While giving gift of clothes on the occasion of *Buhari Liladhu***

One may present gift as per his/her capacity as mentioned earlier (*Istihar* of 1958 B.S.) and may also give a *Cholo* upto the quality of *Pharasi*.....

**On the occasion of *Guthi Pooja***

Do not send *Manhi Tokhe* even it is so requested.....

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