

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN THARU COMMUNITY**

**(A Case Study of Dhanaury VDC of Dang District)**

**A Thesis**

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**By**

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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled **Socio-Economic Status of Women in Tharu Community (A Case Study of Dhanaury VDC of Dang District)** has been prepared by Bala Ram Basnet under my supervision. I hereby, recommended this thesis for Examination by the Thesis Committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Economics.

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Date: 2073/09/03

## **APPROVAL SHEET**

We certify that this thesis entitled **Socio-economic Status of Women in Tharu Community (A Case Study of Dhanaury VDC, of Dang District)** submitted by Bala Ram Basnet to Central Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Tribhuvan University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master's of Arts in Economics has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. We hereby accept this thesis as a part of said degree.

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## ACRONYMS

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	:	District Development Committee
FY	:	Fiscal Year
GNP	:	Gross National Product
GON	:	Government of Nepal
HH	:	Household
INGO	:	International Non-Government Organization
NGO	:	National Government Organization
NLSS	:	Nepal Living Standard Survey
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
UN	:	United Nation
UNICEF	:	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VDC	:	Village Development Committee

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Background

Nepal is a small developing country with a very unique geographical setting. It is a landlocked country surrounded by India in east, west and south and by china in north. It covers an area of 147181 sq.km. Runs along 885 km. from the east to the west and on an average 193km. from north to south. Spatially the country is located between the longitudes  $80^{04}$  to  $88^{012}$  east and latitudes  $26^{022}$  to  $30^{027}$  north's ([www.nepal.gov.com](http://www.nepal.gov.com)). The most important assets of the country include the land with the wide climate and altitudinal variations the perennial rivers and the Himalayas. The total population according to the population census in 2011 is 26.4 million. The population increasing annually at a rate of 1.35% (CBS, 2011). Nepalese per capita income is about \$766 (MOF, 2016).

Broadly people of Nepal can be classified into the three major ethnic groups in terms of their origin. Indo-Nepalese, Tibeto Nepalese and Indigenous Nepalese. The Indo-Nepalese have Aryan features and speak Indo-Aryan languages. These groups occupy the more fertile lower hill, river valleys and Tarai plain. The majority of the Indo-Nepalese are Hindus along with small numbers of Muslims, Buddhists and Jains. The Tibeto Nepalese have distinctively mongolian features and speak Tibeto-Burmese language. These groups occupy the higher hill and mountainous areas. Different groups within this category practice Buddhism, Animism or Hindusm. An indigene is literally someone or something that is native to or originating from a given place. Therefore, when indigenous is used purely as an adjective, an indigenous people are a group or culture regarded as "coming from" a given place. In this broad sense almost any person or group is indigenous to some location or other.

Tharu are an innocent shy and relatively timid people. Some of the earliest settlements of Tharus were deep in the forest isolated from other ethnic groups. They have been exploited by government authorities in the past and still to a lesser degree are out maneuver ding by the surrounding non Tharus. Tharus are not good in business or home economics. They are often in debt since the grain they produce is frequently used to brew alcoholic drinks. More clever persons from the hill will lend them

money to purchase food and then continue to compound the interest. Eventually the hill man acquires the Tharu's land and Tharu is relegated to landless status (Pyakurayal, 1982).

Tharus are living in eastern and western Terai like Dang, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Kapilvastu, Rupendehi, Nawalparasi etc. Tharus are rich in cultural heritage their verbal communication is very rich they have their own customs and dress. Tharu women Choliya (Upper garment, lahenga and lungi) (kind of wrapper to cover the lower part of the body). There are some special garments which are used only in folk performing arts specially garments, folk drama and folk dances.

In Nepal most of the economic activities are guided by agriculture. The contribution of women to the agriculture economy is greater than male but their contribution is not accounted to the GNP.

In case of Tharu women they are dominated in comparison to their male counterpart in Nepal. Tharu women's status is backward than males in the society. It can be solved the problem to involving education, health opportunities of employment. although Tharu women are active in household and field works but they have assigned low level of status than males. Tharu women should work household works activities and also other activities. Tharu women carry a triple burden in the society: as a production worker. Anyway, Tharu women contribute directly to subsistence and income as a mother and wife. Women of other countries of the world also bear heavy burden of household activities. Women are equally involved in agricultural activities. They can't involve social activities, learning education, health, human rights, etc.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The total population of Nepal is 26494504 of which 12849041 (48.5%) are males and 13645463 (51%) are female (CBS, 2011). The data shows that women cover more than half of the country's population but still in the Nepalese context women suffer from illiteracy, unemployment and household burden. The literacy rate of men is 75.1 percent and that of women is only 57.4 percent (CBS, 2011).

Women role status depends upon different culture of the society but their sub-coordinate becomes with men in the society. So the socio-economic status of women

is also poor transient in the Tharu community. Nepal is an agricultural country where about 74 % people depends on agriculture (Economic survey, 2015/16). There is similar situation in Dhanaury VDC. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry in this VDC. Women plays important role in household subsistence in agriculture in labor work and so on. Women labor participation is in agriculture. Besides agriculture, they have to perform any other household activities but these activities are not taken into account into monetary terms. So, it is necessary to depth analysis of Nepalese women's situation in order to support the planning of facilitating increased of women to the national developing process. But most of the women are uneducated and as deprived of getting education. As we know that education plays vital role in the development of socio-economic condition of the world.

Decision making of Tharu women is not good because Tharu women are highly dominated by men. They have still enjoyed with the basic needs. Because of these conditions the socio-economic condition is in deplorable situation in the Tharu community. The following questions are approval to fulfill of my research question:

1. What is the economic status of Tharu women in the study area?
2. How is the role of Tharu women in education and social activities?
3. Which factors are responsible to be low socio-economic status of Tharu women?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this research is

- ❖ the socio-economic condition of women in Tharu community of the study area

The specific objectives of the study are :

- ❖ To find out the situation of education, property ownership and employment among Tharu women.
- ❖ To know the status of women in terms of household decision making.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study has been useful to know about the status of women in Tharu community and also socio-economic pattern, way of living customs, tradition and other subsistence activities. The study has also pay attended on the economic activities that are the main means of them for livelihood.

This research has been based on the Dhanaury VDC of women in Tharu community. The finding of the study has been helpful for the other social researchers as well as other organization to understand socio-economic status of women in Tharu community.

#### **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

1. This study has been focused the socio-economic status of women in the Tharu community in a very small range of geographical area of Dhanaury VDC of Dang district.
2. This study is mainly based on primary data and secondary data. Simple statistical tools are used to analyze the data.

#### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

Chapter one is deal the introduction it has been included general background of the study. Statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, organization of the study and the limitations of the study. Chapter two is deal with the literature review for the study. It has been included theoretical framework and national context. Chapter three has been related to research methodology. It has been

included research design, nature and source of data collection, sample size/ sampling procedure, method of data collection and method of data analysis. Chapter four is deal a short profile of the study area, which include geographical location. Population and natural resources etc. It is also deal with the socio-economic condition of the sample women of the study area which is heavily supplemented by the collected data from the field. Chapter five has been provided a brief summary of the whole study, finding the study conclusion of the study and recommendation. Some strategies to improve quality of life of women of the selected area and finally references and appendices set has been complied in study.

## **CHAPTER-II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This chapter seeks to describe the two sections as the international context and national context regarding the literature on socio-economic status of Tharu women.

#### **2.1 International Context**

Mazumdar (1982) stressed on the Asian women who have been subjected to acute social, economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and which continue even to this day, may be to a lesser degree. There are three components to balance the inequality. i. e. Economic, political power and knowledge. Asian women's works are considered as unproductive. It is closely associated with their inferior social status and also the loss of personal freedom. Mazumdar also talks of non-socialist countries where the extension of capitalism has further marginalized the economic and social role of women. The determinant of decision making of women is family constraints, illiteracy, traditional barrier, attitude and women's ability.

Kaur (1987) in a case study carried out research in Haryana State, emphasizes upon the need to give due recognition of female decision making especially in the case of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She claims that women who are never found as final decision maker in many matters except for case of food and nutrition of the children. Ironically women are not even free to decide about participation in women's organization such as Mahila Mandals. Financial decisions are found solely manipulated by husbands except in few cases. She concludes saying planned programs should be designed which support women's potential as capable and worthy decision makers. Kaur goes on to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's input in the decision making process. As she observes "educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterpart".

