

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Role of women in socio-economic activities and gender issue is perhaps one of the most written, talked and heard about subject matters for long. In the recent years the role of women in economic activities has been focused more than that used to be talked long before.

Women are involved in productive, reproductive and community managing activities. The reproductive work involves the care and maintenance of the household and its member including bearing and caring for children, food preparation ,water and fuel collection, shopping, housekeeping and family health care . Reproductive work is crucial to human survival and the maintenance and reproduction of the labour force, yet it is seldom considered 'real work' The productive involves the production of goods and services for consuming and trade (farming, fishing, employment and self-employment). When people are asked what they do .The response is most often related to produce work, especially work which is paid or generates incomes. Both women and men can be involved in productive activities, but often their functions and less valued then men's Similarly the community managing work undertaken primarily by women at the community level, as an maintenance of scarce resources of collective consumption, such as water, health care and Education. This is voluntary unpaid work, undertaken in 'free time' (GPTM, 1999).

Gender discrimination is a worldwide phenomenon. Men have better access to resource, opportunities and public positions of repute compared to women. In order to

bring change in this phenomenon, it is necessary to educate people on social and political issues. To bring women into the development process. One such recent approach is Gender and Development. This approach focuses on gender roles and relations. In any given society, roles and responsibilities of women and men vary. Women usually have lesser access to resources and benefits due to various socio-cultural constraints. This stands out more glaringly in the developing countries where there is a clear demarcation of these roles and responsibilities and, subsequently, more prominent male domination. In most of the Asian countries, women are merely respected in their role of mothers and housekeepers.

Studies in Nepal reveal that women play a major role in Nepalese household and agricultural activities both as laborers on the family farm and in the wage labour, not to mention decision-making.

Women are involved in most activities and decision-making related to household and other activities. As women do not have the land title and lack of other sources of income, they are dependent upon their husbands. Thus when it comes to using/having access to land resources, the women have the accessibility. But when it comes to control of benefits of the resources, it is the males who still exercise the control because our society is a male-dominated society where major decisions are taken by the male members. If there is a surplus of agricultural production, then it is taken by males to the market to be sold. The earned income is taken care of by males and has held upon the source of cash even though females had an equal share in its upkeep. Unequal rank and power in decision-making and benefits are legitimized by traditional societal norms.

In Nepal, women's participation in planning and decision-making process of social, economic and political aspects is still minimal. They are treated as subordinate of their male counterpart. They do not have equal status vis a vis male. They have access to community, village, district and national politics not as a leaders but followers. Despite working as a agro – laborers, they don't have right to land and others property. Gender bias persists in Nepal: Literacy and schooling gaps between man and women are still large. In fact, the interaction of gender biased indicator of welfare, capability, work, participation and earning reflects the centrality of women; education for economic growth.

The economic (education, occupation, Income) demographic (family type, Family Size, women's age number of children) and social (religion, ethnicity) factors are found as the most important factors which directly or indirectly affect the decision making process. Women's involvement in the market economy lends them greater power in terms of household decision making in important matters . This can be attributed to the contribution of women to the domestic and subsistence sector automatically implies a low status conferred to them of decision making powers.

In connection to the above view, greater confinement of the women to the household implies higher fertility rates. Such a demographic phenomenon further implies low economic participation among these women and consequently a low status attached to them. Again, conventional social norms and beliefs trend to diminish the overall status of women both within and outside the household .The general belief is that women belong to the domestic sector which releases little time of from their overwhelming work load fir kind of productive economic participation (Social Service National Coordination Council, 2003).

All these factors bestow the least possible decision making power to these women as compared to their male counterpart. Whatever input they might contribute in this respect might be on unimportant matters, they being thought as incapable of making any effective decision . The high rate of illiteracy especially among the rural women might be another factor which confers a low state to them. The male perception of women being worthy of only their reproductive roles reinforced by the lack of self confidence of the women themselves to come forth as capable members, all aid in the process of their low status .

Remember to withstand their problem and enhance their qualitative livelihood are forwarded. However the most important factor to be realize is effective integration local women into the mainstream of development activities must being with a clear conception of who these women are, what they do and what do they want .

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Women constitute about half of the total population .Yet these vital sections of the society are the ones bestowed with minimum access to resources, information, food and services both within and outside the household sphere . Nepal has an immense amount of diversity both ethnically and geographically. The Hindu ideology holds a rigid and discriminated concept about the roles of women. Unlike in Hindu communities, Mongolian community has relatively been found liberal in terms of women's mobility and their access to decision making within households. However, the prevalent superstitions, social taboo, low literacy rate, higher maternal mortality and lesser average age negligible presence of women in key posts of political.

Women's role as manager of the subsistence sector is shunned off as unproductive, their opinion in important household matters is hardly considered, and their freedom within the household sphere is restricted, leaves alone the outside sphere and overall conferred the status of a week lot. The reasons for such as predicament may spring from the strong gender bias evident in the economic and political field, conventional social norms, values and perceptions and attitudes of the peoples themselves, But whatever the reason, the outcome remains the same- the widened gap between the status of men and women.

Though, men and women are equal in legal and constitutional terms women face glaring incidents of injustices in real life .With biological difference there are certain characteristics such as women cannot product semen, men cannot produce over and bear a child. Women are, however, not intellectually weak compares to men . If given equal opportunity they can do what men can. So why is this hierarchy between men and women? This is an important question.

At present Nepal faces many challenges particularly in the field of women's advancement where illiteracy ignorance and civil aspects of the patriarchal system are deeply rooted in the present's farm households. Relating to decision-making and power women's representation is very poor in the whole of south Asia especially in the countries like Nepal, Bangladesh ,India and Pakistan .All these things indicate that there is an increase in the work burden of females. Women have a triple role : women undertake reproductive, productive and community managing activities, while men primarily undertaken productive and community activities . They have to work 12 hours per day . But the control and the benefits of their work still lie in the hand of the males.

