

# CHAPTER-I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

People engage in different types of social and economic activities to earn money in order to fulfill their need, which is also known as livelihood strategy. It is a continuous and changing process. (Rai, 2004)

A livelihood is usually defined as the means of securing a living. Livelihood strategy is the way in which households and individuals continue and modify their economic and social activities in order to meet their basic needs. By the term livelihood strategy one might make the obvious mistake of thinking only of the economic activities that a group of people are engaged in. Imploring further into the depth, the socio-cultural as well as other assets like; human capital assets, social assets, natural assets, physical assets, and financial assets etc are also important in livelihood.

The word 'livelihood' can be used in many different ways. The following definition captures the broad notion of livelihoods understood here: 'A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and social activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.'(DFID; 2002:1.2)

Nepal is a land-locked and under-developed country in south Asia. The socio-culture of our country is basically influenced by feudalistic norms and values. Majority of people are illiterate and living with superstitions and conservative thinking. Acharya states that about 38 percent of people are poor and about 11 percent of people are living below poverty line in the country, who are fighting all

all day long just for the hand to mouth existence. The structure of employment shows that 7.9% of the employed labor force is engaged in self-employment, 71% of which remains concentrated in agriculture in wage employment, 12% are in agriculture and 9% in other organized sector. (Acharya, 2000)

A large portion of people living in rural areas is engaged in agriculture activities for their livelihood. But the existing practice in agriculture system is very traditional and unscientific, so agriculture business is not fully able to provide the better opportunities for the upliftment of the living standard of the people. Thus, majority of the people are attracted in other sectors like industry and trade. So, it is important to develop the industrial sector and to explore other alternatives than agriculture for the economic growth of the country.

Employment is not only a mechanism of equal distribution of wealth and income but it is something else without which human personality cannot develop. There are many motivational factors behind women's entrance into employment. In case of highly educated women, the motivational factor for employment is the use of their education and knowledge rather than earning money. Similarly, the motivational factors for women of high economic status may be a seeking of social and economic independency and the exposure in public sphere. But for women of low economic status, the primary motive of employment is a gross economic need to fulfill the basic need of the family. Furthermore, the motivation for job for unmarried woman may not be primarily for earning income, but for the married one it may differ according to the level of her socio-economic and educational status.

Carpet has been dominating the national economy as the leading export items and has played a vital role towards the upliftment of the country's economy by providing job opportunities to millions of Nepalese and has also been an important

source of earning foreign currency for the country for last two decades. (Carpet Bulletin, 2003)

Carpet industry has been providing employment to the largest group of labor force, specially the women labor. Rapid urbanization within the Kathmandu valley provides a ready market for absorption of female laborer. Easy entrance into the carpet industries makes it attractive for women, and they are easily absorbed. This has the implications for women and work through the availability of ready sources of illiterate and semi-literate female laborer for the carpet industry.

The labor system in the carpet industries involves a lot of complexities, and is very exploitative towards the laborers. Very little work is done by machines in carpet production process. There are several stages of work in carpet production, such as the spinning of raw wool, dyeing, weaving, cutting, surface finishing, which includes edge binding, clipping, washing and packing. All stages involve a lot of hard work, skill and concentration (CWIN, 1993). Despite the labor exploitation and discrimination, illiterate and semi-literate women are attracted towards carpet industries, because they have no any other alternatives and secure economic source for their livelihood in current changing urban environment.

The concentration of women in low paid, unskilled jobs is often attributed to low literacy; low skill levels and also to social bias regarding the appropriateness of employing female workers for certain jobs but not others. Literacy and education are crucial factors not only for availing of the employment opportunities created in the process of modernization, but also for communication with the outside world and access to technology. (Acharya, 2000)

Women workers moreover appear to be relatively more vulnerable to adverse working conditions. Employees in large-scale public sector industries are

protected by labor legislation and trade union support, but in large private industries labor legislation is often not implemented. The situation is worse in small industries in the public sector and in small-scale private industries. Welfare facilities hardly exist, labor laws are not enforced and trade unions are inactive or non-existent. The most vulnerable are the piece rate workers in public and private sector industries in the export production villages and in home-based occupations: they are unprotected by statutory regulations pertaining to minimum wages or working hours. Furthermore, home-based women workers in the informal sector are exposed to exploitation by unscrupulous middlemen.

Women working in the public arena face various unwanted attention and extensive violence. Further, women have the sole responsibility of household management and household work. Socially, they are considered responsible for keeping the family together and any family breakdown is attributed to their fault. Family is considered their first priority. Consequent to their socialization as beings in capable of independent decisions and assetlessners, they lack confidence, and risk taking capacity in operating business on their own. Lack of access to modern education, knowledge and technology compounds the problem. (Acharya, 2000)

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Women working in carpet industries are not only married but often go to work with their younger children in tow. Such children either work with their mothers or play around the loom. The environmental conditions in such units are very unwholesome and ventilation in the work place is poor and hence harmful to their health. Wool spinning is performed at home, which is also not safe from a health point of view harming both the mother and her children.

The patriarchal value and patrilineal inheritance systems pervades the psychology of policy makers- the majority of both men and women, either at the work place or

at home. Physical work outside the household is viewed as degrading to the family status. As such women who work outside the home are looked down. In effect, that extends their inferior status from the household to the work place. In other words, working women have to bear with inferior status in the factory, as well as with double work burden at home. Consequently, women generally opt for the non-working status unless there is an urgent need for an additional bread earner for the family or if there is no alternative sources of household income (Acharya, 1994).

According to a survey, the carpet industry in the Kathmandu valley has 66 percent women workers, but nearly 97.8 percent of these women are paid on the basis of piece rate while only 14 percent of men are paid on the basis of piece rate in that job. These women are overwhelmingly young, (below 22 years of age), illiterate and worked only because of poverty. Cheating by the employers on payments of salary and wages is rampant. Women are less benefited from mechanization, while men progressively took the mechanized jobs.

The present study aims to find out the answer of the following questions: Where are they from? Why they work in carpet industries? From what sort of socio-economic backgrounds are they? When did they come? Are they literate? Is this job able to sustain their livelihood? Are they satisfied with their jobs? Do they have any power to control over their earning? For how many years they have been working in carpet industries? Do they have any problems? Is there any discrimination? Is there any difference in salary/wage among male and female workers?

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

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To investigate the socio-economic status of women laborers of carpet industries.
2. To examine the impact of laboring in carpet industries on lives' of women laborers of carpet industries.

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

This study will try to understand the livelihood pattern of women laborers of carpet industries. The livelihood needs of men and women are not always the same, due to their different roles, responsibilities and resources. The impact of different livelihood interventions will also vary according to the gender.

Carpet industry has been providing employment to the largest group of labor force, specially the women labor. By understanding the livelihood pattern of women laborers, this study will help to analyze the gender issues on livelihood. This study will be helpful to the formulation of national legislating and policy, to the planning and monitoring specific interventions. This study will be also helpful for future researchers.

## **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

The study has the following limitations, which are as follows:

- I. As it is a case study of Jorpati VDC, generalization made with this regard may not be equally applicable for other areas of Nepal.
- II. The findings of this study will reflect the situation of the time under consideration.
- III. The study is limited to the objectives.
- IV. As due to the time and financial constraints the study does not cover the whole area not even whole industries. Hence the study has been completed while surveying with 10 sample industries and 120 sample women laborers out of the 50 industries.
- V. The present research studies only those women laborers who have five years' experience. So the study's result will reflect only those women laborers' condition.
- VI. Information however has been obtained according to the respondent's reminiscence therefore accuracy of present study was totally dependant upon them only.
- VII. The findings of this study will reflect the situation of the women laborers not of the male laborers.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

It is widely discussed all over the world that both males and females have equal rights and responsibilities in the process of development. Many of the politicians, writers, social workers and policy makers are much concerned in focusing on the status of women and their rights. But the literature does not adore these issues to same extents in reality. However, there are limited scientific research have been published for the favor of Nepalese women and very few published literature regards the condition of employment opportunities of women laborers in carpet industries. Some of the available literatures are reviewed below so that it covers the major findings of the studies under taken so far.

#### **2.1 Literature Related With Livelihoods**

Pathak, (2004), has studied on “Livelihood Strategy of Street Cobblers: a case study of Kathmandu Valley”. The general objective of the study is to examine the ways of earning livelihood of street cobblers on the foot path of the city area. To fulfill these objectives he took by respondents on the basis of age wise involvement, this study conclude that street cobbling in urban areas is a new emerged livelihood strategies for young generation of Terai and Indian cobblers than for all hill cobblers and this occupation is not secured and sustainable. By the nature of work and space used by them, this occupation seems more vulnerable seasonality, space and institution, social value and norms, political situations and lack of livelihood assets are the most responsible factors to shape their occupation vulnerability.

Rai (2004) has studied about the traditional strategies of the Damai and Kami on “Livelihood Strategies of Occupatinoal Communities (Damai and Kami) in Panchakanya and Namsaling VDC, Ilam.” He examined how the development has

affected their traditional livelihood strategies as they have become more commercial. He mentioned that how these two communities have been affected and experienced rapid socio-cultural and economic changes. He found that generational involvement in their traditional occupation like tailoring and smithing is decreasing. Literacy has improved and they are now engaged in agricultural and non traditional activities

Timalsina (2003) has studied about positive and negative impact of Bhimdhunga – Lamidanda Road on the livelihood of rural people of Jivanpur VDC in Dhading District. He has also analyzed the current livelihood strategies of the people and the socio-economic and infrastructural changes in Jivanpur VDC after Bhimdhunga – Lamidanda Road construction. This study found positive impacts of BLR are means of transportation improved and access to Kathmandu established, status of woman, housing, communication, and community mobilization, agricultural production and vegetable marketing are improved. Overall impact of the BLR is the adoption of market oriented activities and intensive vegetable farming. This study also found negative impacts of BLR are small amount of crop was damaged along the road. Regular flow of strangers have resulted an increase of conflict incidences of social evil such as gambling has increased

Bhandari (2003) has conducted his study on “International Labor Migration as Livelihood Strategy at Prithvinagar VDC of Jhapa District.” The objectives of the study are to explore the direction, causes and magnitude of emigration from Prithvinagar VDC, to examine the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of migrants and their households, to examine the impact of labor migration on livelihood and to analyze the flow of remittance and its use. On his study, he found that labor migration is a newly adopted livelihood strategy. West Asia particularly Saudi Arabia is the leading volume but the latest shift is towards

Malaysia. Unemployment and lack of agricultural production are the major causes of emigration. Remittances are used to pay debt, to construct houses and to educate their children respectively. Structures of house and land holding pattern have been changed significantly only on migrants' households. Standard of living and quality of life have risen.

Aryal (1998), has conducted his study about urban poverty in Nepal of selected occupational groups of Kathmandu city. The objectives of the study are to find the income level and consumption pattern of poor among different types of work and establish the relationship between income and expenditure of different working groups. Some places of Sundhara and Newroad where study was conducted by dividing the respondents into five different groups and sub divided by their specific nature i. e. low salary earners, porters, cart pushers, shoe makers, sweepers and plastics and metal seeker. He found that some of them are living in government trust building and some are in slumps. Others are living in single room on the rent. Unemployment, low level of education, big size of families etc are their problems and most of the income is spent in food consumption

## **2.2 Literature Related With Women**

Nepal (2004), on “Status of women in Nepal” has presented his views that women are considered as one of the two wheels of same cart. They are equally important in the society but women who constitute half of the total population have been largely ignored. He found that the status of women is low in terms of education, headship, political participation, decision making and ownership of assets. Women in Nepal are generally less educated than men. He added that to improve their status and empower them socially, politically, economically and spiritually, it is essential to bring them into main stream of development.

Ms. Hemlata Rai, in her article, Women’s labor pains, The Rising Nepal, March 3, 2000, states that women’s contribution in the national economy is to be much higher than our expectation. Women worker’s work is more but earning is less. In spite of their backbreaking labor, women get a minimum amount of cash in her hand. She also added women’s contribution for their families almost 83% of non-economic activities required to run female members conduct a family but only 16% male members are supporting such activities in family. And the percentage of women aged 15 years and above who have limited themselves to economical activities only stands at a negligible 10.5%, the percentage of male under this category of people is almost 90%. From that women’s percentage is more than four times higher in comparison to the percentage to male involved in both economical and non-economical activities. This statistic shows about 81% females carry both types of work at only 19% of male are found to have been divided their working hour.

She concluded that women work hard comparison of men's work, or both economic activities and non-economic activities. But earning ratio is lower of women in comparison of men's earning ratio. The recognition given to women's labor contribution would be key to improve their self-evaluation about their own place in the Nepalese society.

