

**WOMEN'S ROLE IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING:  
A Case Study from Ichangu Narayan VDC of Kathmandu  
District**



**A Dissertation**  
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**in Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements of Master Degree**  
**of Arts in Sociology**

**By**  
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**CENTRAL DEPARTEMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, KIRTIPUR, NEPAL**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This is to certify that Ms. Kushma Shrestha has completed this thesis entitled **“Women's Role in Household Decision Making A Case Study from Ichangu Narayan VDC of Kathmandu District”** under my supervision and guidance. I would like to forward this thesis for final approval and acceptance.

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**LETTER OF APPROVAL**

This thesis entitled **“Women's Role in Household Decision Making A Case Study from Ichangu Narayan VDC of Kathmandu District”** prepared by Ms. Kushma Shrestha has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.

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# CHAPTER – I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Background

Nepal is a Himalayan country in the south Asia lying between two big nations India and China with the total area of 1,47,181 sq. km. Nepal's total population is 23,151,423. Out of this about fifty percent is Women (CBS, 2007:2). In Nepal, like other developing countries, the state of women is not satisfactory. Male dominated family system provides very little scope for the female to assert their identity. They are marginalized from economic and social opportunities due to illiteracy, poverty and conservative social taboos.

Though Nepal is a very small country, people are from several different caste and ethnic groups speaking over a 100 languages and/or dialects (Gurung, 2007). According to a broad based categorization, they come from two main ethno-origins - Tibeto-Burman and Indio-Aryan. Intra-household gender relations and the social status of women vary between these ethnic and caste groups. It ranges from highly egalitarian relationship where the status of the women is in par with mean to highly in egalitarian where the status of women is subordinate to mean. Tibeto-Burman ethnic groups are more favorable to gender egalitarianism than Indo-Aryan groups.

Though gender egalitarianism existed in many communities, ruling elite since the unification of Nepal in late 1700s had always been from Indo-Aryan groups. This has resulted in state mechanism being controlled by their patriarchal values, norms and beliefs, where the status of women remained low. As the patriarchal culture prevailed over time, gender egalitarian

communities also became co-opted to patriarchal values and norms through educational and legal systems. This has resulted in pervasive discrimination of women in spite of such cultural and ethnical diversity (Pradhan, 2000).

The adult female literacy rate is 34.9 % as against 62.7 % of their male counterparts. During 2001 Census the overall female literacy rate was 42.5 % as against 65.1 % of the male literacy. The female student enrollment rate in the primary school was found to be 47.4 % of the total. In the secondary level it was 45.7 %. In higher secondary education it was 43.3 % and in higher education it was 32.7 % (CBS, 2007: 1).

Women's empowerment must involve women making choices that enhance their individual well being. In addition to that, well being further enhances their families and their communities. Integrated empowerment programs result in measurable behavioral changes in women. Women who have participated in such programs often become more actively participate in their household and communities and as a result contribute more to the growth of the Nepalese Economy (BBC, 2004).

The 2001 Census in Nepal had observed women constituted more than 50 % of the total population. Hence their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but also essential to speed up the development process. The socio-economic stander of women greatly enhances the progressive development of the nation. On the contrary, the situation is different; the 2001 Census report reveals women to be far behind males in terms of education, employment, decision-making positions, land ownerships, business etc. Women still have less control over economic and physical resources and lagging behind in terms of political power. The

outlook of society towards women has not been changed to the desired extent. They are still suffering from economic crisis.<sup>1</sup>

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Nepal is a multi ethnic state comprised of a great social and cultural diversity. Along with the diversity, the country is characterized by widespread inequalities and discrimination in terms of ethnicity, gender and geography. Gender inequality to empower Nepalese women can be justified in terms of the social and cultural context of the Nepalese society. It is excessive patriarchal based social structure and extended family system which restrict women to make independent decision.<sup>2</sup>

Lack of decision-making power has deprived women of the basic elements of a decent life such as food and nutrition, education, skill development, health, and family planning. This has ultimately undermined their access to gainful employment opportunities and participation in professional jobs.

Things are changing slowly but steadily. Women in development have been accepted since the sixth plan as a national policy. After the restoration of multi party system in 1990 policy makers are giving due importance to uplift the status of women. A separate ministry, to look after the welfare of the women, has been established. After the World Women Conference, held in Beijing on 1995, the question of women empowerment has been brought into the limelight. Government of Nepal is very much committed to fulfill the commitment made in this Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org/nepal/nepaldoc.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.minorityrights.org/partner\\_interventions/2006/indigenous\\_women-lucky.doc](http://www.minorityrights.org/partner_interventions/2006/indigenous_women-lucky.doc)

The status of women compared to men is different in geographical regions (rural, urban, hill, mountain, terai) of the country. There are also varying practices among different classes, castes, ethnicity, tribes, dalits etc. women as a whole are trying to be empowered, wanting to know more, practicing their inborn legal rights, feeling competent with their male counterparts, wanting to occupy positions, trying to make decisions within the family affairs.

The proposed thesis intend to study the married women's role in household decision-making in Ichangu Narayan VDC of Kathmandu, a newly developed residential locality in the capital city constituting of both locals and migrated inhabitants. Ichangu Narayan VDC is chosen as the field of study because in the present work it is intended to study the status and decision-making power of women in an urban area. The VDC is a newly developed both rural and suburban residential area composed of both local and migrated people. We found similar study conducted in a rural and a suburban area. Study of the decision-making power of women in Ichanagu allows us to compare the status of women in rural and suburban area which collectively can show the real picture of decision-making power of Nepalese women.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The general objective of the proposed study is to study the role of married women in household decision-making in rural areas of Nepal. The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To examine the socio economic status (house-land ownership, engagement in income generating activities and participation in social and developmental activities) of women in the study area.

2. To analyze the women's roles in household decision-making on family affairs.
3. To examine the household decision-making power of married women in terms of their age, education and caste/ethnicity.

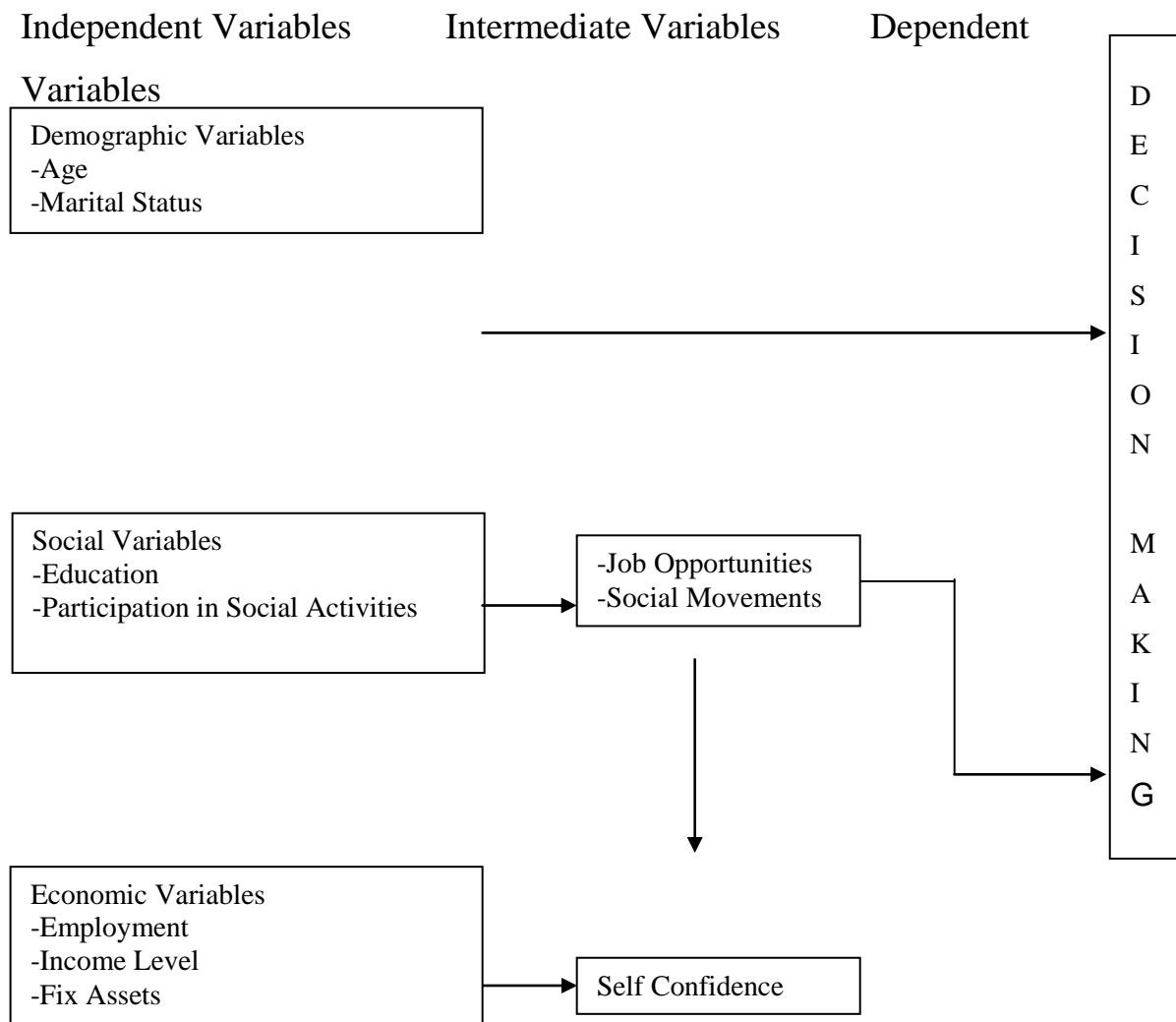
#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