On the other hand, unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits are legitimizing by traditional norms. Owing to this there is a belief that females should confine themselves to such tasks as cooking, washing, taking care of children and should not involve in traditional male activities.

A key area of current development thrust is enhancing female participation in decision making process in different sphere of life. Decision making is one such field. However before any recommendation

Can be made to promote participation of women, empirical studies that actually examine the role of women in decision making process in a household should be undertaken. This study is an attempt to explore and describe women's role in decision making at household level. Some of the questions the study addresses itself are as follows:

- 1) What is the socio-economic status of women in the study area?
- 2) In what ways women are involved in household decision making especially on farm management, labor utilization, education aspects and family planning measures?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyze the role of women in household decision making. However the specific objectives of the study are:

- (i) To examine the social status of women in the study area such as their employment, economic and education status.
- (ii) To analyze the role of women in household decision making on farm management, labor utilization, education aspects and family planning measures.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study has significance on both applied and theoretical levels. This study is an attempt to explore and describe women's role in decision making. The study centralizes upon women's ability or strength as well as their weaknesses. The male dominated society has discarded the women participation in social, political and economical fronts. The planners and policy makers advocate and professionals need to concentrate and characterize their energy or power in order to address the issue of gender discrimination and should implement various programs based on women's self. The study, by exploring and examining women's actual role in decision making, will be useful for proper identification of women's role in decision making process for the planners and development practitioners.

Decision making skills and ability to envision a better life, and which address the concerns of Nepalese men as they are the ones who will need to share power with women. This study directly illustrates the roles of holding of women in family. In the light of the findings many new dimension can be identified to accelerate and enhance the participation of women in development.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The major limitations of this study are:

- i) Since this is a case study of Katuunje of Bhaktpur district and so the findings cannot be generalized for the whole country.
- ii) Due to the small size sample, the findings may not be much representative for the whole population of the female.
- iii) Only simple statistical tools have been used.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The first chapter is the introduction which includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance and limitation of the study as well as the organization of the study. Similarly, the second chapter is the review of the literature which includes the review of the concepts and theories related to the women in decision making and the review of the empirical studies of the international and national context. The third chapter is the methodology of the study. The fourth chapter includes the presentation and analysis of the study and the final chapter is the summary if the major findings, conclusions and the recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter includes the review of the related articles, books and other published and non-published documents relevant to the study.

2.1 Role of Women in Decision Making

Women have very low participation in decision making process, 70 percent of household related and external decision are entirely made by male member of house .(Acharya,1995).

Acharya and Bennett (1983) highlighted upon the fact that women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. The time allocation studies and the decision making data reveal women's major role in agricultural production both as laborers and as managers of the production process.

Acharya and Bennett (1981) give a wide over view of women's status in their decision making power in household .They claim that economic factors affects women's role in decision making both directly and indirectly .If a women has a greater economic participation she has a greater power of decision making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making e.g. .small size of children imply higher economic participation and consequently greater decision-making power for women

Acharya and Bennett singled out “Decision making” from the multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. They developed some model from the study of eight different village communities from the status of women in Nepal. In this model the villages were more conceived to be operating in such four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities work in the village labour market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village .

The finding of the model shows that in the first sphere women participation in farming and domestic activities constituted 86 percent women impact accounts for 57 percent in agro-production or in sphere second , while their inputs in sphere third and fourth drop down to 38 percent respectively .Their total contribution to the household’s income remains 50 percent as opposed to 44 percent for male . The remaining 6 percent of income is contributed by the children of 10-14 years.

The same study Acharya and Bennett, highlighted another interesting pattern, that different degree of female participation in market economy in different communities, which subsequently relates to their decision making power within the households .women from Hindu communities who are largely confined to domestic and subsistence production display much less significant role in major household economic decision those in the Tibeto- Burma Communities where women participate activity in the market economy “(Acharya & Bennett,1999).

Acharya (1998) stated that conventional social custom is one of the major reason obstruction women from participation fully in economic development, which result low decision making power in the women’s hand. Higher the participation fully in economic development, which result low decision making power in the women’s

hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision making power of women .one the other hand , the social conception that only women are responsible for the child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society . Due to all these reasons their status compared to male is very low . even political. Social and cultural development follows the economic development of a country .In this context , the committee constituted by united national in the status of women trying to gain for equal rights for women for removal of gender inequalities in legal economic, social and education matters.

Acharya (1998) concluded that in addition to the activities being performed under national and international auspices activities involving women in development process , status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving attention to such things making specifics studies about the economic, social and cultural activities of women in Nepalese societies .providing similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students, eliminating inequalities in inheritance rights , family right and all over legal right , involving them in seminar and symposia from the time-to time etc.

Greater participation of women in decision making will be a great step towards ensuring women of their right to voluntary motherhood and in turn improve their status . Dahal (1992) summarizes the information from the status of women in Nepal (CEDA,1991) that among high cast group .

The authority structure is male dominated, women cannot make their own decision and they have no independent sources of income and properly. Among the women the women for Baragaule, Rai and magar, they have liberal social structure: which permit in the accumulation of property. Likewise the Newar, the Tamang and the Tharu

women can have their independent source of property . Out of that, among the Newar of Kirtipur a women cannot make her own independent decision to take her sick body even to the hospital, without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family (Dahal,1992).

Women's public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape the cultures worldview and governed individual self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. .This fact is largely evidenced in professional, management and decision making position (Shakti, 1995).

Nepali women are daughters, wives and mothers, but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role, confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there due to their maternal function, they are discouraged and prevented from taking part in public life (subedi, 2003).

