STAKEHOLDER'S PERSPECTIVE ON POVERTY REDUCTION
A STUDY OF SLUM AREA IN KATHMANDU METROPOLITAN CITY, WARD NO – 14, NEPAL

A Thesis

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Submitted by:

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DECLARATION

I, Rahul Aryal, hereby declare that the thesis entitled **"Stakeholder's Perspective on Poverty Reduction: A Study of Slum Areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Ward No. 14, Nepal"** These original works have been exclusively created by me under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. These theses have not been copied, published, or submitted elsewhere. All sources of information utilized in these studies have been properly acknowledged, cited, and included in the reference sections. I have followed all research guidelines and ethical standards in conducting and reporting these studies. Any assistance and support received from others have been clearly acknowledged. I assure you that no part of these theses has been presented or published in any form before, nor have they been submitted for the award of any degree or for any other purpose. I take full responsibility for the content of these research studies.

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. Rahul Aryal's has completed the thesis titled **Stakeholder's Perspective on Poverty Reduction: A Study of Slum Areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Ward No. 14, Nepal** independently, under my guidance and supervision, as part of the requirements for the Master of Arts in Rural Development.

To the best of my knowledge, this study is original and provides valuable insights into the impact of poverty reduction on livelihood. Therefore, I am submitting this report for final evaluation.

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APPROVAL SHEET

This is to confirm that the thesis titled **Stakeholder's Perspective on Poverty Reduction: A Study of Slum Areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Ward No. 14**, **Nepal** authored by Mr. Rahul Aryal, meets the established standards of scope and quality. The thesis has been thoroughly assessed, approved, and deemed acceptable as part of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Rural Development.

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SELF-DECLARATION LETTER

PLAGIARISM TEST REPORT

ABSTRACT

This study explores the **Stakeholder's Perspective on Poverty Reduction: A Study of Slum Areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Ward No. 14, Nepal**. Despite global advancements in poverty alleviation, Nepal continues to face significant socio-economic challenges that perpetuate poverty, particularly in urban slum communities. The primary objective of this research is to assess the effectiveness of programs implemented by local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in improving living conditions, access to essential services, and economic opportunities for the urban poor.

Using a mixed-methods approach, the study combines quantitative data collected through household surveys with qualitative insights obtained from key informant interviews. The findings reveal that while certain improvements have been achieved, the overall impact of poverty reduction initiatives remains limited. Government programs have moderately enhanced access to healthcare and financial assistance but have shown limited success in areas such as job training, education, and housing. Similarly, NGO efforts have provided essential services and short-term relief, yet they have not significantly contributed to long-term economic stability or infrastructure development.

The study highlights the necessity of more holistic and targeted strategies that address the root causes of poverty and foster sustainable development. Key recommendations include enhancing collaboration between government bodies and NGOs, prioritizing investment in education and skills development, and formulating policies that promote economic inclusion and resilience. By focusing on these critical areas, stakeholders can more effectively support the urban poor in achieving sustainable livelihoods and breaking the cycle of poverty.

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Acronyms/Abbreviations

ADB: Asian Development Bank

CCSC: Citizen-Centric Smart Cities

CBS: Central Bureau of Statistics

COVID-19: Coronavirus Disease 2019

CSG: Citizens' Sense of Gain

FDI: Foreign Direct Investment

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

HBS: Household Budget Surveys

HDI: Human Development Index

ICCESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ILS: International Labour Standards

IMF: International Monetary Fund

INDH: National Initiative of Human Development

INGO: International Non-Governmental Organization

IPRS: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

KII: Key Informant Interviews

KMC: Kathmandu Metropolitan City

KSTAR: Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research

LGOA: Local Government Operation Act

LVT: Land Value Tax

MOF: Ministry of Finance

MPI: Multidimensional Poverty Index

NLI: Nighttime Light Index

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

NPC: National Planning Commission

NPR: Nepalese Rupee

PRSP: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

RND: Road Network Density

SAP: Structural Adjustment Programme

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SPG: Special Protection Group

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNHCHR: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

USD: United States Dollar

USWSSA: Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security Act

VECM: Vector Error Correction Model

Chapter I: Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Poverty occurs when individuals or households lack the necessary resources to meet their basic needs. The international poverty line has been set at $3.25 per person per day which was based on 2017 prices (World Bank, 2024), designates anyone living on less than this amount as being in extreme poverty. Although global extreme poverty has declined over time, challenges like COVID-19, conflict, and climate change continue to affect poverty levels. Additionally, the World Bank acknowledges multidimensional poverty, which considers factors beyond income, such as education, health, and living standards (World Bank, 2024).

Poverty in Nepal remains a significant issue, despite gradual improvements over the years. This Himalayan nation faces numerous socio-economic challenges that contribute to the persistence of poverty. Poverty is typically measured in terms of income, consumption, and access to basic services. In Nepal, poverty assessments often use the international poverty line of $1.90 per day as well as national poverty lines defined by the government. Poverty is also multidimensional, encompassing factors such as health, education, and living standards (UNICEF et al., 2021).

One of the primary reasons for the persistent poverty in Nepal is the overwhelming dependence on agriculture and foreign work or employment. Present Data on Poverty As of 2023, Nepal has made progress in reducing poverty, but significant challenges remain. Where there are the key statistics and findings from recent data since the restoration of democracy in 1990, poverty alleviation has been a top priority for the Government of Nepal. This focus is evident in the strategic objectives of the Eighth (1992-1997) and Ninth (1997-2002) Periodic Plans, which aimed to reduce poverty through comprehensive economic growth, agricultural modernization, human resource development, and social inclusion programs. These plans laid the groundwork for targeted initiatives to empower marginalized communities and improve overall living standards. The national poverty rate has decreased from around 25.2 Percent in 2011 to approximately 20.27 percent in 2023, with continued efforts expected to further reduce this rate in 2023. However, exact 2023 figures need to be verified with the latest reports from governmental and international bodies like the World Bank and the Asian

Development Bank. The Gini coefficient, which measures income inequality, remains high in Nepal. Although exact figures for 2023 data indicate a Gini coefficient of around 0.30. This suggests a significant disparity in income distribution. Rural and Urban Poverty can be seen where the Poverty is more prevalent in rural areas compared to urban centers. Rural poverty rates are significantly higher due to limited access to markets, healthcare, and education, as well as lower economic opportunities. Reducing poverty has become the central goal of development initiatives throughout much of the developing world. As of the last update, approximately 28.6percent of Nepal's population was multidimensionally poor. Updated MPI data for 2023 should be referred to for the most current status. Alleviating poverty has emerged as the main focus of development efforts across many regions in the developing world. The role of foreign aid in alleviating poverty is increasing, and they are rapidly emerging as important actors and players in international politics and economic order (Sohel, et al., 2007).

Poverty reduction in Nepal involves a strategic set of actions aimed at improving the quality of life for its citizens by addressing economic, social, and infrastructural challenges. This multi-faceted approach includes enhancing agricultural productivity through modern farming techniques, promoting industrial development to create jobs, and expanding access to education and healthcare. Key initiatives involve building and improving transportation and energy infrastructure to connect remote areas with essential services. The government has also implemented targeted programs to empower marginalized groups, such as women, Dalits, and indigenous communities, through skill development and microfinance schemes. Good governance practices, including decentralization and increased transparency, ensure effective implementation and resource utilization. Monitoring and evaluation processes help refine these programs, ensuring their effectiveness. Despite progress in reducing poverty rates and improving human development indicators, challenges like geographical constraints and political instability persist. The 15^{th} plan 2076/2077 – 2080/81 target to reduce the 18.7 percent population whereas in 2100/01 is aim to be zero poverty (UNICEF et al., 2021).

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on poverty in Nepal. The economic slowdown, loss of remittances, and decline in tourism have exacerbated vulnerabilities. Recovery efforts are ongoing, and the full impact on poverty levels in 2023 is still being assessed. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 significantly impacted

the global economy, leading to a 3.3 percent decline worldwide (MOF 2077/78). Nepal's economy contracted by 2.1 percent in the fiscal year 2076/77 (MOF 2076/77). The economic downturn due to the pandemic is projected to be 4.0 percent for the fiscal year 2077/78 (MOF 2077/78). However, Nepal's per capita income increased, boosting the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from USD 1126 in 2076/77 to USD 1191 in 2077/78, an increase of 5.8 percent (MOF 2077/78). Where Nepal's GDP growth rate in 2023 was 1.95 Percent. Agriculture remains the mainstay for most Nepalese households, yet it is often characterized by low productivity and vulnerability to climatic changes. Non-agricultural employment is growing, especially in urban areas, which may contribute to poverty reduction (MOF,2076/77).

Stakeholder involvement is a fundamental aspect of poverty reduction strategies (PRS), focusing on inclusive efforts to tackle poverty. Implemented in over 60 countries, PRS emphasizes national ownership and collaborative action by involving governments, civil society organizations, private sector actors, and underrepresented groups. While initial efforts showed promise, the institutionalization of meaningful engagement has been insufficient, hindered by weak legal structures, inadequate representation, and inconsistent long-term participation. Achieving effective stakeholder involvement requires addressing key elements such as rights, legitimacy, structural integration, and capacity-building. Although some successful examples demonstrate the potential of inclusive initiatives to strengthen poverty alleviation, significant challenges remain in establishing transparent and sustainable systems (Eberlei et al., 2007)

The Nepal government's budget for the fiscal year 2080/81 emphasizes stimulating economic growth through strategic investments. To tackle unemployment and poverty, NPR 1.2 billion has been set aside to encourage youth involvement in agriculture through startup grants. Additionally, NPR 58.98 billion is dedicated to agricultural development, focusing on modernization and improving market access to strengthen rural economies. In the education sector, NPR 21.46 billion is allocated to enhance school infrastructure and ensure better access to quality education. These initiatives aim to reduce poverty, promote economic inclusion, and support sustainable livelihoods by prioritizing human capital and rural development (MOF, 2023).

Government and NGO Initiatives Various programs aimed at poverty alleviation are in place, including social protection schemes, skills development programs, and

infrastructure development. The effectiveness and reach of these programs continue to evolve, contributing to the dynamic nature of poverty statistics. The Challenges and Policy Recommendations for Poverty Reduction where Despite the progress, Nepal faces several challenges in its fight against poverty: The rugged terrain makes infrastructure development and service delivery challenging, particularly in remote areas. Improving access to quality education and healthcare services remains a priority. Investment in these sectors is crucial for long-term poverty alleviation. Diversifying the economy beyond agriculture to include manufacturing and services can create more stable and well-paying jobs. Sustained political stability is essential for effective policy implementation and attracting investment. Addressing the impacts of climate change, which disproportionately affects the poor, is vital. This includes disaster preparedness and sustainable agricultural practices (World Bank, 2002).

While Nepal has made commendable strides in reducing poverty, it remains a critical issue. The multidimensional nature of poverty in Nepal requires comprehensive strategies that address income disparities, enhance access to basic services, and promote sustainable economic growth. Continued monitoring and targeted interventions are essential to ensure that the progress made is both inclusive and sustainable. For the most accurate and up-to-date data, refer to the latest reports from the National Planning Commission of Nepal, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other relevant organizations. Recent data on poverty reduction in Nepal shows both progress and ongoing challenges. The Fourth Nepal Living Standards Survey (2022-2023) reports that 20.27 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2023, down from 25.16 percent in 2011. However, this falls short of the target to reduce poverty to 15 percent (UNICEF et al., 2021).

The National Planning Commission (NPC) of Nepal has been key in developing poverty reduction strategies, aligning these with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The "Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016 - 2030" for Nepal details the nation's advancements and outlines the critical actions required to fulfill these objectives, underscoring the need for well-rounded socio-economic policies (NPC, 2018).

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) shows notable progress, with poverty reducing from 30.1 percent in 2014 to 17.4 percent in 2021, meaning 3.1 million people

have moved out of multidimensional poverty. However, significant disparities remain, particularly in rural areas and provinces like Karnali and Sudurpashchim, which have higher poverty rates compared to urban areas (MPI, 2021).

Efforts to reduce poverty are hindered by political instability, natural disasters, and economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. These factors have slowed progress, highlighting the need for ongoing and flexible policy interventions to address both income and multidimensional poverty (Dibyak Kapali, 2023).

The growth of slum settlements along riverbanks, particularly in areas like the Kathmandu Valley, underscores the complex interplay between socio-economic hardships and environmental risks. These informal communities often consist of fragile structures, limited access to essential services, and an increased vulnerability to hazards such as flooding, erosion, and pollution. Driven by economic challenges and the pressures of urban expansion, marginalized populations are frequently forced to reside in these high-risk zones. These settlements not only intensify environmental deterioration but also reveal significant gaps in urban planning, social equity, and the urgent need for sustainable solutions to address both human welfare and ecological stability (UN-Habitat, 2021).

Stakeholders' perspectives on poverty reduction highlight the significance of engaging community-based actors in addressing poverty challenges. In developing regions like Nigeria, poverty is exacerbated by issues such as inadequate education, poor land utilization, and a lack of substantial investments. Local leaders, government agencies, and private organizations emphasize education as both a contributing factor to and a remedy for poverty. Key interventions include enhancing infrastructure, such as roads and energy, and promoting vocational training to empower communities. Sustainable poverty alleviation efforts require collaborative approaches, with stakeholders actively participating in the planning, execution, and management of programs tailored to meet the unique needs of their communities (Adekunle & Oluwatoyin, 2013).

In the present Situation, local governments are pivotal in the fight against poverty, particularly in regions where necessities and opportunities are scarce. These governments are ideally positioned to understand and address the unique needs of their communities, implementing tailored programs and policies aimed at improving living

standards. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is frequently undermined by poor coordination between local governments and the communities they serve. These disconnects lead to significant delays or complete failures in the execution of essential programs. As a result, many individuals from rural areas, facing a lack of opportunities at home, migrate to urban centers like Kathmandu in search of work, education, and better income prospects. While such migration can potentially alleviate poverty by providing individuals with improved economic opportunities, the slow pace of policy implementation and a lack of development-focused initiatives mean that the growing the population often finds their needs unmet. This situation leads to increased pressure on related field infrastructure and services, resulting in dissatisfaction among residents and perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Nepal is a developing nation with an economy primarily based on agriculture, services, and foreign employment, with minimal self-employment and small-scale industries. According to the agriculture census, over 60.5percent of the population is involved in agriculture, and the average farm household size has decreased from 5.4 persons in 2011/12 to 4.7 persons in 2021/22. In the fiscal year 2022/23, more than 771,000 young people went abroad for work. Poverty in Nepal is characterized by the inability to meet basic daily needs. Comparatively two types of poverty are widespread in the world, which can be defined as first of all Pure poverty is known as People having a lack of fulfillment of daily basic needs, and Relative poverty is called comparative poverty where People succeed in pure poverty after these types of poverty start. Relative poverty stands for poverty in the community, or people who are comparatively poor in society. This research focuses on pure poverty. In Nepal, different types of programs have been launched to solve the problem of poverty such as different development programs that aim to uplift the rural, poor, women, and disadvantage groups in the community or society.

Kathmandu Metropolitan City study area, despite being a central and urbanized area, is also significantly affected by poverty. Many people migrate to Kathmandu from other districts with the hope of finding better employment opportunities, accessing quality education, achieving higher living standards, and benefiting from advanced health facilities. However, these aspirations are often met with harsh realities, as many still

struggle to fulfill their basic needs. The primary reasons for this struggle are a lack of proper education and the absence of necessary skills, which hinder their ability to secure stable and well-paying jobs.

The devastating floods and landslides triggered by torrential rains in late September in Kathmandu and its surrounding areas have exposed the extreme vulnerability of marginalized communities, particularly those residing in informal settlements or slum area along riverbanks, to the escalating impacts of climate change. These floods, among the most severe in the past decade, inundated entire slum neighborhoods, demolishing fragile wooden homes, washing away belongings, and leaving families displaced. The disaster has exacerbated challenges such as poor sanitation, loss of livelihoods, and interruptions to children's education. While affected families, including children, showed remarkable resilience by engaging in cleanup efforts, the extensive damage highlights the pressing need for improved disaster readiness, robust community support systems, and sustainable urban development to mitigate the growing risks associated with climate-induced extreme weather events (Bajracharya. B, 2024).

The Slum area for research exemplifies these challenges. The residents, both migrants and locals, face numerous difficulties in accessing essential services. In response, various programs have been launched to support the local population. These initiatives focus on providing vocational training, improving educational resources, and offering health services to uplift the community. The local government has been instrumental in these efforts, playing a crucial role in designing and implementing policies aimed at alleviating poverty and enhancing the living standards of the poor. Despite these efforts, some problems persist. Infrastructure development, while ongoing, often lags rapid population growth, leading to inadequate housing and sanitation facilities. Additionally, the job market is unable to absorb the influx of job seekers, resulting in high unemployment rates. Social services are stretched thin, and many people still live in precarious conditions without reliable access to food, clean water, or healthcare. This research paper aims to delve deeper into these persistent issues, exploring the gaps in current programs and identifying areas where further intervention is needed. By examining the root causes of poverty in Kathmandu and assessing the effectiveness of existing initiatives, the research seeks to provide actionable recommendations to enhance the quality of life for the city's most vulnerable residents.