United Nation (1987) focused that the role of young women workers in manufacturing of rapidly industrializing economy is closely associated with the international division of labor. Garment and textile industries of data presented in this study indicated that women's employment has been concentrated in the most labor-intensive and wage industries and that in association with this fact, the labor force participation rate of women has risen, much faster than that of men during the export oriented phase of industrialization. The wage levels of men and women and the tasks assigned to them does not revealed as the same since the development programs have not effectively addressed women's contribution as industrial workers, fairer laws are required to cover women working in manufacturing. If governments are genuinely interested in protecting women as well as promoting opportunities, then social policies and job

oriented program will be needed to prepared women workers for the new skills and jobs of the future.

UNICEF (1987) depicts that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information which the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women, the written world still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do literate however, will lose their skill finds no meaning. Many rural women who do literate however will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male requirement may also negatively affect for male employment of women. In 1982, in government services only 70 percent of graduated officers and 5 percent of the supporting staffs were women. Women constitute less than 10 percent of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decision making concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50 percent of decisions are made by men, 19 percent jointly and 31 percent by female which shows very low percentage of decision making power on the part of women.

C. Newman and S. Canagarajah (2000) showed that non farm activities pay an important role for women in many ways. The methodology used was based on two comprehensive sets of household level data over periods spanning four to five years for each rural Uganda and Ghana. Non farm activities are defined by wage work that is not in agriculture but located in local areas. No farm participation led to the largest declines in female poverty rates in both countries. Since the non-farm activities were linked to move rapidly falling poverty rates, it is equally important for men and women. The higher levels of education lead to the greater participation in nonfarm work are linked with the higher standards of living at least at the lower income deciles.

UNFPA (2013) stated that women in Nepal, as elsewhere hold the triple work responsibilities of production, house holding and framework. However, production is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by government system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility which is required among other for skill development and independent decision making.

Kaur (2014) studied on female decision making especially in the area of home and farm affair among the rural families in Nepal. The study used both secondary and primary data. The study found that education of women as an important factor in the matter of decision making process in her words "Educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterparts".

The study found that female never seen women as final decision makers in many household matter excepts for cases for food and nutrition of children. The financial activities are solely done by the male members of the family. She claims that women have greater input in household decision making if they are from medium status. She also claims that the socio-economic status is closely linked with women's power of decision making.

## **2.2 National Context**

Acharya and L. Bennett (1981) conducted a number of studies relating to women status in Nepal. Firstly, the time allocation pattern of man and women at household level, where women perform almost all kinds of agricultural activities and their daily labor input in 9 hours against 5 hours for man. But the degree of involvement varies considerably across ethnic groups and social classes. Women are greatly involved in farming as well as in household chores. But household level is very low.

The finding of the model revels that in the first sphere women participation in farming and domestic activities constitutes 86 percent, women impact accounts for 57 percent in agro-production in second sphere, while their inputs in third sphere and fourth drop down to 38 percent and 25 percent respectively. Their total contribution to the household income remains at 50 percent as opposed to 44 percent for males. The remaining 6 percent of income is contributed in market economy in different communities, which subsequently relates to their decision power within the households.

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social is one of the major reason obstructing women from participating fully in economic development. Which result low decision making power in the women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development higher will be the decision making power of women. On the other hand the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human

being, conception, delivery and upbringing of the child has made. It extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to male is very low. Even political, social, cultural development follows the economic development of a country. In this contest, the committees constituted by United Nations in the status of women are trying to gain for equals rights for women in various field, their social and economic life and suggestion for removal of gender inequalities in legal economic, social and educational matters.

Jeanette (1999) mentioned that Tharu communities women are accorded less decision making power, have less access to resource and property. They are less to conduct business on their families, behalf. In Tharu community the women play dominant role in decision making about the households activities. As polyandry is common in this caste group women cannot play a key role in this community. Women do not even decide what food to prepare what food to prepare for dinner.

J.S. and J. Hender (2000) focused the poor situation of Tharu women. The Tharu society is male dominated society, their property is handled by male while female are concentrated only in the domestic works, decimation was found in the study area, the ratio of Tharu girl's student to Tharu boys' students was quite high at primary level but gradually tapers at the higher grades. The withdrawal rate of Tharu girls student was higher than that of boys. Early marriages, language problems, use of their children in field works, ignorance of parents are presented as the case of withdrawal. Apart from these, poor economic condition is found to be the main principal factors of determining the low educational status of Tharu women.

CBS (2011) mentioned that women account 13644669 (51.5%) population out of total population of Nepal. Women play crucial role inside household as well as in agriculture and related activities. The tasks women perform are not recognized as work. In most of the Asian countries women are nearly respected in their role of mothers and housekeepers. The dual burden is very heavy on the women. In the economic setting women occupy lower status than men because traditionally women have been associated with reproductive rather than productive tasks. Therefore whatever job is performed by women demands lower prestige and is paid lower rate if a man does mane kind of work.

Bhandari (2013) mentioned that Tharu women have multidimensional role and responsibility in their families. Their work burden is higher but most of their time is spent in their household activities. Then they should spend more time in agriculture which is not counted as income generating work. They work only for the purpose of family use. The literacy rate of Tharu women is moderating but they are not well educated and higher education status of women is very low. They are deprived from acquiring the higher education due to the various social, personal, economic factors which are directly related them is not getting outside job. Therefore only a few number of Tharu women are engaged in outside jobs.

Parajuli (2014) , mentioned the discrimination between males and females start in the family . Females are not included in the decision making process, the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women's participation in the socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitude of their husband/father/parent/male activities.

Nepalese society, being patriarchal, people still do not see women politician as their leaders, no matter how capable they are. They tend to see them through the prism of social roles as sister, wife and daughter-in-law etc.

Community upon the difference between pre and post 1990 years, almost the women's respondent started that in the post 1990 days. "Women have the opportunity to speak and exchange views with their husbands, to participate in public forums, institutions and political parties, and also get elected in different tiers of local government bodies, particularly the VDCs, but they also pointed out that women still are not often encouraged to participate in socio-cultural, political activities and when they do their character is questioned and worse, the male members of their families citizen them. Every times women's sorrow tears and feelings re taken as weakness and disability of women.

Adhikary (2014) found that Tharu are not aptly educated so they are not aware with health and sanitation. They still hold belief traditional value and go blindly with superstition. Large family size of family causes malnutrition among Tharu family. They spend their source of earning on the feasts and festival by taking of alcohol, cigarette and Tobacco, which is unproductive. They utilized their indigenous skills to

fulfill their domestic requirements since the skills of these people do not play significant role to bring change in their economic status.

Literacy rate is medium but most of them left school while in primary and lower secondary level. They do not know the importance of education. The alternate works are more beneficial and give quicker returns than the education. So the illiterate person has adverse affect on their socio-economic condition. Tharu had their own ways of performing birth, marriage and death ceremonies. But the basic concept of performing life cycle ceremonies are based on Hindu rites.

Khanal (2014) has analyzed the status of employed women in Kathmandu and found that despite the dearth of employment opportunities the range and cover. Which the women's in Nepal show even now is ended quit respectable. From self-employed subsistence level farming to village and urban small entrepreneurship is a big jump, and professional level, government job beginning from the post of peon and non-gazette post to decision making levels and ambassadorship abroad, teacher to professor, midwifery to medical doctor and consultant, agricultural extension workers to agricultural export in different branch of agriculture and social workers to minister, police constables to police inspector etc. in addition, women are found as coach in sports, trainer in carpet and textile weaving basketry and pottery, workers in small industrial sectors and non-governmental enterprises. In the urban areas, quite a few women are self-employed in the service sector. In the industrialized world women perform half of all service jobs although the figure falls to 27 percent in the developing countries. Women on average paid less than men, even in industrialized countries. Generally, women are a large of the clerical, sales and services labor force but are largely excluded from manufacturing, transport and management.

Pradhan (2014) women are usually consulted in taking decision on important family matters viz settlement of marriage, purchasing and selling of land improvement and construction of house etc. This is particularly true in case of educated and enlightened section of women. In selection job for themselves or for other members of the family. Women express their opinion. Though the decision of the elderly members as accepted in most cases.

Thapa (2014) has analyzed the socio-economic status of women in Nepal and found that in Nepal. The civil code generated right to women by abolishing untouchable, cast, sex discrimination still widely persist both within the law and in its customary application amendment in 2006 greatly enhance the cause of equal right for women by amending law in governing marriage, divorce, property right and inheritance. Now the civil code 1994 has eleventh amendment to give an equal property right for daughter with her brothers, but not shows the reality in our societies.

## **CHAPTER-III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Methodology exhibits with the process applied for the present study. It describes research design, nature and source of data collection, sampling procedure, methods of data analysis, etc.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This research has been designed in exploratory method. So it tries to explore the socio-economic status of Tharu women of the study area. So the present study is descriptive in nature which covers only the Dhanaury VDC of Dang district.