As in the world, women constitute half of the total population in Nepal. They are the back bone of the nation. They play a significant role in the societies, both an economic and social actors; they should, therefore be seen as integral partners in all development efforts. In patriarchal society, women are discarded from participation in social, political and economical areas. States must seek to include gender prospective in their national development policies and should implement various programs to improve women's self-confidence and decision-making power. The significances of this study are as follows:

1. This study explains socio-economic status and household decision-making power of women.
2. It describes the household decision-making status of women in sub urban area of Nepal.
3. It is useful to develop awareness towards household decision-making situation.
4. It is helpful to those organizations which are working in this field to identify the situation of women in household in decision-making and implement some welfare programs to improve their status.

## 1.5 Conceptual Frame work

Fig.2.1 Conceptual Framework



Decision-making power of women is influenced by demographic, social and economic factors. Demographic variables such as age and marital status are important factors, which determine the social role and responsibilities of women. Job opportunities and mobility in society is determined by education and chances of participation in social activities which finally influence the decision-making. Economic variables as employment and economic status

play important role to build up the self confidence, which directly influences the decision-making power of women (Gurung, 2007).

### **1.6 Limitation of the Study**

The issue of women's participation in decision-making-process is very vague issue which cannot be studied at once. This study has the following limitations:

1. This study focuses in a very small area of Ichangu in Kathmadu district.
2. This study covers only the married women.
3. This study covers the sample size of 80 respondents.
4. This study is concentrated to analyze the situation of women in household decision-making.

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

Chapter first deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, conceptual framework, limitation of the study and organization of the study. Chapter II deals with the literature review from the various books, journals, publications etc. Chapter III deals with the description of the study area and it gives explanation of the research design, sampling procedure and procedure the data generated and the statistical tools used during the process. Chapter IV deals with demographic, social, economic and participatory characteristics of the sample population and respondents. Chapter V deals with the analysis of collected data regarding the household decision-making process. Chapter VI provides summary and conclusion of the whole study.

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This chapter deals with the available literature about decision-making role of women. Review of literature is an important element of research design. It is the description about the related topics which is published by scholars, researchers, academicians and professionals. This part of research is very important because it provides knowledge about the related topic which increases ability of researcher to perform research.

In modern society, the male female participation is considered to be equal. Their role should be equal that may be at home or outside. For the improvement of women status there should be decision-making power with women, if decision-making power is equally divided to men and women, then the family can run very easily in a better way.

#### **2.1 Historical Background**

Nepal was the only Hindu country in the world till 2005. The strong influence of Hindu religion can be seen on its legal system also. The Hindu religion is predominantly patriarchal in its outlook. Manu, a great philosopher stated in "Manusmriti" that, a wife and a slave can have no property and that the wealth they acquire belongs to the person to whom they belong. However, he recognizes the concept of "Stridhan" (gifts received by a woman before marriage or in front of the nuptial fire from her parents, brother and other relatives). Other Hindu philosophers like Katyayana, Yagnavalkya, Vijneshwara, Gautama also recognize the concept of "Stridhan".

The Hindu Philosophy of law regards only sons as their heirs to the ancestral property. Birth entitles men to membership of the ancestral property whereas the women are entitles to a share in the husband's property by marriage.

## **2.2 Socio-Cultural Situation**

Nepal's cultural landscape is recklessly diverse and is composed of more than 125 dialects speaking groups and sub-groups. They are divided mainly into two major groups on the basis of language and socio-cultural practices, i.e. Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Burman. The politically and culturally predominant Indo-Aryan group mostly lives in the hills and Terai.

In terms of attitudes towards women, there are some conservative communities in Indo-Aryan group, which do not allow women to move freely outside the household. Sexual purity of women is extremely important for Indo-Aryan group. Child marriage, a restriction on widows remarrying and arranged marriages are still followed widely (Acharya et al. 1981).

The social status of women and their access to resources varied widely depending on the cultural groups they belong to. Generally, women belonging to Tibeto-Burman cultural group had considerably greater freedom in matters such as choice of marriage partners, deciding the time for marriage and in selection of economic activities they wished to pursue, as compared to their sisters belonging to the Indo-Aryan cultural group. While Indo-Aryan women were married early, had no choice in their life partners and were severely restricted in their in social mobility, such finding did not generally apply to women belonging to Tibeto-Burman groups. In all cultural groups, however, it was found that women's access to modern resources in the form of knowledge (education, training etc.), and traditional

and newly created assets (e.g. land, machines, employment) was severely limited (Acharya, 1994).

Across the cultural diversity, the majority of communities in Nepal are patriarchal – a women's life is strongly influenced by her father and husband – as reflected in the practice of patrilocal residence, patriarchal descent and by inheritance systems and family relations. Such patriarchal practices are further reinforced by the legal system. Marriage has an overwhelming importance in a woman's life. The event of marriage determines almost all her life options and subsequent livelihood. According to the predominant Hindu tradition, marriage is essential for all whether man or woman. While a man's life is not considered complete without a wife, a woman has no option but to marry. Early marriages are rooted on both the concept of purity of the female body and the need for helping hands in farm and households. The traditional concern over the purity of women's body limits female's mobility. Marriage is understood as a social contract between two clans rather than the personal affairs of the bride and groom. In addition polygyny, though outlawed can still be observed especially in the rural areas of the Terai. The socio-culturally constructed son preference and dowry system also look at women from minus lens in Nepal. The idea that women can achieve salvation only through sons compels them to marry at an early age and couples to breed as many sons as possible. Consequently there are high rate of child marriage and pregnancy among adolescent women. The heavy burden of pregnancy and childcare at early age seriously limit female's chances to receive education and confine women's role within the household as wives and mothers. It also hinders women's participation in decision-making and politics. The dowry system also creates serious barriers for women. Many young women are mentally and physically tortured by their

husbands, in-laws and others by arguing of insufficient dowry from their parents.<sup>3</sup>

In spite of the reality of the significantly patriarchal structural of Nepalese society, which by design has relegated women to a subordinate position, there were meaningful variations between communities in the context of women's participation in the wider market economy and the over all household decision-making process. These variations fall into a consistent pattern, suggesting that women's household decision-making input in a given community is directly related to the strength of the inside/outside dichotomy. To varying degrees the 'inside' private domestic sphere is characterized as the proper domain of women and the 'outside' sphere of candidacy, water/irrigation system construction, budget allocation, village development programs, selection of extension workers-are mostly ascribed to men. Women in dichotomous village communities (based of cultural and economic criteria) including the Maithali and Parbatia, have considerably less control in terms of decision-making than those in non-dichotomous communities including the Lohorung Rai, Baragaonle and Kham Magar. The Newar, Tamang and Tharu fall between these two groups (Strii Shakti, 1995).

The participation in the decision-making inside the household sphere was found to be equal for men and women of Tamang community. The percentage of decision-making authority constituted 40.26 % of the total. However, the female participation in decision-making authority for outside the household sphere was found to be dominated by male decision authority is 32.47 % vs. 40.35 % (Limbu, 1997).