1. What are the prevailing levels and defining characteristics of poverty within the study area?
2. Which specific measures have been implemented by the government and non-government agencies to mitigate poverty in the study area?
3. In what ways have the governments and non-government agencies' initiatives influenced the livelihoods of impoverished individuals in the study area?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to analyze the local government incentive project for poverty reduction in the study area. It is expected that this general objective can be achieved with the fulfillment of the following specific objectives as following:

1. To identify the socio-cultural and economic Situations of the respondents in the study area.
2. To assess the poverty reduction project implemented by the Government and non-government agencies in the study area.
3. To analyze the impact of the Government and non-government agencies initiatives on the poverty reduction in the study area.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) under Nepal's Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002–2007) is a pivotal initiative aimed at tackling persistent poverty through targeted policies and reforms. Previous efforts under the Eighth and Ninth Plans fell short due to factors like high unemployment, weak governance, political instability, and deficiencies in the education system. Additionally, widespread migration of youth seeking better opportunities abroad has led to a reliance on remittances, which, while alleviating some household-level poverty, have not addressed broader socio-economic disparities.

The PRSP introduced strategies focusing on inclusive growth, infrastructure development, and the empowerment of local governments to better address community needs. This study is significant as it examines how impoverished communities perceive the effectiveness of these local government initiatives. By exploring these perceptions, highlights gaps in current poverty alleviation efforts and provides insights for policymakers to design more impactful and inclusive strategies for sustainable development (IMF, 2007).

This study explores the challenges faced by impoverished communities in Nepal when trying to access essential services. Due to the increase in the price of daily goods and items people are unable to bear those things. It highlights obstacles such as limited resources, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and discriminatory practices that prevent these groups from receiving adequate support. The research aims to find ways to improve access to these services for marginalized groups.

The study also focuses on the level of awareness among the poor regarding the services provided by the local government. It examines how effectively information about government programs is communicated and whether it reaches those in need. Raising awareness is crucial for ensuring that people can utilize the available support. Additionally, the study looks at how services are delivered, assessing their efficiency and responsiveness in meeting the needs of the poor.

Lastly, the research evaluates the effectiveness of poverty reduction initiatives, such as healthcare, education, housing, and employment programs. By considering the views of various socioeconomic groups, the study provides a comprehensive analysis of local government efforts, offering insights into how service delivery can be improved to better support poverty alleviation, especially in rural areas where agriculture plays a central role in livelihoods.

This research will be especially helpful for the slum areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. It aims to identify the most disadvantaged communities and assist the government in making informed decisions to reach its economic objectives. It also aims to discuss the status of the people living in those areas. The study will also support local governments in making better choices when it comes to implementing policies and programs. In urban areas, much of the income is spent on unproductive things like building houses, buying land, or purchasing luxury goods. Local governments have not been very effective in promoting development or reducing poverty overall. Instead of spending on non-productive sectors, it is important to direct income toward areas like industrial growth and land for productive use. When income is invested in these areas, it can benefit the entire country, supporting Nepal’s broader economic development.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study examines how local government affects poverty reduction, a very broad

topic. It is mainly for academic purposes and aims to understand poverty alleviation and the demographic characteristics of local government. The study has the following Limitations: -

1. This study will concern local government incentives in poverty reduction activities only.
2. The main study area of this study is slum areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City.
3. The conclusion of this study might not be applicable to other areas because of differences in socio-economic conditions.
4. The study focuses on renters living in Kathmandu Metropolitan, where landlords do not give them the opportunity to meet or talk with them.

1.6 Organization of the study

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter serves as an introduction, covering the general background, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and the organization of the study. The second chapter is a review of literature, focusing on both theoretical and empirical aspects. The third chapter describes the research methodology applied in the study. The fourth chapter discusses the local government's incentives for poverty reduction in the study area. The fifth chapter provides a summary, conclusion, and recommendations. Finally, the appendix and references follow this chapter.

Chapter II: Literature Review

A substantial body of research exists on the role of local government initiatives in poverty reduction, with studies conducted both within and outside of Nepal. Notably, some of these studies focus specifically on Kathmandu and its efforts towards poverty alleviation. Local governments have launched various programs to combat poverty, including women's empowerment assessments, small farm development projects, microfinance impact assessments, employment initiatives, and health and education services. Below, we analyze findings from some of these researchers.

In Nepal, local government initiatives have been crucial in addressing poverty. Numerous programs aim to empower women, support small farmers, and enhance microfinance impact, thereby fostering economic growth and improving living standards. Studies have highlighted the effectiveness of these programs in creating employment opportunities, improving access to healthcare and education, and providing essential services to marginalized communities and also the role of remittance to improve living standards and access to services and basic needs. The following analysis delves into the specific outcomes and insights from these research efforts where the researcher uses different books and Journal, Review and abstract, index, reports, and dissertations or research studies published by various institutions etc.

2.1 Conceptual of Poverty

According to Mollie Olshansky, “Poverty is the deprivation of goods, services, and pleasures that others consider commonplace”, highlighting it as a form of welfare deprivation. This concept of poverty is not just about lacking money but encompasses a broader spectrum of deficits, including access to essential resources and opportunities. Ken Coats and Richard Silburn's survey in Nottingham supports this view, describing poverty as an interconnected network of deprivations that reinforce each other. The 1964 U.S. Council of Economic Advisors characterized poverty as a vicious cycle that perpetuates itself, passing from one generation to another without a clear starting or ending point, illustrating its persistent and cyclical nature.

Bhardwaj (2009) expands the definition of poverty to include not just private consumption but also access to common property resources, state-provided goods, and

even intangible aspects like dignity and autonomy. Poverty, therefore, affects individuals, families, and groups when they lack the means to attain the diets, living standards, and social participation that are customary in their society. This creates a vicious cycle of exclusion and inequality, contributing to ongoing poverty.

Poverty is a global crisis, as Townsend (1970) emphasizes, reflecting the inability to meet the widely accepted societal standards. The world is increasingly divided between the affluent and those living in poverty, often marked by servitude and economic insecurity. Dr. Ruby K. Payne distinguishes between situational poverty, arising from specific incidents, and generational poverty, which passes from one generation to the next, with its own distinct culture and beliefs. Poverty is thus a relative concept, with absolute and relative poverty lines established to address it in different contexts. Absolute poverty refers to a rigid standard set with specific references, while relative poverty equates poverty with inequality. The existence of inequalities ensures that poverty persists. Consequently, poverty can be categorized into three types: Absolute Poverty, Relative Poverty, and Subjective Poverty (Dr. Ruby, K.1970).

2.1.1 Absolute Poverty

Absolute poverty describes a state where individuals or families are deprived of the fundamental resources needed for survival, such as adequate food, safe drinking water, housing, and clothing. This concept is typically defined using a fixed threshold or poverty line, which remains constant over time and across different contexts. People living below this threshold are in absolute poverty, unable to meet the minimum standards of living necessary for sustaining life. countries.

2.1.2 Relative Poverty

Relative Poverty, on the other hand, is a measure of poverty that considers the economic status of individuals or households in relation to the broader society in which they live. Rather than focusing on survival, relative poverty is concerned with social inclusion and inequality. People are in relative poverty if their income or resources are significantly lower than the average or median level in their society, leading to an inability to participate fully in the customary lifestyle of that society. For example, in a wealthy country, even someone who can meet their basic needs might still be considered relatively poor if they cannot afford things that are seen as normal or

necessary for a decent life, such as access to quality education, healthcare, or social activities groups.

2.1.3 Subjective Poverty

Subjective Poverty is a more personal and psychological approach to understanding poverty. It is based on individuals' perceptions of their own economic status and well-being. This measure considers how people feel about their income and living conditions compared to others in their society. Subjective poverty is often assessed through surveys where individuals are asked to rate their own economic situation and whether they feel they have enough to meet their needs. This approach acknowledges that poverty is not only about material deprivation but also about how people perceive their quality of life and social standing. Each of these measures provides a different perspective on poverty, highlighting various aspects of economic hardship and social inequality. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for developing effective policies and interventions to address poverty in its many forms.

2.2 Concept of Poverty Reduction

Poverty is widely recognized as a socio-economic and human challenge. It transcends mere economic factors, stemming from various deficiencies across different sectors and systemic failures. While poverty remains a persistent issue, the focus should extend beyond immediate survival needs.

To comprehensively address poverty, we must consider peripheral factors such as vulnerability, asset transferability, and environmental influences. Rather than treating symptoms, we should target the root causes. Empathetic support and strategic advocacy play crucial roles in poverty reduction.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) identifies two pillars for effective poverty reduction:

a) **Sustainable Economic Development**: This pillar emphasizes long-term economic growth and stability.
b) **Social Development:** Addressing social inequalities and enhancing human well-being are essential components.

In Nepal, it's essential to recognize that reducing poverty involves more than just

lowering the percentage of the population living in poverty; it requires a holistic approach that considers the quality of life for all citizens.

Education and health are essential for developing human capital and alleviating poverty by improving productivity and boosting income. Dangal and Gajurel (2022) reported that higher education will affirm to boost the productivity of human capitalin Nepaland also it should promote economic growth thereby reducing poverty. Adekoya (2018) applied VECM and Granger causality methods, finding that government spending on health and Nigeria's gross enrollment rate are positively linked to per capita income over the long term, where per capita income is used as an indicator of poverty. It has been discovered that access to healthand education helps to reduce poverty in the economy. The idea is that giving individuals education, training, and skills empowers them. The productivity and income of the workforce both grow with better human resources. Thus, human capital can contribute to lessening the intensity of multidimensional poverty (Sharafat et al., 2013).

In a study conducted where it was found that an efficient apex microfinance institution plays a crucial role in effectively channeling funds to targeted NGOs/MFIs and borrowers at reasonable interest rates. The sustainability of the microfinance sector emerges as a critical objective when devising strategies to strengthen it. Furthermore, Sharma concluded that microfinance participation leads to both social and economic transformations among borrowers (Sharma, 2019).

Awad and Muhtaseb (2017) investigated the intricate relationship between trade and poverty reduction, emphasizing the role of economic growth and employment. While assessing the impact of trade on poverty is a complex endeavor, it emerges as a consequence of interactions among various socio-economic and institutional factors. The study explored different theoretical models that link between these variables (Awad and Muhtaseb 2017). Specifically, the research focused on the connection between trade openness and poverty reduction, considering additional channels such as economic growth and employment. By combining theoretical analysis with econometric models, the authors examined four key variables: trade, economic growth, unemployment, and poverty. Their findings revealed that trade liberalization and other openness policies significantly contribute to overall economic growth. Notably, remittances, external trade, and foreign direct investment (FDI) emerged as pivotal

determinants of economic prosperity

The World Bank (2012) conducted an investigation into the Nepal Poverty Alleviation Fund program, focusing on its design and impact evaluation. The study employed a two-round survey approach, collecting data both before and after the intervention. To analyze the program's effects, the researchers combined the difference-in-difference method with instrumental variables estimation (World Bank, 2012).

Three key aspects were explored:

- Experimental Design and Large-Scale Intervention Impact: The study utilized an experimental framework to assess the impact of a significant intervention.
- Estimating Causal Impact Despite Imperfect Compliance: Even when actual interventions deviated from randomized assignments, the study estimated the causal impact.
- Assessing Household Consumption, Food Security, and Vulnerability Indicators: The research delved into the program's effects on per capita household consumption, food security, and critical vulnerability indicators, particularly in conflict-affected contexts.

2.3 Theoretical Review

The role of local government initiatives in addressing poverty has gained prominence in the fields of development studies and public policy. Local governments, due to their proximity to the communities they serve, are often more adept at identifying and addressing the specific socio-economic issues faced by their populations. Theories such as Citizen Centered Local Government, Poverty and Progress and Right based approach for strengthening local government capacities, argue that it can result in more efficient poverty reduction measures. These initiatives typically involve the formulation of localized policies, the allocation of resources, and the provision of services targeting the underlying causes of poverty, including unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, and limited and restricted access to critical services like education and healthcare. By actively involving communities in the decision-making process, local governments can design interventions that better meet the needs of vulnerable populations, thereby increasing and in client the effectiveness and long-term success and achievement of poverty reduction efforts.

2.3.1 Citizen-Centered Local Government

Anwar Shah and Matthew Andrews critically examine traditional public sector reforms and advocate for a citizen-centered governance model to tackle the distinct challenges faced by developing countries. They highlight the inefficiencies of conventional reforms, particularly in these regions, citing centralized, unresponsive, and monopolistic governance systems that lack accountability and transparency. Efforts such as macroeconomic stabilization, capacity building, decentralization, and participatory management, while well-intentioned, are criticized for their conceptual flaws and practical shortcomings. Instead of driving meaningful change, these approaches often perpetuate hierarchical, process-focused systems that prioritize fiscal stability over citizen-focused outcomes. As a result, they frequently fail to enhance service delivery or improve administrative responsiveness. In contrast, the citizen-centered governance model emphasizes a grassroots approach by combining participatory decentralization with results-driven management and evaluation. This framework places citizens at the core of decision-making processes, fostering governance that is more transparent, accountable, and responsive to public needs. By focusing on tangible outcomes and integrating mechanisms for continuous citizen feedback, the model aligns governance with the interests of the people. Shah and Andrews argue that this approach not only strengthens transparency but also enhances the quality and effectiveness of public service delivery, paving the way for more democratic and participatory governance in developing regions (Wright & et al, 1976).

The study explores the pivotal role of citizen involvement in advancing democratic principles and fostering open governance amidst Vietnam's ongoing reform efforts. The research evaluates citizen participation through seven key dimensions: transparency, electoral engagement, policy initiatives, discussions and critique, voluntary cooperation, self-governance, and oversight. It acknowledges notable progress while also exposing persistent deficiencies in citizen engagement. Modern governance paradigms, which prioritize inclusivity and partnerships between governments, businesses, and civil society, serve as a backdrop for the study’s findings. Among the identified challenges are insufficient transparency, limited independence of civil society organizations, and a lag in digital governance development. To address these issues, the authors advocate for initiatives aimed at cultivating active citizenship, strengthening the capacity and autonomy of civil society, and utilizing digital platforms

to establish a participatory and transparent governance framework. They conclude that Vietnam's challenges are emblematic of broader difficulties faced by transitional democracies, emphasizing the necessity of comprehensive reforms and collaborative efforts between the state and its citizens to achieve governance that is both inclusive and accountable (Binh et al, 2021).

The key obstacles to achieving the goals of Citizen-Centric Smart Cities (CCSC), focus on Citizens' Sense of Gain (CSG) as a fundamental indicator of citizen-centricity. Through a combination of literature review and the Delphi method, the research identifies 20 significant barriers that impede CCSC development. To analyze these barriers and their interconnections, the study employs sophisticated methodologies, including Decision-Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory (DEMATEL), Interpretative Structural Modeling (ISM), and Cross-Impact Matrix Multiplication Applied to Classification (MICMAC). The findings reveal that the absence of dedicated departments to address citizen feedback is the most influential barrier in terms of causality and centrality, while the lack of development of a guiding framework and policy system presents a key challenge in China's CCSC initiatives. These barriers are analyzed within the context of five dimensions derived from CCSC objectives, underscoring the importance of making CSG more comprehensive and sustainable. By identifying these critical challenges and proposing actionable solutions, the study deepens the theoretical understanding of CCSC development while offering practical insights for policymakers and practitioners globally. Its recommendations provide a framework to tackle similar challenges worldwide, fostering the creation of more inclusive and sustainable smart cities (Wang et al., 2024).

The investigation on the effectiveness of local governance in Madhesh Province, Nepal, from a citizen-centered perspective. Utilizing both theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence, the research examines key dimensions of governance, such as the rule of law, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, participation, equity, inclusiveness, effectiveness, and strategic vision. The study focuses on governance practices within the post-federalism framework following Nepal's 2015 constitutional restructuring. Governance is portrayed as a complex process involving collaboration among public, private, and civil institutions, with citizen participation identified as a cornerstone of effective governance. The findings expose significant shortcomings,

including insufficient transparency, weak accountability, and limited public participation, primarily stemming from administrative inefficiencies. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research collects data through surveys and interviews with educated citizens while acknowledging potential biases related to citizens' perceptions. To address these gaps, the study recommends improving transparency, fostering citizen participation through awareness initiatives, adopting digital governance tools, and enhancing intergovernmental cooperation to support democratic governance. Ultimately, the study sheds light on critical governance challenges while proposing practical reforms to strengthen local governance in transitional democratic settings (Rai, 2024).

2.3.2 Progress and Poverty

Henry George critiques the prevailing economic systems of his era, highlighting how technological advancements lead to rising land values, yet the resulting benefits are not shared equally across society. He examines the moral and economic issues surrounding "unearned income," which he defines as income gained from owning land rather than through labor or capital investment. In a hypothetical dialogue with a businessperson, George demonstrates that while innovations such as railroads and electric lighting enhance productivity, they do not result in higher wages or interest rates. Instead, land values increase, disproportionately enriching landowners without them contributing to the creation of wealth. George argues that this rise in land value stems from collective societal progress, not individual achievement, and he condemns the resulting inequality in wealth distribution. He advocates for a land value tax (LVT), which would capture the unearned wealth generated from land, ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources and fairer government funding. By challenging the neoliberal belief that market forces alone should determine income distribution, George's ideas continue to resonate in modern discussions about wealth inequality and economic fairness (Macmillan, 2016).