Violence against women in Nepal can be attributed to the cultural, religious, legislative and economic practices that conspire to keep women in a position of inferiority. Unit women get essential opportunities in their daily lives in economic, social and political areas, they will not be able to take part in the decision-making process within the family as well as in the community because of the lopsided relationship between men and women. Most women do not even realize that they are being exploited, and this must change (Subedi, 2003).

In the first five time-bound plans there was no mention of women's participation. In reference to international women's conference held in Mexico city had decided that every nation should implement its women development projects on the basis of the necessity and demand of the country after preparing a national activity-plan through governmental and non-government it is most necessary to mobilize women's participation today in the development it is most necessary to mobilize women's participation today in the development process because there is a greater significance of women in economic, social, political, religious, cultural and all other fields. As a result, institutions related to women were established at the governmental fields in order to encourage women to assume an active role in community development (Ghimire, 2001).

“Nepalese society being patriarchal people still doesn't see women politicians as their leaders, no matter how capable they are. They tend to see them through the prism of social roles as sister, wife and daughter-in-law etc “(Karki, 2007).

UNICEF Report (1987) depicts that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information which the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women, the written world still finds no meaning many rural women who do.

Become literate, however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government service only 7% of gazette officers and 5% of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10% of

decision concerning activities is made by men. The study shows about 50% of decision are made by men, 19% jointly and 31% by female which shows very low percentage of decision making power making on the part of women.

Kaur (1987) emphasized upon the need to give due recognition of female decision making especially in the case of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She claims that who are never found as final decision maker in many matters except for case of food and nutrition of children. Ironically women are not even free to decide about participation in women's organization such as mahila mandals. Financial decisions are found as solely manipulated by husbands except in few cases. She concludes saying planned, programs should be decision which support women's potential as capable and worthily decision makers.

Kaur goes to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's input in decision making process . As she observes "education women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterpart (Kaur, 1987)

Shrestha (1994) suggested that the decision making power of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labour and input contribution and consultants but as active change agents at the concerned level .It doesnot mean the involvement of one or two women or the wives of the leaders , but the involvement of women and men inn the same proportion in decision making as their proportion in decision making as their proportion in communicates at large. According to her, the women of Nepal are so dependent to men, if the partner of members deny giving shelter to them : it is a question of basic survivals . This system has made women so helpless, houseless, and

dependent that without men they will not survive .So in this inhuman system the right of survival is laid on the hearts of men .

Mazumdar (1982) spoke that the Asian women who have been subjected to acute social, economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and which continue even to this day be to a lesser degree. The monopolies of economic and political power as well as access to knowledge are the three major instruments by which the present structure of inequality between and within national is maintained. The majority of the women in the world, especially the Asian women, are excluded from these instruments. Their position is further belittled by the fact that their work is considered as non-productive.

PCRW tripartite review (1989) and impact evaluation study of PCRW (1988) production Credit for rural women (PCRW) extends credit facilities especially to rural women which acts as an initial boost for them to involve in income generating activities and subsequently achieve sustained self-reliance although, the overall performance of PCRW in this direction has not been significant, yet it is considered as a major break-through in the livelihood of the rural poor women .

Krishna Ahooja-patel speaks of the absolute necessity to bring women's issues into the forefront of development strategies. Although such issues have been denied access in important national and international discussions in the past, she feels that the preliminary term of women and development now being replaced by women in development is quite a significant step towards a realistic perception of women their lives.

Ahooja (1982) observed that the collective effect of perceptions, values and lifestyles have distorted women's personality and stunted her growth, reducing her to the size of a crippled tree. Such values and norms have imposed restrictions to her time, energy and space and rendered her status to a "non-status" according to her, this "non-status"¹ of women is "tied to two poles of their immobility: in the work cycle (production) and in the life cycle (reproduction).

2.2 Status of Women

According to the constitution of Nepal, all citizens of Nepal are equal regardless of sex, caste and ethnicity. Nevertheless, in actual practice, illiteracy, poverty deep-rooted socio-cultural values and traditions, especially caste prejudices and political factors have all often combined to prevent women from exercising their human rights. While human rights are common to men and women, there is a large area in the human rights of women that are either not recognized or neglected.

Human right is the right by birth being a human. Thus there should not be any biasness in ethnicity, sex, language, religion, politics, socio-economic and cultural aspects regarding human rights. So to honor one's respect and development of human UNO in 10th December 1948 announced worldwide layout about human rights.

The constitution guarantees all citizens the equality before Law and equal protection of law. No one shall be discriminated against on the basis of sex. Despite these constitutional and legal provisions, Nepalese women are suffering from social, economic and political discrimination. Deep rooted cultural norms and patriarchal values are the oneselves unfavorable to women. Dowry and domestic violence are still other problems (CEDAW, 1995).

"Discrimination between males and females starts in the family. Females are not included in the decision making process, and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women's participation in socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of their husbands/fathers parents/male relatives (Human Rights in Nepal 2003)

To avoid any social, economical and cultural discrimination *to* the women UNO in IS December, 1979 prepared convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women known as CEDAW. Nepal also signed this treaty in April 22,

Commenting upon the difference between pro- and-post 1990 years, almost all the women respondents stated that in the post-1990 days, "women have the opportunity to speak and exchange views with their husband, to participate in public forums, institutions and political parties, and also get elected in different tiers of local government bodies, particularly the VDC but they also pointed out that women still are not often encouraged to participate in socio-cultural and political activities, and when they do, their character is questioned and, worse, the male members of their families criticize them. (Dahal), 2008).

In the study of Nepalese women by Bennett (1983) how women are facing the hazardous situation in family and society as a whole. Similarly, according to March 1983 how the works of male and female is different and who is given more priority is clearly described of the Tamang society.