#### **3.2 Nature and Source of Data Collection**

This study has been used both primary and secondary data information. Primary data will be collected through questionnaire, interview, key information and observation. Similarly, secondary data will be collected from various published and unpublished materials by related organizations such as VDC profile of Dhanaury VDC, DDC profile of Dang district, CBS, 2011 profile, Tharu Kalyankarni office etc.

#### **3.3 Sampling Procedure**

Tharu women residing in Dhanaury VDC has been considered as the universe population of the present study and Tharu household has been taken as a sample unit. According to central bureau of statistics 2011 a total of 1933 household are found with the nine wards of Dhanaury VDC, although the prescribed VDC possesses nine wards. This study is targeted to pick up only three wards depending of heavily populated household of the Tharu communities and 40 households will be taken proportionately from three wards. Finally from each household one Tharu women of age group 15-59 will be selected as 40 respondents will be selected through random sampling techniques.

#### **Table;3.1**

### Sample selection procedure

Ward no.	No. of Respondents	Percentage
	<b>Women</b>	
5	547	18
7	298	10
9	365	12
<b>Total</b>	1210	40

Source: VDC profile

#### 3.4 Primary Data Collection

The primary data had been collected from the field survey through various techniques such as questionnaire, interview with key informants and observation method. the structured questions were asked directly to the married women to get information about the women's education, employment, property ownership status and their decision making power.

#### 3.5 Secondary data collection

Secondary data has obtained through the sources like textbook, NGO, INGO, CBS, statistical reports and previous research studies.

#### 3.6 Interpretation of Data

All the data will be analyzed by using simple and suitable mathematical and statistical tool like tabulation, percentage, mean, frequency and other geographical presentation will be employed as analytical tools.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THARU WOMEN IN STUDY AREA

In this chapter the socio-economic status of women has been studied. It includes some socio-economic variables that directly or indirectly affect socio economic status of women like marital status. Major occupation or employment, land holding pattern, property ownership and household decision making role of the respondents etc.

#### 4.1 Brief introduction about Dhanaury VDC

Dhanaury VDC is a beautiful place lies in western part of Dang district. It is surrounded by Hekuli in eastern, Panchakule in west, Bagmare in north, Babai River in south. Spatially the VDC is located between the longitudes of 82<sup>09</sup> to 17<sup>53</sup> east and latitudes of 28<sup>07</sup> to 41<sup>23</sup> norths (<http://www.googleearth.com>). The total population of this VDC is 9433 (CBS Vol. 06 NPHC 2011). Hindu and Isai are the religions of this VDC. In terms of race there are Brahman, Kshetri, Magar, Sarki, Thakuri, Kami and Damai. Farming and livestock are the main occupation of the people .They grows potatoes, corn, paddy, millet, ginger, vegetables and fruits.

#### 4.2 Marital Status

Married and widow women of age group 15-59 are the respondent of present study. Marital status is also a social indicator for understanding the socio-economic status of women. Early marriage system has been one of the important characteristics of Nepal. Marital status change the women's status. It also change the women's role and increases the duties and work load of the women. It is through the marriage that women change their status of daughter to daughter in law. The marital status of the respondent is shown in the table below.

**Table No. 4.1 Marital Status of the Respondents**

S.N.	Marital status	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Married	32	80.00
2	Widowed	8	20.00
	Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

Table 4.1 shows that out of 40 sample household, 32 (80.00 percent) of them are found to be married and only 8 (20.00 percent) of them are widowed. Married and widowed females get different treatments in the society. The married females have to lose all their freedom and rights. The condition of widowed females are even worse. They have to face the curse and unnecessary blames of the society.

### 4.3 Family Structure

The family structure in the study are is divided into two categories i.e. nuclear and joint family. Almost of the Tharus still live in joint family but some live in nuclear. In nuclear family decision making role and other socio-economic indicator are higher than comparison in the joint family. The family structure of sample household is presented in the table 4.2:

**Table 4.2 Family Structure of Sample Household**

S.N.	Family Type	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Joint	22	55.00
2	Nuclear	18	45.00
	Total	40	100.00

Field Survey, 2016.

The above table shows that 55.00 percent of the sample households comprised joint family and the remaining 45.00 percent of the households are nuclear family. Thus the table shows that the family structure of Tharu are more in joint type than nuclear in the study area.

#### 4.4 Education Status

Education plays a key role in the development of an individual. It is one of the major degree to measure the social status of any community. Moreover, education for women is so important it helps them to improve their status in the community. Generally, the level of education is the indicator of the social status of women.

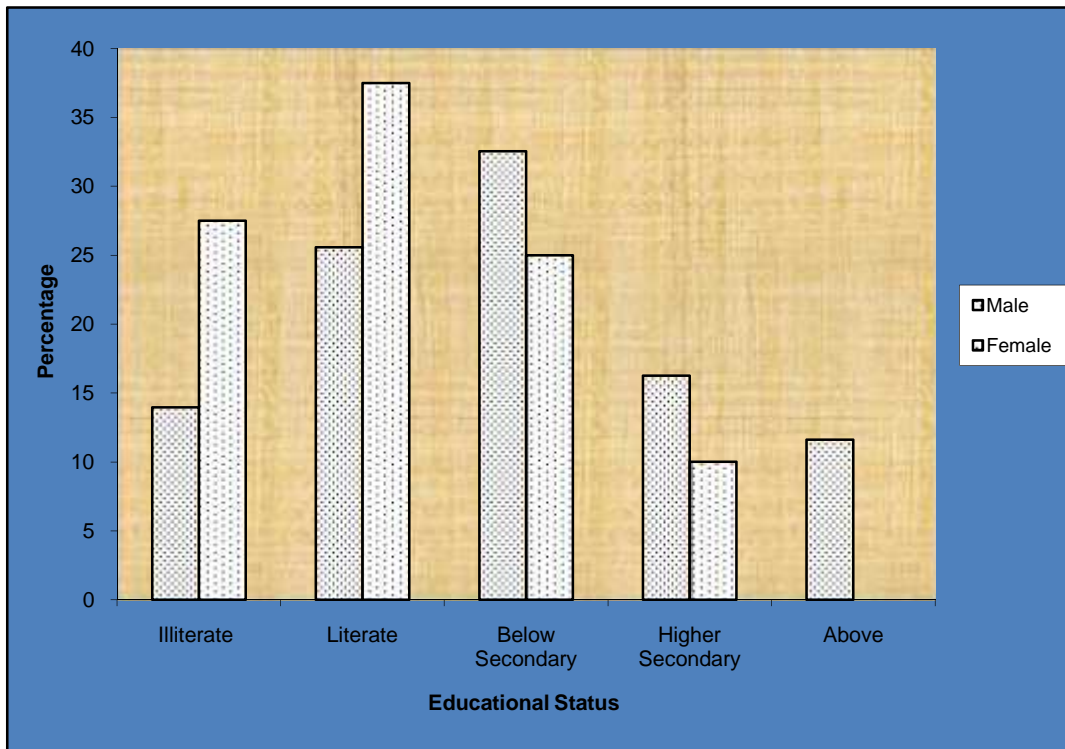
The education status of the sampled households of the study area has been presented below.

**Table No. 4.3 Education Status of Household Couple**

Educational Status	No. of Respondents			
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Illiterate	6	13.95	11	27.50
Literate	11	25.58	15	37.50
Below Secondary	14	32.55	10	25.00
Higher Secondary	7	16.27	4	10.00
Above	5	11.62	-	-
Total	43	100.00	40	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2016.

**Figure 4.1 Education Status of Household Couple**



Source: Based on Table 4.3

The above table shows that out of 43 male population, 13.95 percent of them are found to be illiterate, 25.58 percent hold literate, 32.55 percent below secondary, 16.27 percent higher secondary and 11.62 percent of them hold above education. In similar way it is found that out of 40 female population 27.50 percent are found to be illiterate, 37.50 percent hold literate, 25.00 percent below secondary, 10.00 percent higher secondary and none of them hold above education. Thus female population are found to be more illiterate as compared to male population in the study area.

#### 4.5 Occupational Status of Scrapple Households

Occupation is considered as the main source of income it represents the economic status of people. Agriculture and animal husbandry is the main occupation of the Tharus of the present VDC. Due to lack of higher education, Tharus participation in non-farm employment is limited. Besides agriculture the Tharus are engaged in income activities like small business which includes Retail or small shop and selling of vegetables in the local market, carpentry, service, livestock raising, tailoring, wage labor, household works and others. The table shows the occupational pattern of sample household.