Poverty reduction continues to be a key priority for policymakers, especially in developing regions like Latin America. E. Bradford Burns' work, The Poverty of Progress, examines the socioeconomic dynamics of 19th-century Latin America, arguing that despite rapid industrialization and modernization, economic progress often failed to reduce poverty. These developments primarily benefited the elite, deepening

income inequality, and aligning with Dependency Theory, which suggests that economic growth in developing countries often perpetuates poverty due to the flow of resources to developed nations. Burns also highlights how social structures, including entrenched hierarchies and land ownership patterns, restricted resource access for lower socioeconomic groups, reflecting Social Stratification Theory's view on the role of societal structures in shaping economic opportunities. Burns critiques policies of the time for prioritizing growth over social welfare and advocates for an integrated approach that balances economic growth with social equity and environmental sustainability, aligning with Sustainable Development Theory. His work provides valuable insights into the complexities of poverty reduction, stressing the need to address structural inequalities and suggesting that historical analysis should inform future poverty alleviation strategies (Morin, 1981).

A Survey of Household Resources and Standards of Living provides an in-depth exploration of poverty that goes beyond simple income-based measurements and analysis of data. He introduces the idea of relative poverty, which examines the disadvantages individuals face when compared to others in their society. Townsend's framework divides household resources into three key categories: economic, social, and cultural, each playing a significant role in shaping an individual's standard of living. This comprehensive approach not only highlights the need for increasing income but also emphasizes the importance of improving social networks and educational access. Townsend advocates for a holistic, context-aware approach to poverty reduction, making his work a fundamental resource for developing effective and sustainable poverty alleviation strategies that address the diverse needs of different communities (Townsend, 2024).

The study examined the relevance of various poverty theories in the African context, with a focus on Zimbabwe. He critiques the individualism theory, arguing that it is not applicable in Africa, where structural and socio-economic issues such as limited opportunities and systemic exclusion play a greater role in poverty. In contrast, Marx's capitalist theory, which links poverty to exploitation within capitalist systems, is highly relevant, particularly considering Africa's colonial history and ongoing exploitation by multinational corporations. Additionally, Dube finds the opportunity theory, which highlights the lack of access to opportunities, applicable to many African countries,

where systemic issues further limit access for large segments of the population. He concludes that Marx's and opportunity theory provide valuable insights into the structural and historical causes of poverty in Africa and calls for context-specific interventions to address these challenges effectively (Dube, 2019).

The author explores the ongoing paradox of poverty in the U.S., despite economic growth, reflecting Henry George's critique from 1879. The article challenges conventional poverty measures, such as income thresholds, which fail to capture the full scope of deprivation and the growing inequality. It draws on socio-economic theories, particularly Peter Townsend's notion of "relative poverty," which emphasizes social exclusion, and Marx's theory of capitalism, which ties poverty to exploitation and the unequal distribution of wealth. The article also critiques the limited attention paid to poverty in American literary studies, where issues of race and gender often take precedence over class analysis. It calls for a more comprehensive approach to poverty, one that integrates class with cultural marginalization and advocates for a more nuanced, context-driven theoretical framework to address ongoing material deprivation (Jones, 2003).

China's poverty alleviation strategies, highlighting their development and core principles while identifying areas for improvement. Central to this approach is the "Two Threads One Force" framework, which combines targeted measures and sustained economic growth "Two Threads" with unified societal mobilization "One Force". This model underpins China's poverty reduction efforts, which successfully lifted 770 million people out of poverty between 1978 and 2020, according to World Bank data.

The research also emphasizes China's adaptability to emerging challenges, such as reducing regional disparities, integrating technology, and ensuring sustainable development. These efforts have contributed to achieving long-term poverty alleviation goals and enhancing social welfare, economic growth, and national prosperity. The study concludes by advocating for comprehensive, context-specific poverty reduction strategies and highlights the potential for other nations to adapt elements of the "China model" to their unique socio-economic circumstances (Yan, 2016).

2.3.3 Right Based Approach

A rights-based approach to poverty reduction integrates human rights principles into

strategies designed to combat poverty, focusing on empowerment, social protection, and inclusive development. Rooted in frameworks such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and International Labour Standards (ILS), it views poverty not merely as a lack of income but as a denial of fundamental rights and human dignity. For example, data from the International Labour Organization indicates that more than 60percent of the global workforce lacks adequate social protection, highlighting the urgency of implementing programs like unemployment benefits and pensions to reduce vulnerability. Amartya Sen's capability approach aligns with this perspective, advocating for expanding individuals' opportunities to live fulfilling lives. The success of this approach depends on strong legal systems, institutional capacity, and collaboration among governments, civil society, and the private sector to promote sustainable poverty alleviation and uphold human dignity (Silvander & Peels, 2016).

The document examines China's poverty reduction strategies under Xi Jinping, offering a foundation for a rights-based perspective on poverty alleviation. This approach views poverty not just as an economic issue, but as a violation of human rights, advocating for policies centered on dignity, equality, and participation, as outlined in key international frameworks like Article 25 of the UDHR and Articles 11 and 12 of the ICESCR. While China's strategies, such as large-scale infrastructure development and local economic support, align with rights-based principles by improving access to essential services, they often overlook critical human rights such as health, social security, and the inclusion of marginalized groups. The focus on corporate paternalism further risks the capture of welfare by local elites, compromising the state's responsibility to uphold human rights. To fully align with a rights-based approach, China needs to incorporate direct financial aid for vulnerable households, promote the active participation of marginalized communities, address systemic discrimination, and balance infrastructure development with investments in health, education, and social services. By embedding human rights into poverty alleviation efforts, China can create more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable solutions that effectively address structural inequalities and empower communities (Boullenois, 2020).

Focusing on poverty reduction through legislative measures the country India. This approach, grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Indian Constitution, emphasizes citizens' entitlement to basic services such as food, education, and health. Key policies like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

2005 and the Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security Act (USWSSA) 2008 aim to address poverty by providing employment, access to education, and social security, respectively. However, both programs face criticisms, including inadequate wages, exclusion of vulnerable groups, and governance challenges. The rights-based approach emphasizes empowerment, participation, and accountability, aiming to reduce poverty and improve living conditions, particularly for marginalized groups. Despite challenges, such as financial sustainability and implementation issues, the approach represents a significant step toward inclusive development in India (Pawar, 2012).

The report on "Poverty Reduction in Nepal: Issues, Findings, and Approaches" highlights the widespread poverty in Nepal, particularly in rural areas, and the exacerbating impact of social exclusion among marginalized groups like Dalits, Janajatis, and women. It emphasizes a rights-based approach to poverty reduction, which asserts that individuals have a right to basic services such as food, education, health, and employment. The approach focuses on empowering marginalized communities, with legislative measures like NREGA and USWSSA providing employment and social security. The report stresses improving access to resources, including property rights, education, healthcare, and microcredit while addressing social exclusion through targeted programs. Despite challenges, the rights-based approach provides a comprehensive framework for poverty reduction, promoting inclusivity and social justice through a balanced, participatory strategy(ADB, 2002).

Poverty in Nepal is a significant barrier to development, with around 25percent of the population living below the poverty line. The poverty gap between rural and urban areas is wide, with rural regions experiencing greater hardship. According to the Human Poverty Index, 44percent of Nepalis lack access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and resources, pointing to the need for targeted solutions. The poverty line in Nepal is set at just $5 per person annually, far below the extreme poverty level defined by the World Bank. Efforts to combat poverty focus on improving access to social security, education, and healthcare, securing property rights, and supporting small businesses. However, challenges such as poor implementation, governance issues, limited access to resources, and funding shortages must be addressed for sustainable success (Pokharel, 2015).

An effective strategy for poverty reduction should integrate principles of accountability, equality, non-discrimination, and participation to ensure inclusivity and fairness. This

approach highlights that addressing and finding poverty is a legal requirement grounded in human rights. It is crucial to measure poverty as a multidimensional issue, considering not only income but also access to essential services like housing, education, and healthcare. Specific methodologies should be designed to identify marginalized groups, combining both quantitative and qualitative data, and addressing the reasons why individuals do not claim their entitlements. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework to enhance these strategies, advocating for ambitious targets, social protection as entitlements, and reducing inequalities. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) plays a pivotal role in this context by promoting and protecting human rights globally. The UNHCHR supports the development and implementation of human rights-based poverty reduction strategies, ensuring that these strategies are aligned with international human rights standards. Overall, this approach ensures that poverty reduction is not only effective but also just and equitable (Schutter, 2018).

2.5 Policy Review

Local governments also play a very vital role in the context of poverty reduction strategies at the international level, aided by several organizations like HDI, MPI, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, which all press for tailored local policies to attend to the peculiar needs of communities. This alone is evident in the fact that HDI and MPI focus more on multidimensional representations of poverty, which go beyond income aspects to include health, education, and standards of living, and promote policies for holistic development rather than mere income support. The shift thus recognizes that the reduction of poverty will be effectively addressed through multi-faceted means, which involve local governance, community participation, and prudent sustainable development practices. Moreover, organizations stress that strong, relevant monitoring and evaluation frameworks need to be put in place to establish whether or not local policies are effective in poverty reduction, thereby guaranteeing an optimum efficient allocation of resources (Marzuki, n.d.).

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for Nepal, particularly during the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007), emphasized poverty alleviation through inclusive development, improved governance, and social inclusion. It focused on ensuring equitable access to resources, enhancing public services like education, healthcare, and housing, and supporting marginalized communities with targeted social programs. The

plan also aimed at promoting macroeconomic stability and reducing the budget deficit, with efforts to boost infrastructure and public sector investment. Despite facing challenges such as political instability and internal conflict, the PRSP stressed that sustained poverty reduction relies on consistent social investments and structural reforms to ensure long-term growth and equity. The Tenth Plan's mixed results underscore the need for comprehensive governance and continued support for the poorest segments of society (IMF, 2007).

The review by the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) analyzes the contributions of INGOs to Nepal's Tenth Plan/PRSP (2002-2007). Nepal, with a population of 25 million and a per capita income of US$ 240, faces significant rural poverty. The Tenth Plan aims to reduce poverty from 38 percent to 30 percent by 2006/07, focusing on economic growth, social development, social inclusion, and good governance. For 2004/05, the government allocated Rs. 47.2 billion, with substantial foreign aid contributions. AIN's budget for 2005 was Rs. 6.66 billion, targeting these pillars through various development programs. Despite progress, challenges like widening inequality remain. Recommendations include improving the development environment, encouraging fundraising, and streamlining administrative procedures. The report highlights the crucial role of INGOs in supporting government efforts to reduce poverty and emphasizes the need for continued commitment and resource optimization (Fichtl, 2005).

In summary, international organizations support a well-rounded strategy for reducing poverty by harnessing the capabilities of local governments. They focus on decentralized governance, inclusive decision-making, and thorough evaluations of poverty. These approaches aim to create long-lasting solutions and have proper way to manage the problems that empower communities and address the root causes of poverty. Collaboration between local governments and international organizations is essential for developing effective programs that can adapt to changing socio-economic conditions. This partnership ensures that the voices of those most affected by poverty are prioritized in the decision-making process, leading to more relevant and impactful interventions (Suryahadi et al., n.d.).

The Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (IPRS) introduced a detailed macroeconomic plan aimed at stabilizing the economy while enhancing productivity and fostering

sustainable growth. The strategy focused on transitioning to a more market-driven economy, promoting foreign trade and economic liberalization to improve efficiency and competitiveness. In tandem with these reforms, the IPRS emphasized increasing government investment in essential social sectors—such as health, education, drinking water, and rural infrastructure—acknowledging their vital role in building long-term human capital and alleviating poverty. This approach sought to create a more inclusive economic environment, addressing both immediate economic challenges and the fundamental needs of the population, particularly in underserved regions. By concentrating on broad-based growth, the IPRS underscored the need for economic inclusivity, ensuring that marginalized and rural communities benefit from economic progress. The strategy viewed increased investment in key social sectors as a direct means of addressing the underlying causes of poverty and encouraging sustainable development across various regions (Sagar Subedi, 2019).

Social policies specifically aim to address critical social issues, including poverty, education, health, and housing. As poverty has become a key focus in current development discussions at both global and local scales, the implementation of effective social policies is essential for addressing this complex issue. Poverty is inherently linked to various aspects of development, such as health, education, income, employment, and gender. Hall et al. (2004) argue that the most effective strategy for enhancing living standards and eradicating poverty involves an integrated approach that combines economic growth with targeted social policies focused on poverty alleviation. Consequently, social policies have significant potential to contribute to poverty reduction. For these policies to be effective, health initiatives must ensure accessibility for low-income populations, while education, land, and economic policies should prioritize the needs of the poor. In the context of Nepal, there has historically been a lack of targeted policies aimed at assisting disadvantaged groups. A large portion of the population lives in rural areas, primarily reliant on agriculture, and many rural residents lack access to fundamental services such as healthcare, education, and job opportunities. This deficiency in policy design has led to widespread deprivation among rural communities, worsening poverty levels. The lack of comprehensive and effective policies has prompted increased migration from rural to urban areas and abroad, driven by not only economic but also social, political, and cultural factors. For example, simply providing subsidized food to the poor is inadequate for achieving sustainable poverty

alleviation. A comprehensive and cohesive approach to policy development is essential to create enduring solutions that effectively address the multifaceted nature of poverty in Nepal and beyond (Thapa, et al. 2008).

Nepal's efforts to identify and support the poor through development programs have been criticized for failing to reach the most disadvantaged groups effectively. In 2012, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation initiated a program to distribute poverty identity cards, starting with a survey in 26 districts. However, concerns emerged that privileged groups were taking advantage of these programs, further excluding the genuinely poor. The 2018 guidelines outlined nine indicators, such as family size, employment status, housing conditions, access to basic services, and land ownership, to assess household poverty levels. Although the program aimed to expand to 51 additional districts, it has faced criticism for slow implementation, limited local government involvement, and the inclusion of ineligible individuals, leaving many truly impoverished families without access to the intended benefits. Addressing these challenges is essential for the program to succeed (PAP, 2019).

The Constitution of Nepal, 2015: A focus on the marginalized groups: - The Constitution of Nepal, enacted in 2015, highlights the country's commitment to diversity and inclusion by recognizing its multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, and multi-cultural identity. It aims to establish a federal democratic republic that prioritizes social justice and equality. The constitution seeks to eliminate discrimination based on various factors such as class, caste, region, language, religion, and gender. It defines marginalized communities as those who are politically, economically, and socially disadvantaged due to systemic oppression. Fundamental rights are guaranteed, including the right to live with dignity, equality, housing, and freedom from discrimination. Special provisions are included to empower marginalized groups like women and Dalits to ensure their participation in governance. Additionally, the constitution addresses significant issues such as landlessness and the right to housing. For the first time, it recognizes housing as a fundamental right, ensuring that citizens cannot be evicted from their homes without legal justification. However, challenges remain for those in informal settlements without land ownership. Local governments are empowered to operate autonomously and create laws to meet local needs effectively. Despite these progressive measures, critics have raised concerns about

vague definitions of discrimination and the potential misuse of benefits by dominant groups. The constitution's limitations on judicial review also raise questions about accountability in implementing its provisions for an inclusive democracy (The Constitution of Nepal, 2015).

Poverty Alleviation Policy 2019 aims at the eradication of poverty and the establishment of a just society in Nepal. Considering its long-term vision, it is targeted to reduce the poverty rate to 5percent by 2030 and the complete eradication of poverty by 2043. The policy has also taken poverty as though it hit rural areas most, yet it is increasingly becoming an urban problem, especially with emerging informal settlements. It is perceived to improve access to basic services, essential for the urban poor, which is one of the big challenges toward national development goals on poverty reduction. The policy is guided by six principles for increasing equitably accessible natural resources and improving basic employment opportunities; involvement in planning and implementation of all programs of poverty alleviation of poor and marginal groups; identification of poor individuals/ families below the poverty line for special assistance; equal access to education and health facilities; provision of access to basic needs; and finally, no discrimination against the disadvantaged group. The policy realizes the reduction of poverty 'requires the co-operation from all level of government through co-ordination with non-governmental organizations and private sectors'. It identifies seven criteria on which an individual is considered poor and includes individual income, access to education and health care, and social discrimination. The Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation is tasked with the implementation and monitoring of these programs. The policy highlights ten major challenges to alleviating poverty, which include existing inequalities and the lack of access by the urban poor to basic needs. While there are several programs for the reduction of poverty, the lack of coordination in the various programs is one of the strong barriers to effectively reaching the most disadvantaged populations (PAP, 2019).

The Local Government Operation Act of 2017 (LGOA) serves as a vital legislative framework for local governance in Nepal, succeeding and making it the Local Self Governance (Act of 1999). This act clarifies the roles and responsibilities of rural and municipal governments, providing a structured format for their assemblies. Notably, Clause 11, Sub-clause 4 underscores the significance of social security and poverty

alleviation, mandating local governments to develop relevant policies and programs. They are also required to conduct surveys to identify impoverished households and manage data effectively to prioritize poverty-related issues (Local Government Operation, 2017).

In addition to addressing poverty, the LGOA includes provisions for managing squatter populations under Clause 11, Sub-clause 4. Local governments must identify and support these communities through surveys and housing initiatives. Furthermore, they are tasked with creating development plans that align with national and provincial objectives, promoting social inclusion and gender equality. The act categorizes urban areas into municipalities, sub-metropolitan, and metropolitan cities based on population size, income levels, and available services. This classification ensures that local governments meet specific service delivery and infrastructure development standards, enhancing their ability to serve their communities effectively. Overall, the LGOA is foundational in promoting local governance in Nepal by focusing on social responsibility and inclusive development planning (Pradhan, 2019).