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.laliguranswomenskill.org.np/nepali\\_women](http://www.laliguranswomenskill.org.np/nepali_women)

According to Pyakuryal and Thakuri, as soon as the males born, expectations are bestowed on him. He has certain stereotyped roles waiting for him when he reaches adulthood. In Nepalese society, social status of women is always thought to be that of subordinate to men. A survey conducted by UNICEF on the status of women and children in Nepal reports that gender disparity starts right from the birth and continues through different stages of the girl's life and as further deepened and perpetuated through various rituals (Pyakuryal and Thakuri, 1998).

Normally, husbands were the major decision maker as to whether to terminate a pregnancy. It was found that if the husband decided to keep the unintended pregnancy to term, his wife would have few or no options to alter the decision. It was not possible in this study to assess whether women with unintended pregnancies had resorted to abortion without informing their husbands. Nevertheless, the finding indicates discordance in responses between husbands and wives regarding the final outcomes. For example, of 12 husbands who said their wives had successful abortions, two of these wives (of matched couples) responses did not match with their husbands responses. Similarly, among those seven husbands who reported abortion failures, these responses matched only with four wives (CREHPA, 2007).

UNICEF (1996) has introduced the South Asian culture which has placed the women at inferior position. Cultural practices place daughter-in-law at the lowest position in the family hierarchy. Even during pregnancy they often bear the heaviest work load, but get least food.

Religion determines women's position in the family and in society. Though existing religion differs in their approach to god and salvation, one common feature they share is the allocation of inferior status of women. Besides

religious tenets, taboos also play a role in establishing women's lower position in the society. Nepal has two major religions; Hinduism and Buddhism, among them 86.51 % are Hindus and 7.78 % are Buddhist. Broadly speaking, Buddhist women do enjoy better position compare to Hindu women, but within their own community, their status is lower in compared to men. The notions of purity and impurity, which are dominant cast system, are even more stringent in relation to women. Menstruation and child birth are considered impure and these accords women lower status than men. Even women from high cast are considered lower in the status than men from lower cast. Furthermore, women are so influenced by the religious scriptures that they consider themselves subordinate to their male counterparts, as especially Hindu women consider it their duty to take orders from their husbands. Their whole life revolves around their husbands and children and only few have individual identities (FWLD, 2003).

### **2.3 Economic Status**

The Nepalese economy is still predominantly subsistence agriculture with 86 per cent of the total population living in rural areas and 81 per cent deriving their livelihoods from agriculture. National agricultural productivity is low although it accounts approximately 60 per cent of GDP and 75 per cent of exports. Women work relatively harder than the men. Production in the absence of women's participation is beyond imagination. Women reserve the grain, look after the livestock, grow vegetables, transplant crop saplings at the start of the plantation season and then again reap, thresh and clean the harvest. Such activities are not restricted to the village economy alone; they are also equally involved in the development works. They also play significant role in national economy. They currently constitute approximately 40 per cent of the total work force in the country. However,

women occupy the low status jobs and are paid less than men. The 1991 population census report shows that women still lag far behind men in high status jobs.<sup>4</sup>

Women's role in household decision-making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. A woman has greater economic participation and will have a greater power in decision-making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision-making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision power for women. A study of rural women's work burden reveals that women contribute 74 per cent of the labor input to subsistence economic activities and 86 per cent of input to social and domestic work. Statistics show that rural women's total work burden is extremely high that at an average of 11.44 hours per day in contrast to 8.34 hours per day for men (Acharya & Bennet, 1981).

UNFPA (1995) showed that women must struggle to reconcile activities outside the home with their traditional roles. They cannot participate fully in economic and public life, have limited access to position of influence and power have narrower occupational choices and lower earnings than men. In the majority of countries, women comprise 10 to 30 percent of managers and occupy less than 5 percent of the very highest economic position. In addition, there have been significant improvements in the percentage of females among managerial and administrative workers. Individual countries report significantly higher percentage: in the United States, Botswana and Guatemala, for example, women constitute 40, 26 and 32 percent of these positions respectively.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.laliguranswomenskill.org.np/nepali\\_women](http://www.laliguranswomenskill.org.np/nepali_women)

As to the access of women to economic assets and property, there is no ground to believe that women's access to land and other economic resources has increased in the last 20-25 years as their legal rights over property and inheritance has not changed much during this period. Even the recently promulgated amendment, to the law on property rights of women does not change her access to parental property substantially. The law, however, does not provide easier access to the property in her a final household. As per the census 2001, about 11 percent of the households reported some land in female legal ownership (Acharya, 2003:1).

Women's participation in formally defined labor force has increased substantially between 1981 and 2001. Much of the definitional problems in the economic activity rates are also being taken care of slowly. As per the Census, 2001, women constitute more than 43 % of the labor force, 73 % in agriculture and 27 % in the non-agriculture sectors. Women's proportion has increased almost in all occupations to some extent. But their greater concentration in agriculture is also visible. A positive trend is also visible in their empowerment as reflected in their increasing proportion among the professionals and technicians as also in administration and management (Acharya, 2003:2).

Although employment is assumed to go hand in hand with payment for work, not all women receive earnings for the work they do, and even among women who do receive earnings, not all are paid in cash. One in seven (14 percent) receives payment in cash only, and one in five (21 percent) receive both cash and in-kind payment. Two in five (41 %) receive payment only in kind. Nearly one in four employed women do not receive any form of payment for their work (NDHS, 2006).

Again according to NDHS (2006) notable variations are seen in the proportion currently employed by place of residence and region. Rural women are more likely to be currently employed than urban women (75 % compared with 49 %). Women in the mountains are more likely to be economically active than women residing in the other ecological zones. Women in the far-western, western and mid-western regions are more likely to be currently employed (84 %, 80 % and 78 % respectively). A similar pattern was observed for ever-married women in the 2006 NDHS, the 1996 NFHS, and the 2001 NDHS surveys.

## **2.4 Educational Status**

Education is the most important tool to increasing aspirations including economic development, awareness of rights and duties among the people that affect their education which permits the optimal utilization of individual potential and enable women to reach decision-making position in household as well as educational and administrative structure in the country. Education provides employment opportunities for women on equal footing with men. So education is most important tool for household decision-making power of women.

The UN (1994) states education as one of the most important means of empowering women with knowledge skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. But there are 960million illiterate adults in the world and two thirds are women. There are 130 million children who are not enrolled in primary school and 70 percent of them are girls.

According to Census (2001) the male literacy rose from 34.0 % in 1981 to 65.5 % in 2001 where as female literacy rate went up from 12 % in 1981 to 42.8 % in 2001 (CBS, 2003). In 2001 rural female literacy rate is 39.6 % and urban female literacy rate is 61.9 %. In Kathmandu male literacy rate is 86.5 % and female literacy rate is 66.6 %.

Educational attainment in Nepal is very low among women, who are much more disadvantaged than men. More than half (53 %) of women compared with less than one in half (18 %) men do not have any formal education. 18 % of women and 28 % of men have only reached primary school, 21 % of women and 33 % of men have only attained secondary school, and 9 % of women and 20 % of men have completed their School Leaving Certificate (SLC) or gone on to higher level of education (NDHS, 2006).

NDHS (2006) further states that more than one half of women in Nepal (55 %) are literate. The literacy status varies by place of residence. Three-fourths of women residing in urban areas are literate compared with only half of their rural counterparts. The level of literacy by age shows a consistent decrease with increasing age. This suggests that the younger generations have had more opportunity for learning than the older generations. Four in five women age 15-19 are literate compared with only about one in five women age 45-49. A higher proportion of women (63%) living in the hills are literate, compared with those living in the mountain and terai zones (46% and 48 %, respectively).

Regional and sub regional differences in literacy are notable, with literacy being highest among women in the western region, 65 % and lowest in the far-western region (48 %). The percentage of literate women is highest in the western hill sub region (71 %) and lowest in central terai, far-western hill,

and western mountain sub regions (35 % each). There is also a significant difference in literacy levels by women's wealth status, ranging from a low of 37 % among women in the lowest wealth quintile to a highest of 81 % among women in the highest wealth quintile. This reaffirms the positive association between economic status and literacy. There has been a notable increase in educational attainment in literacy over the last five years among both ever-married men and women. For example, ever-married women attending secondary school or higher education increased by 55 %, from 13 % in 2001 to 21 % in 2006. At the same time the percentage of ever-married women who are literate increased by 32 %, from 35 % in 2001 to 47 % in 2006. Literacy among ever-married men rose from 70 % to 73 % during the same time period (NDHS, 2006).