To talk, share, advice and solve the worldwide problems of women, four worldwide women conferences have been held. First women conference was in Mexico, second in Copenhagen and third in Nairobi and fourth in Beijing. After the participation of

Nepalese women in fourth world wide conference in Beijing his majesty government established the women, children and social welfare ministry in (2052 B.S.).

According to Alfred De' Souza, in the countries of South Asia, between 70% to 80% of the total female work force is employed in agricultural activities either as cultivator or farm labour (Souza, 2004). Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables, and fruits and livestock farming. The role played by women is significant in the development of the nation, but all these workers by women are considered voluntary (Gautam, 2006).

The health status of the Nepalese people in general has been improving though it is low compared to other less development countries. The life expectancy for men is 63 years of age and it is 64 years of age for female (World Population Data Sheet, 2009). Women in Nepal, as elsewhere, hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and farm work. However, reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by government system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities For education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision making (UNDP, 1995).

Luitel (1992) states that the Nepalese women's health is in miserable condition in the sense that they are quite neglected from their very childhood stage. The cultural norms, economic conditions and preferential attitude of parents towards the boys are in the centre of the ill/poor health of women. Age is the important factor determining the working load of women. Aged women have to work more than young girls. Among men and women of same age group, women have to work much more than men.

Adult men spent 92 percent of their work time in productive work, while women spend only 39 percent of their daily work time in productive work. But again given that women work more hours than men. Men have about seven hours of free time while boys of 10-14 age groups put in about 5 hours of work per day, girls of same age group have almost full work day i.e. they work for an average of 7.6 hours per day (Acharya, 1981).

Marital status makes women totally dependent upon her husband because her right upon the family property is only a2 through husband. About the women's right upon family property Bennett wrote that "men are endowed with the right to property by virtue of the biological fact of birth. Women's right to property depend almost entirely upon the social fact of marriage (i.e. on their role as a wife).^{HT} Therefore women's economic security is entirely dependent on their adherence to strict social norms of proper marital behavior (Bennett, 1990).

Economically, women have no rights to parental property as well as in the husband's home. They bear 70% of the household work burden and yet have no access to economic resources. Even doing the same work, they get lower wages as most of the women work as unskilled labour in carpet and garment factories and get low paid due to illiteracy (Luitel, 1992).

Women still have fewer social options for survival other than marriage. According to culturally defined ideals, getting married and producing children are the ultimate goals for women. All other options including education and employment are only secondary (Acharya, 1997).

Although there is imbalance in status between men and women as in most of the developing countries, women in Nepal are also engaged in domestic chores along with

the social and economic activities required for survival. Despite their important roles undertaken for social and economic life capacity and potential women have more disadvantages than male partners due to an inadequate access to exposure, technology, credit and environment-Women have low degree of opportunities for their education and have hardly any access to employment. There is lack of women participation in decision making from house to the executive levels. There is no positive attitude towards women's health and they do not get appropriate nutrition even in the period of pregnancy. Women get married early and are considered as child bearing machines due to early age delivery there is high maternal mortality rate in Nepal. Higher rate of maternal and child mortality shows the lower social status of women. Women have lack of economic power and also have lack of decision-making role over their fertility too (Acharya, 1995).

Gender inequality still permeates Nepalese life whereby women lag for behind men in economic, social and political positions. Women's traditionally disadvantaged status in the areas of education, health and economic participation has restricted their mobility and divides them the basic needs/tools necessary for political participation (Upadhyaya, 1999).

When daughter grow up, they will become wives, in other word, a laborer for another family sooner or later, more over, if girls is not good at household and farm work owing TO exposure to education, she might be looked down up in her husband's family when she gets married. So, investment in a girl's education is discouraged. Generally, there has been more girls' dropout than boys *at* the primary level (Gurung, 1999).

Nepali women are daughters, wives and mothers, but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role, confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there due to their maternal function. They are discouraged and prevented from taking part in public life (Subedi, 1993). Women's economic dependence on men, mainly stemming from the fact that men earn cash incomes, contributes to their social status. The few women who earn a salary are often held in higher esteem than women who do not (Gurung, 1999).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The main objective of this research is to explore the decision making process in a household and specially the women's participation in this process. In order to carry out [he research properly, both descriptive and exploratory research designs have been used. It explored the issues concerned with women's life in a household. It focused on the decision making process in *a* household.

3.2 Nature and Sources of Data

The nature of the study is descriptive as well as analytical. For this both primary and secondary data have been used. Primary data was collected in the field with the help of different techniques and tools: interview and observation. On the other hand the secondary data has been obtained from library, published and unpublished articles, documents, book and CBS records.

3.3 The Sampling Procedure

The Katunje VDC of Bhaktapur district profile-2011 shows that there are a total of 2699 households. Out of 9 wards, ward no. 2 has been considered as a study area. This ward contains 2 percent households. Only 20 percent i.e. 59 households has been sampled for the study because of the time, resources, expert manpower and proper implication of the study. Multistage Sampling method has been used to choose Katunje VDC Bhaktapur district ward no. 2, to draw the sample from whole population, purposive method has been used.

3.4 Methods of Data Collection

In order to obtain necessary and reliable data for this study the researcher has been used methods such as observation, unstructured interview and some case studies.

3.4.1 Observation

Observation method has been used to collect the observable information such as women's participation in day to day activities (women's participation in local VDC, their involvement in decision making, families' perception/support towards them), their role in household activities, and their relationship with the members of the family. The decision making process in the households has been observed to find out the women's role in the household decision making.

3.4.2 Interview

An unstructured interview has been taken so as to meet the purposes. The questionnaire has been divided into four sections. The first section deals with purpose of getting information about farming management which includes cropping pattern and livestock management, the second section deals with resource procurement and use while the third section comprises of information regarding, labour utilization pattern. The last section includes miscellaneous questionnaire about attitude towards dowry, family planning, family size etc. fifty nine household's members have been questioned to gain the reality of women's role on decision making.