2.6 Empirical Review

Local governments are crucial and are playing various roles in reducing poverty through tailored policies and active community engagement. Their close connection to local needs allows them to implement targeted interventions that effectively address issues like education, healthcare, and employment. By encouraging community participation, local governments foster ownership, making poverty reduction efforts more sustainable. Involving local stakeholders ensures that programs are inclusive and empower marginalized groups. Studies consistently show that local initiatives, such as rural development and social safety nets, have a significant impact on poverty alleviation. Partnerships with international organizations further enhance the effectiveness of these efforts.

The studies on China's poverty reduction since the late 1970s identify three key drivers: geographic factors, economic growth, and anti-poverty policies. The influence of these factors has evolved alongside China's changing socioeconomic dynamics. Over the past two decades, government initiatives have played a crucial role in addressing geographic challenges and promoting inclusive growth for disadvantaged communities. While these interventions have significantly contributed to poverty alleviation, most research

centers on national and provincial levels, leaving a knowledge gap regarding the role of county governments. As counties have gained substantial resources and authority in poverty reduction efforts, their performance in implementing localized strategies varies, necessitating an in-depth exploration of their bureaucratic systems and community engagement. This gap highlights the need for further investigation into county-level governance to evaluate its efficiency and adaptability. Additionally, the evidence underscores the critical role of political institutions and processes in shaping poverty alleviation outcomes. Although China's government-led initiatives provide valuable insights into reducing inequality, challenges such as uneven regional progress and incomplete decentralization require closer scrutiny to refine and inform future development approaches(Liu, 2022).

Empirical research using geospatial data and deep learning methods shows significant progress in China's poverty reduction between 2016 and 2019, with an average Poverty Reduction Efficiency (PRE) of 0.264. However, there are still differences between regions. Coastal and central urban areas have higher PREs, while southwestern, northeastern, and northwestern regions are lagging. Factors like the nighttime light index (NLI), population density (PD), and road network density (RND) are linked to higher PREs, indicating that economic activity, industrialization, and infrastructure play a key role in reducing poverty. On the other hand, poor transportation and challenging geography in less developed areas slow down progress. The analysis also shows that the main focus of poverty alleviation has shifted 105.786 km northeast, with high-PRE areas concentrated east of the Hu Line, which increases regional disparities. These findings suggest the need for focused policies, such as improving infrastructure and investing in transportation, to reduce inequalities and achieve more balanced poverty reduction (Yao et al., 2024).

The research investigates the evolution of poverty alleviation strategies from 1981 to 2023, aiming to identify existing gaps and suggest future research directions. By employing a robust bibliometric methodology, the authors examined 5,329 relevant articles from the Scopus database, noting a marked increase in publications since 2000, which reached a peak of 316 in 2022. The leading contributors to this field are primarily from China, the USA, and the UK. The study highlights critical themes related to poverty alleviation, such as household dynamics, remittances, and land use, while

pointing out their limited association with governmental initiatives and organizations like the IMF. The authors call for renewed attention to issues in Africa, gender disparities, and sustainable development strategies that leverage socio-cultural and institutional resources. They conclude that successful poverty alleviation necessitates collaborative efforts among governments and stakeholders to develop innovative strategies that tackle both economic and social aspects of poverty, ultimately providing valuable insights for policymakers and researchers dedicated to combating global poverty (Nzasabayezu et al., 2024).

The study "Agriculture and Poverty Reduction in India: An Empirical Study" by Shabana Anjum and Md. Tarique highlights the crucial role of agriculture in poverty reduction. Using pooled regression analysis of secondary data, the study shows that agricultural GDP per worker has an elasticity of 0.85 towards poverty reduction, far exceeding the 0.08 elasticity for non-agricultural GDP. The research advocates for a balanced growth strategy that includes both agriculture and manufacturing, emphasizing the importance of policies to boost agricultural productivity, particularly in rural areas. This approach is key to effective poverty alleviation (Anjum et al., 2017).

The study "Inequality and Poverty in India: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic and Policy Response" by the IMF examines the pandemic's effects on poverty and inequality in India. It found a sharp rise in poverty during lockdowns, which returned to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021. Income inequality increased, particularly in urban areas, while consumption inequality briefly decreased. The government's interventions, such as food subsidies and cash transfers, mitigated some of the negative impacts, highlighting the importance of targeted social protection during crises (Arbatli Saxegaard et al., 2023).

The study observes how government spending on poverty reduction programs affects multidimensional poverty in South Africa, using ridge regression analysis. It found that while health spending is effective, government investment in housing and social security does not significantly reduce poverty. The research suggests that a more effective approach could involve greater collaboration between the government and communities in areas like housing, healthcare, and social security. This approach may improve the impact of these programs in addressing poverty (Mokoena et al., 2023).

The research into the poverty issues in Brazil and Morocco, focusing on the contributing factors and the measures taken to address them. Brazil, with a population of 214.3 million and a PPP-adjusted GDP of $3.14 trillion, faces significant economic inequality, which is a major driver of poverty. In 1989, the wealthiest 10percent of Brazilians earned 51.1percent of the income, which decreased to 39.4percent in 2020. Morocco, with a population of 37.1 million and a PPP-adjusted GDP of $333.2 billion, struggles with poverty primarily due to the rural location of its poor population, limiting access to education and healthcare. Both countries have made progress in reducing poverty, as shown by the World Bank's poverty headcount ratios. Brazil's Bolsa Familia program and Morocco's Green Morocco Plan and National Initiative of Human Development (INDH) have been effective in alleviating poverty. Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain. In 2023, Morocco implemented the Direct Social Aid Programme (DSAP) and launched a $12 billion development plan to address poverty and improve living conditions, earning recognition from the UNDP for halving multidimensional poverty over the past 15 years. Continued efforts and increased social investment are essential for further progress (LaTeef, 2023).

The study "Economic Growth, Unemployment, and Poverty: Linear and Non-linear Evidence from South Africa" explores how economic growth, unemployment, and poverty are interconnected in South Africa. Using data from 2000 to 2021 and both linear and non-linear models, the research shows that economic growth helps reduce poverty in the long term, while unemployment worsens it. Both rising and falling unemployment contribute to higher poverty, while economic growth can reduce it. The study stresses that economic growth alone isn’t enough to fight poverty and calls for more social investment, especially for vulnerable groups like women and children (Ngubane et al., 2023).

Analysis on the role of foreign aid in poverty alleviation. Their results indicate that foreign aid typically has a beneficial effect on reducing poverty, regardless of whether it is evaluated through monetary or non-monetary indicators. Specifically, aid directed towards sectors that benefit the poor—such as agriculture, education, health, and infrastructure—has proven particularly effective in lowering poverty rates. The review highlights the importance of democratic governance in maximizing the impact of foreign aid, as democratic institutions tend to improve the allocation and management

of aid resources. Nonetheless, it also points out that outcomes can vary significantly depending on specific national contexts, such as the quality of governance and economic policies. The authors call for further investigation into multidimensional poverty metrics and a deeper understanding of how foreign aid contributes to poverty reduction. (Mahembe & Odhiambo, 2019)

Marzuki's (2024) empirical presents of the local government strategies aimed at addressing extreme poverty compiles findings from various studies. It emphasizes the effectiveness of customized, localized approaches, showing that such strategies tend to be more effective in reducing extreme poverty. Key success factors include fostering economic growth, investing in human capital, enhancing governance, and implementing targeted initiatives in areas like health and education. Also highlights the importance of empowering local authorities, building collaborative partnerships, and addressing broader issues such as climate change and inequality. Case studies from countries including Indonesia, China, and Nigeria demonstrate how local governance can significantly influence poverty alleviation efforts. Furthermore, the review suggests that decentralizing authority and engaging communities are essential for the effective execution of these policies. Lastly, it calls for future research to explore long-term impacts and integrate community perspectives to enhance the overall effectiveness of local government initiatives in eradicating extreme poverty.

The study by Chaudhary (2018) examines poverty alleviation strategies in Nepal, focusing on the country's economic planning efforts over several decades. Since the 1950s, Nepal has implemented various five-year plans aimed at reducing poverty; however, progress has been slow and delayed with a significant portion of the population remaining affected due to various reasons. Key challenges include limited domestic resources, heavy dependence on foreign aid, insufficient capital formation, and persistent political instability, all of which have hindered effective poverty reduction initiatives. While some government programs such as subsidized agricultural inputs, food-for-work schemes, and self-employment initiatives have been designed to support the poor, the results have not met expectations. The review points out that inefficient resource allocation, Lack of human resources and Skills, a lack of political will, and the absence of inclusive policies targeting marginalized groups continue to obstruct poverty alleviation efforts. It suggests that future strategies should focus on

sustainable economic growth, social inclusion, and enhanced governance to achieve meaningful reductions in poverty levels (Chaudhary, M. K. 2018).

The study examines how local government efforts in Gobra Union, Gopalganj Sadar, Bangladesh, are helping to reduce poverty and promote Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They surveyed people and households and found that programs like income-generating projects, healthcare services, and educational initiatives have significantly helped reduce poverty. However, challenges such as lack of funding, bureaucratic obstacles, and low community involvement are preventing these programs from reaching their full potential. Only a few of the participants felt confident in how local authorities were doing their jobs, and just and moreover over few people were fully satisfied and happy with the performance of their Union Parishad representatives. The authors suggest that local governments, communities, and development organizations should collaborate better to make Gopalganj Sadar a model for sustainable development and poverty reduction. The study stresses and pressures the need for plans to focus on sustainable economic growth and better governance to effectively tackle poverty in rural areas. It also recommends more research to understand the long-term effects and to include community views to improve the effectiveness of local government strategies in fighting extreme poverty (Rashid, M. M., Nasreen, S., & Hasan, S. M. 2024).

The research proposal by Mkenda et al. (2002) establishes a crucial framework for examining poverty dynamics in Tanzania, utilizing data from the 1990/91 and 2000 Household Budget Surveys (HBS). The availability of the 2000 HBS data created an opportune moment to assess the impacts of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) that began in the mid-1980s, as earlier evaluations were based on outdated information. This highlights the importance of current data for effective policymaking. The study aims and plans to construct a detailed poverty profile that reflects changes over the decade, addressing significant research questions concerning poverty ranking methods, the sensitivity of poverty lines, and multidimensional poverty analysis. By implementing advanced methodologies such as adult equivalent scales and stochastic dominance analysis, the authors intend to improve the accuracy of poverty assessments and offer practical recommendations for policymakers focused on reducing poverty in Tanzania (Mkenda et al., 2002).

Chapter III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Area

The study area is in Kathmandu Valley, Kathmandu Metropolitan City within the Capital Region of the Central Development Region, Bagmati Province. Kathmandu Metropolitan City lies in the central part of Nepal within Kathmandu District, covering an area of 50.67 km² at an elevation of 1,400 meters (4,600 feet) above sea level. Its favorable climate attracts people from various regions across the country seeking better opportunities and facilities. Kathmandu Metropolitan City was established on December 15, 1995, with Keshav Sthapit elected as its first mayor in 1997. According to the 2021 national census, the city have a population of 856,767, with 1,035,726 males and 1,005,861 females which shows an annual growth rate of population growth is 3.33 percent.

In slum areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, poverty is a significant and ongoing issue, as only a small portion of residents have enough land to maintain a stable, comfortable lifestyle. Most households possess limited land, restricting their ability to grow enough food to cover basic needs, which leads many to live day-to-day. The community also faces challenges from low educational attainment and limited income-generating opportunities, further complicated by a lack of infrastructure needed for industrial or commercial development. Basic services, including healthcare, education, and transportation, are inadequate, intensifying the area's poverty. To help alleviate this, the Special Protection Group (SPG) has introduced a loan initiative for underprivileged women, empowering them to start small businesses, such as animal husbandry, retail stores, small hotels, cattle trading, and tailoring. The community in this area is diverse, with residents from various castes and linguistic backgrounds, including migrants from other parts of Nepal and India, which has enriched the area with a mix of cultural traditions. In terms of employment, a large part of the population relies on labor work, primarily low-income jobs around Kathmandu, while others face unemployment or underemployment. Although a few residents work in services, animal husbandry, or small-scale trade, the majority depend on sporadic labor to make ends meet. Education is widely recognized as a pathway to improvement, and awareness about its importance has spread through local outreach and NGO/INGO efforts. However, due to financial constraints, many families struggle to afford education for

their children. In response, the government and various organizations have introduced scholarships under a “Poor quota” for academically talented but economically disadvantaged youth. Ward 14 has a range of educational institutions, including 58 schools—30 primary, 10 lower secondary, 8 secondary, and 10 higher secondary as well as a technical school and two campuses. While Kathmandu Metropolitan City has an overall literacy rate above 90percent, specific data on Ward 14’s literacy rates may be limited, although city-wide metrics can provide insight into educational achievements in the area (CBS, 2020).

3.2 Research Design

Research design is a structured plan used to effectively answer specific research questions. The questions format is in Likert scale questionnaire to get the data whereas the five-point Likert scale of "Strongly Disagree is 1," "Disagree is 2," "Neutral is 3," "Agree is 4," and "Strongly Agree is 5" is commonly used to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, or opinions, providing a clear gradient of agreement or disagreement for data analysis. A well-thought-out design ensures that the data collected is relevant and useful for answering these questions. According to Jenkins-Smith et al. (2017), research design includes the strategies and methods used for gathering and analyzing data, providing a clear approach to the research topic. This study focuses on Stakeholder’s Perspective on Poverty Reduction, combining descriptive and analytical study methods in which required data have collected from many different individuals at a single point in time It have uses both primary and secondary data sources, including questionnaires done from participants and local stakeholders in slum area, located in Ward 14 of Kathmandu Metropolitan

3.3 Nature and Source of Study

This research had used both primary and secondary data to support its findings. Primary data have been collected directly from the field through surveys, interviews with selected people, Key Informant Interviews (KII), and observations, which provide both detailed and measurable information. Secondary data have been gathered from various sources related to poverty reduction, such as reports from the Ministry of Poverty, World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB/N), and records from Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) and local government offices. Additional secondary information has been gained from books, journals, newspapers, articles, reports,

websites, and publications, as well as input from stakeholders, NGOs, youth and women's groups, social workers, and previous research. By combining primary field data with reliable background information, these sources had strengthened the study's conclusions.

3.4 Population Sample Size Determination

The population of slum areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, totals 1,800 residents, with approximately 928 males and 872 females spread across 361 households (UNICEF et al., 2021). For this research, a random sample of 120 was selected to represent the broader population. Typically, sample sizes are smaller than the entire population, as "population" in research doesn't just refer to people but may include any set of items or entities relevant to the study, such as objects, events, or species. Including an entire population can be challenging due to time, budget, and resource limitations, so researchers use sampling to select a smaller, representative segment of the group. This sample should ideally reflect the larger population's characteristics to provide accurate findings. Sampling is widely used in research as it enables effective study management within available resources.

From a population of 1,800 from slum areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Balkhu slum area, a sample of 120 households was selected for this study. These individuals have chosen through simple random sampling to represent both the specific areas and the wider community. This method is used to ensure that the sample accurately mirrors the characteristics of the entire population.

Data organization, management, and interpretation was carried out using SPSS software in combination with Microsoft Excel. Various visual representations, including pie charts, bar diagrams, column graphs, and line graphs, were created to present the findings in an easily understandable manner, tailored to the nature of the variables involved.

3.6 Data Collection Techniques and Tools

The tools and techniques used for data collection are vital to the research process, significantly influencing the quality and reliability of the gathered information. These tools facilitated a comprehensive approach to data collection in this study, various

techniques were utilized to collect data and slum areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Balkhu the local government's Poverty Reduction Initiative Project employs various strategies to enhance the socio-economic well-being of residents. Two main approaches within this initiative are household surveys and key informant interviews.

3.6.1 Household Survey

The household survey method gathers detailed insights into the poverty-related challenges faced by residents and assesses the effectiveness of local government programs where the questions format is in Likert scale questionnaire to get the data whereas the five-point Likert scale of "Strongly Disagree is 1," "Disagree is 2," "Neutral is 3," "Agree is 4," and "Strongly Agree is 5" is commonly used to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, or opinions, providing a clear gradient of agreement or disagreement for data analysis . By examining income levels, access to essential services, education, and health impacts on livelihood, the survey provides a comprehensive view of local issues. A sample group representing various socio-economic backgrounds participates in this survey, providing data on immediate concerns such as resource limitations, service accessibility, and overall well-being. Questions also focus on residents' experiences with local government services, such as healthcare, education, and economic support programs, helping to identify the successes and gaps in current poverty reduction efforts.

3.6.2 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews serve as a complementary tool to the household surveys, offering in-depth perspectives from community leaders, government representatives, and other influential figures like business owners, educators, and government officers. These interviews provide a nuanced understanding of the effectiveness of local government efforts in poverty reduction in Sukum Basi Basti and highlight areas where policy adjustments could enhance outcomes. Interviewees, including the ward chairperson and respected community members, discuss ongoing efforts to build community resilience, expand vocational training, and upgrade infrastructure. The insights gathered through these conversations guide the development of more targeted poverty reduction strategies, ensuring that local policies are closely aligned with community needs and priorities.

3.7 Data Presentation and Analysis

Statistical tools and methods are primarily employed to analyze and interpret research outcomes. Key techniques include mean, percentage, correlation, regression, graphs, pie charts, tables, and hypothesis testing. The main presentation style is descriptive, focusing on linguistic logic rather than mathematical expressions.