Joshi (1997), on "Female Workers and their Socio-Economic Condition in Nepal" mentioned that women worker played dual role. Besides the job they have to do their house work and they also have to cast various role. The study has analyzed the socio economic status of the women working in the spinning mill. He has identified the reasons for the present role and found out the problems faced by the female workers in the spinning mill. He found that major ethnic group of laborers are Brahmins and most of them are married. They were not provided other facilities besides wage of transportation. Laborers were compelled to do the same job because there are no other sources of earning.

Joshi (1985), on "Women's Participation in Carpet Industries" found that a large number of female workers are employed in the carpet industries in Kathmandu district. She has presented that main reason for seeking job in carpet industrial sector is economic hard ship and the motive to be self reliant economically in the family. She also found that about 88.2 percent of the total female workers are illiterate and only 11.8 percent female are semi-literate. There are limited facilities in carpet industries like drinking water and toilet. Female workers are found working in dark and dirty place. Security of employment in carpet industries primarily depends upon the efficiency and sincerity of the workers themselves.

Shrestha Neeru (1983), on her report "Women Employment in Industrial Sector" published by CEDA has attempted to look at opportunities and constraints being faced by women in industrial employment. She found some jobs are regarded as

women's job as dresser, weaver, knitter, typist and another unskilled job. Women are highly concentrated on woolen and textile industries. According to her, in administrative work and managerial works, women's participation is very limited.

Acharya (1979), on "Statistical Profile of Nepalese Women" throw ample light on the social status of women in Nepal. The study covers almost every aspects of women's life. She has further analyzed demographic characteristics of women, social, economic and political participation of women. She further concluded that Nepalese women are primarily involved in household works because of the high rate illiteracy and very few of them are found to be involved in outside economic activities. She has concluded that the reduction in the proportion of women's participation in economic activities as shown by the census of 2028 B.S. is because of the limitations of the definitions adopted under population census of 2028 B.S. She has also expressed her opinion that this reduction is also the result of modernization process of industries which has adversely affected the traditional cottage and village scale industries.

## **CHAPTER - THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Selection of Study Area**

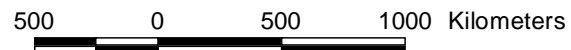
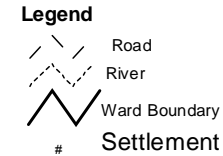
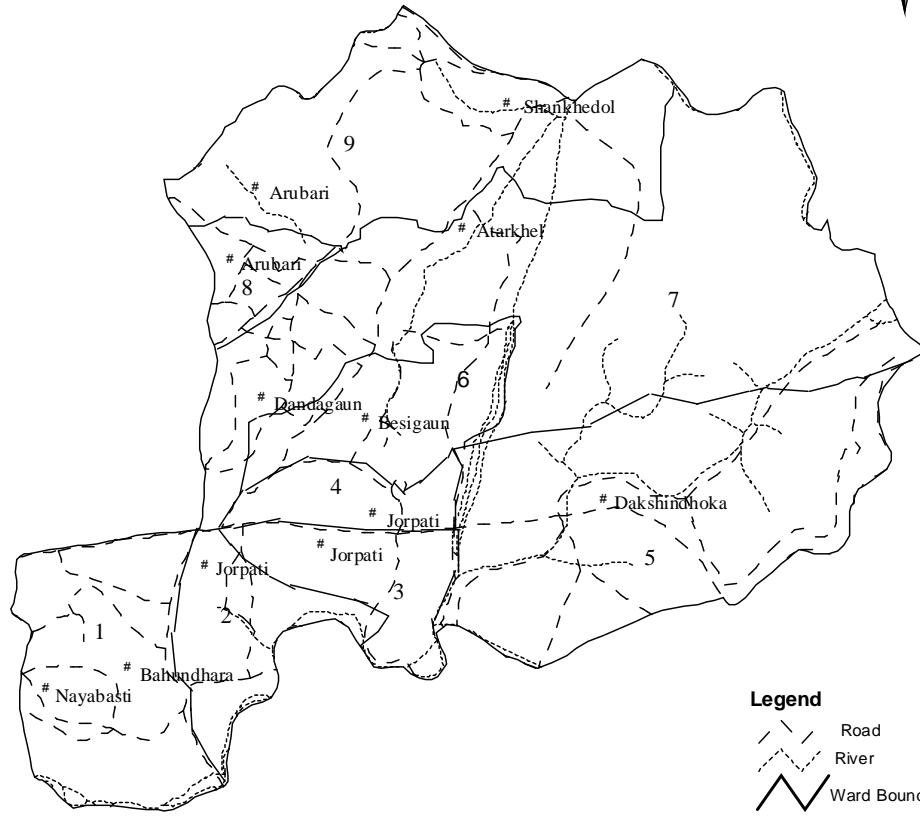
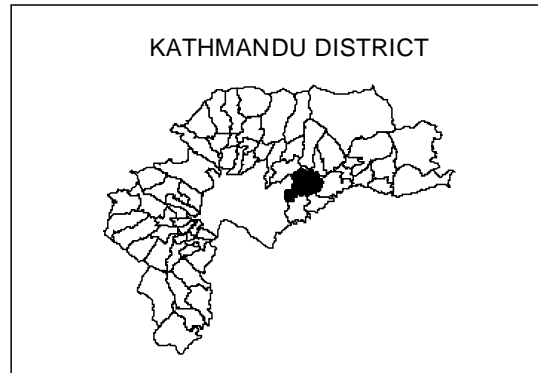
The present study is primarily focuses on the livelihood pattern of women laborers of carpet industries. For this study, Jorpati VDC of Kathmandu district is selected as study area. Many areas of Kathmandu district have the concentration of carpet industries like Boudha, Jorpati, Chabahil, Gaushala, Dallu, Swayambhu, Tahachal This VDC of Kathmandu district is familiar, well known and easily accessible to the researcher. The researcher has visited the area so often and being a major concentrated area of carpet industries Jorpati VDC of Kathmandu district is selected as study area.

#### **3.2 Sample Design**

The study area consists of 9 wards. There are 113 carpet industries in Jorpati VDC. Researcher has selected those industries which has more than 50 laborers. Among 113 industries only 50 industries have more than 50 laborers. Due to the limitation of time, energy and cost the present study has adopted a sampling method while taking 20% of the sample size of the total industries not from every ward of Jorpati VDC.

In the case of women laborers, random sampling (lottery method) has been adopted for the study. At first, the numbers of women laborers who have minimum five years' working experience in carpet industries were listed. Then names of these women laborers were written in a piece of papers which were put in to the container after folded them properly. Then later on according the require number (12) on the basis of sample size, randomly numbered slip were taken out from the container. This process was used in all the ten industries which were selected for the study.

**Location Map of Study Area  
Jorpati V.D.C.**



Prepared by Bibha Deo, GIS Lab, CDG (2007)

Source: HMG/ Survey Department, Sheet No. 27025, 2001

**Table-1**  
**Distribution of Sample Size**

No. of Wards	Total No. of Industries	No. of Industries Having More than 50 Laborers	No. of Selected Industries
1	11	4	1
2	10	5	1
3	18	10	2
4	08	3	1
5	14	7	1
6	11	5	1
7	12	5	1
8	14	5	1
9	15	6	1
Total	113(100%)	50(100%)	10

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

**Table-2**  
**Selected Carpet Industries**

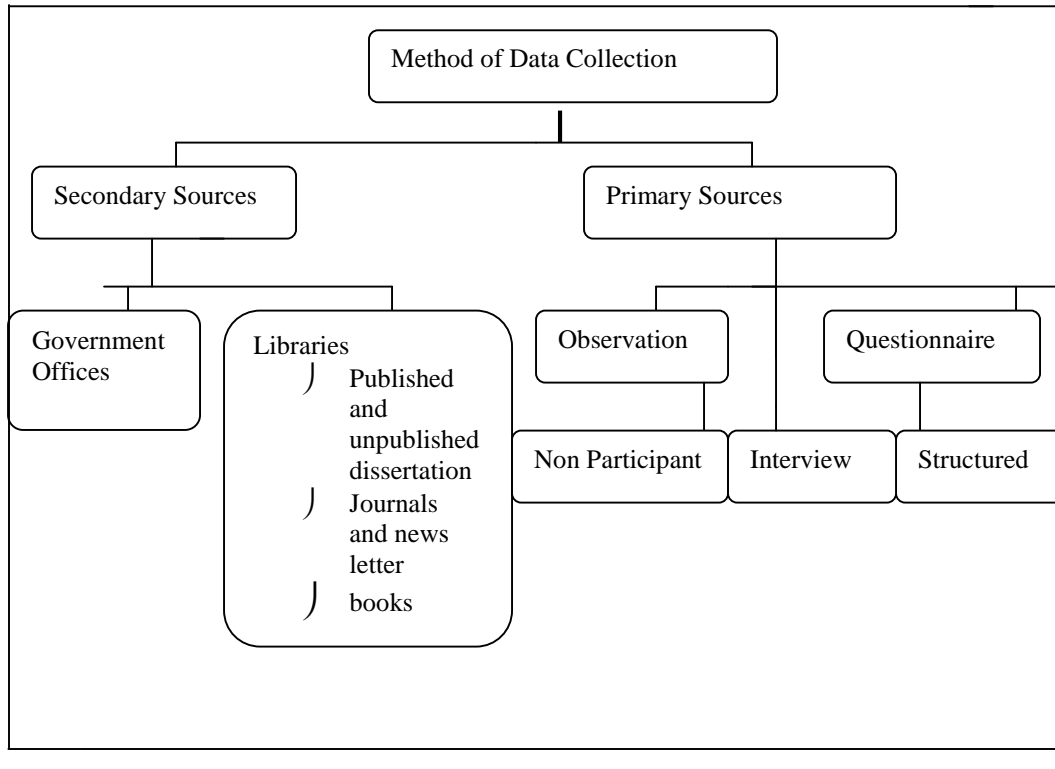
Ward No.	Name of Industries	No. of Laborers	No. of W L
1	R.R. Carpet Industry	70	43
2	Rabin Carpet Industry	66	40
3	D.B.S. Carpet Industry	103	65
3	Jambala Keshab Carpets	78	51
4	Chamunda Galaincha Udyog	55	29
5	Gokarneswar Galaincha Udyog	53	32
6	Kumari Carpet Center	68	48
7	Jorpati Carpet Industry	89	55
8	Mahabharat Carpet Industry	70	46
9	Sanu Carpet Udyog	63	30

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

### 3.3 Methods and Sources of Data

The present study utilizes both primary and secondary data:

**Figure 1**  
**Methodological Framework of Data Collection**



#### 3.3.1 Primary Data Source

The present study is basically based on the primary information thus to fulfill the objectives of the study. Primary data were collected through field survey in Jorpati VDC from 2<sup>nd</sup> January to 17 January 2007 while interview with structured questionnaire.

After selecting the desire sample size primary data has been collected with following mentioned methods. Before going to the field a set of structured questionnaire was prepared. Then after correcting it once it was filled by the researcher later on in the field while interviewing with the desirer respondents. Besides the structured questionnaire the observation method was also included and the findings or information was recorded in the field notes

Here many case studies have been added in order to make reader more clear about the topic and also the attitude, perception of laborers of the study towards the carpet weaving.

#### **3.3.1.1. Structured Questionnaire**

Keeping the objectives of the study in mind a set of structured questionnaire including both (open and close) was prepared so that immense information can be obtained. Later on it was filled by the researcher while asking with the women laborers of the carpet industries.

#### **3.3.1.2. Interview with Key Informants**

Except questionnaire survey the information has been gathered through the key informants. Key informants like elder person who knew a little bit more, person working for many years in the industry, industry owner or manager, elder person living near carpet industries were chosen and done interview so that anything which has been left out in the questionnaire and the information which can not be gathered from questionnaire survey, information was collected.

#### **3.3.1.3. Non Participant Observation**

The Non Participant Observation is a one type of observation, in which the researcher does not participate in the group but only observes as an external spectator. The present study has adopted the non participant observation to get information about their work pattern, the behavior among laborers, daily life style, habits, house furnishing and so on, which is very important for meaningful interpretation about livelihood pattern of women laborers of carpet industries.

#### **3.3.1.4 Field Notes**

A field notes was also maintained. Basically, during field survey information which were important and were not included in the questionnaire were recorded in the field note. Even views and information given by the respondent were also use to keep in the field notes. It also recorded the bitter and sweet field experiences as well.

#### **3.3.2. Secondary Data Source**

For the secondary information different sources like government offices and libraries has been used. Relevant literatures including both published and unpublished were used from the libraries of the university, Central Department of Geography. Different bulletin, monthly digest, newspapers from government and non government offices like Department of Domestic and Small Industries, Central Carpet Industries Association, Carpet and Wool Development Board, FNCCI have also been used for required information.