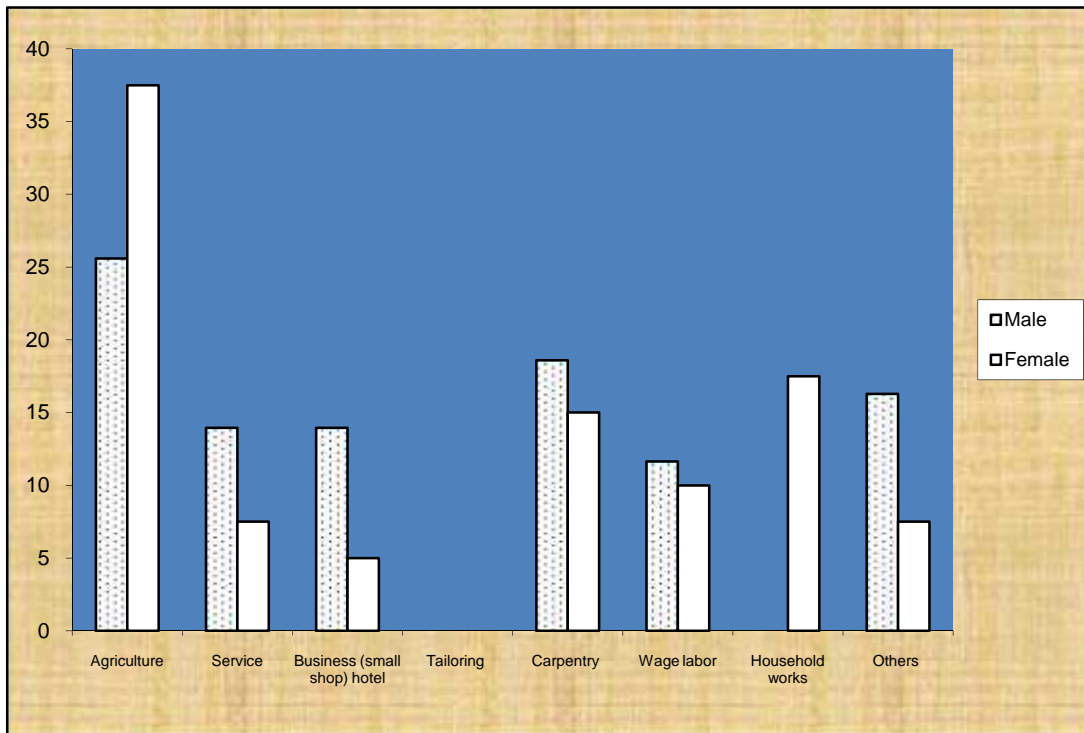
**Table 4.4 Occupation of Sample Households**

Occupation	No. of Population			
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Agriculture	11	25.58	15	37.50
Service	6	13.95	3	7.50
Business (small shop) hotel	6	13.95	2	5.00
Tailoring	-	-	6	15.00
Carpentry	8	18.60	-	-
Wage labor	5	11.63	4	10.00
Household works	-	-	7	17.50
Others	7	16.27	3	7.50
Total	43	100.00	40	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2016.

The table 4.4 shows that out of 43 male population 25.58 percent of them are found to be engaged in agriculture 13.95 percent in service, 13.95 percent in Business, 18.60 percent in carpentry, 11.63 in wage labour none in tailoring and households work and 16.27 percent in other occupation like foreign employment grazing cattle etc. In the same way out of 40 female respondents 37.50 percent of them are found to be concentrated mainly upon agriculture. 7.50 percent in service, 5.00 in business, 15.00 percent in tailoring, 10.00 percent in wage labor, 17.50 percent in household work, 7.50 in others like selling of livestock products, grazing cattle handicraft etc considering above table 4.4 female are more engaged in their income generating activities except carpentry.

**Figure 4.2 Occupation of Sample Households**



Source: Based on Table 4.4

The field survey and above table show that majority of the economically active population of the study area are engaged in agriculture which proves to be agriculture as the main occupation.

#### 4.6 Pattern of Land Holding

Land can be considered as the key resource of the Tharu community. The pattern of land holding not influences the economic status of household but also the social status in the community. The distribution of land of the sample households has been shown in the below.

**Table 4.5 Land Holding Pattern of Sampled Household**

S.N.	Land holding in Kattha	No. of HHs	Percent
1	0-3	4	10.00

2	3-6	6	15.00
3	6-9	5	12.50
4	9-12	4	10.00
5	12-15	9	22.50
6	15-18	8	20.00
7	18 and above	4	10.00
	Total	40	100.00

Sources; Field Survey, 2016.

The table 4.5 shows that out of 40 sampled households 10 percent households less than 3 Kattha, 15 percent hold up 3 kattha, 12.5 percent household hold up to 6 khatta, 10 percent households hold up to 9 kattha, 22.5 percent household hold upto 12 kattha,, 20 percent households hold upto 15 kattha, and 10 percent households above 18 kattha. The Tharu of the study. The tbale clearly shows that majority of the Tharu of study area hold up to only 15 kattha. From the field survey it is found that Tharu having more than 3 Bigha (20 Kattha = 1 bigha). In the study area the Tharu who is land less or who have less than 1 Bigha they cultivate other land in adniya basis. Most of the Tharus in present VDC cultivate other and in adhiya basis i.e. so present product to ech (owner and worker).

#### **4.7 Property in Women's Ownership**

In Nepal women have less access on ownership of family. So they are economically backward. If they have property in their ownership, they are not free to use it. Therefore the socio economic status of women is miserable.

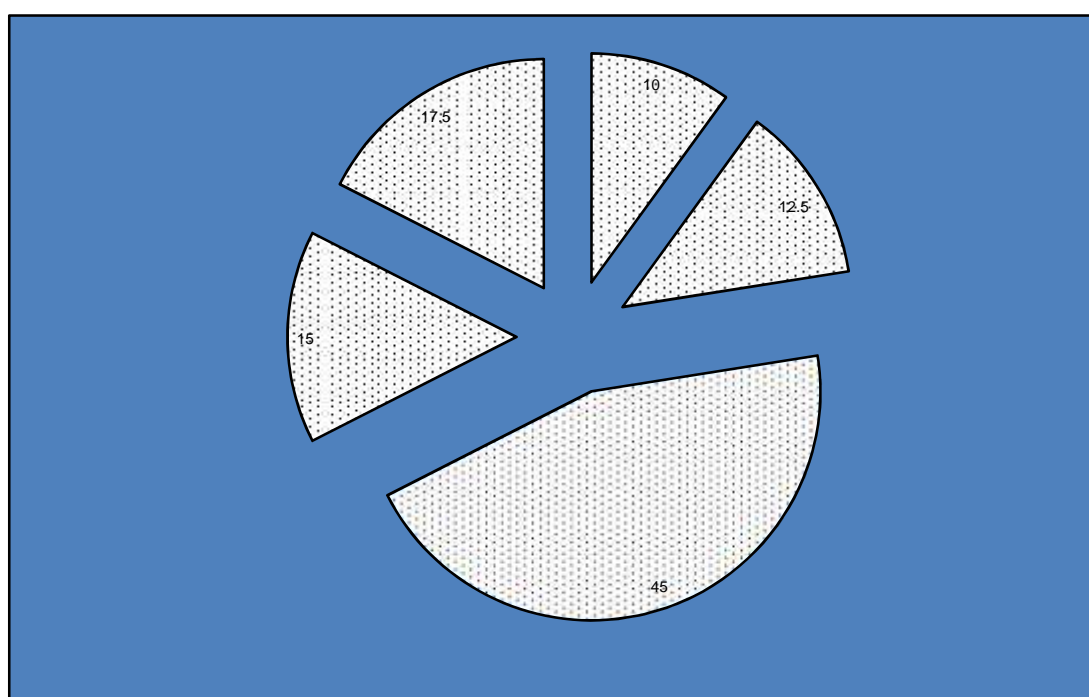
**Table No. 4.6 Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Women's Ownership in Property**

S.N.	Types of Property	No. of respondents	Percent
1	House	4	10.00
2	Land	5	12.50

3	Livestock	18	45.00
4	Bank or other financial institutions deposit	6	15.00
5	No ownership	7	17.50
	Total	40	100.00

Sources; Field Survey, 2016.

**Figure 4.3 Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Women's Ownership in Property**



Source: Based on Table 4.6

The above table shows that out of 40 respondents 10 percent said that women in their family have ownership on house, 12.5 percent said that women in their family have ownership on land, 45 percent women said that their family have ownership on livestock, 15 percent women said their family have ownership on Bank and other financial institution like Mahila Bachat Samuha, Sahakari etc. and 17.5 percent women said that they have no ownership on any type of family property.

#### **4.8 Preferred Place of Treatment by Respondent Women**

Health condition can be taken as another important socio-economic indicator. Even in this modern era quite a large number of people in the Nepal believes in superstition practices, preferring the Shamanas and healers.