Before analysis, pre-coded questionnaires used during the field survey are organized into computer-generated tables, with each question assigned a specific code. For information that cannot be quantified, self-constructed tables are created to provide descriptive listings, facilitating further explanation and understanding of the data.

Chapter IV: Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected from the field was carefully checked, grouped, and arranged for presentation. The organized data are shown in different formats, such as tables, charts, figures, and diagrams. This chapter is divided into four sections to make it clear and easy to follow**.**

4. Demographic Profile of Respondents

Household information provides essential details about the population, including living conditions, income, education, and access to services, which are crucial for assessing the impact of poverty reduction efforts. In the slum area of Kathmandu (Ward No. 14), this data helps understand changes in income, healthcare, education, living standards, and employment. It enables the evaluation of poverty reduction programs and highlights areas for improvement. Additionally, a demographic and socio-economic study reveals the community's strengths and weaknesses, illustrating how poverty reduction efforts influence the livelihoods of residents.

4.1.1: Age Structure

Table 4.1.1: Age Range

Age Range	Frequency	Percent
11-20	1	0.8
21-30	30	24.6
31-40	31	25.4
41-50	28	23.0
51-60	17	13.9
61-70	11	9.0
71-80	4	3.3
Total	**122**	**100**

Source*: Field Survey, 2024*

The table shows the distribution of respondents across various age groups. The 11–20 year group is the smallest, with only 1 respondent, representing just 0.8percent of the total. The largest groups are in the 31-40 years (25.4 percent) and 21-30 years (24.6 percent) ranges, with 31 and 30 respondents, respectively. The 41-50 years group follows with 28 respondents, making up 23.0 percent of the total. Among the older age ranges, the 51-60 years group has 17 respondents (13.9 percent), and the 61-70 years group consists of 11 respondents, or 9.0 percent. The 71-80 years group is the smallest

of the older categories, with just 4 respondents, representing 3.3 percent. In total, there are 122 respondents, with the highest number of participants falling within the 21-40 years age range, and fewer respondents in the older age group.

4.1.2: Gender

Table 4.1.2: Gender

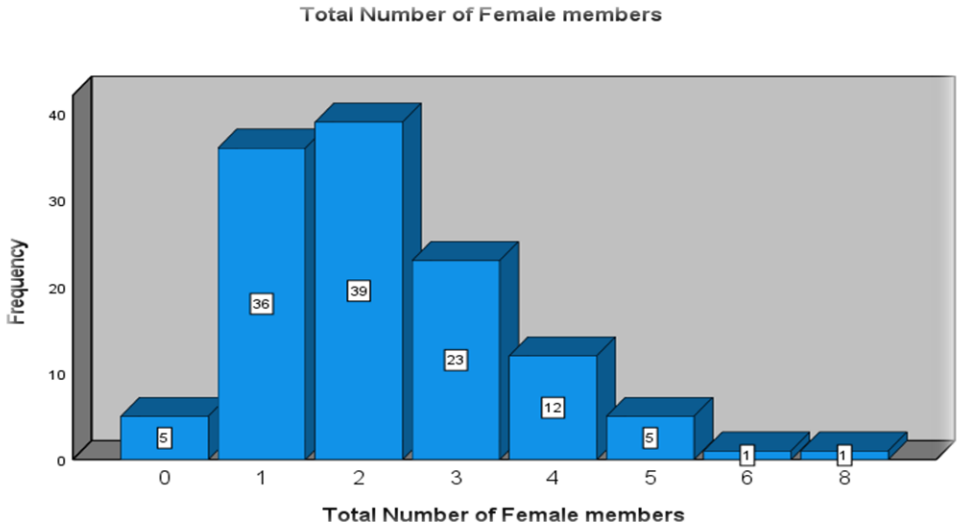
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	64	52.5
Male	58	47.5
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table Shows the gender distribution of the respondents in the area. Among the total of 122 respondents, 64 are female, representing 52.5 percent of the sample, while 58 are male accounting for 47.5 percent. This shows that there is a marginally higher proportion of females compared to males in the sample. Overall, the gender distribution is balanced, with a slight dominance of females.

4.1.2.1: Total Number of Female Members

Figure 1: Total Number of Female Members



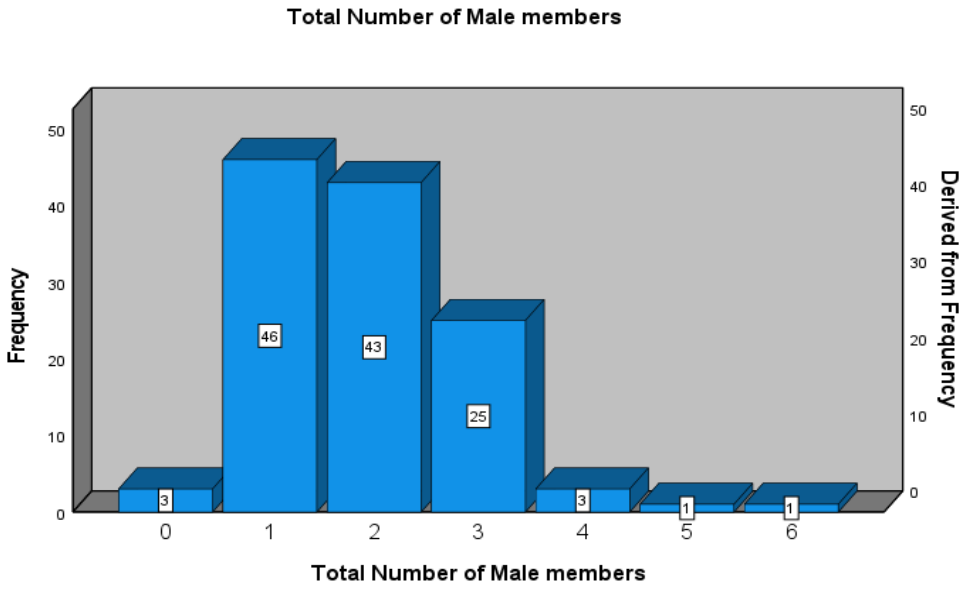
***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The Bar Diagram presents the distribution of female members across various categories. There are 4 cases with no female members, which represent 3.3 percent of the total. The most frequent occurrence is 2 female members, found in 39 cases, making up 32 percent of the total. This is followed by 36 instances of 1 female member,

representing 30.3 percent. There are 23 cases with 3 female members, accounting for 18.9 percent, and 12 cases with 4 female members, which is 9.8 percent of the total. Additionally, there are 5 instances with 5 female members (4.1 percent) and 1 instance each for 6 and 8 female members, both making up 0.8 percent. Overall, the distribution reveals that most cases have 1 or 2 female members, with fewer occurrences as the number of female members increases.

4.1.2.2: Total Number of Male Members

Figure 2: Total Number of Male Members



***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The Bar diagram provides and shows an overview of the distribution of male members across different categories. A relatively small portion, 2.5 percent, consists of cases with no male members, totaling 3 instances. The most prevalent category is 1 male member, which makes up 37.7 percent of the total, with 46 occurrences. Following closely is the category with 2 male members, appearing in 43 cases, representing 35.2 percent of the total. Instances with 3 male members are found 25 times, accounting for 20.5 percent. A smaller portion, 2.5 percent, includes cases with 4 male members, totaling 3 instances. There is also 1 instance each for 5 and 6 male members, both representing 0.8 percent of the total. In summary, the data highlights that most cases feature 1 or 2 male members, with fewer instances as the number of male members increases.

4.1.3: Marital status

Table 4.1.3: Marital status

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Married	113	92.6
Single	6	4.9
windowed	3	2.5
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table Present the marital status distribution of individuals. The majority, 92.6 percent (113 individuals), are married, showing that most participants are in a marital union. A smaller portion, 4.9 percent (6 individuals), are single, while 2.5 percent (3 individuals) are widowed. The total sample consists of 122 individuals, with the percentages adding up to 100 percent. This data reflects a dominant trend of married individuals, with fewer participants falling into the single or widowed categories.

4.1.4: Caste/Ethnicity

Table 4.1.4: Caste/Ethnicity

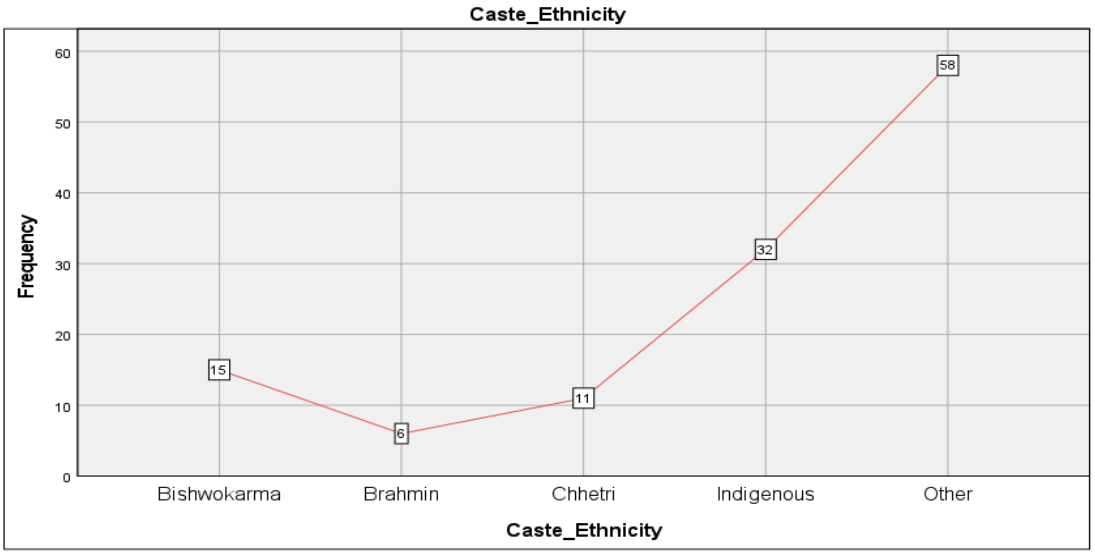
Caste/Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Other/ Janjati	58	47.5
Indigenous	32	26.2
Bishwokarma	15	12.3
Chhetri	11	9.0
Brahmin	6	4.9
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table presents the ethnic and caste composition of the sample. The largest group, representing 47.5 percent (58 individuals), is classified as Other, which encompasses various ethnic groups not detailed in the table. The Indigenous category follows with 26.2 percent (32 individuals) of the sample identifying as indigenous peoples. The Bishwokarma group constitutes 12.3 percent (15 individuals), while 9.0percent (11 individuals) belong to the "Chhetri" group. The smallest proportion, 4.9 percent (6 individuals), is represented by the Brahmin group. The total sample consists of 122 individuals, with percentages totaling 100 percent. This distribution highlights the

diverse ethnic makeup of the sample, with the majority falling under the "Other" or Indigenous categories.

Figure 3: Caste/Ethnicity



***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The graph presents the frequency distribution of individuals across different castes or ethnic groups. The categories represented along the x-axis include Bishwokarma, Brahmin, Chhetri, Indigenous, and Other, while the y-axis indicates their corresponding frequencies. Among these groups, Brahmin records the lowest frequency, comprising six individuals, followed by Chhetri with a slightly higher count of 11. Bishwokarma displays a moderate frequency of 15. A notable increase is evident in the Indigenous group, with 32 individuals, while the other category has the highest frequency at 58, significantly exceeding the rest. The data reveals a progressive increase in frequency from Brahmin to Other, with a particularly sharp rise from Indigenous to Other. The inclusion of a connecting line and annotated data points enhances the visual clarity of the trends, underscoring the dominance of the other category compared to more specific caste or ethnic classifications.

4.1.5: Religion

Table 4.1.5: Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Hindu	50	41.0
Christian	42	34.4
Bouddha	21	17.2
others	4	3.3
Kirat	3	2.5
Muslim	2	1.6
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table provides an overview of the distribution of individuals according to their religious affiliation, presented in terms of both frequency and percentage. Hinduism emerges as the most predominant religion, comprising 50 individuals, which constitutes 41.0 percent of the total population. Christianity ranks second, with 42 individuals representing 34.4 percent of the total. Buddhism accounts for 17.2 percent of the population, with 21 adherents. Religions with smaller representations include Kirat and Islam, with 3 individuals (2.5 percent) and 2 individuals (1.6 percent), respectively. Additionally, 4 individuals (3.3 percent) are categorized under other religions. The total sample size consists of 122 individuals, forming the basis for the proportional representation. These figures highlight the religious diversity within the population, with Hinduism and Christianity collectively comprising the majority.

4.1.6: Formal Education

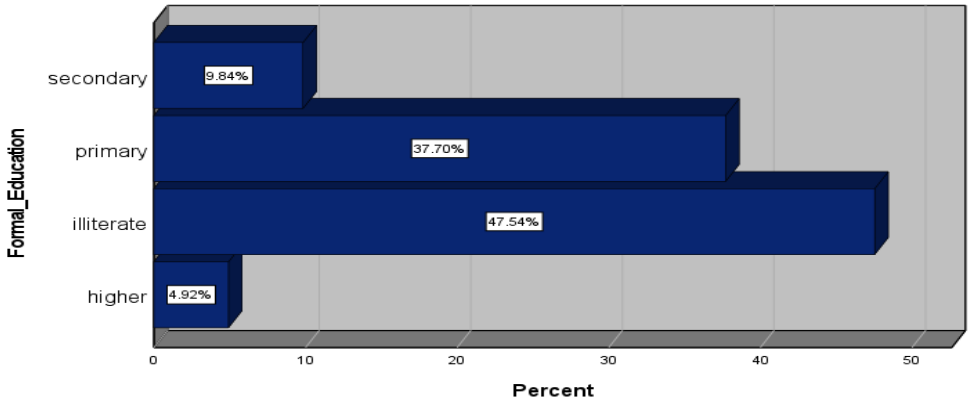
Table 4.1.6: Formal Education

Formal Education	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	58	47.5
Primary	46	37.7
Secondary	12	9.8
Higher	6	4.9
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The data highlights notable disparities in the educational attainment of the respondents. Among the 122 individuals surveyed, nearly half (47.5 percent) are illiterate, indicating that 58 participants have no formal education. A considerable proportion, 37.7 percent (46 respondents), have completed primary education, while 9.8 percent (12 respondents) have reached the secondary level. Only a small fraction, 4.9 percent (6 respondents), have attained higher education. These findings demonstrate significant educational inequalities, with a large segment of the population lacking basic education and only a minimal number progressing to advanced levels, emphasizing the need for initiatives to improve educational access and outcomes in this group. Below the Figure,

Figure 4: Formal Education



***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

4.1.7: Higher Education Subject specifications

Table 4.1.7: Higher Education Subject specifications

Higher Education Subject specifications	Frequency	Percent
Others	63	51.6
No Facility	45	36.9
Management	8	6.6
Sciences and Technology	3	2.5
Arts and Humanities	2	1.6
Education	1	0.8
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table summarizes the distribution of respondents based on their subject

specialization in higher education, expressed in frequency and percentage. Out of 122 respondents, the largest group, comprising 63 individuals (51.6 percent), falls under the category labeled "Others," which includes subject areas not explicitly specified. A substantial portion, 45 respondents (36.9 percent), reported having "No Facility," indicating a lack of access to higher education. Among those with subject-specific higher education, 8 respondents (6.6 percent) are in Management, followed by 3 respondents (2.5 percent) in Sciences and Technology, 2 respondents (1.6 percent) in Arts and Humanities, and 1 respondent (0.8 percent) in Education. The data highlights significant gaps in access to higher education, with many respondents either lacking educational facilities or pursuing unspecified fields. This emphasizes the need to enhance accessibility and broaden the range of educational opportunities available.

4.1.7.1: Children Going Government School

Table 4.1.7.1: Children Going Government School

Government School	No. of Children (Population base)	Percent
0	35	28.7
1	52	42.6
2	25	20.5
3	6	4.9
4	1	0.8
5	1	0.8
6	2	1.6
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table presents the distribution of households based on the number of children enrolled in government schools, expressed in frequency and percentage terms, from a total sample of 122 respondents.

Households with 1 child enrolled form the largest group, comprising 52 respondents or 42.6 percent of the total. This is followed by households with no children enrolled, accounting for 35 respondents (28.7 percent). Households with 2 children enrolled make up 20.5 percent (25 respondents).

Smaller proportions are observed among households with a greater number of children. Households with 3 children enrolled represent 4.9 percent (6 respondents), while those with 4 or 5 children each account for only 0.8 percent (1 respondent in each category). Finally, households with 6 children enrolled represent 1.6 percent (2 respondents).

The data suggests that most households have either one or no children enrolled in government schools, with fewer households having higher numbers of enrolled children. This may point to limitations in access, affordability, or other factors influencing school enrollment trends.

4.1.7.2: Children Going Private School

Table 4.1.7.2: Children Going Private School

Private School	No. of Children (Population base)	Percent
0	111	91.0
1	7	5.7
2	3	2.5
3	1	0.8
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table illustrates the distribution of children enrolled in private schools across various family categories. Among the total of 122 families, the majority 111 families, (91.0 percent) have no children attending private school. A smaller portion of families has one child 7 families, (5.7 percent), two children 3 families, (2.5 percent), or three children 1 family, (0.8 percent) in private school. This shows that most families do not have children in private schools, with only a few families having one or more children enrolled. The percentages for all categories add up to 100 percent, reflecting a complete and accurate distribution of the data.