## **2.5 Current Situation**

As given in the Three Year Interim Plan (2007), various programs targeted women's development, women rights and gender equality, all based on the national work plans and in line with the commitments of the government, are in operation. There are many tasks being performed by the NGOs and the civil society in the fields of social and economic empowerment of women. The interim parliament has passed a bill to ensure at least 33 % women's representation in all the state machinery. gender analysis and audit have been carried out for some line ministries' programs. In the planning and execution of local development, women's participation has been made mandatory. In the ministry of finance (MoF), a gender responsive budget committee is functioning to look into gender issues in development programs, budgeting and their implementation.

Currently many programs have been conducted to enable women of socially and economically marginalized groups to have access to employment –

oriented skills and productive resources and to increase their decision-making and organizational capacity, and women groups are active in that program up to the local level. In addition, there is a wider involvement of NGOs scale in the programs like economically empowering women of rural and poor communities, controlling girls trafficking and rising awareness on reproductive health.

In spite of these efforts, the indicators of gender development and gender empowerment in Nepal are only 0.520 and 0.351 respectively. The participation of women and men in labor is 48.9 and 67.6 %. Majority of women are engaged in informal subsistence and domestic labor, without wage or with low wage. The contribution of women to economic activities outside their homes is 36.3 hours every week, while that of men is 42.6 hours. On the other hand, weekly contribution to in-house economic activities by women is 42.5 hours and that of men is 46.5 hours. Outside home non-economic activities of women occupy 25.1 hours of labor and that of men occupies 9.7 hours a week. On the whole, aggregate hours spent in economic and non-economic activities every week by women and men are 103.9 hours and 98.8 hours respectively. In income earnings and administrative services, women share 30.0 % and 12.7 % respectively (National Planning Commission, 2007).

## **2.6 Women's Participation in Decision-making**

Women's participation in the decision-making process is an important indicator of their empowerment. In order to assess women's decision-making autonomy, the 2006 NDHS sought information on women's participation in four types of household decisions: he own health care;

making large household purchases; making household purchases for daily needs; and visits to family or relatives.

The strength of women's role in the decision-making varies with the type of decision. Thirty-six percent of currently married women reported that they alone made the final decision about daily household purchases. Although 20 percent of women make sole decisions on their own health care, one-third say that their husband make such decisions mainly by himself. Decisions on large household purchases are most likely to be made jointly by the respondent and husband (37 percent). More than one-third of women say that decisions to visit family or relatives are made jointly with their husband (*NDHS, 2006*).

In the Nepalese context the status of women is very low due to the lack of decision-making power. So the decision-making power of women should be increased. Most of Nepalese women don't have power of decision due to the culture. To empower women, social injustice and gender disparity in socio-economical as well as decision-making process should be addressed and there by raising the status of female in the society.

## **CHAPTER – III**

### **METHODOLOGY**

Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problems. This chapter deals with the methods employed while constructing the research study in order to achieve the research objectives.

#### **3.1 Introduction to the Study Area**

As mentioned earlier main objectives of this study was described the women's role in decision making process among married women at micro level. For this purpose, Ichangu Narayan VDC was selected for the study. It is situated and nearly closed in north-western part of Kathmandu metropolitan city of Kathmandu district. The VDC is bordered by Kathmandu metropolitan city in the East, Ramkot VDC in the West, Goldhunga VDC in the North and Sitapaila VDC in the South. The total population and household of the VDC were found to be 10563 and 1881 respectively (VDC Profile, 2067). The VDC was selected for behind reason such as the impression of Ichangu Narayan society and curiosity of gaining more knowledge about the Ichangu women to seem somehow applied decision making in households. So, the researcher had got more opportunity to visit in Ichangu Narayan VDC of as visitor and most accessible site for the researcher also.

People of different caste/ethnicity live in study area. Although agriculture is the main occupation for the most households, majority of people are found to be engaged in daily wage based labor. The educational status in the rural areas of Ichangu VDC is at the bottom line with the average literacy 70 % (VDC Profile, 2067).

### **3.2 Research Design**

Design of the research is exploratory and descriptive. Exploratory research design helped to explore the women's roles in household management of married women of research area. It has made interaction to find the decision making process in family affairs. Descriptive research design was used to describe the result of descriptive way of family affairs that how it affecting their gender roles.

### **3.3 Universe and Sampling Procedure**

This study has selected Ichangu of Ichangu Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district for the study area. Ichangu comprises parts of ward number 1, 2 and 3 of Ichangu Narayan VDC. The total population of ward number 1, 2 and 3 of Ichangu Narayan VDC is 1309, among which, 627 are females (Census, 2001). But according to the information provided by the Ichangu Narayan VDC, updated in the years 2067, the total population of the above mentioned three ward numbers is 1523 and 405 households, among which 720 are females. In this study, 80 females are taken as sample, purposively. This study has covered married women of age group 15 to 49 representing different status which includes the local women, migrated women, non-migrants covering students and low & high paid working women, and housewives. This sample has revealed the socio-economic status and situation of role of married women in household decision-making of the overall population (both permanent and temporary residents) in Ichangu Narayan VDC.

### **3.4 Nature and Sources of Data**

In the study, both primary and secondary data were used for qualitative and quantitative analysis. The primary data was collected from the field study. For this purpose, a brief and intensive fieldwork has been conducted. During the fieldwork, primary data was collected from the sample respondents and key informants. On the other hand, the secondary data was taken from published and unpublished literature such as books, journals, articles, research reports, VDC report, etc.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Collection**

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaire Design**

Questionnaire is designed in such a way that it provides all required data needed to fulfill the objectives of the study. Questionnaire is mainly divided into ten schedules as personal information, family information, house-land information, household decision-making information, health information, children schooling information, information related to economic condition, information related to participation in social activities, information related to knowledge on the legal aspects of women right and miscellaneous information. All these schedules provided the information about socio-economic condition of women and their situation in household decision-making.

During the research study, the data was collected with the help of both structured and non-structured questionnaires. The questionnaire included all the questions, which are needed to collect the information related to household and socio-economic activities. Since the study area is an urban residential area, many people are living in rent. So in order to include

married women of different socio-economic status and different level of education, data was collected even from the women of different family living in the same house.

### **3.6 Data Processing and Analysis**

Data has been collected from the field. So it needs to be analyzed to get fruitful results. The collected data has been analyzed by using simple statistical tools and techniques. This has been done in a descriptive way. Simple statistical tools like average, percentages and differences have been used. Data analysis has been done by analyzing the respondents from different aspects. That is, some respondents have been grouped into different categories according to their age, education and caste/ethnicity. Education wise, respondents who cannot read and write at all are categorized as "Illiterate", respondents who have some school level education but have not passed SLC are categorized as "Under SLC" and respondents having education level SLC and above are categorized as "Educated". After the processing data, it was done for drawing out meaningful results. Data processing has been done using software package SPSS and excel.

## **CHAPTER-IV**

### **INTROUCTION TO THE STUDY POPULATION**

This chapter deals with the demographic, social, economic, educational and participatory characteristics of households and respondents. Out of total 405 households in the study area (VDC Profile, 2067), 80 households have been taken as sample. The field work was conducted in January 2012.

#### **4.1 Characteristics of Household Population**

##### **4.1.1 Age Sex Composition**

Information on age and sex of each household member has been obtained from the married women of age group 15-49 years. In 80 sampled households, the total population is 320. Among total population 168 are males and 152 are females. Table 4.1 shows the age composition of the sample household population by sex.

The highest proportion of the population has been found in age group 25-29 years (13.1 %) whereas the lowest proportion of the population is in the age group 55-59 years (1.3 %). The proportion of female population is highest in age group 20-24 years (15.8 %) while the highest proportion of male population is in age group 25-29 years (12.5 %).

**Table: 4.1 Distribution of Household Population by Age and Sex**

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
0-4	15	8.9	12	7.9	27	8.4
5-9	14	8.3	19	12.5	33	10.3
10-14	15	8.9	15	9.9	30	9.4
15-19	15	8.9	12	7.9	27	8.4
20-24	17	10.1	24	15.8	41	12.8
25-29	21	12.5	21	13.8	42	13.1
30-34	20	11.9	11	7.2	31	9.7
35-39	12	7.1	16	10.5	28	8.8
40-44	12	7.1	3	2.0	15	4.7
45-49	7	4.2	5	3.3	12	3.8
50-54	9	5.4	8	5.3	17	5.3
55-59	4	2.4	0	0.0	4	1.3
60 +	7	4.2	6	3.9	13	4.1
Total	168	100.0	152	100.0	320	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.1.2 Marital Status**

Excluding the infant population (age group 0-4 years), 63.1 % of the population is married and 36.9 % is unmarried (Table, 4.2). In the study area proportion of married male (64.4 %) is greater than that of female (61.4 %).