Perffered place of treatment by the respondent women has been present below:

**Table 4.7 Proffered Place of Treatment by the Respondent Women**

S.N.	Land occupation	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Hospital	12	30.00
2	Private clinic	15	37.50
3	Health center	9	22.50
4	Shaman/Healer (Guruwa)	4	10.00
	Total	40	100.00

Sources; Field survey, 2016.

The table 4.7 indicates that 30 percent women prefer hospital for treatment whereas 37.5 percent women prefer private clinic because they went private clinic give many more facilities, beneficiary in the treatment. 22.5 percent health center (post) and 10 percent women visiting Shamans and local healers during health problems, this is due to lack of education, old mentality belief on superstation and low economic status.

#### **4.9 Role of women in Decision Making Process**

Decision making is one of indicator of social status. The ability to make decision makes people powerful. It explains the women's status in terms of decision making in different aspects of household as well as other activities.

The people in the study area are found to be engaged in agriculture so the decision making role has been analyzed in term of the decision making in farm management which included cropping pattern and livestock management, children education aspect, household management aspect.

##### **4.9.1 Farm Management**

The decision making role of women in farm management has been described into two sections namely:

- i. Cropping pattern and
- ii. Livestock management

**i. Cropping Pattern**

The cropping pattern includes the decision making role of women in various farm activities such as seed selection, plunging planting. Spreading manure, irrigation activities and harvesting.

The decision making role of sample household is cropping pattern has been presented below.

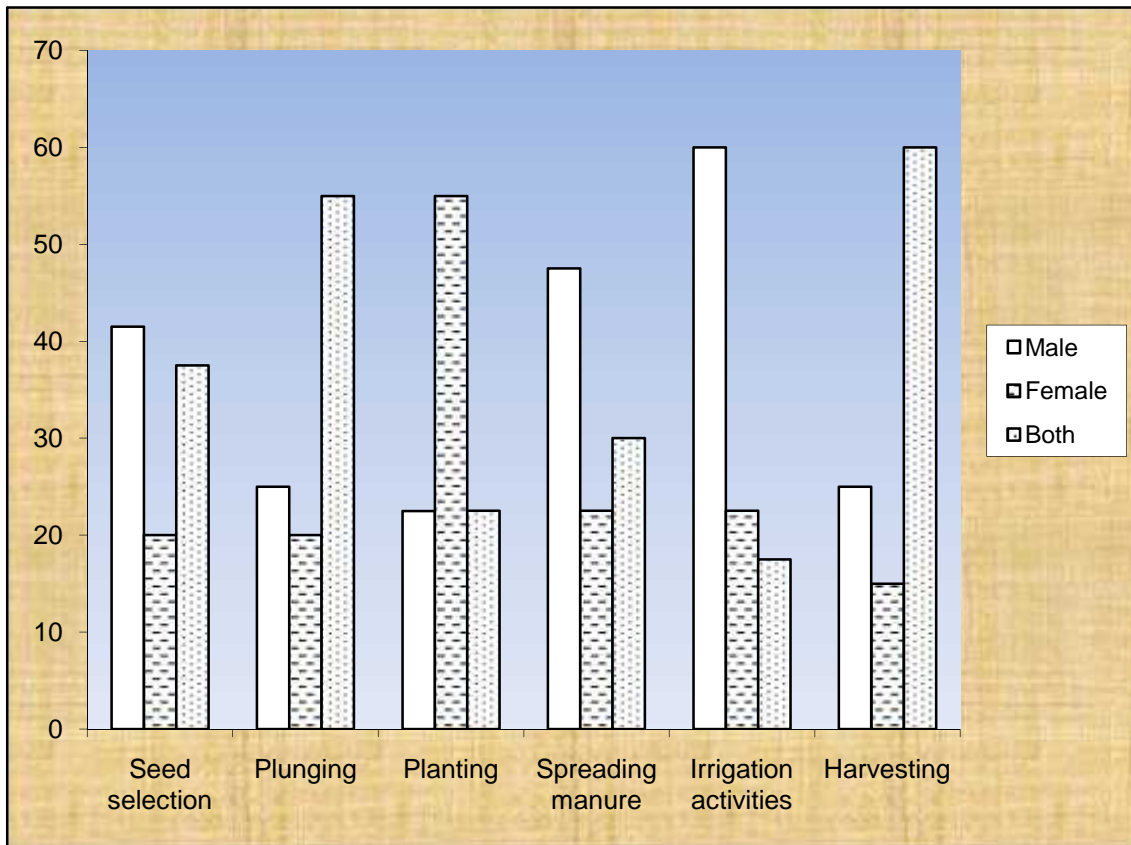
**Table No. 4.8 Decision Making Role in Cropping Pattern**

Farm activities	Decision maker Person						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Seed selection	17	42.50	8	20.00	15	37.50	40	100
Plunging	10	25.00	8	20.00	22	55.00	40	100
Planting	9	22.50	22	55.00	9	22.50	40	100
Spreading manure	19	47.50	9	22.50	12	30.00	40	100
Irrigation activities	24	60.00	9	22.50	7	17.50	40	100
Harvesting	10	25.00	6	15.00	24	60.00	40	100

Source: Field survey, 2016.

The table 4.8 indicates that in the activity of seed selection the majority of the decisions are made by men 42.5 percent of the total sample population 40. The privation of women in the decision making role are found to be very few which contribute only 20 percent while the joint decisions of both the male and female contribute 37.5 percent. Therefore the present study shows that in this activity women participation is less than man in decision making role because it is male dominate society and illiteracy.

**Figure 4.4 Decision making Role in Cropping Pattern**



Source: Based on Table 4.8

The table 4.8 and Fig. 4.4 also shows that in the context of ploughing activities, the decision making role by both the women and men are found to be the highest which contribute 55 percent. In this activity the decision making role of men and women are found to be 25 percent and 20 percent respectively. Thus the table indicates that joint effort is made for making decision regarding plugging field.

The table 4.8 shows that in planting activity participation of women in decision making role found to be 55 percent, men 22.5 percent and both men and women 22.5 percent out of 40 population. Thus the table concluded that women have the highest power in the decision making role for the planting activity as compared to men.

From the table 4.8 47.5 percent of the decision making role regarding spreading manure activity are made by men only. The remaining 30 of the decisions are made by both men and women jointly while 22.5 decisions are made by women. Thus it is clear from the table that maximum decision regarding spreading manure is made from men side.

So far the case of irrigation activity is concerned, very little decision goes in the hand of women 22.5 percent and maximum decision goes in the hand of men 60 percent. The remaining 17.5 percent decisions are done in the joint effort of men and women both. Thus the table shows that in the irrigation activity maximum decision goes in the hand of men rather than women.

By the same above table it is clear that out of the total population, 60 percent of the decision are made by both men and women in joint effort for harvesting activities. The remaining 25 percent decisions are made by men while 15 percent decision are made by women. Thus table shows that maximum decision is made in joint effort of both men and women.

Hence from the table it is clearly seen that in poughing, seed selection, spreading anure, irrigation and harvesting activities the decision making role of men is superior but in the sake of planting activity the decision making role of women is superior over men.

## **ii. Livestock Management**

Both men and women do play some important roles in livestock management. Income generating from agriculture is not sufficient and enough to service their family. So Tharu women do play very vital role for livestock management to give support in the family expenditure. It can be considered as an integral part of agriculture. Every households have different kidns of tempt animals such as goat, pig duck, chicken, pigeon, swan cow, buffalo, ox and so on. For the income generatin they sell above mentioned animals along with their products like milk, ghee, butter, curd, etc. Men and women both take part in the livestock farming such as men do care and herding while mainly women collect the grass and fooder, clean shed, feed the cattle and milk them. These are the major responsibilities of the livestock raising. Men as well as women both go to the market of dairy for selling livestock products to get money. Thus Tharu women contribute in generating the income and manage it in proper way.

This section deals with decision making role in farm management on various components such as livestock purchase and sale, sale of livestock products an its management of income and expenditure.