4.1.8: Family System

Table 4.1.8: Family System

Family System	No. of Family	Percent
Small/Nuclear Family	109	89.3
Joint Family	13	10.7
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table outlines the distribution of family systems within a population of 122 families. It reveals that the vast majority, 109 families or 89.3 percent, belong to the small or nuclear family category, while a smaller group of 13 families, representing 10.7 percent, follow the joint family structure. This data highlights the predominance of nuclear families, with a relatively small proportion adhering to the joint family system. The total number of families is 122, and the percentages across both categories add up to 100 percent, ensuring a complete and accurate depiction of the family system distribution.

4.1.9 : Training Completed

The training Completed of the respondents in our research field are tabulated as follows.

Table 4.1.9 : Training Completed

Training	Frequency	Percent
No traininng	56	49.19
Others	43	35.25
Tailoring and sewing	10	8.2
Carpentry	5	4.1
Plumbing	5	0.8
Teaching	2	1.64
Electrical Works	1	0.82
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table outlines the distribution of training types among a population of 122

individuals. It shows that nearly half of the population, 56 individuals or 49.19 percent, have not participated in any formal training. Among those who have received training, the largest group is categorized as "Others," with 43 individuals (35.25 percent) falling into this category. Training in specific skills is less prevalent, with 10 individuals (8.2 percent) trained in tailoring and sewing, 5 individuals (4.1 percent) in carpentry, and 5 individuals (0.8 percent) in plumbing. A smaller number of individuals have received training in teaching (1.64 percent) and electrical works (0.82 percent). The total population is 122, and the percentages across all categories add up to 100percent, giving a comprehensive overview of the training distribution.

4.1.10 : Occupation

The occupation and economic status of the respondents in our research field are tabulated as follows.

Table 4.1.10 : Family Occupation

Family occupations	Frequency	Percent
Labor work	80	65.56
Private job	12	9.84
Business	12	9.84
Umemployed	9	7.38
Agriculture	5	4.1
Enterprises	3	2.46
Remittance	1	0.82
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table provides a distribution of family occupations within a population of 122 individuals, showing that labor work is by far the most prevalent occupation, with 80 people (65.56 percent) engaged in this sector. This indicates that a significant portion of the population depends on manual or low-skilled labor for their livelihood. Private jobs and business each account for 12 people (9.84 percent), suggesting a smaller but still notable proportion of individuals employed in formal sectors or running their own businesses. A smaller group, 5 individuals (4.1 percent), is involved in agriculture, highlighting a decrease in agrarian occupations in this population. Additionally, 9 individuals (7.38 percent) are unemployed, and smaller percentages are involved in enterprises 3 people, (2.46 percent) and remittance 1 person, (0.82 percent).

Overall, the table reveals a diverse distribution of occupations, with labor work dominating the employment landscape, while private jobs, business, and agriculture play secondary roles. The small numbers in enterprises and remittance indicate that these are less common sources of income, while the unemployment figure suggests some instability within the labor market. The total population is 122, and the percentages across all categories add up to 100percent, providing a comprehensive view of the occupational landscape and the varying levels of employment and economic activity within the population.

4.1.11 : Family Sufficiency

The Family sufficiency of the respondents in our research field are tabulated as follows.

Table 4.1.11 : Family Sufficiency

Food Sufficiency	Frequency	Percent
<3-6 months	4	3.3
<3 months	118	96.7
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table describe the food sufficiency circumstance within a population of 122 individuals. It shows that a large proportion, 118 individuals (96.7 percent), have food availability for less than three months, highlighting a reliance on short-term food resources. In contrast, a smaller group of 4 individuals (3.3 percent) report having sufficient food for a period of three to six months. The total number of individuals is 122, and the percentages across the categories sum to 100 percent, offering a clear view of the food sufficiency distribution. This data suggests that most individuals struggle with long-term food security, with the majority relying on food resources that last for a limited time.

4.1.12: Land holding status

Table 4.1.12: Land holding status

Land holding status	Frequency	Percent
18 ropani	1	0.8
6 ropani	1	0.8
4 ropani	1	0.8
2 ropani	1	0.8
3 ropani	2	1.6
10 Aana	1	0.8
9 Aana	1	0.8
2 Biga	1	0.8
10 dhur	2	1.6
18 dhur	1	0.8
8 dhur	1	0.8
1 kathha	1	0.8
1.5 kathha	1	0.8
0 Aana/Dhur/Ropani/Biga	107	87.7
Total	122	100

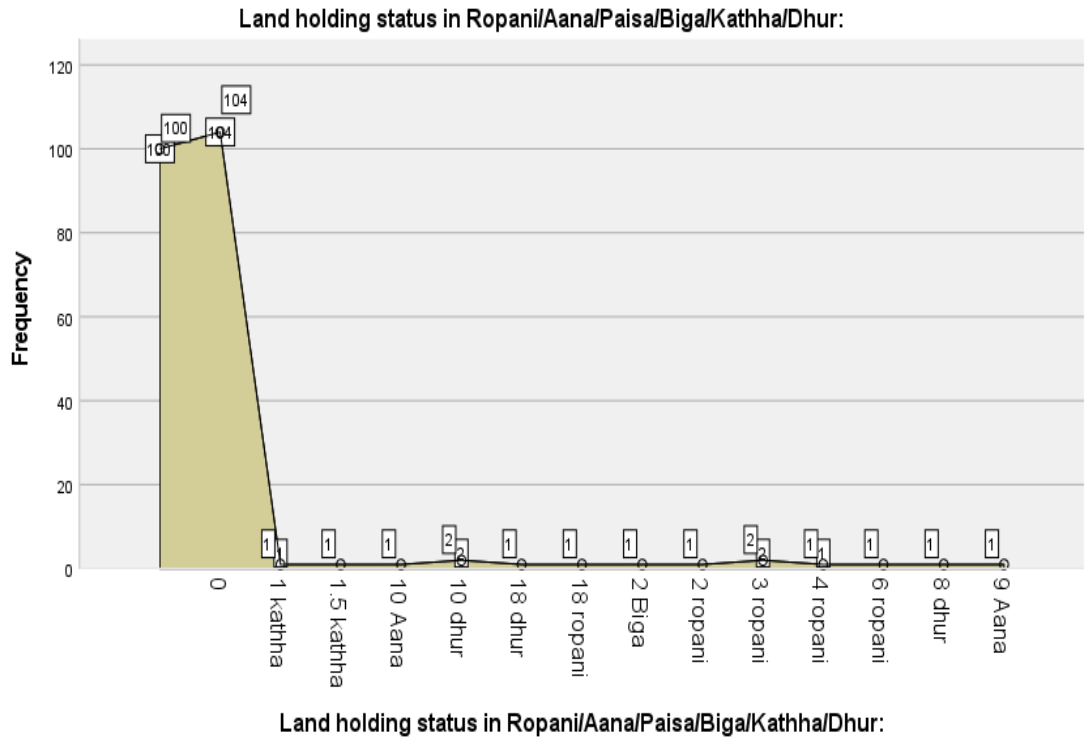
***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table presents the distribution of landholding status within a population of 122 individuals, using various units of measurement such as Ropani, Aana, Paisa, Biga, Kathha, and Dhur. The "Land Holding Status" column outlines the different landholding categories, while the "Frequency" column indicates the number of individuals in each category, and the "Percent" column represents the proportion of individuals in each category as a proportion of the total population.

The data reveals that the vast majority of individuals, 107 (87.7 percent), do not hold any land, as shown in the "0 Aana/Dhur/Ropani/Biga" category. Among those who own land, the distribution is relatively scattered across smaller land sizes. Categories such as 1 Kathha, 1.5 Kathha, 10 Aana, and 10 Dhur each represent 0.8percent of the population. Other landholding sizes, such as 2 Ropani, 3 Ropani, 6 Ropani, and 9 Aana, account for between 0.8percent and 1.6percent of the individuals. The total population

is 122, with the percentages across all categories summing to 100 percent, offering a comprehensive view of landholding status within the population. This data highlights the limited land ownership among the majority of individuals, with only a small portion possessing small plots of land. As shown in Pie chart below;

Figure 5: Land Holding Status



***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

4.1.13 : Annual Income of the Family

The Annual income status of the respondents in our research field are tabulated as follows.

Table 4.1.13 : Annual Income of the Family

Total Annual Income	No. of Respondents (Frequency)	Percent
100001-500000	98	80.3
500001-1000000	14	11.5
1000001-5000000	10	8.2
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table outlines the annual income distribution of families within a sample of 122 respondents. It categorizes income into specific ranges in the "Total Annual Income" column, while the "No. of Respondents (Frequency)" column indicates the number of families within each income bracket. The "Percent" column reflects the proportion of families in each category compared to the total sample.

The data shows that most families, 98 respondents (80.3 percent), earn between 100,001 and 500,000 annually. A smaller group, 14 respondents (11.5 percent), falls within the income range of 500,001 to 1,000,000. The remaining 10 families (8.2 percent) earn between 1,000,001 and 5,000,000. With a total of 122 respondents, the percentages across all categories add up to 100percent. These findings suggest that most families have moderate incomes, with a smaller proportion earning significantly higher amounts.

4.1.14 : Annual Expenditure of the Family

The Annual expenses of the respondents in our research field are tabulated as follows.

Table 4.1.14 : Annual Expenditure of the Family

Annual Expenditure	No. of Respondents (Frequency)	Percent
5000-1000	6	4.9
10000-50000	20	16.4
50001-100000	10	8.2
100001-500000	52	42.6
500001-1000000	19	15.6
1000001-5000000	15	12.3
Total	**122**	**100**

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table outlines the distribution of total annual expenditures among 122 respondents. It organizes the expenditures into various ranges in the "Total Annual Expenditure" column, while the "No. of Respondents (Frequency)" column indicates how many families fall within each category. The "Percent" column reflects the proportion of families in each expenditure range relative to the overall sample.

The data reveals that the largest group of families, 52 respondents (42.6 percent), spend between 100,001 and 500,000 annually. The second largest group, 20 families (16.4

percent), have expenditures ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. Other categories include 19 families (15.6 percent) with annual expenditures between 500,001 and 1,000,000, and 15 families (12.3 percent) spending between 1,000,001 and 5,000,000. Additionally, 10 families (8.2 percent) fall within the 50,001 to 100,000 range, while 6 families (4.9 percent) report expenditures between 5,000 and 10,000. The total number of respondents is 122, with the percentages across all categories totaling 100 percent. These findings suggest that most families in this sample have moderate annual expenditures, particularly in the 100,001

4.2: Socio-cultural and economic situations of the study area

4.2.1: Access to Basic Services and Facilities

Table 4.2.1: Access to Basic Services and Facilities of Socio-cultural

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Basic healthcare services	1	5	1.62	0.965	1.945
Good educational facilities	1	5	2.11	1.019	0.450
Neighborhood Safety	1	5	1.90	1.048	0.989

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table "Access to Basic Services and Facilities on socio-cultural situations" provides an overview of people's views on their access to essential services and their sense of security where the five-point Likert scale of "Strongly Disagree is 1," "Disagree is 2," "Neutral is 3," "Agree is 4," and "Strongly Agree is 5" is commonly used to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, or opinions, providing a clear gradient of agreement or disagreement for data analysis. It examines three key areas: healthcare access, educational facilities, and neighborhood safety. Responses are rated on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating the lowest level of access or agreement and 5 representing the highest. For the statement "My family has access to basic healthcare services," the mean score of 1.62 suggests that most respondents feel they have very limited access to healthcare services. The standard deviation of 0.965 indicates some variation in responses, but the high skewness of 1.945 reveals that the majority of people gave lower ratings, underscoring significant challenges in accessing healthcare. *The government has not provided any healthcare facilities to the people living in this area. As a result, residents often must rely on one another for support in case of health issues or*

emergencies (Rai, P., 2024 [KII]). In the case of "Our community has good educational facilities," the average rating of 2.11 is slightly better but still reflects a general perception of inadequate educational resources. *Our children have not well education, usually children go to the government school at certain times, and it is difficult to give a good education* (Rai, P., 2024 [KII]).

The skewness of 0.450 shows a moderate tendency towards lower scores, indicating that while some people view educational facilities positively, many still feel they are lacking. For "We feel safe and secure in the neighborhood," the mean score of 1.90 shows a lack of security, with many respondents indicating feelings of insecurity in their community. *We don't feel safe here because of the government and natural disasters, we are thread to remove from here by the government People rely on water tankers and purchase jars for clean drinking water, as there is no functioning water taps in the area. Even where water taps exist, they often lack a water supply* (Rai, P., 2024 [KII]). The standard deviation of 1.048 indicates some diversity in responses, but the skewness of 0.989 suggests that most people rated this aspect poorly. Overall, the table illustrates widespread dissatisfaction with basic services and security, with a notable trend towards low ratings across healthcare, education, and safety, signaling that many individuals feel their access to these essential services is limited.

4.2.2: Access to Basic Services and Facilities on Economic Situations

Table 4.2.2: Access to Basic Services and Facilities on Economic Situations

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Enough income to meet daily needs	1	5	1.90	1.048	0.989
Adequate job opportunities	1	5	2.14	1.255	0.777
Access to clean drinking water	1	5	2.34	0.994	0.852

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table presents statistical insights into respondents' perceptions of access to basic services and facilities, including income adequacy, job opportunities, and access to clean drinking water where the five-point Likert scale of "Strongly Disagree is 1,"

"Disagree is 2," "Neutral is 3," "Agree is 4," and "Strongly Agree is 5" is commonly used to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, or opinions, providing a clear gradient of agreement or disagreement for data analysis. For all three items, the lowest possible rating is 1, suggesting that some individuals rated these aspects poorly, while the highest rating of 5 indicates that others rated them favorably. The average scores for each item reveal a general dissatisfaction. The mean score for income adequacy is 1.90, implying that most respondents feel their income is insufficient to meet daily needs. *The lack of stable jobs and fair wages has made it difficult for people to meet their daily needs, forcing many to rely on NGO support. This highlights the urgent need for economic reforms and job creation* (Rai, P., 2024 [KII]). The item on job opportunities has a mean of 2.14, indicating that although job availability is perceived as somewhat better, it still falls below satisfactory levels. *As per the data, the area lacks job opportunities, compelling people to seek work elsewhere as daily wage laborers or in low-salary jobs. This situation forces them to work continuously to fulfill their basic needs* (Rai, K.B., 2024 [KII]). Access to clean drinking water has a mean score of 2.34, suggesting that, while it is somewhat accessible, it is not seen as fully adequate by many respondents. *People rely on water tankers and purchase jars for clean drinking water, as there is no functioning water taps in the area. Even where water taps exist, they often lack a water supply* (Rai, P., 2024 [KII]).

The standard deviations reflect the extent of variation in responses. Income shows a standard deviation of 1.048, meaning there is moderate variation in how people view their income levels. Job opportunities have a higher standard deviation of 1.255, indicating that respondents have a more varied range of opinions on this issue. Access to clean drinking water, with a standard deviation of 0.994, shows moderate variation, with responses generally clustered around the mean but still showing some differences in perceptions.

4.2.3: Economic Opportunities and Living Conditions

Table 4.2.3: Economic Opportunities and Living Conditions

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Enough income to meet daily needs.	1	5	1.90	1.048	0.989
Adequate job opportunities in our area	1	5	2.14	1.255	0.777
Better Living Conditions over past year	1	5	2.13	1.488	0.873
Improved Economic Situation in 5 years	1	5	2.29	1.399	0.503
Support from local organizations	1	5	2.73	1.432	0.420

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table presents descriptive statistics for respondents' perceptions of economic opportunities and living conditions where the five-point Likert scale of "Strongly Disagree is 1," "Disagree is 2," "Neutral is 3," "Agree is 4," and "Strongly Agree is 5" is commonly used to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, or opinions, providing a clear gradient of agreement or disagreement for data analysis. The results generally indicate low satisfaction across most areas. For example, the statement that respondents have enough income to meet their daily needs has a mean score of 1.90, suggesting dissatisfaction with income adequacy. Similarly, the statement about adequate job opportunities in the area has a slightly higher mean score of 2.14, still reflecting a lack of agreement and highlighting limited employment opportunities in the community.

In terms of improvements in living standards, the items regarding the improvement of living conditions over the past year and economic situation over the last five years have mean scores of 2.13 and 2.29, respectively. While these scores indicate a slightly more optimistic view of economic progress, the overall sentiment remains predominantly negative. The statement about receiving support from local organizations for needs shows the highest mean score of 2.73, indicating comparatively greater satisfaction with the assistance provided by local organizations. *The economic situation has not improved in the past five years, primarily due to a shortage of job opportunities and a lack of skilled workers. Consequently, people's financial conditions continue to worsen, making it difficult for them to sustain their livelihoods, and they still rely on*

organizations that provide essential relief, and the data has shown well (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]).

Standard deviation values range from 1.048 to 1.488, reflecting moderate to high variability in the responses. The largest variation is observed in perceptions of improvements in living conditions, suggesting differing opinions on this matter. Positive skewness values across all items indicate that responses are concentrated at the lower end of the scale, with the lowest skewness value of 0.420 observed for support from local organizations, implying a relatively even distribution of responses for this item.