3.5 Analysis and Presentation of Data

Quantitative data has been presented on tabular form. Both qualitative and quantitative methods have been used to analyze the obtained information.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

This chapter presents and analyzes the findings of the study. It presents and analyzes the findings in terms of the selected indicators.

4.1 Decision on purchasing Household Goods

It is normally considered that male and female are equal in family and they have equal roles and responsibilities. But males have dominance in decision making process and other social activities. Males alone have greater contribution over the purchasing of household things and its consumption.

Table 4.1 shows the involvement of male only, female only or both in making decision on purchasing household things.

Table4.1: Distribution of HHs by Decision on Purchasing HHs Goods

Decision Makers	No. of Households	Percentage (%)
Male	27	45.76
Female	15	25.42
Both	17	28.81
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Among the 59 sampled households males were playing a dominant role in decision on purchasing household goods a 5 TV,, radio, ornaments as well as consumption other materials. In 27 households, decision is made by males while only in 15 households females decide for it. However, there are 17 households in which decision is held by

both males and females. This shows male's domination in family as well as in society,

4.2 Decision for Cropping System

Mostly females are engaged either in household chores or in agricultural activities. There is more involvement of females in agriculture, provided capable in decision making regarding cropping pattern.

4.2: Distribution of Households by Decision on Cropping Pattern

Decision makers	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	15	25.42
Female	31	52.54
Both	13	22.03
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of the total 59 households 31 of the decisions for cropping pattern were made by females, while 15 decisions were made by males. Both males and females occupy slightly lower. However, in 13 households both males and females jointly take decision for cropping pattern. The following Table reveals the decisions on cropping pattern.

4.3 Decision Making in Selling Surplus Food Grains/Agricultural Products

The economy of the study area is totally dependent on agriculture production and women play a major role as they actively participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables, and livestock tanning. But in the process of selling

they are separated. The Table 4.3 shows the decision made by males and females in selling surplus agriculture products, such as vegetables, eggs, other agricultural production, milk etc.

Table 4.3: Decision on Selling Agriculture Surplus

Decision Makers	Mo. of HHs	% of HHs
Male	10	66.66
Female	2	13.33
Both	3	20.00
Total	15	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2016

Out of the total 59 sampled household, only 5 household had surplus agriculture-products to sell. As regards, selling of these surplus products mostly 10 (66.66%) of decision was made by male member. Only 2 (13.33%) females decide to sell such surplus products find in some households 3 (20%) joint decision were made in selling surplus food of the household. Since, selling activities is related to outside home and has dominated in this activity. Female rarely go to market to sell.

4.4 Decision on Borrowing Money and Goods

Respondents were asked "who decide for borrowing money or essential goods?" Among the 59 sampled households, 35 percent replied that they borrowed from others to fulfill their needs. Regarding borrowing money and goods, in most of the households decisions were made by males.

Table 4.4: Decision on Borrowing Money and Goods

Decision Makers	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	19	54.28
Female	9	25.71
Both	7	20.00
Total	35	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of the 35 households, in 19 households, decisions were made by male members while only 9 households' decisions were done by females. Similarly, in 7 households, decisions were made by both members.

Table 4.5: Decision on Selling Surplus Agricultural Products

Decision makers	No. of HHs	% of HHs
Male	10	66.66
Female	2	13.33
Both	3	20
Total	15	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of the total 59 sampled household, only 15 household had surplus agriculture-products to sell. As regards, selling of these surplus products mostly 10(66.66%) of decision was made by male members. Only 2(13.33%) females decide to sell such surplus products and in some households 3(20%) joint decision were made in selling surplus food of

The household, since, selling activities is related to outside home and has to go to market which is far from their residence male dominate in this activity. Female rarely go to market to sell. The following Table shows the decision made by males and females in selling surplus agriculture products, such as vegetables, eggs, other agricultural production, and milk.

4.4 Decision on Borrowing Money and Goods

Respondents were asked "who decide for borrowing money or essential goods?" Among the 59 sampled households, 35 percent replied that they borrowed from others to fulfill their needs. Regarding borrowing money and goods, in most of the households decisions were made by males.

Table 4.6: Decision on Borrowing Money and Goods

Decision Makers	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	19	54.28
Female	9	25.71
Both	7	20.00
Total	35	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.6 shows that out of the 35 households, in 19 households, decisions were made by male members while only 9 households' decisions were done by females. Similarly, in 7 households, decisions were made by both members.

4.5 Decision on Money Lending

In terms of money lending, out of the total 59 sampled households, 17 households had provided loan to others. Males are performing leading roles than females in deciding on money lending. Most of the decisions regarding providing loan were made by males because, males are more active in economic activity and they earn more than females. The following Table shows the situation of decisions for lending money.

Table 4.7: Decision on Money Lending

Decision Makers	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	13	76.48
Female	2	11.76
Both	2	11.76
Total	17	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.7 shows that out of 17 households, 13 numbers of loans were provided by decisions of males while only 2 females were found in the position of decisions for providing loan. Loan is provided to others by the decision of both members in 2 households.

4.6 Decision on Household Expenditure

Most women are engaged in household chores and they spend more time for these activities than males. Males played dominant role in decision on household expenditure. The following table shows the situation of decision making in terms of household expenditure.

Table 4.8: Decision on Household Expenditure

Decision Makers	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	29	49.15
Female	16	27.11
Both	14	23.72
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.8 shows that among the 59 sampled households, 29 household's decisions on expenditure are made by male members. Only 16 household's decisions are made by females whereas 14 household's decisions are made by both male and female members. It shows the low decision making power of females in household with regard to household expenditure.