**Table 4.9 Decision Making Role in Livestock Management**

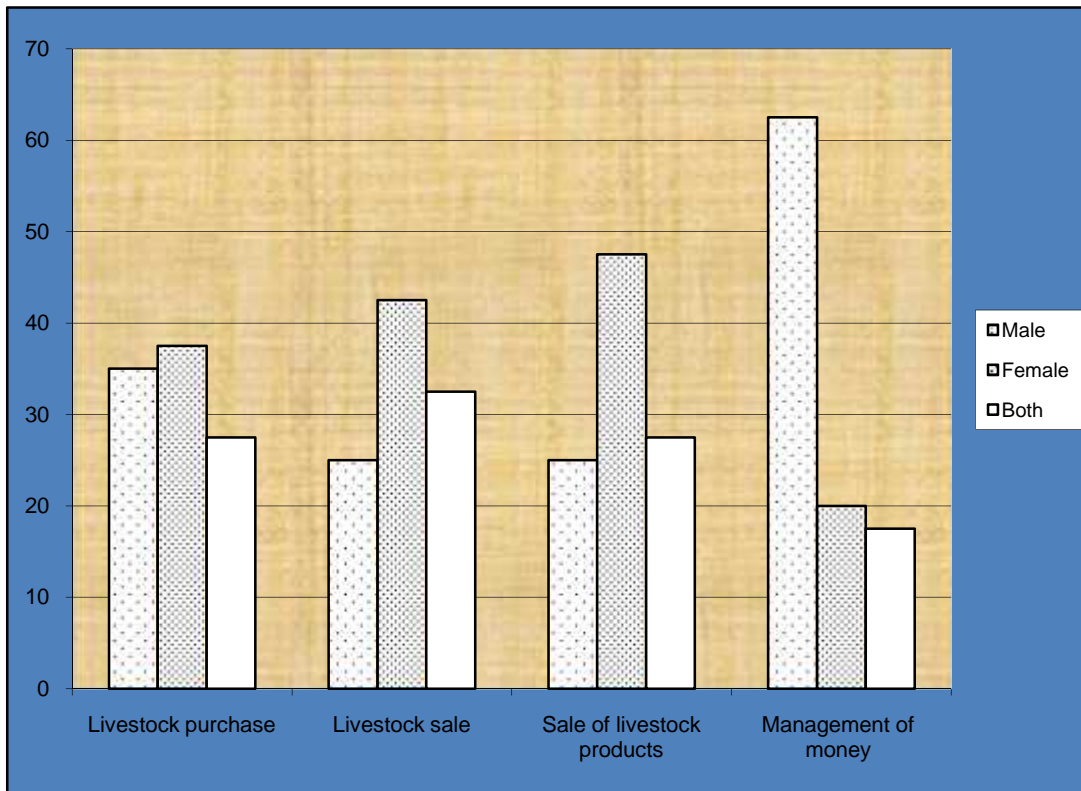
Activities	Decision Make						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Livestock purchase	14	35.00	15	37.50	11	27.50	40	100
Livestock sale	10	25.00	17	42.50	13	32.50	40	100
Sale of livestock products	10	25.00	19	47.50	11	27.50	40	100
Management of money	25	62.50	8	20.00	7	17.50	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

The table 4.9 shows that in the case of livestock purchasing activities participation of women in the decision making role are found to be 37.5 percent, men 35 percent and both men and women 27.5 percent out of the total respondents. Thus the table reflects that women play dominant role in the family for making decision in the live stock purchasing activities.

From the table 4.9 it is found that 42.5 percent decisions are made by women in selling livestock activities, 25 percent decision are men and 32.5 percent decisions are made in the hand of both men and women in their joint effort. Thus it is found that in the selling activities of livestock women also plays a dominant role in decision making.

**Figure 4.5 Decision Making Role in Livestock Management**



Source: Based on Table 4.9

The table 4.9 and Fig. 4.5 also shows that in the activities of selling livestock products the majority of the decisions are made in the hands of women which contribute 47.5 percent while very few 25 percent decisions are made in the hands of men. On the other hand 27.5 percent decisions are made by both men and women in their joint effort. Thus it is clear from the table that important roles regarding decision making are played by women concerning the sale of livestock products.

The table 4.9 also indicates that the highest decisions regarding the management of the money obtained from the sale of livestock and its products goes in the favor of men 62.5 percent while the least decisions regarding this concern goes in the favor of women 20 percent. On the other hand both men and women 17.5 percent have the decision making power jointly.

Thus the table 4.9 concluded that women have higher decision making role in livestock purchasing, livestock and its products selling activities. But it has been also found that they have few decision making role regarding money management, which they get from the sale of livestock and its products.

### 4.9.2 Decision Making Role in Health

In this section decision making in health aspect includes mainly two components seeking treatment of the family members and use of family planning method.

**Table 4.10 Decision Making Role in Health Management**

Activities	Decision Make						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Seeking treatment	16	40.00	7	17.50	17	42.50	40	100
Use of family planning method	7	17.50	11	27.50	22	55.00	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

The table 4.10 shows that 40 percent men have the highest score in the decision making role regarding seeking treatment activities while very few only 17.5 women have least decision making role in concerning field. On the other hand 42.5 percent both men and women have their joint effort in the decision making role in seeking treatment. Thus the above table shows that men have the dominant role in making decision for seeking treatment on the family members as compared to women.

From the table 4.10 it is found that 27.5 percent women have decision making power about the family planning few only 17.5 percent men have taken part in the decision making. But the majority of the decision goes in the hand of both men and women in their joint effort which contributes 55 percent. Hence the above table depicts that women are found to be more conscious and have more decision making power as compared to men about family planning method.

### 4.9.3 Children's Education Management Aspect

This section deals with the decision making role of men and women regarding schooling of children, purchase of education materials, uniform management and payment of fees activities.

**Table 4.11 Decision Making Role in Children's Education Management Aspect**

Activities	Decision Make						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Schooling of children	21	52.50	7	17.50	12	30.00	40	100
Purchase of educational materials	22	55.00	9	22.50	9	25.00	40	100
Uniform management	9	22.50	20	50.00	11	27.50	40	100
Payment of fees	25	62.50	4	10.00	11	27.50	40	100

Source: Field survey, 2016.

For the concern of schooling of the child, the table 4.11 shows that maximum decision goes in the hand of men 52.5 percent while the least decision goes in the hand of women 17.5 percent. On the other hand both men and women 30 percent have decision making role in the concerning activity.

In the context of purchasing educational materials, the same table shows that highest decision making power goes in the hand of men 55 percent and least decision making power goes in the hand of female 22.5 percent. But both men and women 25 percent have their joint decision making role.

The table 4.11 also shows that in concerning uniform management activities, 50 percent women have higher contribution in making decisions while men 22.5 percent possess the less decision making power. But the higher decision making role goes in the hand of both men and women 27.5 percent.

The table 4.11 also shows that for the payment of fees of children's education, majority of decisions were made by men 62.5 percent and very few decisions are made by women 10 percent. The role of decision making by the joint effort of both men and women contribute 27.5 percent.

Thus the table concludes that decision regarding schooling of children, purchasing of educational materials and payment of fees activities, the men have a dominant decision making role where as on the other hand for the uniform management the decision making role of women is the dominant one.

#### 4.9.4 Decision Making Role in Household Management Aspect

In this sphere, women's role in household money keeping and marketing are obvious. Women involve in household activities such as coking, caring for children, regular house maintenance weaving, cleaning, milking, feeding to animals, collecting grasses and fodder etc. as extra work to male.

This section deals with purchase of goods, lending and borrowing, sale of agricultural products and pattern of income expenditure.

**Table 4.12 Decision Making Role in Household Management Aspect**

Activities	Decision Make						Total	
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Both	Percent	No.	Percent
Purchase of goods	10	25.00	24	60.00	6	15.00	40	100
Lending/ borrowing	13	32.50	5	12.50	22	55.00	40	100
Sale of agriculture products	13	32.50	5	12.50	22	55.00	40	100

Pattern of income expenditure	23	57.50	8	20.00	9	22.50	40	100
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Source: Field Survey, 2016.

The table 4.12 shows that in purchasing bazaar goods the majority of the decisions are made by women which 60 percent. The contribution of men in the decision making role in this concern reflects 25 percent and that of both men and women 15 percent of total population.

For the activities of borrowing and lending, the highest decision power goes in the hand of both men and women 55 percent and that of both men and women in this activity are found to be 32.5 percent and 12.5 percent respectively.

From the above table it is found that the highest decision about selling the agricultural products are made in joint effort by both men and women who reflects 55 percent. The role of decision making power of men and women in this concern are found to be 32.5 percent and 12.5 percent respectively.

The above table also indicates that the pattern of income expenditure is concerned, it is found that maximum decisions are in the favor of men 57.5 percent where as the least decision power are in the favor of women 20 percent. The decision making power in the joint effort by both men and women contribute 22.5 percent.

Thus the above table it is conclude that in the activities of lending and borrowing, sales of agriculture products and pattern of income expenditure the decision making role of men is the dominant one. But in the case of purchasing bazaar goods there is dominancy of women in the decision making role.

#### **4.9.5 Cause of Low Socio-economic Status of Respondents**

The researcher asked some questions to know opinion of the respondents about the main reason of Tharu women's backwardness of their status the collected data from the study area is analysis with their reports.