In summary, the findings point to persistent economic challenges within the community, including inadequate income, limited job opportunities, and slow progress in improving living conditions, despite some assistance from local organizations. These results highlight the necessity for targeted interventions to improve economic conditions and address the community's basic needs.

4.2.4: Social and Community Engagement

Table 4.2.4: Social and Community Engagement

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Neighborhood Safety	1	5	1.90	1.048	0.989
Community Cultural Activities	1	5	3.75	1.458	-0.393
Strong Social Relationships	1	5	3.46	1.607	-0.198
Local decision-making processes	1	5	2.66	1.476	0.019

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table presents descriptive statistics for various items assessing respondents' perceptions of safety, cultural activities, social relationships, and participation in local decision-making where the five-point Likert scale of "Strongly Disagree is 1," "Disagree is 2," "Neutral is 3," "Agree is 4," and "Strongly Agree is 5" is commonly used to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, or opinions, providing a clear

gradient of agreement or disagreement for data analysis. The results reveal varying levels of satisfaction across these dimensions.

The statement on safety in the neighborhood has a mean of 1.90, indicating low levels of perceived safety. *In August, a devastating flood affected the communities living along the Bagmati River. Many of the residents, who reside on government land, faced the possibility of their homes being demolished as the authorities considered relocating them. This has created a sense of insecurity and uncertainty among the people, who are already struggling with the aftermath of the flood.* (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]). In contrast, the item on cultural events and activities in the community received the highest mean of 3.75, suggesting strong satisfaction with cultural engagement. The statement regarding social relationships within the community has a mean of 3.46, reflecting positive views on social ties. The item on participation in local decision-making processes shows a mean of 2.66, indicating moderate involvement but with room for improvement in community engagement. *The community members foster mutual support and strong social ties, with active involvement in decision-making processes. People of various ethnicities and religions come together to organize cultural events and activities within the community* (Rai, P., 2024 [KII]).

The standard deviation values, ranging from 1.048 to 1.607, demonstrate varying levels of response variability. The highest variability in perceptions is observed in social relationships, highlighting differing opinions among respondents. Skewness values further reveal the distribution of responses. The item about safety shows positive skewness of 0.989, indicating that most responses are concentrated at the lower end of the scale. In contrast, cultural activities with a skewness of -0.393 and social relationships with a skewness of -0.198 exhibit slight negative skewness, suggesting a tendency toward higher levels of agreement. The item on participation in decision-making shows a skewness of 0.019, indicating a nearly balanced distribution of responses.

In summary, the findings reflect mixed perceptions of community engagement. While cultural activities and social relationships are generally viewed positively, concerns about safety and limited participation in decision-making highlight areas for improvement to foster a more inclusive and secure community.

4.3 Poverty reduction project implemented by government and non-government agencies

4.3.1: Government Poverty Reduction Livelihood and Services Programs

Table 4.3.1: Government Poverty Reduction Livelihood and Services Programs

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Improve living conditions.	1	5	2.41	1.459	0.392
Benefit healthcare services.	1	5	2.70	1.383	0.794
Improved access to education.	1	5	2.54	1.158	1.035
Job training programs	1	5	2.31	1.267	1.029
Improved our living standards.	1	5	2.61	1.209	1.181
Received financial aid schemes.	1	5	2.75	1.210	0.958
Policies Support for Small Businesses.	1	5	2.78	1.216	0.715

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table provides a comprehensive analysis of respondents' views on the impact of government programs on their livelihoods and access to essential services where the five-point Likert scale of "Strongly Disagree is 1," "Disagree is 2," "Neutral is 3," "Agree is 4," and "Strongly Agree is 5" is commonly used to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, or opinions, providing a clear gradient of agreement or disagreement for data analysis. The findings indicate varied levels of satisfaction across different government initiatives.

The statement on the improvement of living conditions through government programs has a mean score of 2.41, suggesting that respondents generally feel that these programs have not significantly enhanced their living conditions. Similarly, respondents expressed dissatisfaction with government job training programs and educational initiatives, as reflected by mean scores of 2.31 and 2.54, respectively. These scores indicate that respondents do not perceive these programs as effectively addressing their

employment and educational needs. *It is evident that the government has not taken steps to improve living conditions or initiate job training and educational programs* (Rai, K.B., 2024 [KII]).

In contrast, government programs related to healthcare services, financial aid, and housing show slightly better, though still moderate, levels of satisfaction. The mean score for the statement on government healthcare services is 2.70, and for financial aid from government schemes, it is 2.75. These results indicate some acknowledgment of benefits, but the overall impact is not highly positive. Similarly, the statement regarding government housing projects improving living standards received a mean score of 2.61, suggesting a moderate level of agreement, yet also indicating room for further improvement. *According to Bhandari, government programs on healthcare, financial aid, and housing show moderate dissatisfaction but government did not work solidly but coordinate with NGOs or other organizations, indicating some benefits but couldn't also highlighting the need for improvement* (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]).

The statement on government policies facilitating small business start-ups stands out with the highest mean score of 2.78. Although still on the lower end of the scale, this suggests a relatively more favorable perception of government support for entrepreneurship compared to other areas. *No such policies have been put into action, and it seems the government has no intention of enhancing the lives of the people* (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]).

The standard deviation values range from 1.158 to 1.459, indicating some variability in responses. The greatest variability was observed in the perception of improved living conditions, with an SD of 1.459, suggesting that experiences with government initiatives differ significantly among respondents. Positive skewness values for all items point to a general trend of responses clustering at the lower end of the scale, indicating dissatisfaction with the government programs. The highest skewness values were seen in housing projects 1.181 and educational initiatives 1.035, further emphasizing the negative perception in these areas. In contrast, financial aid programs had a lower skewness value 0.958, suggesting a more balanced range of responses. *As observed, the government has not played a role in improving living conditions or implemented any educational or financial aid programs for the community* (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]).

In summary, the findings indicate that while some government programs, such as small business support and financial aid, were viewed less favorably, programs in areas such as job training, education, and housing were perceived as less effective. These results highlight the need for targeted improvements in government initiatives, with a focus on better addressing community needs and enhancing the overall impact of these programs.

4.3.2: Contributions of NGOs to Community Development

Table 4.3.2: Contributions of NGOs to Community Development

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Provide essential services	1	5	2.72	1.281	1.042
Impact on Children Education	1	5	1.89	1.398	1.186
Received healthcare support	1	5	2.17	1.176	0.310
Community Infrastructure Initiatives	1	4	1.99	1.223	0.650
Improved quality of life	1	5	2.17	1.133	1.213

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table presents descriptive statistics on respondents' views regarding the impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on essential services and community development. The responses show varying degrees of perception across different areas. The statement NGOs have provided us with essential services has a mean score of 2.72, indicating a moderate level of agreement, suggesting that respondents generally recognize some contributions from NGOs in providing essential services. In contrast, the statement NGO programs have helped improve our children's education has a lower mean of 1.89, pointing to widespread disagreement, suggesting that respondents feel NGO programs have had little to no impact on education. Similarly, the statement “We have received healthcare support from NGOs has a mean score of 2.17, reflecting a relatively low level of approval, indicating that healthcare support from NGOs is viewed as insufficient or ineffective. *We have provided a well essential services and goods by Different NGOs organization and help in children education by providing scholarship or free education and have get regular health care support from NGOs*

(Tamang, S.,2024 [KII]).

The item NGO initiatives have improved our community's infrastructure has a mean of 1.99, indicating limited agreement with the idea that NGOs have made significant contributions to improving infrastructure. The statement NGO support has been crucial in improving our overall quality of life has a mean score of 2.17, which shows some recognition of NGO efforts, but the overall sentiment still points to a lack of significant impact on quality of life. *NGOs have provided essential services and goods but don't have help in improving quality of life and community infrastructure* (Tamang, S.,2024 [KII]).

The standard deviation values, ranging from 1.133 to 1.398, reflect a moderate to high level of variability in responses, with the greatest variation seen in perceptions of the impact of NGO programs on children's education. This suggests that opinions on the effectiveness of NGO initiatives differ widely among respondents. *Some of the children have gotten a well education and get-well position in the school or collages level* (Tamang, S.,2024 [KII]).

Skewness values for all items are positive, indicating that most responses are concentrated towards the lower end of the scale. The highest skewness of 1.213 is observed for the statement regarding overall quality of life, which suggests that most respondents rated this aspect negatively. The item on healthcare support from NGOs shows the least skewness of 0.310, reflecting a more balanced range of opinions. *Free regular checkup but didn't get any medicine or treatment, in case of natural disasters such as flood the government, and NGOs have help in healthcare facilities last month* (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]).

In conclusion, while NGOs are acknowledged for their role in providing essential services, the data highlights widespread dissatisfaction regarding their impact in areas such as education, infrastructure, healthcare, and overall quality of life. The findings suggest that NGOs may need to reevaluate and strengthen their programs to more effectively meet the needs of the community.

4.3.3: Skill Development and Income Generation Support

Table 4.3.3: Skill Development and Income Generation Support

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
Improve income through various projects	1	5	2.11	1.134
Received training and skill development from NGOs	1	5	2.10	1.040

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table provides descriptive statistics for two survey items assessing respondents' views on skill development and income generation support provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The responses indicate relatively moderate levels of agreement with these initiatives.

The statement NGOs have helped us improve our income through various projects has a mean score of 2.11, reflecting a neutral to slightly negative perception of the income improvement efforts led by NGOs. This suggests that while some respondents may recognize the contributions of NGO-led projects, there is no strong agreement regarding their effectiveness in significantly boosting income levels. Similarly, the item We have received training and skill development from NGOs also scores a mean of 2.10, indicating a similarly subdued perception of the impact of NGO training programs on skill development. *The NGOs have not made substantial efforts to generate income through diverse projects, instead offering only temporary work opportunities like construction. Furthermore, the community has not received any training or skill development programs from the NGOs* (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]).

The standard deviations for both items are 1.134 and 1.040, respectively, suggesting a moderate level of variation in the responses. While there is some diversity in how respondents view the support provided by NGOs, the responses are not highly dispersed, indicating a general trend of somewhat similar perceptions. *In my view, the responses show a moderate variation in how people perceive the support provided by NGOs. While there are some differences in opinions, most individuals seem to share a similar perspective on the assistance offered, suggesting that the general perception is consistent* (Rai, K.B., 2024 [KII]).

Overall, the findings suggest that while NGOs may contribute to skill development and

income generation, their impact is perceived to be modest. These results point to the potential need for more comprehensive and effective programs aimed at improving income opportunities and providing skill development in the community.

4.4 Analysis of government and NGOs initiatives

4.4.1: Social Analysis of Government Initiatives

Table 4.4.1: Social Analysis of Government Initiatives

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Better access to healthcare.	1	5	2.79	1.427	0.713
Enhanced children's education prospects	1	5	2.39	1.040	1.320
Feel more secure safety initiatives	1	5	2.60	1.190	1.094

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table evaluates the social impact of three government programs related to healthcare, education, and safety. For healthcare access, the mean score of 2.79 indicates that, on average, respondents somewhat disagree with the statement that government programs have notably improved healthcare access. The standard deviation of 1.427 reflects a broad range of opinions about the effectiveness of these services, with the positive skewness of 0.713 suggesting that while some respondents view these programs positively, the overall perception leans slightly negative.

In terms of government education programs and their influence on children's future prospects, the mean score of 2.39 shows that most respondents disagree with the idea that these programs have significantly improved children's opportunities. The standard deviation of 1.040 indicates moderate variation in responses, while the positive skewness of 1.320 suggests that a larger number of respondents strongly disagree with the effectiveness of these educational initiatives. *From my perspective, the government has not introduced any programs to support the community, nor has there been an effort to create job opportunities to boost household income. As a result, many people continue to face economic difficulties, with limited chances for financial advancement or security* (Rai, K.B., 2024 [KII]).

For safety initiatives, the mean score of 2.60 suggests that, on average, respondents

somewhat disagree with the idea that government safety measures have improved their sense of security. This indicates that these programs are not perceived as highly effective. The standard deviation of 1.190 shows some variation in the responses, and the skewness of 1.094 indicates that a larger group of respondents feels less secure, pointing to a more critical view of these safety programs.

Overall, the data suggests that while government programs in healthcare, education, and safety are acknowledged, they are generally perceived as somewhat ineffective or neutral. The wide range of responses and the positive skewness imply that many respondents are dissatisfied with these initiatives.

4.4.2: Economical Analysis of Government Initiatives

Table 4.4.2 Economical Analysis of Government Initiatives

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Improved in household income	1	5	2.07	1.074	0.601
Projects Improved housing conditions	1	5	2.57	1.298	0.717
Job creation reduced unemployment	1	5	2.65	1.113	1.139

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table evaluates the economic impact of government programs on household income, housing, and job creation. For household income, the average score of 2.07 shows that most respondents don't think government programs have significantly improved their income, indicating a generally negative view. The standard deviation of 1.074 suggests a moderate range of opinions, and the positive skew of 0.601 means that while some respondents see these programs more positively, the majority do not. *We have not received any support from the government for improving household chores and did not get any health facilities or services* (Rai, K.B., 2024 [KII]).

Regarding housing conditions, the average score of 2.57 indicates that most respondents don't believe government housing programs have made a big improvement in their living situations. This reflects a slightly negative perception of these programs. The higher standard deviation of 1.298 shows that opinions vary more, and the positive skew of 0.717 suggests that a few people have a more favorable view, though most still feel critical. *The government have not provided any facilities or services till now where*

*some relief materials are provided in the disasters periods but no other periods (*Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]).

For job creation programs, the average score of 2.65 suggests that respondents don't think these initiatives have effectively reduced unemployment in their area. This shows that the programs are generally seen as ineffective. The standard deviation of 1.113 indicates some difference in responses, and the positive skew of 1.139 suggests that more people are dissatisfied with these programs, though a few feel more positive about them.

In summary, the data suggests that government programs aimed at improving income, housing, and job creation are mostly seen as ineffective or only somewhat helpful. While there is a slight positive trend in responses, the overall opinion is negative, indicating a need for improvements in these initiatives to better meet people's needs.

4.4.3: Role of NGOs in Community Development

Table 4.4.3: Role of NGOs in Community Development

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Improved our household income	1	5	2.89	1.331	0.556
Better healthcare access	1	5	2.20	1.164	0.774
Enhancement of children's education	1	5	1.78	1.175	1.281
Improvement of housing conditions	1	5	2.24	1.213	0.491

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table analyzes the perceived impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on various aspects of community development, including household income, healthcare, education, and housing. The responses, measured on a 1 to 5 scale, reflect differing levels of agreement with the statements provided.

The statement "NGO initiatives have significantly improved our household income" yielded a mean score of 2.89, suggesting that while respondents acknowledged some positive impact, the improvements in household income were not substantial. Similarly, "We have better access to healthcare due to NGO programs" received a mean of 2.20, indicating that, although healthcare access was somewhat improved, respondents

remained largely dissatisfied with the effectiveness of NGO healthcare programs. *In my view, the NGOs has not offered any assistance for household improvements, or employment opportunity, resulting in continued economic struggles for many people but have provide the essential goods and services and have provided the health facilities* (Rai, K.B., 2024 [KII]) (Rai, P., 2024 [KII]).

The statement "NGO education programs have enhanced our children's future prospects" received the lowest mean score of 1.78, reflecting considerable dissatisfaction with the educational support provided by NGOs. This indicates that respondents did not perceive these programs as significantly improving their children's future opportunities. In terms of housing, the statement "Our housing conditions have improved due to NGO projects" had a mean score of 2.24, which suggests modest improvements in housing conditions, but again, not a strong agreement from the respondents. *Although we have received some assistance from NGOs, it has been limited. A few individuals have managed to enhance their children's education, but overall living conditions have not improved. The relief provided by the NGOs was temporary and mainly consisted of goods, without resulting in long-term changes* (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]) (Tamang, S.,2024 [KII]).

The standard deviations for these items, ranging from 1.164 to 1.331, reveal varying levels of response variability, with the most significant variability found in perceptions of household income improvements. This suggests that respondents had diverse opinions regarding the extent of the NGOs' contribution to income enhancement. Skewness values were positive for all items, indicating that most responses were concentrated at the lower end of the scale, implying general dissatisfaction. The highest skewness, 1.281, was observed in the education programs, pointing to a strong negative perception of their effectiveness.

In summary, while there is some recognition of the positive impact of NGOs on household income, healthcare, housing, and education, the overall perception remains largely negative or neutral. These findings suggest that NGOs need to improve their programs to better meet the community's needs and create more meaningful, sustainable improvements.

4.4.4: Security, Poverty, and Employment Support

Table 4.4.4: Security, Poverty, and Employment Support

Items	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness
Government Safety Initiatives	1	5	2.60	1.190	1.094
NGO Job Creation	1	5	2.25	1.208	0.428
NGO safety initiatives.	1	5	2.36	0.971	0.154
NGO Support Reduces Poverty	1	5	2.08	1.057	0.432

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

The table presents an analysis of respondent's views on the impact of security, poverty reduction, and employment support programs offered by both government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Ratings, on a scale from 1 to 5, reveal varying levels of satisfaction with these initiatives.

The item We feel more secure due to government safety initiatives has a mean score of 2.60, reflecting a generally negative perception of the effectiveness of government safety programs. The standard deviation of 1.190 indicates a wide variation in responses, suggesting that while some respondents feel more secure, others do not. The positive skewness value of 1.094 points to a concentration of responses at the lower end of the scale, indicating greater dissatisfaction with government safety efforts. *We have not been provided with any safety measures, and the support we've received has been insufficient. The government wants us to relocate without any social security, and no initiatives have been implemented to help us* (Rai, K.B., 2024 [KII]).