**Table: 4.2 Distribution of Household Population (Five Years and Above) by Marital Status**

Marital Status	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Married	99	64.7	86	61.4	185	63.1
Unmarried	54	35.3	54	38.6	108	36.9
Total	153	100.0	140	100.0	293	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.1.3 Educational Composition by Sex**

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. Education enhances the ability and capability of human beings to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision-making process in the society. In most of the cases it can be seen that higher educational status plays dominant role in decision-field (Singh, 2004). Those voices are respected who are educated and having higher educational background. Table 4.3 shows the educational status of the household population by sex.

It is found that highest proportion of the population (49.8 %) has attended the school education but has not passed School Leaving Certificate (SLC examination) and is kept under the category "under SLC". The lowest proportion of the population (11.3 %) has attended the education of Master level or above. Proportion of illiterate population is next to it with 11.6 %. Greater proportion of female (16.4 %) is illiterate than male (7.2 %). So is in the case of under SLC with females 54.3 % and males 45.8 %. On the other

hand, the proportion of males attending higher education which includes intermediate, bachelor and master or above is greater (cumulatively 47 %) than that of women which is cumulatively 29.3 %. In this table the infant population (of age group 0-4 years) has been excluded.

**Table: 4.3 Distribution of Household Population ((Five Years and Above) by Education**

Education	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Illiterate	11	7.2	23	16.4	34	11.6
Under SLC	70	45.8	76	54.3	146	49.8
Intermediate	20	13.1	16	11.4	36	12.3
Bachelor	25	16.3	19	13.6	44	15.0
Masters & above	27	17.6	6	4.3	33	11.3
Total	153	100.0	140	100.0	293	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.1.4 Occupational Characteristics**

The study area has been found inhomogeneous with respect to the occupational status of the population. Excluding the infant population (age group 0-4 years), 5.8 % of the rest population is found unemployed. Unemployment is found more in females (7.1 %) than in males (4.6 %). The highest proportion of the population (38.9 %) is student, females (44.3 %) leading the males (34.0 %) (Table 4.4).

**Table: 4.4 Distribution of Household Population (Five Years and Above) by Occupation**

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Service	22	14.4	8	5.7	30	10.2
Teaching	15	9.8	5	3.6	20	6.8
Housework	1	0.7	35	25.0	36	12.3
Students	52	34.0	62	44.3	114	38.9
Daly Wages	19	12.4	6	4.3	25	8.5
Hotel & Business	19	12.4	13	9.3	32	10.9
Driving	8	5.2	0	0.0	8	2.7
Foreign Employment	4	2.6	0	0.0	4	1.4
Journalists	3	2.0	0	0.0	3	1.0
Engineer	3	2.0	0	0.0	3	1.0
Unemployed	7	4.6	10	7.1	17	5.8
Low and High Age	0	0.0	1	0.7	1	0.3
Total	153	100.0	140	100.0	293	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## 4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

### 4.2.1 Age composition

Age is an important factor in demography and it makes difference in decision-making roles, social relation and responsibilities. The age groups are divided into 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 years.

The highest population is found in the age group 25-29 years (26.3 %) and the population is lowest in the age group 15-19 years (1.3 %). Population in the age groups 20-24 and 35-39 appear significant relative to that of the highest population age group. Population in 20-24 age group is 25.0 % and that in the age group 35-39 is 22.5 % of the total respondent population respectively (Table 4.5).

**Table: 4.5 Distribution of Respondents by Age Group**

Age group	N	Percent
15-19	1	1.3
20-24	20	25.0
25-29	21	26.3
30-34	9	11.3
35-39	18	22.5
40-44	4	5.0
45-49	7	8.8
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

### 4.2.2 Age at Marriage

The age at marriage in this study is categorized into four groups: 10-14, 15-19, 20-24 and 25 and above years. It is observed that most of the women were married between ages 15-19 years, their percentage being 42.5 among the total respondents. Marriage age between 20-24 years is also found to be significant with 33.8 % of the total respondent population and it is least (8.8 %) in the age group above 25 years (Table 4.6).

**Table: 4.6 Distribution of Respondents by Age at Marriage**

Age at Marriage	N	Percent
10-14	12	15.0
15-19	34	42.5
20-24	27	33.8
24 +	7	8.8
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## 4.3 Social Characteristics of Respondents

### 4.3.1 Family Structure

Family is a basic unit of the society and is an institution which plays important role in building society. Family structure has dominant role in decision-making process. There are two categories of family structure - nuclear and joint family. Nuclear family refers that family which consists of husband, wife and unmarried children while joint family consists of husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as other relatives who share the kitchen for meal and reside under the same roof.

Among the sampled households 83.8 % have nuclear family and 16.2 % have joint family. It can be seen from the table 4.7.

**Table: 4.7 Distribution of Respondents by the Type of Family**

<b>Type of Family</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Nuclear	67	83.8
Joint	13	16.3
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

### **4.3.2 Religious Composition**

Nepal was a Hindu nation until 2005 when, after the major political change in the country, the interim parliament declared it as a religion neutral nation. Irrespective of this, Nepal has always been a place with religious harmony. Hindu and Buddhist are the major religious group in the nation. This fact has been seen in the present study. Of the total respondents, 86.3 % are Hindu and 13.7 % are Buddhist (Table 4.8).

**Table: 4.8 Distribution of Respondents by Religion**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hindu	69	86.3
Buddhist	11	13.8
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

### 4.3.3 Cast/Ethnic Composition

Nepal is a multi-ethnic country where there are different cast/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic group has its own language, culture and tradition. Nepal is full of cultural diversity. Caste is also main factor in the society and it plays important role in social activities. The following table reveals the ethnic composition of the responds in the study area.

Table 4.9 shows that Brahmin and Chhetri cover 55% of the total respondents. Next to them are Newars with 20% who are the natives of the Ichangu. Then come Tamang with 22.5% and Magar 6.25% respectively. This shows the cultural diversity of the Nepalese society and also the migration trend. All except Newars are the migrants, some permanent and some temporary, from different parts of the country.

**Table: 4.9 Distribution of Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity**

<b>Caste/ethnicity</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Brahman & Chhetri	44	55.0
Newar	16	20.0
Tamang	15	22.5
Magar	5	6.25
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## 4.4 Economic Characteristics of Respondents

### 4.4.1 Land Holdings

Nepal is an agricultural country where more than 80 percent people depend upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in

agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. As shown in table 4.10, out of the total 80 household 70 of them (87.5 %) have their own land and the rest 10 households (12.5 %) do not have their own land.

**Table: 4.10 Distribution of Respondents by Land Holding**

<b>Land holding</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	70	87.5
No	10	12.5
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

Table 4.11 shows the size of land owned by the respondents or their family. It is seen that most of the households (47.1 %) have land between 1-5 ropani. 20.0 % of households have more than 10 ropani, 18.6 % households have less than 1 ropani and 14.3 % have between 5-10 ropani of land.

**Table: 4.11 Distribution of Respondents by Size of Their Land**

<b>Size of land in Ropani</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 1	13	18.6
1-5	33	47.1
5-10	10	14.3
10 +	14	20.0
Total	70	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

The study shows that only 8.6 % of the respondents whose family has its own land are the legal owner of the land. In 22.9 % cases husbands are the legal owner whereas, in 3.8 % cases both respondents and their husbands are

the legal owner of the land in their family. In most of the cases 64.3 %, other members in the family are the legal owner. The other members in all the cases are either father-in-law or mother-in-law of the respondents (Table 4.12).

**Table: 4.12 Distribution of Respondents by Land Ownership**

<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Self	6	8.6
Husband	16	22.9
Both	3	4.3
Others	45	64.3
Total	70	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.4.2 Legal ownership of House**

Basically there are three basic needs of human being which are food, cloth and house, though now-a-days education, health and human right are also considered as basic needs. Housing has great contribution in maintaining the quality of life of people. It emphasizes the standard of living. In this study, it has been observed if the respondents have their own house or are living in a rented one.

It is found that 41.3 % of the respondents have living rented house in the study area and 58.3 % have own house (Table 4.13).

