

**A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON INVOLVEMENT OF
WOMEN IN INCOME GENERATION THROUGH SMALL
BUSINESS IN POKHARA -7, PRAGATI TOLE**

A Thesis Submitted to:

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Ms. Roshni Gurung has completed this thesis entitled “**A Sociological Study on Involvement of Women in Income Generation through Small Business in Pokhara -7, Pragati Tole**” under my supervision and guidance for the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology. This is an original work. I, therefore recommend this thesis for final approval and acceptance.

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APPROVAL LETTER

The thesis presented by Miss Roshni Gurung, entitled "**A Sociological Study on Involvement of Women in Income Generation through Small Business in Pokhara -7, Pragati tole**" has been approved by the Thesis Evaluation Committee under the Department of Sociology, Prithvi Narayan Campus, for the partial fulfilment of academic requirement for the completion of Master of Arts in Sociology.

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ABSTRACT

Income generation and business, traditionally are seen as a male preserve, has witnessed increasing participation from female in recent years. Nepal is not an exception to this emerging trend. It has brought about many changes in the society. However, there are many structural and socio-cultural constraints that affect the growth of women entrepreneurship. This study provides a preliminary analysis for the research question about the patterns of income generation of women in Pokhara-7 through small business and the changes brought by it. The study was conducted based on census method among the women who were involved in small business from Pragati tole, Pokhara-7. The data required for the study was obtained via interview schedule and key informant interview. Literature reviews from variety of well-researched journals and articles were also done. From the finding of the study, most of the respondents fell into the age bracket 20-40 (96%), majority were married (84%), and 86% had been running the business for more than a year. It was found that women have access to credits and 70% of the women had taken their own initiative to start up the business. Majority of the women (81%) had their business registered. Women's group played a beneficial role in business, the respondents had financial benefit from these groups by utilizing credit. Majority (89%) of women were living in a nuclear family. It could be seen that women from nuclear families are more likely to run a business as they have less household responsibilities and it's easier to take decisions. The women not only received financial support but also received encouragement, moral support and increased customers for their business from these groups. Generating income from small business has made women self-reliant on financial issues for their households. With financial achievements, women have also become confident and have developed network in their community. Involving in business have made them more active and respected in their society. Their enhancement in capacity through business has also engaged them in leadership roles in different groups and social activities. The women are investing their income on their children's education thus contributing to make coming generation educated.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GAD	Gender and Development
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-Government Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHG	Self Help Group
UN	United Nations
WAD	Women and Development
WID	Women in Development