4.7 Decision on Expenditure of Children's Education

According to the field survey, out of the total 59 sampled households, male members have dominant role in deciding children's education. The decisions about children's education and expenditure for them were made by males in most cases. Though both males and females are equally responsible for the children's welfare but only males members decide in most of the cases- It may be due to the low educational status of female and their economic dependency.

Table 4.9 illustrates the dominance of males' role on decision for children's education and expenditure for them which is a reflection of male dominant society.

Table 4.9: Decision on Expenditure of Children's Education

Decision maker	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	31	52.54j
Female	15	25.42
Both	13	22.03
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of total 59, it was found that 31 household's were made by males and only 15 household's by females. Similarly, 13 household's decisions were by mutual consent of both members.

4.8 Decision on Treatment for Sickness

Health is very sensitive for human being and it affects all the other activities, Medical science has developed many kinds of medicine and injection tor treatment of diseases. The life expectancy of people has been increased due to modern medical facilities. In terms of decision related to treatment for sickness of family members, males have dominant role. Mostly, male members decide the types of treatment to be practiced to care the disease. The following Table shows the male domination in decision for treatment.

Table 4.10: Decision on Treatment for Sickness

Decision Makers	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	27	45.76
Female	13	22.03
Both	19	32.20
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.10 shows that 27 household decisions on treatment for sickness are made by males and 13 household's by females. Similarly, more than 32 percentages of households decisions are made by both the members.

4.9 Decision for Family Planning

Use of family planning is burning issue in the present world and it is considered to be the main factor tor reducing rapid population growth. Most of the people are worried about large family size, since they wanted to manage their family with higher living standard. Rapid population growth degrades the quality of life of the people and resulted different kinds of problems as food deficit, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, health hazards, bad sanitation.

At present, various types of family planning devices are available for both males and females. FP methods are available for females than for males. But male played dominant role in deciding to practice FP methods. It presented in the following Table.

Table 4.11: Decision for Family Planning

Decision Makers	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	23	58.97
Female	6	15.38
Both	10	25.64
Total	39	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

It is found that out of 59, 39 respondents are using family planning devices. Among these user, 23 household's decisions are made by males and 6 households by females, whereas 10 household's decisions are made by both members. Thus, females are Sag behind deciding to use family planning methods. They have less knowledge about FP, due to which they cannot decide which will be better to use. Therefore females have low decision making power for using family planning.

4.10 Collection of Grass and Fodder

The livestock forming is an alternative source of income of the rural people. In study area, people are engaged in livestock farming except agriculture. Grass/Fodder collection is considered as the female's main responsibility. Most of the females engage in this activity. Only very few proportion of male share to collect it. It can be seen from the table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Distribution of HHs by Collecting Grass/Fodder

Decision Makers	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	5	8.47
Female	47	79.66
Both	7	11.86
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.12 shows that a few proportion of male engage in collection »rass /fodder which cover only 5HHs while 47 HHs females arc in this activity. Only 7 HHs occupys by both males and females in total households. It shows that grass/fodder collection an activity of females.

4.11 Taking Care of Livestock

The study belongs to a village where each family has their own livestock. Data had been collected with regard to livestock caring.

Table 4.13: Person involved in Taking Care of Livestock

Members of HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	13	22.03
Female	28	47.45
Both	18	30.50
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of the total 59 households, in 28 households livestock were taken care of by female members, while only 13 HHs males were found engaged in this activity. Livestock were cared both by males and females in 18 HHs. This shows that large proportion of females were involved taking care of the livestock.

4.12 Firewood Collection

In study area only firewood is used as the source of energy all the people used firewood fulfill their energy requirements. They collect it from the forest. More females are engaged rather than males to collect it. It can be seen by the following Table.

Table 4.14: Distribution of Households Collecting Firewood Members of HHs

Members of HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	11	18.64
Female	36	61.01
Both	12	20.33
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.14 shows that out of the 59 sampled households, more females (36) are engaged in collecting firewood compared to males (11) in some extent both members (12) are also engaged in this activity.

4.13 Cooking Activities

In the study area most of the females are engaged in household chores and agriculture activities. They have less access to education and hence lower

proportions were involved in gainful economic activities. They are surrounded by household activities- The Table 4.15 shows the involvement of males, females in cooking activities.

Table 4.15: Distribution of sampled HHs by cooking Activities

Members of HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage
Male	9	15.25
Female	38	64.40
Both	12	20.33
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.15 shows that out of the 59 sampled households in more than half households females cook food (38). Both males and females cook foods in 12 households. However, only few males were engaging in cooking activities with comparison to female member- Only in 9 households, male members are engaged in cooking activities. Thus, it was found that cooking food is the activity of females. They are the cook of households.

4.14 Possession/Keeping of Household Income

Both males and females need to have equally responsibly for household activities and they need to share equal benefits in family. Principally both are equal having equal rights and duties but, in our society males have dominant roles. Females have only supportive roles. They have to follow their male counterparts in decision making. Females are engaged in household activities, livestock caring and agricultural activities and males go outside and earn- males have more opportunity to keep their property. Table 4.16 shows the males domination to keep household income.

Table 4.16: Distribution of Households by Keeping of Household Income

Member of HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage
Female	26	44.06
Female	18	30.50
Both	15	25.42
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.16 shows that out of the 59 households, male members keep the household income in 26 households compared to in 18 households by females. In 15 households, both males and females keep jointly. This shows that male members control the household income and female have to get permission to use income. Male can use the income according to his will but female can not do so. It is due to the male domination in the family as well as in society,

4.15 Miscellaneous

Here we include the decision making on various other aspects of the household with special emphasis on the decision of women. These aspects range from women's education, children's education, dowry system, use of family planning measure even down to freedom of women for participation in community activities. Our data analysis on such aspects is as follows.