#### **3.4. Methods of Data Analysis**

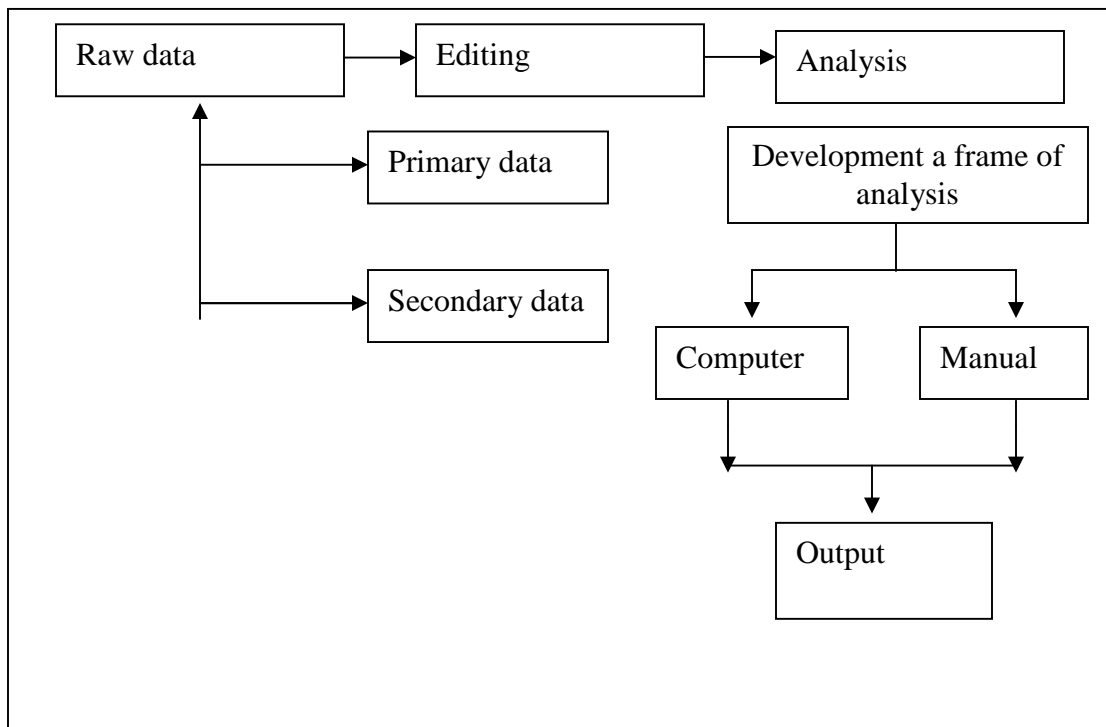
After collection of data by using different methods as mentioned above, the raw data edited properly and later on it was organized in the form of tables. However, after completing the tabulation part the data was then analyzed using appropriate statistical tools such as percentage and mean were used and even added cartographic tools in required part.

During the data analyzing process first it was done manually and after correcting it then only it was done by the computer (Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel). However GIS software was also used to prepare maps during the process of preparation of this dissertation.

However some case stories and photos have also been added in needed division to make individual more clear about the present study.

Figure 2, shows the steps in the data processing in the stage between the collection of data and its analysis.

**Figure-2**  
**Framework of Data Processing**



## CHAPTER – IV

### CARPET INDUSTRY IN NEPAL

#### **4.1. Development of the Carpet Industry in Nepal**

The art of weaving is an old tradition in the kingdom of Nepal, especially in the mountainous region of the country. In this region, People had been weaving the traditional woolen rugs which were used to guard off the bitter cold of the Himalayas in the winter. These woolen rugs, called Galaincha, Radi, Pakhi, Lukuni etc. are still used in the villages in the northern mountains. In ancient period, there was no international market and high mass of consumption, only few rich people used it. However, the current Nepalese carpet industry has rather a short history of about four decades.

In the decades of the sixties, The Tibetan refugees crossed into Nepal through the mountain, ridges of Dolpa, Mustang, Rasuwa, Humla, and Tatopani. After a series of haphazard settlements, the refugees were resettled in Baudha, Swoyambhu, Jawalakhel in the Katmandu valley and Pokhara.

In the beginning period it was necessary to manage the goods and shelter for the Tibetan refugees. The Swiss Association for Technical Assistance (SATA), therefore, provided relief through the Red Cross to the Tibetan refugees. With assistance from the international Red Cross and the Swiss Government, the first carpet industry in Nepal “The Jawlakhel Handicrafts Centre” was established in 1960. Similar types of industries were established in **Chailasa** and Pokhara where Tibetan refugees were resettled. The development of an export quality carpet was initiated with the influx of the Tibetan refugees in the early sixties. In the beginning, it was launched as a source of livelihood for the Tibetan refugees and marketing was limited to tourists visiting the kingdom. The Tibetans had excellent skill of making high quality product, SATA, therefore, assistance in marketing the goods directly to the European Market. The establishment of “Jawalakhel

Handicraft Centre” also marked the beginning of institutional development of carpet industry in Nepal.

The carpet industry, for the initial few years from 1960s employed mostly the Tibetan refugees. The Nepalese carpet was introduced to the overseas market in the early sixties. However, in the late 1960s and early 1970s many private sectors entered the carpet business. The rapid growth of the Nepalese Carpet Industry, during seventies and eighties has been attributed to the creative private entrepreneurs of Nepal who are quite capable of transforming artistic object into commercial products. Their innovative abilities in blending Tibetan weave western design have brought the success for penetrating into a very competitive western market. One of the main reasons for the success of the Nepalese Carpet in these markets is that it has not penetrated as competitor to other carpets. It has been introduced as unique product of new touch, 100% hand made double knotted, class and quality of its own (Carpet Bulletin, 1998). In mid 1980s, growth rate of carpet went as high as 45% from early 1980s. By early 1990s, carpet becomes a number one export commodity of our country, with fifty per cent to sixty per cent sharing in the total foreign currency earning from abroad exports.

#### **4.2. Export, Trade and Earnings**

The carpet industry of Nepal is one of the most potential industries that have the capacity of global competence. In less than two decades, the industry has created over a billion dollars worth of wealth from export earnings. Nepal today holds the distinction of being the world’s third largest producer of hand-made carpets.

**Table- 3**  
**Carpet Export from Nepal (1972/73-1998/99)**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Quantity in m2</b>	<b>Value in NRs'000</b>
1972/73	10,000	2,472
1982/83	1,51,000	1,37,756
1992/93	31,26,290	9,525,649
1993/94	33,25,123	95,18,055
1994/95	28,96,090	77,03,760
1995/96	26,17,645	80,32,233
1996/97	28,91,225	91,44,635
1997/98	24,47,050	85,16,344
1998/99	26,04,476	10,287,749

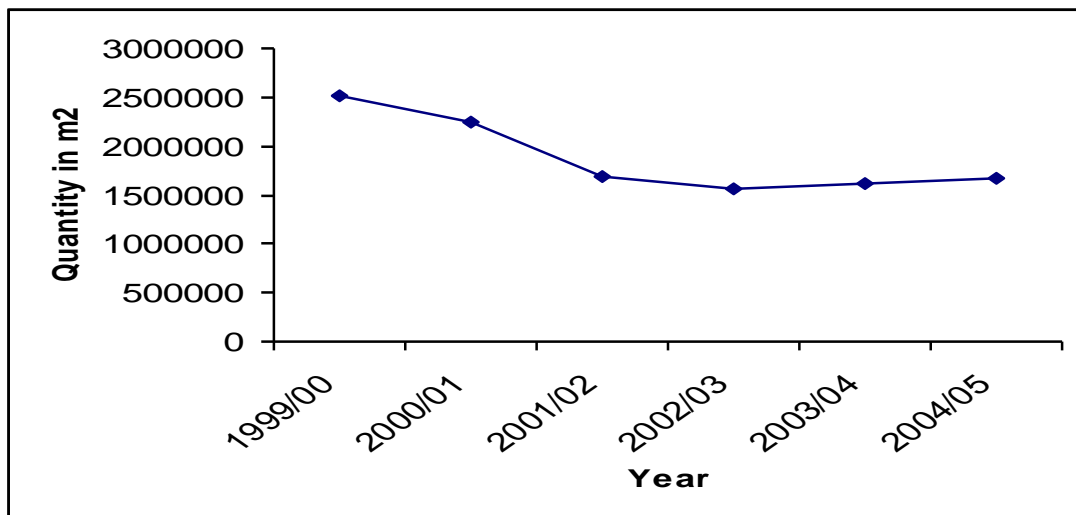
*Source: Carpet Bulletin, 2000*

**Table-4**  
**Carpet Export from Nepal (1999/00-2004/05)**

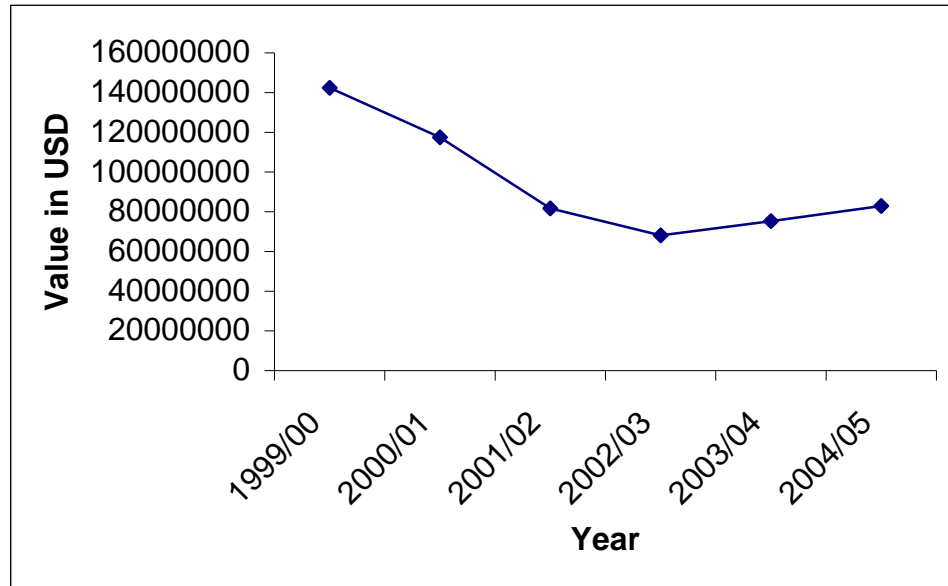
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Quantity in m2</b>	<b>Value in USD</b>
1999/00	25,09,452	142,365,151.58
2000/01	2242692.93	117,466,682.64
2001/02	1693196.75	81,655,133.01
2002/03	1566950.17	68,089,183.68
2003/04	1617766.51	75,288,842.36
2004/05	1664117.71	82,929,229.83

*Source: Carpet Bulletin, 2005*

**Figure-3**  
**Carpet Export from Nepal (1999/00-2004/05)**



**Figure-4**  
**Carpet Export from Nepal (1999/00-2004/05)**



Carpet Bulletin has provided the export statistic between 1972/73 to 2004/05 presented in table 3 and 4. The Nepalese carpet industry and its export have developed during the fiscal year 1972/73. In this year, export quantity was 10,000sq.m. worth Rs 24, 72,000. In the fiscal year 1982/83 export quantity was 1, 51,000sq.m. worth Rs 13,77,56000. Similarly in 1992/93 export quantity was 3126290sq.m. worth Rs 9525649. In 1993/94 export was 3,325,123 sq.m. worth Rs 9518055 i.e. the export quantity has been increased by 6% but has not increased according to the ratio in terms of value. The total magnitude of carpet in the fiscal year 1996/97 was 2,891,225sq.m. and the total amount was Rs 9144635. This figure, however, as compared to that of the fiscal year 1993/94 is 13% lower in terms of quantity and 4% lower in terms of the value, Whereas between 1998/99 to 1999/2000, it has declined by 4% and 2% in terms of quantity and value respectively.

**Table-5**  
**Carpet Export from Nepal to Different Countries (1999/2000)**

Country	Quantity in sq. m.	Share %
Germany	1,782,247.89	71.0%
USA	248,523.06	11.3%
Belgium	113,128.77	4.5%
Switzerland	74,321.52	3.0%
Australia	57,138.53	2.3%
U.K	52,478.53	2.1%
Netherlands	29,802.27	1.2%
Spain	24,442.11	1.0%
Japan	13,169.14	0.5%
Turkey	12,188.82	0.5%
Canada	11,744.12	0.5%
Portugal	11255.81	0.4%
France	10,578.31	0.4%
Sweden	9,766.83	0.4%
Austria	4,088.58	0.2%
Others	18,578.14	0.7%
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>2,509,452.43</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Source: Carpet Bulletin, 2000*

According to table-5, carpets are exported to Germany, USA, Belgium, Switzerland, Australia, U.K., Netherlands and Spain. Among these countries, Germany is seen as the main market, which occupies about 71% of the total market share in 2000.