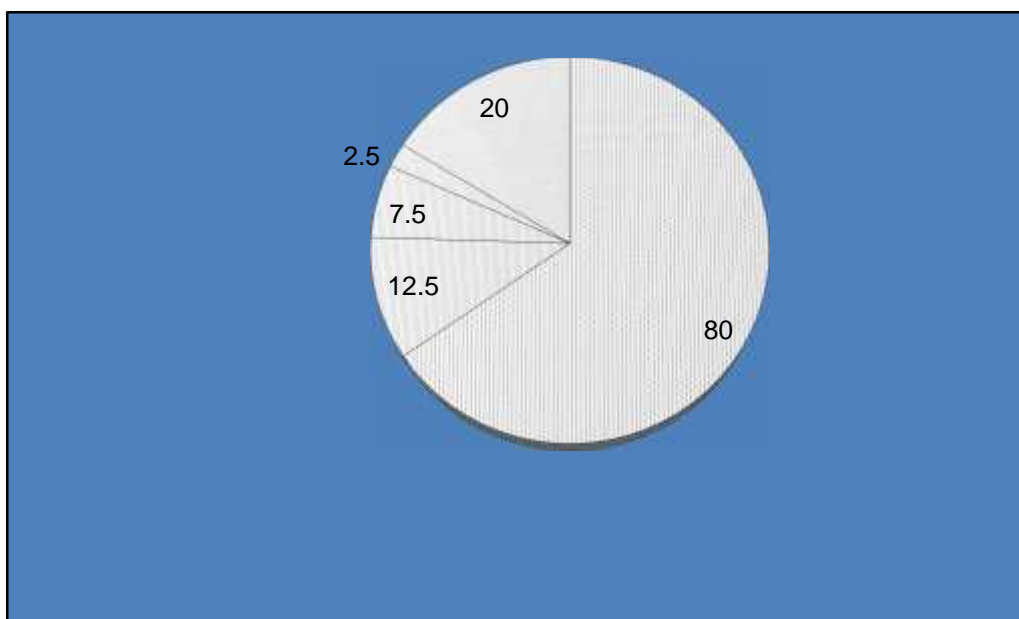
**Table 4.13 Distribution of Socio-economic of Their Low Status**

S.N.	Causes	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Lack of education	23	80.00
2	Patriarchal	5	12.50
3	Culture	3	7.50
4	Inferiority	1	2.50
5	Lack of awareness	8	20.00
Total		40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

Figure distribution of sample respondents causes of their low socio-economic status.

**Figure 4.6 Distribution of Socio-economic of their Low Status**



Source: Based on Table 4.13

In the study area, the higher percentage 80 of respondents reported that the main cause of Tharu women's low socio-economic status is the lack of education 12 percent of respondents said that patriarchal system is the cause of their low status, 7.5 percent said inferiority, 2.5 said culture and 20 percent said that lack of awareness is the cause of their low socio-economic status.

#### 4.9.6 Suggestion to Improve the Socio-economic Status of Tharu Women

**Table 4.14 Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Suggest to Improve their Status**

S.N.	Suggestions	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Promote the education	12	30.00
2	Equal property right	6	15.00
3	Priority in job opportunity	10	25.00
4	Social and cultural attitude towards women	6	15.00
5	Skill promotion	4	10.00
6	Others	2	5.00
Total		40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

In the study area, the research asked the question to the respondents "What do you suggest to improve your status? 30 percent respondents answered that education should be provided for Tharu women to develop their status. 15 percent respondents said that equal property right should be provided for women to develop their status. 25 percent said that giving priority in job opportunity, 15 percent reported that the traditional social and cultural attitude towards women should change for their development. Similarly 10 percent said that skill promotion should provide for to develop their status and left 5 percent respondents said they don't know or they have lack of knowledge about this.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In this chapter, the summary of the findings generated from the data analysis and interpretation, conclusion and a few pragmatic recommendations have also been included.

#### 5.1 Summary

- Tharu are one of the indigenous ethnic groups of Nepal. Tharus are rich in cultural heritage and have their own costumes and dress. Their ornaments have a unique style and have handicrafts of their own style which are prevalent in domestic use.
- The life of Tharu women is dominated in comparisons to their male counterpart in Nepal. But it just reverse in the case of Rana Tharus. That is to say that Rana Tharus maintain a female dominant society.
- There is early marriage system and usually girls are younger than boys at marriage. Out of the total 40 respondents, 80 percent are found to be married and very few only 20 are widowed.
- Two types of family, i.e. nuclear and joint are found in the study area. Among them 55 percent households are found to be joint which 45 percent household are nuclear.
- Concerning the occupation pattern of sample population of the study area. Out of 43 male population 25.58 percent of them are found to be engaged in agriculture, 13.95 percent in service, 13.95 percent in business, 18.60 percent in carpentry, 11.63 in wage labor, none in tailoring and household works and 16.27 percent in other occupation like foreign employment, grazing cattle etc. In the same way out of 40 female respondent 37.5 percent of them are found to be concentrated upon agriculture, 7.5 percent in service, 5 in business 15 percent in tailoring, 10 percent in wage labor, 17.5 percent in house hold works, 7.5 in others like selling of livestock products. Grazing cattle handicraft etc. and none of them are found to be engaged in carpentry and foreign employment. Only two households are not found to be engaged in

agriculture besides other occupation while the remaining other population are engaged in agriculture besides other occupation in the study area.

- Majority of two households of the study area hold land up to 15 Kattha and the households having more than 3 bigha. The Tharu who is land less or who have less than 1 bigha they cultivate other land in adhiya basis. Most of the Tharus in present VDC cultivate other land in adhiya basis.
- The households have a moderate production of paddy as the summer crops and wheat mustard, maize, potato, onion, etc. as winter crops.
- Concerning the occupational status of married sample population of the households 25.58 percent of the male population and 37.5 percent of female population are engaged in agriculture while the remaining male and female populations are engaged in other occupation such as service, tailoring. Carpentaria, business, households work wage labor and others besides agriculture. It is found that female populations have no contribution in business and carpentry while male populations also have no contribution in household work and Tailoring. Thus, the majority of economically active populations of the study area are found to be engaged in farming which proves to be agriculture as the main occupation.
- Majority of male and female in the study area have good handicraft skill such as weaving fishing net, making bamboo products, mats, etc. but they do not contribute it to the economic activities.
- Only 12.5 percent women have land ownership in small size and 10 percent house ownership, and most women 45 have livestock as their own property, 15 percent have bank or their financial institution like women saving groups deposit or saving, 17 percent have no ownership in any types of property.
- Out of 40 sampled respondents 30 percent prefer hospital for treatment whereas 37.5 percent prefer private clinic, 22.5 percent health center and 10 percent women visiting Shamans and local healers during health problems. Due to lack of knowledge low economic status, and old mentality they belief on superstition in this modern era.
- Women participation in the decision making is low as compared to men in the farm management. Women's decision is higher in planting scoring 55 percent but quite low in harvesting 15 percent and plugging 20 percent.

- Women have the highest decision making power regarding livestock purchasing 37.5 percent, livestock selling 42.5 percent and selling livestock products 47.5 percent as compared to the male counterpart. On the other hand men have the highest decision making role for the management of money obtained from the sale of livestock.
- For the decision regarding seeking treatment of the family members, the highest score goes in the hand of men 40 percent the second highest in the favor of both men and women 42.5 percent in the joint effort and finally the least decision goes in the favor of women 17.5 percent. Similarly the highest decision making power for the use of family planning are made by both men and women 55 percent while second highest decision making power goes in the size of women 27.5 percent and the least goes in the hand of men 17.5 percent.
- Majority of the decision regarding schooling of children 52.5 percent, purchase of educational materials 55 percent and payment of fees 62.5 percent are in the favor of men while for the uniform management both the men and women take the greatest decision role scoring 50 percent. Thus women have very low decision making power in the educational management aspect. But for the uniform management women's decision are found quite higher than men.
- In household management, women 60 percent have the highest decision making power for purchasing goods from market and have least decision making power in other activities like lending and borrowing and sale of agriculture products. Similarly men 57.5 percent have higher decision making role for the pattern of income expenditure where as mutual decision made by both men and women are found to be highest for the sale of agricultural products and unding/borrowing activities. scoring 55 percent and 55 percent respectively. Thus in the activities of lending/borrowing, sale of agricultural products and pattern of income expenditure, the decision making role of men is the dominant one where as for the purchase of good from market there is the dominancy of women in the decision making role.
- The higher percentage 80 of respondents reported that the main cause of Tharu women's low socio-economic status is the lack of education, 12.5 percent said patriarchal system, 2.5 percent said inferiority, 7.5 said culture and 20 percent

said that lack of awareness or knowledge is the cause of their low socio-economic status.