4.15.1 Education for Female

Views of respondents towards education for female had been recorded. Most of the respondents realized that education is the main factor which keeps the female to

raise their status in the society. Most of them are in favour of women's education. Few are against it.

Table 4.17: View towards Education for Female

Member of HHs	No. of HHs	Percentage
Agree	45	76.27
Disagree	11	18.64
Do not know	3	5.08
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of the 59 respondents 45 have agreed towards education for females and 11 have disagreed. Only 3 respondents do not know whether better education to be provided to females or not.

4.15.2 Choice of Bridegroom

Table 4.18: Decision making in the Choice of Bridegroom

S.N	Decision makers	No. of Household	Percentage
1	Husband	35	59.32
2	Wife	8	13.55
3	Male members	5	8.47
4	Female members	-	-
5	Jointly	11	18.64
	Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

We see husband from 35(59.32%) out of the 59 households decided on the bridegroom for their daughters. 13.35 percent wives decide on the bridegroom for their daughters. On the other hand male members constitute 8.47 percent and jointly 18.64 percent. We should note that the other female members including the bride have no say in the choice of the bridegroom.

4.15.2 Views of Respondents towards Property Right of Women

The respondents were asked " Does it provide property to daughter?" Most of the respondents replied positively while some replied against of property rights to daughter. The following table reveals view of respondents on property right to females.

Table 4.19: View of Respondents on Property Right to Female

Respondents View	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	48	81.35
Disagree	8	13.55
Do not know	3	5.08
Total	59	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Out of the 59 respondents 48 respondents are in favour of property rights to women, while 8 respondents are against it. Only 3 did not like to clear their view. Most of respondents are in favour of property right to women, it may be due to effect of modernization and the notion that both son and daughter are equal and they have to treat equally.

4.15.3 Reasons of Female Backwardness/ Deprivation

In the study area, females are found deprived from their rights and responsibilities. They have low access to education, employment, and decision making. They are dominated by males in each and every steps of life. The followings are the main reasons for their backwardness in the study area as given by the respondents.

Table 4.20 : Reasons for Backwardness of Female

Reasons given by the respondents	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Lack of education	37	62.71
Lack of awareness	5	8.47
Low Economic status	9	15.25
Tradition and culture	8	13.55
Total	59	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

As reported by the respondents, the main reason of female's backwardness is lack of education (37) Followed by low economic status (9). The stated third reason, which make female as backward is tradition and culture(8) . Lack of awareness(5) also contributes to keep women low status.

4.15.4 View toward Female's Decision Making Power

Lastly respondents were asked "does female decide correctly?"

Among the 59 respondents, 39 respondents were agreed that female can decide correctly while 16 respondents were disagreed. But 4 respondents did not like mention their view. It is present in the following Table.

Table 4.21: View towards female\’s decisions

Respondents View	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agree	39	66.10
Disagree	16	27.11
Do not know	4	6.77
Total	59	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

With regard to women decision making power 39 replied positively and 16 respondents replied that women could not decide properly and they provided the reasons as women are uneducated, soft hearted, dependent, hesitated to decide, lack of knowledge and awareness and sometimes stubborn too.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main purpose of this study is to examine the role of women in household decision making on the basis of a survey of 59 households in Katunje, Bhaktapur of district. The findings regarding the socio-economic characteristics of the selected 59 households have also been listed. But we have to keep in mind that this conclusion drawn can be applicable only at the micro level within the VDC households.

5.1 Summary of Findings

Women are involved in most activities and decision-making related households and other activities. As women don't have the land title and lack of other source of income, they are depended upon their husbands. Thus when it comes to using/having access to land resources the women have the accessibility. However, when it comes to control because our society is male dominated society where major decisions are taken by the male household head. Unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits are legitimizing by traditional societal norms.

Our study includes households from different ethnic communities. However, our issue in question has been limited only within the households irrespective of castes and inter-class relationships.

The major objective of this study was to analyze the role women's in household. Decision making on farm management labour utilization educational aspects and family planning measures and to examine the social status of women in the study area such as their employment, economic and educational status.

The research site selected for this study was Katunje VDC of Bhaktapur district ward number. Its accessibility to the research was the main cause of the selection. Purposive sampling method was used to select the respondents for the household activity analysis. Some key informants based upon their age, knowledge and responsiveness were selected for providing insights into the gender practices of the area. The methodology applied were activity analysis, interview. These are accompanied by observation. The conceptual framework that was adopted for the study was gender analysis.

We find a distinct pattern of women as decision makers of many aspects of the household affair. This can be attributed to their role as the basic providers and managers of the domestic sector. But a point to be considered here is that, women may have a greater say in many issues but which may be of lesser importance of e.g. decision making in mundane matters like food, clothing etc. They might also have a significant contribution in the decision making of important issues, but they heavily rely upon the approval and consent of their husbands for the execution of both important as well as unimportant matters. On the other hand, the husbands are found to be the final decision makers regarding only crucial issues such as household investments, the labour utilization pattern and so forth.

Another interesting pattern which emerged from our derivations is that the other female members comprising of daughters-in-law etc. (excluding the wives or female household heads) have comparatively low power of decision making vis-à-vis their male counterparts. The underlying implication here is that, women holding the status of "mothers" or rather, the female household heads have a greater control over the powers of decision making. Therefore, once the daughters are married off and the daughters-in-law eventually replace their mothers-in-law as female

household heads, they then become worthy of greater powers of decision making which was earlier enjoyed by their mothers in law.

The conclusion derived from the analysis of socio-economic characteristics and subsequently the conclusion of women's role in household decision making process is as follows:–

Women are solely responsible for household chores and activities. In other words, men have no contribution at all in this particular sphere of activity.