**Table- 6**  
**Carpet Export from Nepal to Different Countries (2004/2005)**

Country	Quantity (Sq.m.)	Value (USD)
Germany	827,213	33671199
USA	357358	24835950
Belgium	74180	3918464
Switzerland	59429	3069012
U.K.	61,760	3402843
Netherlands	34276	1486923
Austria	28922	1103804
Canada	19594	1420760
Turkey	87380	3459980
France	12293	681602

*Source: Carpet Bulletin, 2005*

Figure-5

The above table-6 shows that Germany is the main market of Nepalese carpet. In fiscal year, 1999/20 it traded 1782247.89 sq.m.of carpets and in fiscal year 2004/05 it exported 827,213 sq.m. to the Germany. USA is the second largest market of Nepalese carpet. In fiscal year 1999/20 it exported 248523.06 sq.m. carpet which constitutes 11.3% share of carpet export in 1999/20 and in fiscal year 2004/05 it exported 3,57,358 sq.m. of carpet worth Rs 2,48,35,950 USD.

**Table- 7**  
**Carpet Export from Nepal in 1999/00 and 2004/05**

Months	Carpet Exports	
	1999/2000(m <sup>2</sup> )	2004/2005(m <sup>2</sup> )
Shrawan (July-Aug)	185548.72	134641.29
Bhadra (Aug-Sept)	226966.92	156013.54
Aswin (Sept-Oct)	232317.46	140967.95
Kartik (Oct-Nov)	158553.18	129981.69
Mangsir (Nov-Dec)	252482.12	154982.96
Pauch (Dec-Jan)	172172.67	117997.69
Magh (Jan-Feb)	160224.96	93757.51
Falgun (Feb-Mar)	198124.44	145516.80
Chaitra (Mar-Apr)	216203.09	119931.00
Baisakh (Apr-May)	248772.26	140742.00
Jestha (May-Jun)	269517.79	187,818.00
Ashar (Jun-July)	188568.85	161855.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>2509452.43</b>	<b>16,64,117.71</b>

*Source: Carpet Bulletin, 2005*

If we look at the figures of the first ten months of fiscal year 1999/2000 and 2004/2005, we find that the export quantity is higher in 1999/2000. Nepal exported 2051365.79sq.m. of hand made woolen carpets in 1999/2000 whereas only 1334532.43sq.m. of hand made woolen carpets were exported in the same ten months of the fiscal year 2004/2005. The export of carpet reduced by 34.94 per cent. In every months of fiscal year 1999/20 carpet export is higher than fiscal year 2004/05.

### **4.3 Economic Importance of Carpet Industry**

Carpet industry is the most important industry of Nepal. It has made significant contribution not only on the economic upliftment of the country, but also on the social progress of the people through employment generation and became the major foreign currency earning industry. The role of carpet industry as a contributor to the national development will be fully justified if its production activities can be developed in the rural area too. For the continual and steady growth of a self-sustained economy, the disparity between the urban and rural economy should be tried to keep at the minimum. The rural people will be automatically motivated to work the other accessory activities like carding, spinning, dyeing and even washing. These additional activities eventually help them earn extra income and raise their standard of living through better access to food, clothing, shelter as well as investment on land, construction and industries. The continuation of this process helps to control widening gap between the urban and rural economy that ultimately results in the upliftment to the rural areas and the economic development.

## CHAPTER-V

### SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN LABORERS IN CARPET INDUSTRIES

This section has analyzed mainly on the primary data, which is collected from Jorpati VDC, Kathmandu referred to as the study area. Only 120 women laborers of carpet 10 industries were taken to obtain the information for this study.

#### **5.1 Profile of Carpet Industry in Jorpati VDC.**

Rug weaving has been a traditional occupation in Nepal from time immemorial. The weaving carpet was introduced in Kathmandu valley by the flow of Tibetan refugees after the appropriation of Tibet by China as its independent region. The manufacturing of carpet began the commercial market with the establishment of “Jawlakhel Handicrafts” by refugees in Kathmandu in 1960 under the aid and corporation of Swiss government, which is the first handicrafts established in Nepal. Because of peculiar modern and classical design of Nepalese carpet, it has become successful in achieving a great popularity in the western countries specially Switzerland, Germany, USA, UK, etc. within the short period. For this reason, many of the Nepalese inventors were highly attracted to invest in the carpet industries because of the high demand for Nepalese handicrafts and carpet in the overseas countries. But the establishment of carpet industry in Jorpati VDC has the comparatively short history. According to the record of the Jorpati VDC, the first carpet industry in this area being established by the name of Ganpati Carpet Industry. As carpet industry is totally private sector many carpet industries are opened and many carpet industries are closed. In present there are 113 carpet industries which are running smoothly in Jorpati VDC.

## 5.2 Women Laborers from Different Districts

To solve the problem of hand to mouth, the migration process is very high in our country. Migration process is a serious challenge to any attempt at development planning. Movement of people from one area to another is not only a demographic problem but has profound economic, social and political consequences.

It is found that, almost all women laborers migrated from other districts. They are not native of Kathmandu district. Here, in the case of married women laborers their husbands' house and district are taken as their home place and in the case of unmarried / divorced /widow laborers their fathers' house and district are taken as their home place. They came from different districts, the data is shown below:

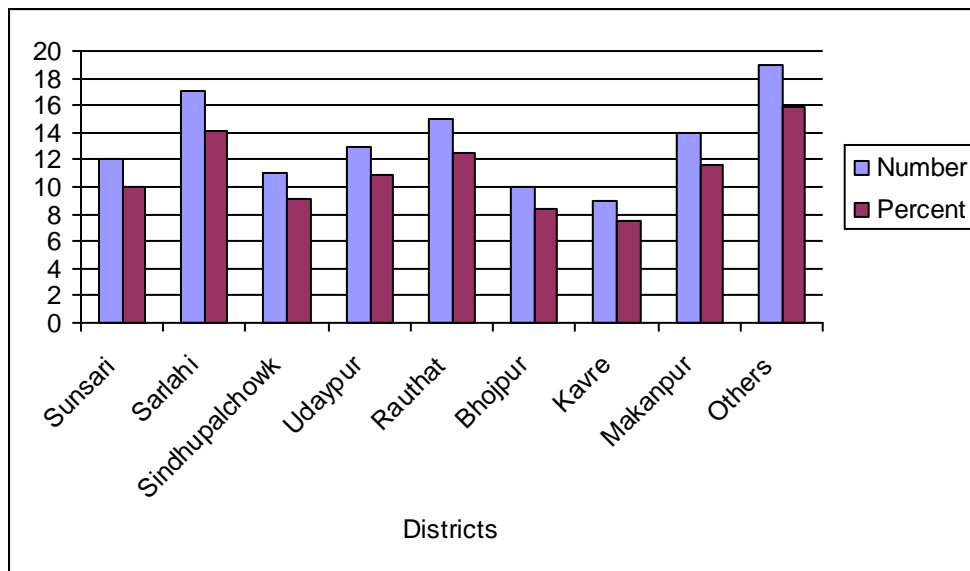
**Table- 8**  
**District wise Women Laborers**

S.N	Districts	Number	Percent
1.	Sunsari	12	10.00
2.	Sarlahi	17	14.17
3.	Sindhupalchowk	11	9.17
4.	Udaypur	13	10.83
5.	Rauthat	15	12.50
6.	Bhojpur	10	8.33
7.	Kavre	09	7.50
8.	Makanpur	14	11.67
9.	Others	19	15.83
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

The above table- 8 shows that out of 120 laborers 14.17% women laborers came from Sarlahi, which is the highest number. 12.50% women laborers came from Rauthat, 11.67% from Makaanpur, 7.50 from Kavre, 8.33% from Bhojpur, 10.83% from Udaypur, 9.17% from Sindhupalchowk and 10% from Sunsari. The above data is shown below in digram

**Figure-6**  
**District wise Women Laborers**



### 5.3. Ethnic Composition

Nepal is conglomeration of different castes/ethnic groups, therefore, our society is a composition of various ethnic groups. Here we can find several religious practices in different ethnic groups. Due to this reason, our society is divided into different castes, creed and sub- castes.

It is found in study that ethnic groups/castes generally which are highly educated and economically strong were not involved in carpet industries. Different ethnic groups women are found working in carpet industries like Lama, Tamang , Dhimal Newar, Magar, ,Viswakarma, These castes are backward almost in all the terms, like education, economy, socially.

**Table-9**  
**Ethnic Composition of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Ethnic Group	Number	Percent
1.	Lama	31	25.8
2.	Tamang	21	17.5
3.	Dhimal	18	15
4.	Newar	14	11.7
5.	Magar	11	9.2
6.	Viswakarma	8	6.7
7.	Others	17	14.1
	Total	120	100

*Source: Field survey, 2007*

The above table -9 shows that the highest number of weavers is from Lama ethnic group, which constitutes 25.8 %of the total laborers. Second largest group is Tamang which constitutes 17.5% of total laborers. The lowest involvement of women laborers in carpet industry is of Viswakarma which constitutes only 6.7% of total laborers.

#### **5.4 Age Composition**

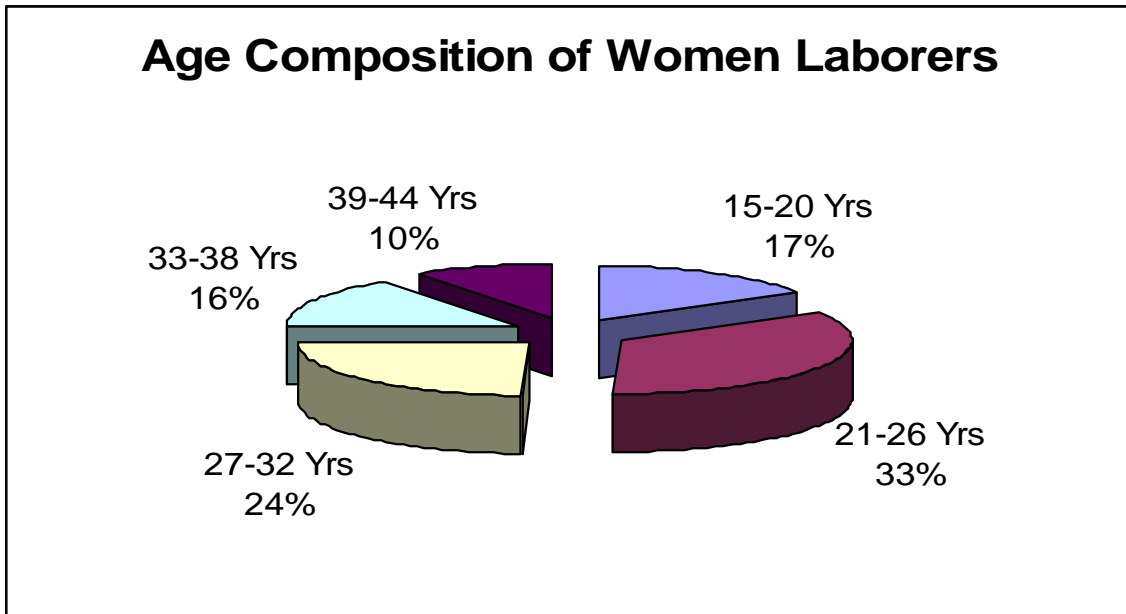
The age acts as variables in determining social status of an individual and it is not an obstacle for doing for subsistence when he or she is physically and mentally able to work. An attempt has been made in this study to analyze the age of women laborers. Women of varying age groups are found in this sector. Women laborers from 15 to 44 years of age group are engaged in carpet industries. The age groups of the sample laborers in the study area are presented below.

**Table-10**  
**Age Composition of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Age-Group	Number	Percentage
1.	15-20	20	16.5
2.	21-26	41	34.1
3.	27-32	29	24.1
4.	33-38	19	15.7
5.	39-44	11	9.6
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

**Figure-7**



The above table10/ figure 7 shows that the highest number of the women laborers are found between age group, 21 to 26 years that is 34.1% and the lowest number is found between age group 39 to 44 years is only 9.6% in the study area. There was no any employee under 15 years of age and above 44years of age in weaving carpet.

### 5.5 Marital Status

It is found that most women are married: 65% women are married, 29.2% women are unmarried and 5.8% are found divorced or widow.

**Table: 11**  
**Marital Status of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Category	Number	Percentage
1	Married	78	65
2	Unmarried	35	29.2
3	Divorced/Widow	7	5.8
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

The above table-11 shows that high ratio of married women laborers engaged in carpet industries. It does not mean that married women seeks job in industries. It is found that younger girls in teen age (between 15 to 18/19) come to the industries, spend some years working in carpet industries and fell in love with other laborer of same industry and get married and they still are working in industries.