- For improve of the socio-economic status of Tharu women them 30 percent respondents answered that education should be provide for Tharu women to develop their status, 15 percent answered equal property right 25 said priority in job opportunity, 15 percent said traditional social and cultural attitude towards women should change for their development. Similarly 10 percent answered skill promotion and left 5 percent answered they didn't know or they have lack of knowledge about this.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Through this study, it is known that Tharu women have multidimensional role and responsibilities in their families. Their work burden is higher but most of their time in spent in their household activities. Then they should spend more time in agriculture which is not counted as income generating works. They work only for the purpose of family use. The literacy rate of Tharu women is moderatenign but they are not well educated and higher education status of women is very low. They are deprived from acquiring the higher education due to the various social, personal, economic factors which are directly related them is not getting outside job. Therefore, only a few numbers of Tharu women are engaged in outside jobs.

Only few Tharu women have land ownership house ownership, bank and other financial institutions like women saving groups, sahakari et deposit and most Tharu women have livestock as their own property. But very few women have property rights.

Due to lack of higher education most of the Tharu women have to work more in agriculture but have a comparatively less decision making power than the male counterparts. The Tharu women have high decision making power in few activities, but the decision making role of men is superior in most of the variables. Only few activities have equal contribution of men and women in household decision making. The major factors responsible for these phenomenon are the tradition. Male dominated culture and lack of education.

Thus, it can be concluded that the socio-economic status of tharu women is low.

### 5.3 Recommendations

Some recommendations are listed below raising the socio-economic status and the household decision making power of women which will also assist policy makers and local development practitioners to design appropriate and effective policies and programmers in this regard.

- Illiteracy is a major factor that affect. Tharu women's socio-economic status and decision making power of women. Informal education classes should be extended for the illiterate women with some incentives and scholarship of any kind opportunities should be provided to the women for higher education. Government NGOs and INGOs should encourage the women for higher education. Efforts are necessary to be made to develop women's social prestige, self-confidence and feeling of equalities by educating them.
- The widespread poverty is the most threatening constraint on the improvement of women's socio-economic status. Various programmers such as vegetable farming, goat farming etc. should launch to increase the living standard of community, which minimizes the existing level of poverty should be more effectively conducted. Trainings for income generation need to be conducted in several areas.
- Employment is another major factor which assists to empower women in decision making and socio-economic condition. Opportunities for employment in different sectors should be given to women as equally as men. The government has to create employments in this area. Employment quotas for educated Tharu women should increase to ensure greater participation in national building process.
- Government should take policy to increase ownership of female on economic resources by providing different incentives such as exemption on land ownership by females, higher interest on female's deposit in bank etc. which increase not only the ownership of women on economic resources, but also their role (decision making community participation).
- Agriculture covers large share of occupation in the study area. However, the system of agriculture is old. Agricultural training on seeds, harvesting fertilizers etc. should launch for the improvement of agricultural system. Modern techniques should implement. Besides these, farmers should

encourage to produce cash crops. Irrigation facility should provide so that people can produce various crops in winter season too.

- It is also essential to empower the women who are not capable and involve in decision making, providing them employment, encouragement and education. For, this government should make female base programs such as education, free health, and incentives for higher and employment based programs etc.
- Promotion of joint-decisions within the household should be stressed upon through informal education program. These joint decisions by both the male as well as female members seem more favorable to reach to effective decisions.

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## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **Socio-economic Status of Women in Tharu Community**

#### **A Case Study of Dhanaury VDC, Dang**

#### **Central Department of Economics**

#### **T.U., Kirtipur**

1. Name : \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ward : [ ]
4. Marital Status :  
a. Married [ ] b. Widow [ ]
5. Family Type :

a. Nuclear [ ] b. Joint [ ]

6. Detail information of your family:

S.N.	Name	Sex	Age (Years)	Education	Occupation	Marital Status

7. How many children do you have?

a. Son [ ]                      b. Daughter [ ]                      c. None [ ]

8. Your Education :

a. Illiterate [ ]

b. Literate [ ]

If you are literate:

a. Higher Secondary    b. Below Secondary    c. Above

9. Husband's Occupation

a. Agriculture [ ]                      b. Business [ ]    c. Service [ ]

d. Wage labor [ ]    e. Carpentry [ ]                      f. Tailoring [ ]

g. Household work [ ]                      h. Others [ ]

10. Respondents Occupation

a. Agriculture [ ]                      b. Business [ ]                      c. Service [ ]

d. Wage labor [ ] e. Carpentry [ ] f. Tailoring [ ]

g. Household work [ ] h. Others [ ]

11. Land holding area : \_\_\_\_\_

12. In your house female member have ownership in any property ?

a. Yes [ ] b. No [ ]

If yes, what types of asset is registered.

i. land ii. Livestock iii. house

iv. bank or financial institution deposit v. other

13. Please inform about your cropping pattern.

Area	Summary	Winter
Crop		
Production		

14. Who decides this cropping pattern ?

a. Self [ ] b. Husband [ ] c. Both [ ] d. Others [ ]

15. What types of seed do you use ?

a. Hybrid [ ] b. Local [ ]

16. Who decides for seed selection ?

a. Self [ ] b. Husband [ ] c. Both [ ] d. Others [ ]

17. How do you plough your field ?

a. Tractor [ ] b. Ox/ Buffalo [ ] c. Others [ ]

18. Who decides for ploughing your field ?

- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]      c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
19. Who decides for harvesting your crops ?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]      c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
20. Do you use qualitative fertilizers ?
- a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]
21. Who plays vital role for managing irrigation facility ?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]      c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
22. Who decides for spreading manure ?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]      c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
23. Are you engaged in livestock raising? Please inform me with the number of livestock's.
- a. Cow [ ]                      b. Ox [ ]                      c. Buffalo [ ]
- d. Goat [ ]                      e. Pig [ ]                      f. Chicken [ ]
- g. Pigeon [ ]      h. Others [ ]
24. Do you sell livestock and its products ?
- a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]
25. Who decides about the purchase of livestock's?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]      c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
26. Who decides about the sale of livestock ?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]      c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
27. Where did you get treatment when you suffered from illness ?
- a. Health center [ ]      b. Private clinic [ ]
- c. Hospital [ ]                      d. Dhami/Jhakri (Guruwa)

28. Who decides to take care for treatment?  
 a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
29. Do you use family planning?  
 a. Yes [ ]    b. No [ ]
30. If yes, who decided to use family planning method?  
 a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]
31. Where did you deliver your first baby?  
 a. Home [ ]    b. Hospital [ ]
32. Who made this decision ?  
 a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]    d. Others [ ]
33. Do your children go to school?  
 a. Yes [ ]    b. No
34. Are boys given priority over girls to go to school?  
 a. Yes    b. No [ ]    c. Equal [ ]
35. Do you think that girls should go to school?  
 a. Yes [ ]    b. No [ ]
36. If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_
37. Who decides whether your children go to school?  
 a. Self [ ]    b. Husband [ ]    c. Both [ ]
38. Who decides to provide educational materials and fees for your children ?

	Self	Husband	Both
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Books/copies			
Uniform/dress			
Payment of fees			

39. Where do you spend your income ?
- a. Purchase of land [ ]                      b. Purchase of jewelery [ ]
- c. Household expenditure:
- i. Health [ ]              ii. Food [ ]              iii. Clothing [ ]
- iv. Festival [ ]              v. Others [ ]
40. Do you have bank balance?
- a. Yes [ ]              b. No [ ]
41. Who decides to spend your income ?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ] c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
42. Who generally keeps the household money?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]              c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
43. Who usually goes to the bazaar purchase?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ] c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
44. Do you lend/borrow your money?
- a. Yes [ ]              b. No [ ]
45. Who decides to lend/borrow money?
- a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]              c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]
46. Do you sell your agricultural products when it is surplus?

a. Yes [ ]                      b. No [ ]

47. If yes, who decides to sell the agricultural products?

a. Self [ ]      b. Husband [ ]      c. Both [ ]      d. Others [ ]

48. What are the main causes to make low socio-economic status of women in the Tharu community?

a. Lack of education [ ]      b. Patriarchal [ ]      c. Culture [ ]

d. Inferiority [ ]                      e. Lack of awareness [ ]

49. What do you suggest to improve socio-economic status of women in Tharu community?

a. Promote the education [ ]                      b. Equal property right [ ]

c. Priority in job opportunity                      d. Skill promotion [ ]

e. Social and cultural attitude towards women [ ]

f. Others [ ]