**Table: 4.13 Distribution of Respondents by the Nature of House They Live In**

Nature of house	N	Percent
Rented	33	41.3
Own	47	58.8
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

The study has shown that among the respondents who have their own house in the study area 42.4 % are the legal owner of the house. In 33.3 % cases husbands are the legal owner and in 24.2 % cases the house is in the name of some other member of the family (father-in-law and mother-in-law in most of the cases) (Table 4.14).

**Table: 4.14 Distribution of Respondents by Legal Ownership of House**

Legal Owner of House	N	Percent
Self	14	42.4
Husband	11	33.3
Others	8	24.2
Total	33	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.4.3 Household Energy Consumption**

In the study area all types of source of energy consumption (from traditional source of fire wood to the modern source of liquid petroleum gas) have been found. Only 81.3 % of the respondents use the traditional source of fire wood while 6.3% use the modern source of liquid petroleum gas. 12.5 % of

the respondents use kerosene as the source of energy consumption (Table 4.15).

**Table: 4.15 Distribution of Respondents by the Type of Fuel for Cooking**

Types of Fuel for Cooking	N	Percent
Fire wood	65	81.3
Kerosene	10	12.5
Gas	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.4.4 Engagement in Income Generating Activities**

Engagement in the income generating activities has strong relationship with the household decision-making process. In the study area it has been found that majority of the respondents are not involved at any time in income generating activities and a few of them work themselves to generate income

Most of the respondents (38.7 %) among those who are engaged in income generating activities are involved in small business like hotel and shop keeping. 35.2 % work as labors and least of them (25.8 %) are in government or private services (Table 4.16).

**Table: 4.16 Distribution of Respondents by the Type of Income Generating Activities**

Type of Income Generating Activities	N	Percent
Business	12	38.7
Labor Employment	11	35.5
Job/service	8	25.8
Total	31	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

Position at work is the indicator of the status of each worker in the society. Among the respondents those who work for income generation 67.7 % do not have a well defined position at work and are kept under the category "Others". They have either their own business or are labor employees. 6.5 % work in the position of peon. Some more (12.9 %) are local school teachers and 9.7 % hold the position of officer or higher rank. The least (3.2 %) are involved in lecturer profession. (Table 4.17).

**Table: 4.17 Distribution of Respondents by the Position at Job**

Position	N	Percent
Officer & above	3	9.7
Lecturer	1	3.2
Teacher	4	12.9
Peon	2	6.5
Others	21	67.7
Total	31	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

Income represents the economic status of people. In this study income level is classified into 1000-5000, 5000-10000 and 10000 plus in rupees. It is observed that among those who are involved in income generating activities 58.1 % have monthly income in the range of rupees 1000-5000. 29.0 % have monthly income in the range of rupees 5000-10000 and 12.9 % have more than rupees 10000 as their monthly income (Table 4.18).

**Table: 4.18 Distribution of Respondents by Monthly Income**

Monthly Income in Rupees	N	Percent
1000-5000	18	58.1
5000-10000	9	29.0
10000 +	4	12.9
Total	31	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.4.5 Source of Family Income**

Out of 80 households, job/service has occupied the first position with 50.0 % as the source of family income. 28.8 % households depend upon labor employment for their income. It is followed by business (16.3 %). Similarly, 2.5 % of the households have agriculture as the main source of income (Table 4.19). Although Nepal is an agricultural country the reason behind the least number of households having agriculture as the main source of income generation is that the study area is an urban site developing into a residential area.

**Table: 4.19 Distribution of Respondents by Source of Family Income**

Source of Family Income	N	Percent
Agriculture	2	2.5
Business	13	16.3
Labor Employment	23	28.8
Job/service	40	50.0
Others	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.4.6 Possession/Keeping of Household Income**

Both males and females need to have equal responsibility for household activities and they need to share equal benefits in the family. In principle, both should have equal rights and duties. But in our society, males have dominant roles. Female have only supporting roles. They have to follow their male counterparts in decision-making. But in our study area we have found an interesting result that is in contrary to the general trend in the nation. Table 4.20 shows the control of women in keeping the household income.

Out of 80 households, respondents, who are females, keep the household income in 34 households (42.5 %) compared to 24 households (30.0 %) by their husbands or males. In 20 households (25.0 %) both males and females keep jointly. Like wise, in very few cases (2 households or 2.5 %) the income is kept by other members of the family viz. father-in-law and mother-in-law of the respondents. This shows that female members have the

control over the possession of the family income irrespective of who is responsible for the income generation.

**Table: 4.20 Distribution of Respondents by Keeping of Household Income**

Keeping of Household Income	N	Percent
Self	34	42.5
Husband	24	30.0
Both	20	25.0
Others	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.5 Educational Status of Respondents**

In the present study the educational status of the respondents is divided into three categories which are illiterate, under SLC and educated. Those who cannot even read and write are kept under the category "illiterate". Those who have joined school but not passed SLC examination are kept under the category "under SLC" and those who have passed SLC or have attended higher education are kept under the category "educated". It is found that majority of the respondents are literate with 36.3 % in each category of "educated" and "under SLC". 27.5 % are found to be illiterate (Table 4.21).

**Table: 4.21 Distribution of Respondents by Education**

Education	N	Percent
Illiterate	22	27.5
Under SLC	29	36.3
Educated	29	36.3
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **4.6 Family Planning Status of Respondents**

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present in most of the developing countries. Rapid population growth has caused degradation of the quality of the life as well as environment. In developing countries, the food production is low and there is a lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is essential to balance and manage population and environment properly. The question had asked to the respondents regarding the knowledge about the Family Planning. Majority of the respondents, has given the positive answer.

Among those who have knowledge about family planning, most of the respondents (50.7 %) learned about it through the media. 29.3 % got knowledge about Family Planning from their friends and neighbors, 1.3 % from their husbands and 18.7 % from other sources like school education, self study etc (Table 4.22). In the majority cases, other source of information includes the self study by the respondents.

**Table: 4.22 Distribution of Respondents by Source of Information They Received About Family Planning**

Sources of Information	N	Percent
Media	38	50.7
Friends	22	29.3
Husband	1	1.3
Others	14	18.7
Total	75	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

There are mainly two types of Family Planning methods: temporary and permanent. The temporary method consists of different devices of contraception. Among them few are 3-month injections, Condom, Pills and Norplant. 75.9 % of the respondents adopting the means of Family Planning are enjoying one or the other temporary method and 24.1 % have adopted the permanent method. Among the different temporary methods 3-month injections are found to be the most popular ones being used by 68.3 % of the temporary method users (Table 4.23).

**Table: 4.23 Distribution of Respondents by the Method of Family Planning They Use**

Methods Used	N	Percent
3 month injection	28	51.9
Condom	4	7.4
Tablets	6	11.1
Norplant	3	5.6
Permanent	13	24.1
Total	54	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## 4.7 Participatory Characteristics of Respondents

In this segment, participation of respondents in different community level committees such as Local Mother's Committee, School Management Committee, Drinking Water Committee, Political Parties and Religious Institutions have been analyzed. Participation in these different social activities can be indicator of the status of women in the society and their decision-making power.

### 4.7.1 Local Mother's Committee

It is found that only 10.0 % of the total respondents are involved in Local Mother's Committee and 90.0 % never participated in it. 6.3 % are the regular members and 3.8 % are occasional members (Table 4.24)

**Table: 4.24 Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Local Mothers' Committee**

Local Mothers' Committee	N	Percent
Regular	5	6.3
Sometimes	3	3.8
Never	72	90.0
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### 4.7.2 School Management Committee

The study has shown that most of the respondents (95.0 %) have never been a member of the School Management Committee. 3.8 % are regular and 1.3 % are the occasional participants of the committee (Table 4.25).

**Table: 4.25 Distribution of Respondents by Participation in School Management Committee**

School Management Committee	N	Percent
Regular	3	3.8
Sometimes	1	1.3
Never	76	95.0
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### 4.7.3 Drinking Water Committee

In the study area 91.3 % of the respondents have never participated in the drinking water committee. 2.5 % are regular and 6.3 % are occasional members (Table 4.26).

**Table: 4.26 Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Drinking Water Committee**

Drinking Water Committee	N	Percent
Regular	2	2.5
Sometimes	5	6.3
Never	73	91.3
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### 4.7.4 Political Parties

It is found that most of the respondents (93.8 %) have never been a member of any political parties whereas 3.8 % are regular and 2.5 % are the occasional members of one or the other political party (Table 4.27).