### 5.6 Educational Status

Education is one of the indications of women role and status. This is crucial factor for not only availing employment opportunities created in the process of modernization, but also for communication with the outside world. Educational attainment has become a most valuable indication of women social status. The following table shows the educational status of the women laborers engaged in carpet industries.

**Table: 12**  
**Educational Status of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Level of Education	Number	Percentage
1	Illiterate	97	80.8
2	Literate	15	12.5
3	Primary Education	54	4.2
4	Secondary Education	3	2.5
5	S.L.C. or above	-	-
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Study, 2007*

The above table 12 shows that the majority of women laborers are illiterate. Among them 80.8% are illiterate, 12.5% are literate, 4.2% have received primary education, 2.5% have received secondary education and none of them has passed SLC and above education.

Educational status of these women is found to be very poor. Further seeking the reason behind the poor educational status of these women, it is revealed that educational qualification is not necessary to work as weaver in carpet industries. Such industrial sector has absorbed mostly illiterate women belonging to lower strata of the society. The tendency of illiterate women being attracted to carpet industries is probably because of the easiness of getting job without any educational knowledge or special training.

**CHAPTER - VI**  
**WORK PATTERN AND FACILITIES**

The carpet industry is totally a private sector and it is almost individually handled. The private entrepreneurs are primarily motivated by their own profit. The scheme of labor welfare is not fully implemented in Nepalese industrial sector. Carpet industries are different in many ways like: investment, laborers, looms, production and so on. Therefore, its work pattern and facilities are different from industry to industry

**6.1 Mode of Entry**

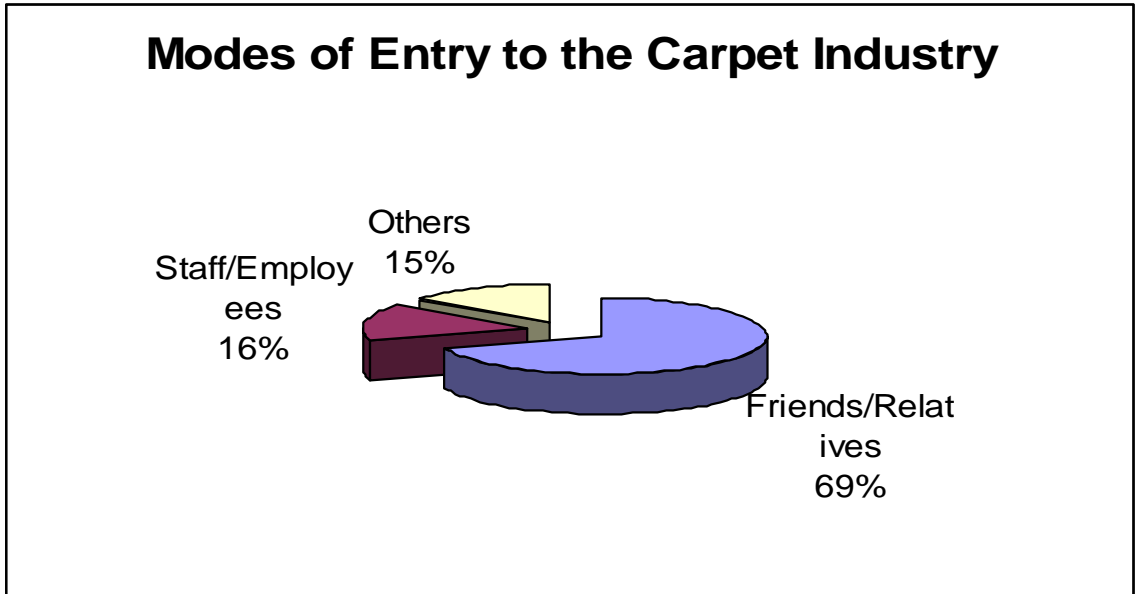
The main source of entry in carpet industries is friends/relatives. It is found that teen-age girls from rural poor families came with their friends/relatives to carpet industries. Another important mode of entry in carpet industries is staff/employee.

**Table-13**  
**Mode of Entry to the Carpet Industry**

S.N.	Sources	Number	Percent
1	Advertisement	-	-
2	Friends/Relatives	84	70
3	Staff/Employees	19	15.5
4	Middlemen/Agent	-	-
5	Others	17	14.5
Total		120	100

*Source: Field survey: 2007*

Figure-8



According to the table 13/figure 8, out of the total laborers, 70% of the laborers came through friends and relatives 15.5% came through staff and employers and only 14.5% laborers came through other mode of entry. The table indicates that friends and relatives are the most important mode of entry.

## 6.2. Reasons for working in carpet industry

It is found that most women laborers work in carpet industries to earn money for their livelihood. They work hard because they have no alternatives, they are not literate; they have no other skill so they are compelled to work in carpet industries. When they were asked about reasons for working in carpet industries, mostly women laborers said that they were working in carpet industries to earn money for their livelihood. Some women laborers' reasons for working in carpet industries are use of time and skill.

**Table-14**  
**Reasons for Working in Carpet Industry**

S.N.	Reasons	Number	Percent
1	Earning Livelihood	91	75.8
2	Use of time and skill	17	14.2
3	Self Satisfaction	12	10
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

**Figure-9**

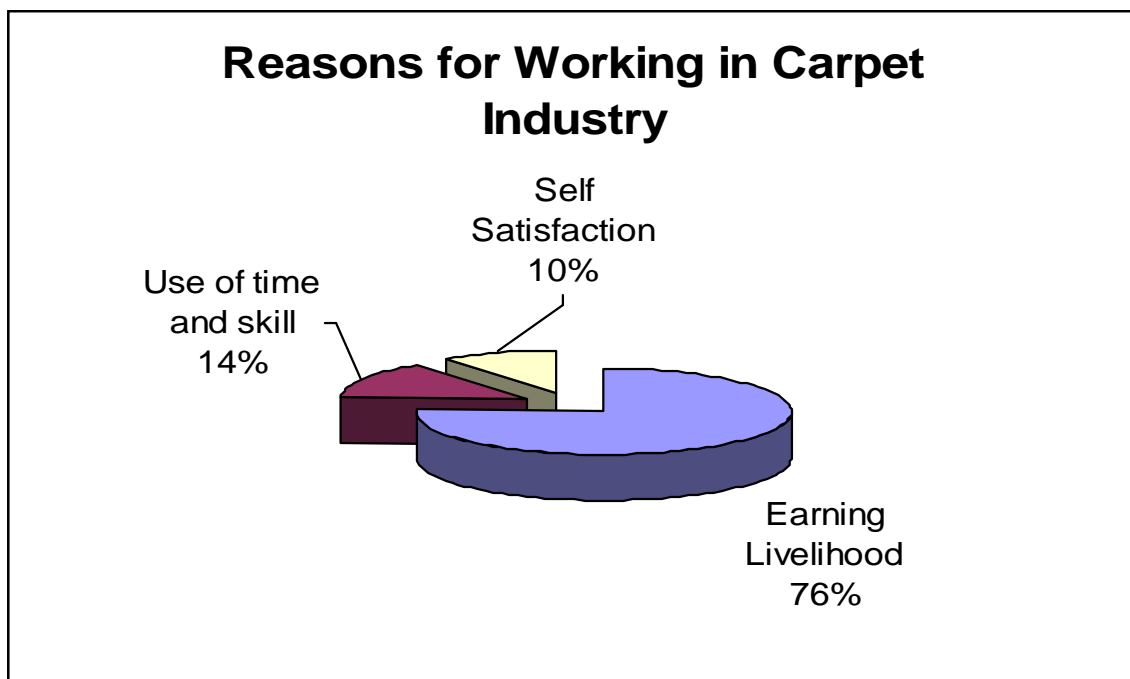


Table-14/figure 9 shows that majority of the women laborers about 75.8% are working in carpet industry to earn their livelihood because they have not access to get better jobs to earn money. Moreover, no alternative sources available for them that would provide employment opportunities. 14.2% laborers are engaged in carpet industries to use their time and skill, and 10% laborers said that they work in carpet industry for their self-satisfaction.

The above reasons are not the independent factors responsible for their engagement in this sector rather they can regard as the secondary factors, the primary factor is the poor economic condition, which compelled them to work in the sector.

### 6.3. Working Time of Women Laborer

The carpet industry falls under the cottage industry sector, irrespective of the number of employees and the scale of investment..Variation in working hours ranged from 8 to 14 hours of work per day. Most women worked 9 to 11 hours per day in weaving.

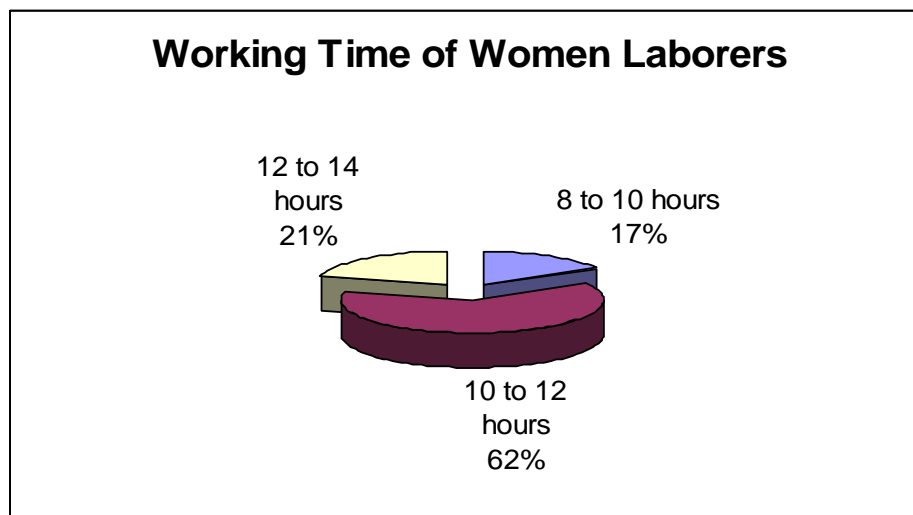
**Table-15**

**Working Time of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Working Hours	Number	Percent
1.	8 to 10	20	16.7
2.	10 to 12	75	62.5
3.	12 to 14	25	20.8
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

**Figure-10**



Among selected laborers, 20 about 16.7% laborers work 8 to 10 hours, 75 about 62.5% laborers work 10 to 12 hours and 25 about 20.8% laborers work 12 to 14 hours per day. The above table 15/figure 10 indicates the average working duration is 11 hours. It is because of the fact that the contract system is prevalent in every carpet industry which encourages the laborers to work as long as they can work, in order to get maximum amount of wage. A break from work for half an hour is generally given as tiffin.

#### **6.4 Nature of Employment**

The work in carpet industry is of temporary nature and very much depending on the demand of the product. Those laborers who work efficiently and skillfully are favored by the owner. They do not want them to go other factories because of their efficiency. Therefore, the owners always try to keep these skillful laborers in their factories.

From selected laborers, maximum women laborers are found to be employed temporarily. However, there is no concept of permanent employment in these carpet factories. It becomes a compulsion for the owner to employ laborers on temporary basis, because of the fluctuating marketing situation of the product of the carpet. Recently large number of laborers is retrenched from these factories because of low demand of the products.

#### **6.5. The System of Wage Payment**

The wage payment system is similar in almost all the industries. All the laborers are paid on the basis of per square meter (m<sup>2</sup>) of carpet. The laborers get wage after the completion of the weaving of the carpet. Some industries provide salary once in a month and some industries provide salary twice in a month.

**Table-16**  
**Payment System of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Paying System	No of industries	Percent
1.	Twice in a month	2	20
2.	Once in a month	8	80
Total		10	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

From the table 16 it is clear that maximum industry about 80% industries provide salary in once in a month and only 20% industries provide salary twice in a month.

### **6.6 The system of weaving carpet**

It is found that, in small loom, only one laborer weaves carpet. Two or three laborers weave carpet together in one loom. Such looms are bigger. When salary is given to them, they divided it among them. Generally, husband wife, family members or friends weave carpet in one loom.

**Table-17**  
**System of Weaving Carpet**

S.N.	Weaving system	Number	Percent
1.	With friends	89	74.2
2.	Single	31	25.8
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

The above table 17 shows that 89 out of total women laborers weave carpet in one loom with their friends and only 25.8% women laborers weave carpet in small loom.



## 6.7 Facilities provided by carpet industries

The carpet industry is totally a private sector. Therefore, the private entrepreneurs are primarily motivated by their own profit. The scheme of labor welfare is not fully implemented in Nepalese industrial sector.