In terms of employment support, the statement NGO job creation programs have reduced unemployment in our area received a mean score of 2.25, signaling a largely unfavorable view of the effectiveness of NGO job creation initiatives. With a standard deviation of 1.208, the responses show some degree of variability, but the overall low mean reflects a general sense of dissatisfaction. The skewness value of 0.428 is positive but moderate, suggesting a slight tendency towards more negative responses, though opinions are somewhat mixed. *The NGOs have contributed to education by improving learning opportunities, but they have not provided any job opportunities or skill-building training for income generation for us. As a result, many individuals are still*

facing challenges in securing stable livelihoods (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]) (Tamang, S., 2024 [KII]).

Regarding security improvements from NGO initiatives, the statement We feel more secure due to NGO safety initiatives has a mean score of 2.36, indicating a mild negative view of the effectiveness of these programs. The lower standard deviation 0.971 suggests a more consistent perception of NGO safety efforts, with responses mostly clustered around the middle or lower end of the scale. The skewness of 0.154 suggests that responses are fairly balanced, though slightly leaning towards dissatisfaction. *We appreciate the safety measures implemented by the NGOs, including relief funds and continued assistance with basic needs to help us manage our households. However, they have not offered any programs aimed at generating income* (Tamang, S., 2024 [KII]).

Lastly, the item NGO support has been effective in reducing poverty in our community shows a mean score of 2.08, the lowest among the items, highlighting a strong sense of dissatisfaction with the role of NGOs in poverty alleviation. The standard deviation of 1.057 indicates a moderate spread of responses, signifying some variation in individual views. The positive skewness value of 0.432 reflects a slight tendency toward negative responses. *The NGOs have supplied essential resources when needed and provided education and health services. However, they have not introduced any training or opportunities for income generation for us, such as employment. Consequently, people continue to face difficulties in sustaining their livelihoods* (Bhandari, R.P., 2024 [KII]) (Rai, K.B., 2024 [KII]).

Overall, the data suggests that while there are some initiatives from both the government and NGOs aimed at improving security, employment, and poverty reduction, respondents largely perceive these efforts as ineffective. The findings underscore the need for more impactful and better-implemented programs to address the community's concerns and improve the overall outcomes of these initiatives.

Chapter V: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Summary

The thesis titled Impact of Poverty Reduction Efforts on Livelihood: A Study of Slum Areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Ward No. 14 examines the socio-economic challenges faced by slum dwellers and assesses the effectiveness of poverty alleviation measures implemented by the government and NGOs. It highlights pressing issues such as inadequate access to healthcare, education, and sanitation, alongside persistent unemployment and economic instability. The research underscores poverty as a multidimensional problem, where interconnected deficits in income, health, education, and housing perpetuate cycles of hardship.

Despite government initiatives to improve healthcare, education, and public safety, residents report minimal improvements in their living conditions. Similarly, efforts to boost income, enhance housing, and create employment opportunities have not significantly improved economic stability or living standards. While NGOs have made contributions by delivering essential services, enhancing infrastructure, and initiating income-generating activities, their impact has been limited due to the lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities. The study stresses the importance of involving local communities in the planning and implementation of poverty alleviation programs to ensure these efforts address the residents' needs and priorities effectively.

The findings reveal that although government and NGO interventions have achieved some progress, they are insufficient to tackle the deep-rooted socio-economic issues of slum communities. Attempts to enhance education, housing, and employment have shown limited success in stabilizing livelihoods or improving quality of life. Many residents continue to struggle with extreme poverty, compounded by inadequate access to critical services such as healthcare and sanitation. Significant gaps remain in job creation, housing policies, and education, with existing programs often failing to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

The partnership between NGOs and the government in Kathmandu Metropolitan City plays a crucial role in addressing poverty. NGOs bring innovative approaches and focus on grassroots-level engagement, while the government provides essential policy frameworks, funding, and infrastructure. Although challenges such as resource

limitations, coordination issues, and bureaucratic inefficiencies persist, the collaboration has significantly empowered marginalized communities, improved access to essential services, and promoted sustainable development. To further strengthen poverty alleviation efforts, it is essential to prioritize transparent resource management, enhance capacity-building initiatives, and foster deeper collaboration. This united effort highlights the importance of collective responsibility and cooperation in tackling urban poverty.

The thesis advocates for a rights-based approach to poverty alleviation, emphasizing the need to address systemic inequalities, empower marginalized groups, and promote inclusive and participatory development. It identifies strengthening legal frameworks, building institutional capacities, and engaging communities in decision-making as essential steps toward sustainable poverty reduction. Ultimately, the study concludes that a holistic and transformative strategy, focusing on inclusivity, sustainability, and community-driven solutions, is crucial for achieving meaningful and lasting improvements in the lives of slum residents.

5.2 Conclusion

The study concludes that although government and NGO initiatives have delivered certain benefits, their overall impact remains inadequate in addressing the entrenched challenges of the slum community. Government programs often fail to adequately cater to the needs of the most vulnerable populations, while NGO efforts frequently lack the sustainability necessary for long-term progress. To bring about meaningful and lasting improvements, the study emphasizes the need for a transition toward inclusive, participatory, and rights-based approaches.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Policy Enhancements:

- Improve access to affordable education, healthcare, and vocational training programs to uplift the community's quality of life.
- Implement affordable housing solutions, including subsidies and secure land tenure for slum residents.
- Incorporate slum areas into comprehensive urban development plans, addressing essential infrastructure like sanitation, transportation, and utility

services.

- Establish participatory governance mechanisms to involve residents in decision-making and planning processes.

5.3.2 NGO and INGO Strategies:

- Prioritize initiatives focused on skill development, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy to promote self-reliance.
- Collaborate with government programs to synchronize efforts, avoid duplication, and maximize impact.
- Foster community empowerment through the formation and support of cooperatives and self-help groups.

5.3.3 Global Support:

- Align local poverty reduction efforts with international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and provide technical expertise to enhance the effectiveness of local programs.
- Link financial assistance to regular independent evaluations to ensure program accountability and effectiveness.

5.3.4 Future Research Priorities:

- Conduct ethnographic studies to deeply understand the challenges, needs, and aspirations of slum communities.
- Evaluate the long-term effectiveness of government and NGO initiatives to identify best practices and areas for improvement.
- Investigate the potential of digital technologies to expand access to services and foster economic opportunities.
- Assess the environmental sustainability of poverty alleviation programs to ensure they are ecologically sound.
- Benchmark local initiatives against successful global practices to adopt proven strategies.
- Develop localized poverty metrics to design more targeted and effective interventions.
- Employ predictive modeling and simulations for evidence-based policymaking that anticipates challenges and optimizes outcomes.

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Appendixes

Appendix A: Recommendation Letter from the University

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ग्रामीण विकास केन्द्रीय विभाग

विभागीय प्रमुखको कार्यालय
कीर्तिपुर, काठमाडौं, नेपाल ।
Office of the Head of Department
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ref. No. :.....

Date मिति.....
२०८१।०८।१०

जो जससँग सम्बन्ध छ ।

यस विभागमा स्नातकोत्तर तहमा अध्ययनरत रोल नं. १० का श्री राहुल अर्यालले चौथो सेमेस्टर पुरा गरी Impact of Poverty Reduction in Livelihood विषयमा शोध कार्य गरिरहनु भएकोले अनुसन्धान तथा खोजकार्यका लागी निज विद्यार्थीलाई आवश्यक सहयोग गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु ।

.....

सह-प्रा.विष्णु वहादुर खत्री
विभागीय प्रमुख

Tel.: 977-1- 4333581, 977-1- 4331383, Website: www.cdrd.edu.np, E-mail : contact@cdrd.edu.np

Appendix B: Household Survey Questionnaire

Section A: General Information

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Sex of the respondent: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Others
4. Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐ Single Woman ☐ Single Man
5. Caste/ethnicity: ☐ Chhetri ☐ Brahmin ☐ Bishwokarma ☐ Thakuri ☐ Other
6. Religion: ☐ Hindu ☐ Bouddha ☐ Kirat ☐ Others, then please specify.....
7. Your formal educational status: ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Higher ☐ Illiterate
8. Your subject specification in higher education: ☐ Management ☐ Education ☐ Arts and Humanities ☐ Sciences and Technology ☐ Health ☐ Engineering ☐ Agriculture ☐ Forestry ☐ Animal Science/Veterinary ☐ IT ☐ Others
9. Family system: ☐ Joint family ☐ Nuclear family
10. Total numbers of female members..... and total numbers of male members.....
11. Total numbers of female members..... and total numbers of male members.....
12. Number of school-going children: Government school …… Private school……
13. Number of college-going children: Government college/university ……... Private college…….
14. Any training you have completed:□ Plumbing □ Electrical Work □ Handcraft and artisanal skill □ Mobile phone Repairing □ Carpentry □ Tailoring and sewing □ Entrepreneurship development □ Saving and credit
15. Family occupations: ☐ Agriculture ☐ Enterprises ☐ Business ☐ Govt. job ☐ Private job ☐Remittance
16. Food Sufficiency: ☐ <3 months ☐ 3-6 months☐ 9-12 Months☐ >12 Months
17. Land holding status in Ropani/Biga: ……
18. Annual income and expenditure of your family:

Land Measurement
1 Bigha = 20 Kathha,
1 Kathha = 20 Dhur
1 Ropani = 16 Aana
1 Aana = 4 Paisa
1 Paisa = 4 Daam

Income	NRs	Expenditure	NRs.
Local shop		Daily consumption	
Crop products		Clothing	
Government job		Cultural celebration	
Private job		Child education	
Daily wage		Medicine	
Remittance		Accessories/gold	
Others		Visit/pilgrimage	
Total		Total	

Section B: 19. Identify the Socio-Cultural and Economic Situations of the Respondents

Measurement Scale: - 1. Strongly Disagree 2. Disagree 3. Neutral 4. Agree 5. Strongly Agree

No.	Question	1	2	3	4	5
19.1	My family has access to basic healthcare services.					
19.2	We have enough income to meet our daily needs.					
19.3	Our community has good educational facilities.					
19.4	We feel safe and secure in our neighborhood.					
19.5	There are adequate job opportunities in our area.					
19.6	We have access to clean drinking water.					
19.7	Cultural events and activities are regularly organized in our community.					
19.8	Our living conditions have improved over the past year.					
19.9	We have access to affordable transportation.					
19.1	Our community has good sanitation facilities.					
19.11	We have access to financial services like banks and loans.					
19.12	Our social relationships within the community are strong.					
19.13	We participate in local decision-making processes.					
19.14	Our economic situation has improved in the last five years.					
19.15	We receive support from local organizations for our needs.					

Section C: 20. Assess the Poverty Reduction Project Implemented by Government and Non-Government Agencies
Measurement Scale: 1. Strongly Disagree 2. Disagree 3. Neutral 4. Agree 5. Strongly Agree

No.	Question	1	2	3	4	5
20.1	Government programs have helped improve our living conditions.					
20.2	We have benefited from government healthcare services.					
20.3	Government education initiatives have improved our access to education.					
20.4	Government job training programs have helped us find employment.					
20.5	Government housing projects have improved our living standards.					
20.6	We have received financial aid from government schemes.					
20.7	Government policies have made it easier for us to start small businesses.					
20.8	Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have provided us with essential services.					
20.9	NGO programs have helped improve our children's education.					
20.10	We have received healthcare support from NGOs.					
20.11	NGOs have helped us improve our income through various projects.					
20.12	NGO initiatives have improved our community's infrastructure.					
20.13	We have received training and skill development from NGOs.					
20.14	NGO support has been crucial in improving our overall quality of life.					

Section D: Analyze the Impact of Government and Non-Government Agencies' Initiatives on the Livelihood of People

Measurement Scale: - 1. Strongly Disagree 2. Disagree 3. Neutral 4. Agree 5. Strongly Agree

No.	Question	1	2	3	4	5
21.1	Government initiatives have significantly improved our household income.					
21.2	We have better access to healthcare due to government programs.					
21.3	Government education programs have enhanced our children's future prospects.					
21.4	Our housing conditions have improved due to government projects.					
21.5	Government job creation programs have reduced unemployment in our area.					
21.6	We feel more secure due to government safety initiatives.					
21.7	Government support has been effective in reducing poverty in our community.					
21.8	NGO initiatives have significantly improved our household income.					
21.9	We have better access to healthcare due to NGO programs.					
21.1	NGO education programs have enhanced our children's future prospects.					
21.11	Our housing conditions have improved due to NGO projects.					
21.12	NGO job creation programs have reduced unemployment in our area.					
21.13	We feel more secure due to NGO safety initiatives.					
21.14	NGO support has been effective in reducing poverty in our community.					

Appendix C: Key Informants Interview Guidelines

For Community Leaders and Local Residents

1. **Socio-Cultural and Economic Situations**

   - What are the main economic challenges faced by the residents in this area?
   - How accessible are basic services like healthcare, education, and sanitation for the community members?
   - Can you describe any recent improvements in the living conditions of the community?

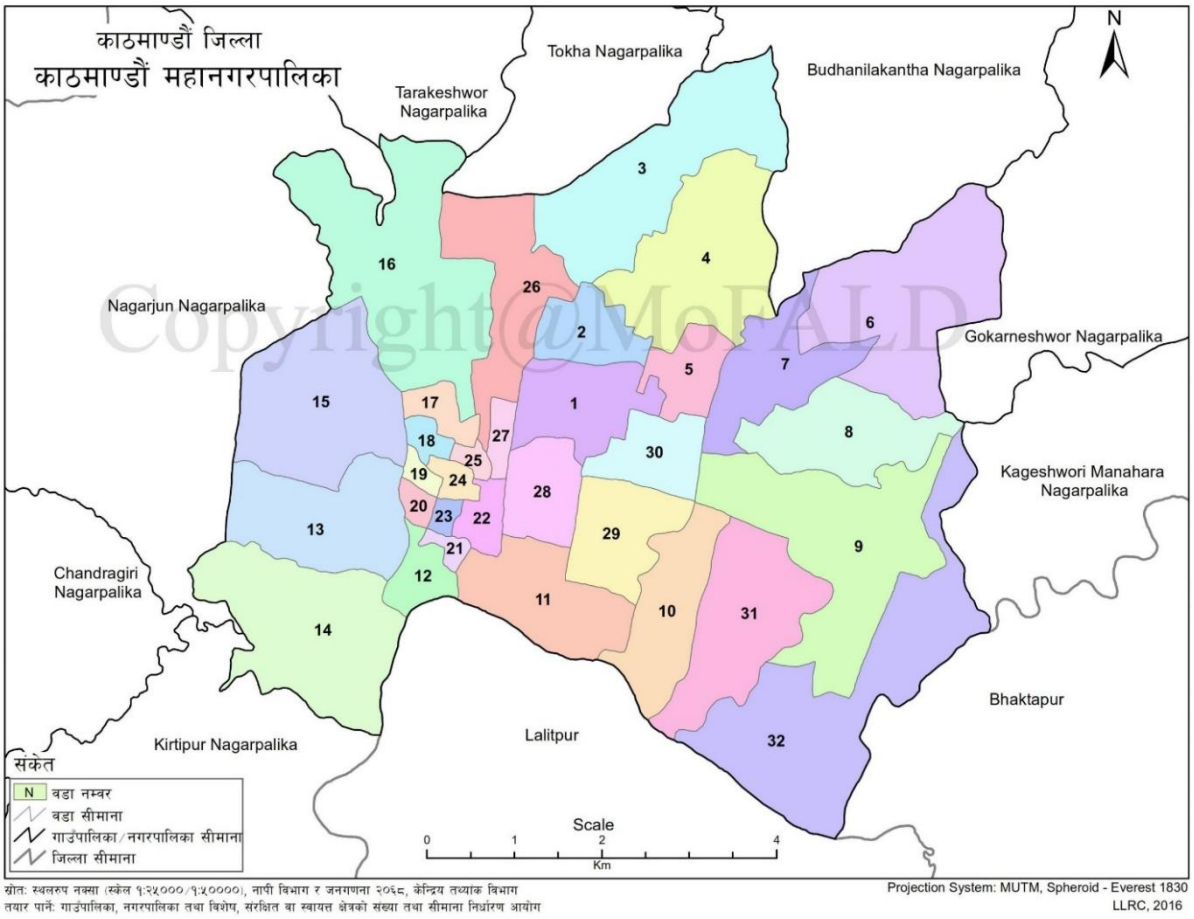
2. **Poverty Reduction Projects**

   - How effective have government programs been in improving the living conditions of the community?
   - What role do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play in providing essential services to the community?
   - Can you share any success stories of income improvement through NGO projects?

3. **Impact of Initiatives on Livelihood**

   - How have government initiatives impacted household incomes in the community?
   - How significant has NGO support been in reducing poverty and improving the quality of life in the community?

Appendix D: Map of Kathmandu Metropolitan City



Appendix E: - Photo Gallery

Glimpse of study area of Slum Area in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Ward No -14

Questionnairing with Local Women at Study Area

Questionnairing with Respondent 1

Questionnairing with Respondent

Shelter of Respondent 1

Shelter of Responden

Questionnairing with Respondent 3

Partially Destructed House by Flood

Area effected by flood

Inside Area of Slum

Questionnairing with Respondent 4 in Slum area