**Table: 4.27 Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Political Parties**

Political Parties	N	Percent
Regular	3	3.8
Sometimes	2	2.5
Never	75	93.8
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### 4.7.5 Religious Institutions

Involvement of women in religious institutions is found to be no different than that in any other social activities. Most of the respondents (91.3 %) have never been a member of any religious institutions. 3.8 % are regular and 5.0 % are occasional members in one or the other religious institution (Table 4.28).

**Table: 4.28 Distribution of Respondents by Participation in Religious Institutions**

Religious Institutions	N	Percent
Regular	3	3.8
Sometimes	4	5.0
Never	73	91.3
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## **CHAPTER – V**

### **WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

This chapter deals with the women's status in terms of decision-making in different aspects of household as well as other activities. Decisions regarding buying food products, buying clothes, using type of fuel for cooking, involvement in income generating activities, household expenditure, use of family planning methods, consultation with health workers during pregnancy, schooling of children, polling and participation in social and developmental activities are taken into account.

#### **5.1 Decision-Making on Household Purchases**

It is considered that male and female are equal in family and they have equal role and responsibilities. But most women are engaged in household chores. In this section we have analyzed the decision-making status of women in the household purchases.

##### **5.1.1 Decision on Buying Food Products.**

Table 5.1 shows the situation of women in decision-making process regarding the household purchase of food products. It is seen that majority of elder women with age greater than or equal to 30 years (50.0 %) are in a position to make their own decision on buying food products than the women of younger age group (45.2 %). Analyzing education wise, the women having school level education only are in a better position to make their decision themselves than the illiterate and educated women. In 59.1 % cases of illiterate respondents, the decision on buying food is taken by their

husbands. On the contrary, educated respondents have better decision-making power than their husbands or other family members.

In terms of caste/ethnicity, Brahman & Chhetri and Magar women are found to have stronger deciding capacity (50.0 % in each case) than the women of other cast/ethnicity. On the other hand, in every cast/ethnicity, except Tamang, women are in better deciding position than their husbands or other family members. In case of Tamang, 55.0 % of the husbands take decision in buying the food products.

**Table 5.1: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Buying Food Products.**

Variables	Decision on Purchasing of Food Products									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age Group</b>										
≤ 30 years	19	45.2	7	16.7	12	28.6	4	9.5	42	100.0
> 30 years	19	50.0	5	13.2	13	34.2	1	2.6	38	100.0
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	8	36.4	1	4.5	13	59.1	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	16	55.2	2	6.9	9	31.0	2	6.9	29	100.0
Educated	14	48.3	9	31.0	3	10.3	3	10.3	29	100.0
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	22	50.0	9	20.5	11	25.0	2	4.5	44	100.0
Newar	7	43.8	1	6.3	5	31.3	3	18.8	16	100.0
Tamang	4	44.4	-	-	5	55.6	-	-	9	100.0
Magar	3	50.0	2	33.3	1	16.7	-	-	6	100.0
Others	2	40.0	-	-	3	60.0	-	-	5	100.0
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

### **5.1.2 Decision on Buying Clothes**

Clothing is one of the important basic needs of human beings. Every household buys clothes. Table 5.2 shows the situation of women in decision-making regarding the purchase of clothes.

The study shows that 57.1 % of women less than 30 years of age decide on buying clothes while only 39.5 % of women greater than or equal to 30 years of age decide on it. 62.1 % of women with educational status "under SLC" decide on buying clothes themselves for their family. This is greater than the percentage of self deciding illiterate women (40.9%) and educated women (41.4 %) on the purchase of clothes. Caste/ethnicity wise, Magar women are found in a better self deciding position (66.7 %) than the others. Tamang women are in the inferior position. Only 33.3 % of Tamang women decide themselves on buying clothes while in majority of their cases (55.6 %) husbands have the sole decision.

**Table 5.2: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Purchase of Clothes for Family**

Variables	Decision on Purchasing of Clothes									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age Group</b>										
≤ 30 years	24	57.1	9	21.4	9	21.4	-	-	42	100.0
> 30 years	15	39.5	14	36.8	8	21.1	1	2.6	38	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	9	40.9	2	9.1	11	50.0	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	18	62.1	5	17.2	6	20.7	-	-	29	100.0
Educated	12	41.4	16	55.2	-	-	1	3.4	29	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	21	47.7	18	40.9	5	11.4	-	-	44	100.0
Newar	9	56.3	2	12.5	5	31.3	-	-	16	100.0
Tamang	3	33.3	1	11.1	5	55.6	-	-	9	100.0
Magar	4	66.7	2	33.3	-	-	-	-	6	100.0
Others	2	40.0	-	-	2	40.0	1	20.0	5	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

### 5.1.3 Decision on Using Type of Fuel for Cooking

In Nepalese society, cooking is mostly related with women. In this study, we want to see if women have freedom to decide on the choice of the type of fuel used for cooking. Table 5.3 shows the situation of women in decision-making process regarding the type of fuel used for cooking. 63.2 % of women greater than or equal to 30 years of age decide themselves on using the type of fuel for cooking. On the contrary, only 28.6 % of women less than 30 years of age decide themselves solely. In 35.7 % cases, younger age group decides together with their husbands.

Analyzing education wise, women in each sub-category of illiterate, under SLC and educated are found with better self deciding power than other

members of the family, educated women having the greatest freedom (48.28 %). Husbands of illiterate women also have strong influence on deciding in this case (31.82 %) in comparison to self decision-making power of their wives (40.9 %).

Brahman & Chhetri women are found to be in better self deciding condition (56.8 %) than the women of other caste/ethnic groups. Tamang women are in the inferior position. In 77.8 % cases, husbands of Tamang women decide on the type of fuel for cooking. In rest of the sub-categories, percentage of women in self deciding position is greater than their husbands and other family members.

**Table 5.3: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Using Type of Fuel for Cooking**

Variables	Decision on Using Fuel for Cooking									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age Group</b>										
≤ 30 years	12	28.6	15	35.7	11	26.2	4	9.5	42	100.0
> 30 years	24	63.2	9	23.7	5	13.2	-	-	38	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4	5.0	80	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	9	40.9	6	27.3	7	31.8	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	13	44.8	8	27.6	6	20.7	2	6.9	29	100.0
Educated	14	48.3	10	34.5	3	10.3	2	6.9	29	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4	5.0	80	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	25	56.8	13	29.5	4	9.1	2	4.5	44	100.0
Newar	6	37.5	5	31.3	3	18.8	2	12.5	16	100.0
Tamang	1	11.1	1	11.1	7	77.8	-	-	9	100.0
Magar	2	33.3	3	50.0	1	16.7	-	-	6	100.0
Others	2	40.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	-	-	5	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4	5.0	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## **5.2 Decision-Making on Economic Activities**

### **5.2.1 Decision on Involvement in Income Generating Activities**

Out of 80 respondents only 31 are found to be involved in income generating activities. Among them, 83.3 % of women more than or equal to 30 years of age and 69.2 % women of age less than 30 years decided themselves about their involvement in income generating activities. Education wise, women having only school education are found to be in better self decision-making position. 88.9 % of under SLC women, 75.0 % of educated women and 70.0 % of illiterate women decided themselves. In 20.0 % of illiterate women cases, husbands decided for them, while husbands alone had no role in decision-making among educated and under SLC women regarding the involvement in the income generating activities.

Among different caste/ethnic groups, Tamang are found to be in better self decision-making position. 100 % of Tamang women involved in income generating activities decided themselves about their involvement. Likewise, 87.5 % of Brahman & Chhetri, 57.1 % of Newar and 66.7 % of Magar took their own decision. From this study, it is found that irrespective of age group, educational and migration status and caste/ethnic group, majority of those women who are involved in income generating activities decided themselves regarding their involvement in their jobs.