**Table-18**  
**Facilities Provided by Carpet Industries**

S.N.	Facilities	Yes	No	Total
1.	Child care	-	120	120
2.	Medical care	-	120	120
3.	Bonus	96	24	120
4.	Maternity	-	120	120
5.	Protection mask	-	120	120
6.	Drinking water and toilet facility	120	-	120

*Source: Field survey, 2007*

Table18 shows that the provision of childcare has not been made in any of the carpet industry. This aspect of labor welfare seems to be indispensable in carpet industry because majority of the laborers working in carpet industry are women laborers. And most of the women laborers are found to be married and having children too. Similarly, the provision of sick leave is also not made. It means sickness of the women laborers is not given due consideration, therefore, the wage is not paid for the period in which laborers remain sick. None of the laborers get any other facilities like, medical care, protection mask etc. Bonus during Dashain is provided by some industries. 24 laborers of two industries get bonus of Rs 500 once in a year. The only one facility, which has been found to be adequate in these industries, is provision of drinking water and toilet facility. Thus, we find the labor welfare scheme is not adequately implemented in carpet industries.

### **6.8. Physical Environment of the Factory**

The environment around the carpet industry is not healthy and fresh for all. Because of the different types of pollution, more children became the victim of sickness.

In the study area, it is found that there are no proper attentions on improving the physical environment conditions of the carpet industry. Physical environment of the factory is very bad. It is dirty and dark that is why in winter it is too cold. Working place is poor ventilated and sound polluted. During the carpet weaving time, lots of dust particles of wool is produced, which makes the environment dirty and dusty. These dusty and dirty atmospheres may seriously hamper the health of women and their small children as well. From the study area, it is clearly found that the physical condition regarding health of the children is found to be very unsuitable for the future generation who are the backbones of our country.

It is found that sanitation problems exist in all of the carpet industries, workers themselves are not habituated to use toilet properly in the working place which are found very dirty, except on few places.

### **6.9 Exploitations of Women Laborers from Gender Aspect**

From the sample study it is found that women laborers are suffering from exploitations in the factory as well in living place. So it is difficult for women laborers to live normal life in the factories. They are suffering from unwanted touching, obscene remarks, eye teasing, and vulgar songs and so on. Salary discrimination is not found among male and female laborers in the factory, they are paid equally.

**Table-19**  
**Exploitations of Women laborers in the Factory**

S.N.	Exploitations	Number	percent
1	Unwanted touching,	10	8.33
2	Obscene remarks	7	5.84
3	Eye teasing	13	10.83
4	Vulgar songs	27	22.50
5	None	63	52.50
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

Women laborers are suffering from these exploitations. But in this table, the most exploited suffering from which women laborers are passing and they feel this one the most unpleasant are described. About 8.33% laborers are suffering from unwanted touching from their colleagues. 5.84% women laborers are suffering from obscene remarks. 10.83% women laborers are suffering from eye teasing and 22.50% laborers are suffering from vulgar songs sung by colleagues. In fact, it is because of compulsion of job and also due to low economic condition, they are bound to tolerate such type of exploitations due to their low level of education. They are ignorant of their rights as well. Out of the total sample laborers, 52.5% laborers have good relation with colleagues and with the management of the factory. They are not ill treated by them

## **CHAPTER-VII**

### **LIVELIHOOD ASSETS AND LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES**

#### **7.1 Livelihood assets**

Main focus of this chapter is to discuss about livelihood assets used by women laborers of carpet industries that make their living standard. Livelihood assets are the core elements for people to make a living. People require a range of assets to achieve positive livelihood outcomes. Though there are numerous assets, sustainable livelihood approach identifies five core assets namely: human, social, natural, physical, and financial upon which livelihoods are built. Women laborers are earning their living through the interrelated livelihood assets. Portfolios of their livelihood assets are not equal for all but they are carrying out the same activities in the same place. These livelihood assets differ from individual to individual. In this section, livelihood assets of women laborers are discussed.

##### **7.1.1 Human Capital**

Human capital represents the skill, knowledge, ability to labor and good health that together enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives. Human capital appears in the generic framework as livelihood assets, that is a building block or means of achieving livelihood outcomes. Its accumulation can also be an end in itself. As well as being of intrinsic value, human capital (knowledge and labor or the ability to command labor) is required in order to make use of any of the four other types of assets. It is therefore necessary, though not on its own sufficient, for the achievement of positive livelihood outcomes. (DFID; 2002:2.3.1). In the study, in terms of human capital, only skill to particular work and their educational status have been discussed.

### **7.1.1.1 Literacy and Education**

It is the most important factor to enrich human capital, which provides knowledge about different sections to make a livelihood. So, it is also necessary to discuss about the educational status of the women laborers.

Laxmi Shrestha, 28 from Sarlahi, is an illiterate woman who could not get chance to be educated, although she was interested. She adds “there was not any tradition of girl schooling within our family. On the other hand, due to the poor economic condition we all sisters and brothers became illiterate.”

Urmila Dhimal, 37 from Dhankuta, She completed the study of class four. She was not able to continue her study because of the poor economic condition of parents. She had to go as daily wage laborers with her parents. When she became 13 years old, she came to this city with her friends. She began to work as carpet weaver in Carpet Industry.

As maintained earlier only 2.5% women laborers have received secondary education. Most of them are from deprived community and are illiterate. Illiteracy is an important cause to adopt this occupation. Some of them expressed the importance of education as “Padhako Bhaya Ta Kina Yesto Kam Ma Haat Halintheo Ra” (If we were educated, we would not involve in this occupation). During the field work, it was found that poor economic condition was the main cause of being illiterate for young groups and economic as well as social norms and values were for elder.

### **7.1.1.2 Additional Skill**

It was found that all of them are engaged in the same kind of work but they don't have equal human capital. Most women laborers have no any special kind of skill to earn more. If they have skill, it does not affect on their livelihood because weaving carpet is a time consuming work they have no any leisure time to earn more using their additional skill. They are paid after completion of the carpet so they always give attention to complete the carpet. Some of them are more skillful

to weave carpet. Such laborers are paid more than general laborers. Designed carpet are time consuming and tedious. Some women laborers have other skill like knitting yarn, spinning wool but they can not earn more using this type of skill because their main work is weaving carpet. They have no extra time. Some laborers used to go their home place in harvesting time to earn more with their family members.

Fulmaya tamang, 28 from Sarlahi, she has not any special skill except weaving carpet. She used to go her home place with her husband and children once or twice in a year. Her family has about 1 bigha farmland in her home place. They work as daily wage laborers to harvest crops. In this way, she earns little more than her colleagues.

Gita Tamang, 35, from Kavre, she is not educated. She has some skill like knitting yarn, making Tapari, making basket of plastics. But she is working as carpet weaver. She found that working in carpet industry is easier and there is certainty but in other work easiness and certainty is not found. She had earned some amount making basket and knitting yarn when she was not married. When she got married she had to come with her husband and began to work in same carpet industry along her husband.

### **7.1.2 Social Capital**

There is much debate about what exactly is meant by the term ‘social capital’. Social capital is taken to mean the social resource upon which people draw in pursuit of their livelihood objectives. Social capital, like other types of capital, can also be valued as a good in itself. It can make a particularly important contribution to people’s sense of well being (through identity, honor and belonging). Social capital can be used in negative as well as positive ways. (DFID; 2002:2.3.2.) In the case of the women laborers of carpet industries, livelihood adopted by them are also shaped by the status of their social capital. So it is necessary to discuss.

In the study area of carpet industries, there were not found any formal social organizations of women laborers but they are tied on a strong informal social network and use it as important tools to sustain their jobs within their working places.

It is found that, in a carpet industry, there are majority of laborers are from Sarlahi district. The manager of that carpet industry is found to be Sarlahi native, and they brought laborers from Sarlahi district. Being familiar with the manager the people trusted them and easily entered to the carpet industry .It same happens with community. When industry owner or manager belongs to particular community, they appoint mostly laborers of that particular community. It is found that the majority of laborers are of Tamang community in Chamunda carpet industry, because its owner is from Tamang Community.

Juna Rai 37 from Bhojpur, Her family's economic condition was very bad because of she had 8 sisters and brothers and her parents were daily wage laborers. She had nothing in the name of assets, except a small house. When they grew little more, they also used to go to work as laborers. She came to Kathmandu with her friends to visit Kathmandu. After few days she did not return, she found work in a carpet industry as a carpet weaver. After 13 months, she found another well paying industry in Jorpati VDC. When she worked about 15 months she called her two sisters to the same carpet industry. And now 4 members of her maternity family, two sisters, and a brother including her are working in same carpet industry

When a laborer is appointed as a carpet weaver, he or she calls his/her relatives/ family members to the carpet industry. So it is easy to get job in carpet industry if relative or familiar is working there as a carpet weaver. It is found that majority of laborers' family members are also working as carpet laborers. The following table shows the numbers of laborers working along with family members and working alone.

It is found that relatives or family members or friends weave carpet together in a single Taan(loom). In such way; they can weave carpet easily and quickly than others. They get other carpet to weave after completion the former carpet, so they earn more. The laborer, who weaves carpet alone in a single loom, such carpets are small in size. Table-18 shows that 87 respondents work with their family members. And only 33 respondents are found working alone.

Tara Magar 38 from Udaypur, she had three sisters and two brothers they all had to go with their parents to work in farm. She didn't like to work in sun and rain. As they all were illiterate and uneducated she could not work elsewhere to earn money for her family. When she became 15, a relative offered her a work of weaving carpet. Her parents sent her and her sister to Kathmandu with same relative. She said that, she could get good work in carpet industry with the help of that relative.

### **7.1.3 Natural Capital**

Natural capital refers to environmental assets such as land, and common property resources (with communal management and traditional systems determining access and types of use) or 'commons' (open access) or natural resources such as water, forests or grazing land (Dahal and Sapkota 2005) Natural capital is the term used for the natural resource stocks from which resource flows and services (e.g. nutrient cycling, erosion protection) useful for livelihoods are derived. There is a wide variation in the resources that make up natural capital, from intangible public goods such as the atmosphere and biodiversity to divisible assets used directly for production (trees, land, etc).

Natural resources provide services such as protection of erosion, storm, waste assimilation, etc. It is an important, for example, health will tend to suffer in areas where air quality is poor as a result of industrial activities or natural disasters (DFID 2001: 2.3.3). Natural capital is very important to those who derive all or

part of their livelihoods form resource based activities. However, its important goes way beyond this. None of us would survive without the help of the key environmental service and food production form natural capital. Their access to natural resource of women laborers in permanent residence bears significant role so it is discussed.

**Table-20**  
**Natural Capital of Women Laborers in Native Land**

Description		Numbers	Percent
Having the land for shelter	Yes	103	85.83
	No	17	14.17
Having the land for crops and vegetable	Yes	63	53.33
	No	57	46.67
Adequate water	Yes	69	57.5
	No	51	42.5
The fuel wood	Yes	77	64.17
	No	43	35.83
Being secure in the settlement from natural calamities	Yes	65	54.17
	No	55	45.83

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

Table- 20 reveals that 85.83 percent women laborers have their own house for shelter. 46.67 percent women laborers do not have extra land for crops and vegetable farming.42.5 percent women laborers do not have access to adequate water in their home place. 35.83 percent women laborers do not have access to forest production. 45.83 percent women laborers have felt the need to protect the settlement from natural calamities like landslide, river flood, etc. A few years ago, they had to face much trouble from natural disasters.

#### **7.1.4 Physical Capital**

Physical capital comprises the basic infrastructure and producer goods needed to support livelihoods. Infrastructure consists of changes to the physical environment that helps people to meet their basic needs and to be more productive. Producer goods are the tools and equipment that people use to function more productively. Usually, essential components of infrastructure for sustainable livelihoods are affordable transport; secure shelter and buildings; adequate water supply and sanitation; clean, affordable energy; and access to information (communications). Infrastructure is commonly a public good that is used without direct payment. Exceptions include shelter, which is often privately owned, and some other infrastructure that is accessed for a fee related to usage (e.g. toll roads and energy supplies). Lack of particular types of infrastructure is considered to be a core dimension of poverty. The livelihoods approach therefore focus on helping to provide access to appropriate infrastructure that enables poor people to achieve their livelihood objectives (DFID; 2002:2.3.4)

Insufficient or inappropriate producer goods also constrain people's productive capacity and therefore the human capital their disposal. More time and effort are spent on meeting basic needs, production and gaining access to the market. An act of listing physical assets of sample respondents is given below.