The women have much longer working hours than men, their average working hours being 6-7 hours/day as compared to only 3-5 hours/day for men.

Early marriages for women are still practiced. Their average age at marriage is 15-19 years which has naturally prolonged their child bearing age.

Family structure influences women's decision making power on households. Women's status in nuclear family is better than joint family. But in my study area percentage of joint family is high.

In most of cases female have low decision making power with compared to their male counterparts. The following are the major findings with regard to participation of female's in household decision making.

- Males have higher decision making power for purchasing household goods(45.76%) with compared to females(25.42%).
- Higher proportion of females(52.54%) is engaged in decision with regard to cropping pattern.
- More than two third males(66.66%) decide for selling surplus production.

- Males's decision has dominant roles in borrowing money(54.28%) and lending money(76.47%) compared to females (25.71%) and (11.76%) respectively.
- More than 49.15% decision for household expenditure is taking by males.
- Regarding expenditure on children's education more than half male make decision.
- Decision for business investment has great influence of males(65.6%) compared to female(15.6%).
- Males decide for using family planning(58.97%).
- About 45.76% decisions are made by males for sickness treatment while only 22.03% decisions by females.
- About 81.35% respondents are in favour of providing property to women.
- About 76.27% respondents have positive attitude towards providing education for females.
- Main reason for backwardness of female is lack of education 62.71%.
- Most of the respondents advised to provide education, build awareness and give employment to females for enhancing their social status.
- Males have3 a greater contribution regarding the decision in collection of Grass and Fodder and taking care of livestock.
- 61.01% Female are involved in collecting firewood.
- Males decide for possession of Households' income 44.06%.

Therefore, the women have the least or rather no power over the decision making of issues that solely concerns them.

5.2 Conclusion

As this study is concentrated to analyze the decision making power of women in termd of social as well as household activities, it can be concluded that female have lower decision making power and they have sub-ordinate role in family and in society. They are deprived from their right and responsibilities. They have lower decision making power than their male counterparts. In major household activities men played a dominant role in decision making. The female who have higher educational background and employed have higher decision making power than merely illiterate households.

As our society is male dominated males have superior status in most of the cases and female have to follow to them. Even they cannot decide for child birth and treatment of illness.

It can also be concluded that females have low socio-economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision making. So, it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate major the decision making process. Unless females are brought into the main stream of development plays an important role. This study shows that females have to work more in household having less decision making. They have to report their male partner's decision in mot of the cases. Though they have responsibilities to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it. If there is any difficulty to complete the work, they cannot decide at that moment, they have to ask for it.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings, analysis and conclusions, the study recommends the following in order to enhance the decision making role of the women in the household and personal decision making.

- i. Encourage female education and reduce the dropout rate
- ii. Promote awareness to realize the right and responsibility of female
- iii. Provide trainings and skills to female to make them self dependent
- iv. Make the male counterpart aware to realize the productive role that women can play

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4) Who is land owner ?

a) Male b) Female c) Both

5) How many land have you ?

a) Cultivated land b) Residential land

6) Is the food production in your land sufficient for consumption for a whole year ?

a) Yes b) No

7) If No, from where do you fulfill food deficit ?

a) Service b) Business c) livestock d) Wage earning e) Borrowing
f) others

8) What is your main source of income ?

a) Agriculture and livestock b) service c) business d) business e)
Others

9) What is your secondary source of income ?

10.) Have you any business ?

a) Yes b) No

11) Who engaged in business activities ?

a) Male b) Female c) both

12) In your business who decide the business ?

a) Male b) Female c) both

13) Do you have the following things ?

- a) Radio b) television c) toilet d) Electricity e)
ornaments

14) Who decide to purchase above items if you have any ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

15) Who cultivate the land in your family ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

16) Who decide the cropping pattern ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

17) Who decide the livestock farming ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

18) Who looks after livestock i.e. cutting grass, collecting fodder, growing animals etc.

- a) Male b) Female c) both

19) If female does not decide in livestock farming, why ?

20. Do you sell surplus food, milk product, vegetables, hem, fruits eggs etc ?

- a) Yes b) No

21) Who decide for it ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

22) Have you any debt ?

- a) yes b) No

23) In case of food deficit or in other cases, if you have to borrow money, who decide for it ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

24) Who keep the household income or money ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

25) Who decide the expenditure of household ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

26) Do you have given money/loan to anybody?

- a) Yes b) No

27) If yes, Who decide ?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

28) Have you sent all your children school ?

- a) Yes b) No

29) Who decides for children's education?

- a) Male b) Female c) both

30) If no who have you not sent School any why ?

- a) son b) daughter c) both

31) Who decides for the expenditure of children's school ?

a) Male b) Female c) both

32) Do you consult doctor/health personal if any members of your family suffer .

a) Yes b) No

33) If yes, who decide for it ?

a) Male b) Female c) both

34) If you don't consult doctor, why ?

a) Lack of money b) For from the home c) Lack of time d) Lack of
knowledge

35) Do you know about family planning ?

a) Yes b) No

36) Who decides for it ?

a) Male b) Female c) both

37) Do you think education is needed to female ?

a) Yes b) No

38) Why it is need ?

39) Why it is not needed ?

40) Is it good to provide property to daughter (Female) ?

a) yes b) No

41) Are you happy with your family environment ?

a) Yes b) No

42) If Yes, why ?

43) If No, Why ?

44) Who collect the grass or fodder ?

a) Male b) Female c) both

45) Who collect the fire wood ?

a) Male b) Female c) both

46) Who purchases the goods/ commodities from market?

a) Male b) Female c) both

47) Who decides for it ?

a) Male b) Female c) both

48) Do you engage in social activities ?

a) Yes b) No