**Table-21**  
**Physical Capital of Women Laborers in Native Land**

Description		Numbers.	Percent
Having the transportation facilities	Yes	95	79.17
	No	25	20.83
Having the Electricity Facilities	Yes	85	70.83
	No	35	29.17
Having the drinking water facilities	Yes	88	73.33
	No	32	26.67
Having school facilities	Yes	101	84.17
	No	19	15.83
Having the health service facilities	Yes	79	65.83
	No	41	34.17
Having entertainment facilities in their home (Radio, T.V)	Yes	66	55
	No	54	45
Having the market facilities	Yes	105	87.5
	No	15	12.5
Having housing facilities	Yes	93	77.5
	No	27	22.5

*Source: Field Survey, 2007.*

The table-21 shows that 79.17% respondents have transportation facilities in their home place. It is found that the respondents, who have no transportation facilities, belong to hill districts. 70.83 %respondents have the electricity facilities and 29.17% respondents have no electricity facilities. Among all the respondents 73.33% respondents have drinking water facilities where 26.67% respondents have no drinking water facilities. They should carry water from far tap.84.17% respondents have the school facilities for the children. From the above table, it is clearly shown that about 15.83 % respondents have no school facilities for their children which are basic facilities for all the people. They have no transportation, electricity, drinking water, school, health service,

entertainment, market, and housing facilities. Almost the respondents having the facilities belong to Terai districts.

**Table-22**  
**Physical Capital of Respondents in Working Land**

Description		Numbers	Percent
Having the Living Facilities	Yes	111	92.5
	No	9	7.5
Having the Electricity Facilities	Yes	120	100
	No	-	
Having the Drinking Water Facilities	Yes	120	100
	No	-	
Having the Toilet Facilities	Yes	120	100
	No	-	
Having the school Facilities	Yes	-	
	No	120	100
Having the Entertainment Facilities in their living place (Radio, T.V.)	Yes	97	80.83
	No	23	19.17

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

Table-22 shows that 92.5% respondents have living facility provided by carpet industry. A single room is not provided for single laborer, they should make a group of 4 to 6-7 laborers for living facility. They should not pay for living in rooms. 7.5 % respondents managed rooms on rent themselves near the factory. All the respondents have electricity facility in their rooms, they should not pay for it. All the respondents have drinking water facility but it is difficult to take all the time because of lack of enough taps. They all have toilet facility. But it is too dirty polluted. School facilities are not provided for their children, they should manage

themselves school for their children. 80.83% respondents have entertainment facility like radio, T.V. Only 19.17 respondents do not have entertainment facility.

### **7.1.5 Financial Capital**

Financial capital denotes the financial resources that people use to achieve their livelihood objectives. The definition used here is not economically robust in that it includes flows as well as stocks and it can contribute to consumption as well as production. However, it has been adopted to try to capture an important livelihood building block, namely the availability of cash or equivalent that enables people to adopt different livelihood strategies. Financial capital is probably the most versatile of the five categories of assets. (DFID: 2002, 2.3.5) Here financial capitals of women laborers are discussed in terms of monthly income, monthly expenditure and monthly saving.

#### **7.1. 5.1 Income Level**

Carpet industry laborers get wage on the basis of weaving carpet in sq.m. Wage rate is different in weaving carpet. It depends on design, quality and pattern of carpet. The quality of carpet depends on the style of knitting. “The more knots, the better the carpet” Many knots carpet take long time and costs more. It ranges from Rs. 400 to 500 per sq.m. It is found that simple design carpet costs Rs 400 per sq.m, and it increases according to its design and quality. So they get different wage. It is shown in the table below:

**Table-23**  
**Income Level of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Wage Rate	Number	Percent
1	500	69	57.5
2	550	33	27.5
3	600	18	15
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

Table-23 shows that 57.5 % women laborers get Rs 500 per sq.m. These types of carpets are simple in design and quality. 27.5% women get Rs. 550per sq.m of carpet and the least number of women laborers weave quality and designed carpet that is why they get Rs. 600 per sq.m of carpet. Generally they take three-four days to weave one square meter of carpet. Their monthly income ranges from 5000 to 7000.

**Table-24**  
**Monthly Income of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Monthly Income	Number	Percent
1.	5000 to 5500	26	21.7
2.	5500 to 6000	57	47.5
3.	6000 to 6500	28	23.3
4	6500 to 7000	9	7.5
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2007*

The table-24 shows that the highest number of women laborers' monthly income is 5500 to 6000 and the lowest about 7.5% women laborers monthly income is 6500 to 7000. 21.7% women laborers of the total laborers monthly income is Rs 5000 to Rs 5500 and 23.3% of the total laborers monthly income is 6000 to 6500.

### 7.1.5.2 Family Income

It is already mentioned that maximum women laborers are poor economic family background. Like them their family members are also illiterate, uneducated and they adopted these type of laboring field. It is found that in 120 laborers, 37 laborers are only the single economic source for their families. They work hard to sustain their all the family members. But these laborers' have small family having 3 or 4 members. 83 laborers, have another income source in their family.

**Table-25**  
**Family Income of Women Laborers**

S.N.	Types of jobs	Number	Percent
1.	Weaver in same carpet industry	55	45.83
2.	Working in other carpet industry	27	22.5
3.	Taxi driver	7	5.84
4.	Went to foreign	13	10.83
5.	Others	18	15
Total		120	100

*Source: Field survey, 2007*

The above table-25 shows that maximum number of laborer's family members work in same carpet industry. They work together in one loom. 22.5% women laborers' family members work in other carpet industries. Mostly such family members are brothers, brothers in law, sisters, and sisters in law but not husband. It is found that if husbands are working in carpet industry, they are in same industries not in other industries. 10.83% women laborers family members went to foreign countries like Malaysia, Qatar, they are husbands of women laborers. It is found that maximum numbers of them were working in same carpet industries before going to foreign countries. 7 women laborers' family members are taxi drivers.

### 7.1.5.3 Expenditure Pattern

Daily/monthly expenditure is another important factor of financial capital. To increase income is difficult than to minimize expenditure. So, upon expenditure, they are able to control within a certain limit. Residence facility is provided by industry owner so they have not to pay for living.

It is already mentioned that they work hard just for their livelihood. They earn and spend on basic needs. In the study, it is found that they, the laborers spend their maximum income about 60 % of income on food. But it varies among laborers.

**Table-26**  
**Monthly Expenditure on Food**

S.N.	Expenditure in rupees	Number	Percent
1.	3000-3300	25	20.8
2.	3300-3600	59	49.2
3.	3600 – 3900	27	22.5
4.	3900 - 4200	9	7.5
Total		120	100

*Source: Field Study, 2007*

The above table-26 shows that 25 women laborers spend Rs 3000 to 3300 on food. It is found that these women laborers have basically only one child or stay single. Maximum percentage 49.2% of women laborers spends Rs3300 to Rs 3600 on food item. 22.5% women laborers spend Rs 3600 to 3900 on food. And 7.5% women laborers spend Rs 3900 to 4200 on food per month.

It is found that all women laborers send their children to school whose children are able to go to school. Among 120 laborers, 37 laborers have no children, 29 laborers children are grown up and not sending their children to school and 55

laborers send their children to school. It is found that about 10 to 20% of income is spent on their children education.

**Table- 27**  
**Monthly Expenditure on Education**

S.N.	Expenditure on Education	Number	Percent
1.	500 to 600	16	29.1
2.	600 to 700	23	41.8
3.	700 to 800	16	29.1
Total		55	100

*Source: Field survey, 2007*

The above table-27 shows that 29.1% laborers have to spend Rs 500 to 600 on education of their children. 41.8 % laborers spend Rs 600 to 700 on education and remaining 29.1 % of laborers spend Rs 700 to 800 on their children's education.

#### **7.1.5.4 Savings Debts of Women Laborers**

Monthly saving is the most important component for livelihood analysis because such saving helps them to make a living in the time of economic shocks. Sometimes, such saving also supports them for daily fooding in the time of difficulties. Women laborers weave carpet and earn money for their livelihood. They said that they can hardly save money in every month after fulfilling all the needs. But it is found that every laborer can save money to some extent. The laborers who weave designed carpet and the laborers whose family members work in industry can save money in every month. Just like earning savings are also not same among women laborer

**Table-28**  
**Monthly Saving of Women laborers**

S.N.	Monthly Saving(Rs)	No of Respondent	Percent
1.	Below 1000	42	35.00
2.	1000-1500	65	54.17
3.	1500-2000	10	8.33
4.	Above 2000	3	2.5
Total		120	100

*Source: Field survey, 2007*

Table-28 shows that among 120 respondents 42 respondents have monthly saving below 1000 which is followed by 65 respondents having monthly saving between Rs.1000-1500.8.33% respondents have monthly saving between Rs. 1500-2000. Only 3 respondents are found with monthly saving above than Rs. 2000. The above mentioned data also reveals that being involved in such occupation, all the women laborers have been able to save some amount after fulfilling the basic needs in urban environment.

When they are asked about debt whether they had or not, they informed that they had not taken any debt from bank or any financial organization. When needed, they borrow from their colleagues or industry owner. They paid their debt after sometime when they are able to pay or industry owner cut their wage in next month.

## 7.2 Livelihood Outcomes

Livelihood Outcomes are the achievements or outputs of livelihood strategy. In this study weaving carpet in carpet industries is the main livelihood strategy adopted by respondents. All of them have not recently adopted this occupation. Some of them have been involving in this occupation since their childhood. So, it is necessary to discuss about what they have achieved after adopting this occupation. Most of them have poor economic and social condition. Their main cause for adopting this occupation is to mitigate the deficient of “*Gass Bass Ra Kapass*” (Food, Shelter, and Clothes) and they are struggling to achieve them. Their expectation from this occupation is not so ambitious. They express their expectation from this occupation as “*Khana Ra Lagauna Pugeko chha, Yesto Kaam Bata Aaru Kay Aash garne*” (It is enough for to have meals and one set clothes to cover body, what more we can expect from such work).

During the fieldwork, it is found that after involving in this occupation, most of the women laborers have achieved some notable livelihood outcomes. Livelihood outcomes achieved by them are not only in the form of economic value (monthly income). Some livelihood outcomes in the form of social value (social status in home village), which also bears equal meaning as economic value. The outcomes of economic value may be easily seen if it is invested to increase other livelihood assets (i.e. education, physical property, saving etc). To discuss the outcomes in terms of social value is more complex than economic value. Some social outcomes are achieved after adopting this livelihood strategy (e.g. became familiar with urban environment) and some are the product of economic value (social status achieved after paying the debt).

After adopting this occupation, most of them have been practicing in day in and day out and if some amount is saved they send it at home. This expression

indicates that they have to fulfill the basic needs of individuals in temporary residence and then the basic needs of house hold in permanent residence.

Livelihood outcomes of women laborers should be discussed on two phases: outcomes on individual level and outcomes on household level which are described below:

### **7.2.1 Outcomes on individual level**

The most important livelihood outcomes achieved by respondent after adopting this occupation is that they are able to survive in temporary residence of the urban area by fulfilling the basic needs. Another important livelihood outcomes achieved by them are in the form of economic value. The entire respondents are able to save some amount. Such savings vary from individual to individual and are also determined by two things first their responsibility towards households and second number of earning family members. Those who do not have to support the total expenditure of house hold do not want to limit their daily expenditure. During their stay in working place, they are able to earn some social value. They become familiar with industry environment and are able to increase social interaction with other laborers. It is also found that majority of women laborers' family members working in same carpet industries. Those women laborers, who work alone in carpet industry, can hardly save some amount. They also earn some direct and indirect benefits. This is the most important livelihood outcomes of social value achieved by them through this occupation. Most of the women laborers have achieved the economic value in individual level

### **7.2.2 Outcomes on household level**

The livelihood outcomes achieved by them on household level is more important than individual level because outcomes in this level are obtained after fulfilling the basic needs in individual level. Most of the respondents have both economic and social relationship with household. From this perspective, livelihood outcomes achieved on this level bear significant meanings. The savings on individual level also shapes outcomes on this level. Saving in individual level is the main economic source and it appears in different forms in household levels. Most of the respondents invest their savings on household level but due to the poor economic condition, their tiny economic support becomes as same as pouring water in sand. Such little amount of saving is not enough to fulfill infinite basic necessities of household. There are some sectors in which their economic support becomes more meaningful. All the women laborers do not have the same economic background and their economic background determines the sector in which they have to invest their savings. The respondent, who do not have their own farmland, have to give more priorities to fooding than other sectors. Their religion, tradition and customs are also important factors to determine the sector of expenditure on household level.

## CHAPTER-EIGHT

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 8.1 Summary

The present study on "livelihood pattern of women laborers of carpet industries" has tried to find out the livelihood pattern and socio-economic condition of women laborers of carpet industries in Jorpati VDC. This study is mainly based on primary information and partly on secondary information. 10 carpet industries and 120 women laborers (12 women laborers from each industry) are selected using lottery method.

Carpet industry of Nepal, which started in the early sixties of this century, is very important industry contributing to the nation one of the major source of foreign currency income as well as the second largest employment generating sector. The carpet trade flourished from early eighties to the mid nineties, earned approximately 190 million US dollar (fiscal year 1993/94), and more than 300,000 people were employed in this sector.

Nepal exports carpets to more than 50 countries, Germany is the single big importer. Nepal exported 1,782,247.89 sq.m. of carpets in 1999/00. In 2004/05 Nepal exported 16,64117.71 sq.m. carpets worth Rs. 82,929,229.83 USD.

Women laborers of carpet industries are not native of Kathmandu valley. They migrated from hilly and terai districts of the country. Out of 120 laborers 14.17% women laborers came from Sarlahi. 12.50% women laborers came from Rauthat, 11.67% from Mekanpur, 7.50 from Kavre, 8.33% from Bhojpur, 10.83% from Udaypur, 9.17% from Sindhupalchowk and 10% from Sunsari

Nepal is conglomeration of different castes. Women laborers are found of various castes/ethnic groups. 25.8% women laborers are of Lama ethnic group. 17.5% are of Tamang ethnic group, 15% are of Dhimal, 11.7% are of Newar, 9.2% are of Magar, 6.7% are of Viswakarma and 14.1 % are of other ethnic group.

It is found that among 120 sample women laborers 34.1% laborers are of 21-26 age group. 16.5% women laborers are found of 15-20 age group. 24.1% women laborers are found of 27-32 age group. 15.7% women laborers are found within 33-38 age group. 9.6% women laborers are found of 39-44 age group. No women laborers are found involved in carpet industry below 15 years of age and above 44 years of age in the study.

It is found in this study that 65% women laborers out of total women laborers are married. 29.2% women laborers out of total women laborers are found to be unmarried. And only 5.8% women laborers are found to be divorced/widow. It is also found that the maximum percentage, 80.8% women laborers are illiterate. 12.5% women laborers are literate, they can just read letters. 4.2 % women laborers are found having primary education and 2.5% women laborers are found having secondary education. S.L.C. passed women laborer is not found in the carpet industry in the study.

The main mode of entry to carpet industry is friends/relatives. There are two main medium to enter the carpet industries. First, when girls (generally in teen ages) feel that it is hard to live in their origin place because of poor economic condition and illiteracy, they came to carpet industries with friends/relatives. After sometime they get married with laborer of same carpet industry. Second they come with their husbands and involve in carpet industry, when women are married with carpet industry laborers,

It is found that 75.8% women laborers are involved in carpet industry to earn money for their livelihood. 14.2% women laborers are involved in carpet industry to use their time and skill. And 10% women laborers are found involving in carpet industry for their self satisfaction. Among all the sample laborers 16.7% women laborers work 8 to 10 hours, 62.5% women laborers work 10 to 12 hours and 20.8% women laborers work 12 to 14 hours per day.

It is found that in all sample industries, living (residence) facility is provided to the laborers. Toilet, water, and electricity facility is also provided to the laborers. They should not pay for these facilities. Except these facilities, no other facilities like child care, medical care, and maternity leave are not provided to the laborers.

Physical environment of the factory is found to be very dirty, dusty and polluted. It is poor ventilated for air and light. Sanitation problem exist in the industries. It is also found that women laborers are suffering from exploitations in the factory. 8.33% women laborers are suffering from obscene remarks from their male colleagues. 22.50% women laborers are suffering from eye teasing from their male colleagues and 10.83% women laborers are suffering from vulgar songs from their male colleagues. 52.50% women laborers are not suffering from any exploitation.

Carpet industry laborers get wage on the basis of sq. m. of weaving carpet wage rate is different in weaving carpet. It depends on design, quality and pattern of carpet. The wage ranges from Rs. 400 to 500 per sq. m. It is found that simple design carpet costs Rs.400 per sq.m. and it increases according to its design and quality. Salary discrimination is not found among male and female laborers.

Carpet laborers are paid once or twice in a month. They are paid on the basis of per square meter of carpet weaving. Looms are different in size in carpet

industries. Some are small and some are big in size. Relatives or family members weave carpet together in big loom.

It is found that 47.5% women laborers' monthly income is Rs. 5500 to 6000. 21.7% women laborers' monthly income is Rs. 5000 to 5500. 23.3% women laborers' monthly income is Rs. 6000 to 6500 and 7.5% women laborers' monthly income is Rs. 6500 to 7000.

In the study it is found that they the women laborers spend their maximum income on food. 20.8% women laborers spend Rs. 3000 to 3300. 49.2% women laborers spend Rs. 3300 to 3600 on food. 27.5% women laborers spend Rs. 3600 to 3900 and 7.5% women laborers spend Rs. 3900 to 4200 on food.

Women laborers spend their income in education of their children also. Among sample laborers 37 laborers have no children, 29 women laborers' children are small they are not going to school, and 55 women laborers' children are going to school. Among 55 women laborers 29.1 % women laborers spend Rs. 500 to 600 on their children' education. 41.8% women laborers spend Rs. 600 to 700 on the education of their children. 29.1% women laborers spend Rs. 700 to 800 on the education of their children

They spend their income on basic needs like fooding, children' education. They can save some amount in every month. They have no any debt but borrow from colleagues are practiced in carpet industries.

## **8.2 Conclusion**

The carpet industry is a major export industry in Nepal. The uniqueness of Nepalese carpets stems from their being hand-knotted.

Carpet industry is a labor intensive sector where most of laborers are from backward community. They are illiterate, unskilled and deprived. Not only women but men laborers are also illiterate unskilled. Carpet weaving do not require heavy physical labor and proper education or skill so illiterate women are attracted to carpet industries.

Livelihood is the process of adopting the environment which is affected by particular societal demand, economic condition and environmental directions. Women laborers are earning their living through the interrelated livelihood assets: Human assets, Physical assets Social assets, and Natural assets.

Women laborers are migrated from different districts of the country. Their previous work for livelihood was agriculture wage labor. They came and adopted carpet weaving as a livelihood.

Women laborers are not only earning money for their family. Generally their family members like father, mother, husband, brothers are also earning money for livelihood. Livelihood outcomes (in economic perspective) are seen in individual level and household level.

Socio economic status of women laborers is raised after adopting carpet weaving. They send their children to school. Means of entertainment are found in their residence. Positive changes are seen in their lifestyle. Standard of living and quality of life have risen.

### **8.3 Recommendations**

It should be established separate carpet city for carpet industries. So that surrounding area and carpet industries both will be neat and clean.

Residence for women laborers should be managed far from carpet industry so that the children should develop in healthy environment and should get bright future.

Identity cards should be distributed for laborers and should provided training time to time.

The wage should be raised because everything, even food item the, first basic need, is dear (expensive). They have to fulfill all the needs like fooding, education of children, clothes and so on.

Child care center and school should be developed for women laborers' children. It should be provided by carpet industry or Government

Monitoring should be applied from carpet industry to minimize the exploitations, from which women laborers are suffering from male laborers.

Living arrangement, water facility and toilet facility should be maximized for the laborers of the carpet industry.

Attention should be given to the physical condition of carpet industry. Clean, lighted and airy place should be managed otherwise the prevailing unhealthy and unsuitable atmosphere of working place will bring adverse effect on the health condition of women laborers.

## REFERENCE

1. Acharya Meena (2000), **Labour Market Development and Poverty with on Opportunities for women in Nepal**, Tanka Prasad Memorial Foundation In Co-operation with FES, Kathmandu Nepal.
2. Acharya Meena (1994), **The Statistical Profile on Nepalese Women**, CEDA. T.U. Nepal.
3. Acharya Meena (1983), **The Statistical Profile on Nepalese Women: A Critical Review**, UNICEF, Nepal.
4. Acharya Meena (1979), **The Statistical Profile on Nepalese Women: A Critical Review**, UNICEF, Nepal.
5. Nepal Bimal (2004), **Status of Women in Nepal**, Unpublished MA Dissertation
6. Rai Hemlata (2000), **Women's Labour Pains**, The Rising Nepal, 3 March, 2000.
7. Joshi Bishnu (1997), **Female Workers and Their Socio-Economic Condition in Nepal**, Unpublished MA Dissertation submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Nepal.
8. Joshi Anjali (1985), **Women's Participation in Carpet Industries with Special Refrence to Kathmandu District**, Unpublished MA Dissertation submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Nepal.
9. Shrestha Neeru (1983), **Women Employment in Industrial Sector**, CEDA, Kathmandu, Nepal.
10. Rai R.K. (2004), **Livelihood Strategies of Occupational Communities (Damai and Kami) in Pancahkanya and Namsaling VDC, Ilam**. Unpublished MA Dissertation submitted to Central Department of Geography, T.U. Kirtipur, Nepal.
11. Pathak Mahesh (2004), **Livelihood Strategies of Street Cobblers: A Case Study of Kathmandu Valley**. Unpublished MA Dissertation submitted to Central Department of Geography, T.U. Kirtipur, Nepal

12. Timalisina K.P.(2003), **Impact of Bhimdhunga-Lamidanda Road on the Livelihood Strategies of Rural People: A Case Study of Jivapur VDC, Dhanding.** Unpublished MA Dissertation submitted to Central Department of Geography, T.U. Kirtipur, Nepal
13. Timalisina Sitoshna (1998), **Women Laborers of Patan Industrial Estates.** Unpublished MA Dissertation submitted to Central Department of Sociology, T.U. Kirtipur, Nepal
14. Central Bureau of Statistics (2005), **Nepal in Figures.** CBS
15. Sherchan B.K. (2002), **Women's Participation in Industry: A Case Study of Carpet Industries in Pokhara.** Unpublished MA Dissertation submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U. Kirtipur, Nepal.
16. Shrestha J.D. (1993), **Status of Women Labour in Industries of Nepal: A Case Study of the Industrial Estate in Patan.** Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis in Economics, Patna University.
17. Shah M.S. (1999), **Female Industrial Workers: Problem and Prospects: A Case Study of Urban Kathmandu.** Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis in Economics, Submitted to B.R. Ambedkar College, Bihar University.



## **B Work Pattern and Facilities**

9. How did you come to the carpet industry?
  - a. Through vacancies
  - b. Through staff/employees
  - c. Through middlemen/contractors.
  - d. Through friends/relatives?
10. What was the reason to work in carpet industry?
  - a. To earn money
  - b. To use your skill and time
  - c. Self-satisfaction
  - e. others
11. Why did you choose carpet industry for earning?
  - a. Ease of entry to carpet industry.
  - b. Because of illiteracy.
  - c. Others?
12. How many hours do you work in the factory?
  - a. 8 to 10 hours
  - b. 10 to 12 hours
  - c. 12 to 14 hours
13. Do you weave carpet alone in one loom or with friends?
  - a. Alone
  - b. With friends
14. Are you provided with other facilities except salary?
  - a. Medical
  - b. Child care
  - c. Maternity leave
  - d. Protection mask e Bonus
15. What do you feel about physical condition of the factory?
  - a. Is it dirty?
  - b. Is it congested?
  - c. Is it dark?
  - d. Is it dusty?
16. Does the polluted environment of industry harm you?
17. If yes, which kind of health degradation did you find?
  - a. Fever
  - b. Respiration problem
  - c. Cold/cough
  - d. Headache

18. Do you experience any exploitation from male colleagues?
- a. Unwanted touching
  - b. Obscene remarks
  - c. Eye teasing
  - d. Vulgar songs
  - e. None

**C. Livelihood Assets**

19. If you were educated, would you involve in this occupation?
20. Do you have any other skill except weaving carpet?
21. If yes. What are they?
22. What do you think, your skill helps you to earn more?
23. Do you have these assets in your native land?
- a. Land for shelter
  - b. Land for crops and vegetables
  - c. Adequate water facility
  - d. Enough fuel wood
24. Is your house or settlement secure from natural calamities?
25. Are these facilities exist in your native land?
- a. Transportation
  - b. Electricity
  - c. Drinking water
  - d. School for children
  - e. Health service center
  - f. Entertainment facility like T.V. radio
  - g. Market Center
26. Do these facilities are provided by the factory?
- a. Living facility
  - b. Electricity facility
  - c. Toilet and drinking water facility
27. Do you pay for all these facilities provided by the factory?
28. Does the factory manage the school for your children?
29. Do you have entertainment facilities like radio T.V. in your residence?

### **D Income and Expenditure pattern**

30. Is your earning main economic source or supportive source for your family?
31. Is there any difference among male and female laborers' salary?
32. How much do you earn in a month (approximately)?
33. How much do you spend on these basic needs?
  - a. Food                      b. Clothing
  - c. Education                d. Health
34. Except these basic needs, do you have to spend more in other things?
35. Can you save after fulfilling all the needs?
36. In what form do you keep your saving?
  - a. Jewellery                b. Cash                      c. Bank deposits
37. Do you have to take any debt?
38. Can you make some property from your own earning?
39. Is economic condition improving since you working or not?
40. Now are you satisfied from your work?