**Table 5.4: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Involvement in Income Generating Activities**

Variables	Decision on Involvement of Income Generating Activities									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age Group</b>										
< 30 Years	9	69.2	4	30.8	-	-	-	-	13	100.0
≥ 30 Years	15	83.3	-	-	2	11.1	1	5.6	18	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	7	70.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	-	-	10	100.0
Under SLC	8	88.9	1	11.1	-	-	-	-	9	100.0
Educated	9	75.0	2	16.7	-	-	1	8.3	12	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	14	87.5	2	12.5	-	-	-	-	16	100.0
Newar	4	57.1	1	14.3	1	14.3	1	14.3	7	100.0
Tamang	2	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	100.0
Magar	2	66.7	-	-	1	33.3	-	-	3	100.0
Others	2	66.7	1	33.3	-	-	-	-	3	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

### 5.2.2 Decision on Household Expenditure

Most women are engaged in household chores and spend more time for these activities. In the present study we want to see the status of women in

the decision-making process regarding household expenditure. Table 5.5 shows the situation of respondents according to the decision they make in household expenditure. Women of age less than 30 years are in better self deciding position than the women of age greater than or equal to 30 years. 45.2 % of younger age group women take self decision and 14.3 % of them consult with their husbands. In case of elder age group women 39.5 % make the self decision and 36.8 % consult with their husbands before making decision regarding household expenditure. In both sub-groups, husbands have significant decision-making position. In 35.7 % cases of younger age group women and 23.7 % cases of elder age group women, husbands take the sole decision in the household expenditure.

Among caste/ethnic groups, Magar women are seen in the better position (66.7 %) for making the self decision than others. Majority of Newar women (43.8 %) make their own decision. In case of Tamang women, percentage of husbands making decision alone (55.6 %) is greater than the percentage of women deciding alone (44.4 %). Among Brahman & Chhetri women, 38.6 % of women make their own decision and the equal percentage of women decide together with their husbands.

**Table 5.5: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Household Expenditure**

Variables	Decision on Household Expenditure									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age Group</b>										
< 30 Years	19	45.2	6	14.3	15	35.7	2	4.8	42	100.0
≥ 30 Years	15	39.5	14	36.8	9	23.7	-	-	38	100.0
Total	34	42.5	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	10	45.5	-	-	12	54.5	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	14	48.3	5	17.2	8	27.6	2	6.9	29	100.0
Educated	9	31.0	15	51.7	4	13.8	-	-	29	100.0
Total	33	41.3	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	17	38.6	17	38.6	10	22.7	-	-	44	100.0
Newar	7	43.8	2	12.5	5	31.3	2	12.5	16	100.0
Tamang	4	44.4	-	-	5	55.6	-	-	9	100.0
Magar	4	66.7	-	-	2	33.3	-	-	6	100.0
Others	2	40.0	1	20.0	2	40.0	-	-	5	100.0
Total	34	42.5	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

### 5.3 Decision-Making on Schooling of Children

Table 5.3 shows the situation of women regarding decision-making on schooling of their children. Among 80 respondents only 62 have children.

Among those 62 respondents only 16.0 % of women under 30 years of age and 13.5 % of women of age greater than or equal to 30 years decide themselves about the schooling of their children. Majority of the women (48.0 % in the younger age group and 56.8 %) in the elder age group) make decision together with their husbands. Education wise also percentage of women taking sole decision about the schooling of their children is comparatively low. In 47.4 % cases of illiterate women, the decision is made singly by their husbands. But the situation is different in the case of educated and semi-educated women. 75.0 % of educated and 47.8 % of under SLC women make decision about the schooling of their children together with their husbands.

Among different caste/ethnic group, majority of Brahman & Chhetri (60.0 %) and Magar (75.0 %) women decide together with their husbands. In majority cases of Tamang (57.1 %) the decision is made solely by the husbands while in the case of Newar, the percentage of women deciding together with their husbands and the percentage of husbands making sole decision is the same (35.7 %).

This study shows that the situation of women regarding the self decision-making capacity on the schooling of their children is not good irrespective of their age group, educational and migration status and caste/ethnic group. Majority of women take help of their husbands in making the decision in this respect.

**Table 5.8: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Schooling of Children**

Variables	Decision on Schooling of Children									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age Group</b>										
< 30 Years	4	16.0	12	48.0	8	32.0	1	4.0	25	100.0
≥ 30 Years	5	13.5	21	56.8	10	27.0	1	2.7	37	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	2	10.5	7	36.8	9	47.4	1	5.3	19	100.0
Under SLC	3	13.0	11	47.8	8	34.8	1	4.3	23	100.0
Educated	4	20.0	15	75.0	1	5.0	-	-	20	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>										
Brahman & Chhetri	4	12.1	20	60.6	9	27.3	-	-	33	100.0
Newar	3	21.4	5	35.7	5	35.7	1	7.1	14	100.0
Tamang	-	-	2	28.6	4	57.1	1	14.3	7	100.0
Magar	1	25.0	3	75.0	-	-	-	-	4	100.0
Others	1	25.0	3	75.0	-	-	-	-	4	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

#### **5.4 Decision-Making on Polling**

Constituent of Nepal has given equal right to vote for both men and women of age above 18 years. Table 5.4 shows the decision-making status of

women in polling. It is seen that out of 80 respondents only 42 participated on polling in the last election. Among them women less than 30 years of age are found in better decision-making position than the women of age 30 or more years. 90.9 % of younger age group women selected themselves the candidate of their choice.

Education wise, educated women are in the better self deciding position. 81.8 % of educated women, 75.0 % of illiterate women and 66.7 % of under SLC women decided in their own while making the selection of their candidate to vote.

**Table 5.4: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Polling**

Variables	Self		Both		Husband		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age Group</b>								
< 30 Years	10	90.9	1	9.1	-	-	11	100.0
≥ 30 Years	22	71.0	3	9.7	6	19.4	31	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0
<b>Education</b>								
Illiterate	6	75.0	-	-	2	25.0	8	100.0
Under SLC	8	66.7	1	8.3	3	25.0	12	100.0
Educated	18	81.8	3	13.6	1	4.5	22	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>								
Brahman & Chhetri	23	79.3	3	10.3	3	10.3	29	100.0
Newar	7	63.6	1	9.1	3	27.3	11	100.0
Tamang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Magar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Others	2	100.0	-	-	-	-	2	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## **5.5 Decision-Making on Participation in Social and Developmental Activities**

Table 5.5 shows the situation of the respondents on decision-making about the participation in social and developmental activities. It is seen that out of 80 respondents, only 31 have ever participated in the social and developmental activities. Among them respondents of age less than 30 years are found to be in better deciding position (80.0 %) than the women of age more than or equal to 30 years (76.2 %). In both the cases it is found that majority of respondents decide themselves about their participation in the social and developmental activities.

Analyzing education wise, illiterate women are in better position than the women with some school level education and educated women. 80.0 % of illiterate respondents decide themselves about the participation. Next to them are educated respondents with 78.9 % and then come under SLC respondents with 71.4 % deciding themselves in this issue. What ever be the educational status, majority of women decide themselves about participating in the social and developmental activities.

Among caste/ethnicity wise, Magar women are seen to be in better self deciding condition than others. 100 % of Magar respondents decided themselves. The percentage of self deciding women in case of Brahman & Chhetri and Newar are respectively 83.3 % and 40.0 %. 20 % of the Newar respondents decide together with their husbands and in 40.0 % cases, their husbands decide about their participation. Newar women, the native inhabitants of Ichangu, are not seen in good status for making self decision regarding the participation in social and developmental activities compared to others.

**Table 5.5: Decision on Participating in Social and Developmental Activities**

Variables	Self		Both		Husband		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age Group</b>								
≤ 30 Years	8	80.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	10	100.0
> 30 Years	16	76.2	2	9.5	3	14.3	21	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0
<b>Education</b>								
Illiterate	4	80.0	-	-	1	20.0	5	100.0
Under SLC	5	71.4	1	14.3	1	14.3	7	100.0
Educated	15	78.9	2	10.5	2	10.5	19	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0
<b>Caste/Ethnicity</b>								
Brahman & Chhetri	20	83.3	2	8.3	2	8.3	24	100.0
Newar	2	40.0	1	20.0	2	40.0	5	100.0
Tamang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Magar	2	100.0	-	-	-	-	2	100.0
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## 5.6 Cause of Deprivation of Women

In Nepal 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 step of life. The respondents were asked what they think to be the main cause for the deprivation of Nepalese women. The main reasons as given by them are presented in Table 5.6.

As reported by the respondents, the main reason of female's backwardness is lack of education (52.5 %) followed by lack of awareness (18.8 %). The stated third reason, which makes female as backward is tradition and culture (16.3 %). Only few respondents (12.5 %) believe low economic status as the reason behind deprivation of women.

**Table 5.6: Distribution of Respondents by the Reasoning in Cause of Deprivation of Women**

<b>Cause of Deprivation of Women</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Lack of education	42	52.5
Lack of awareness	15	18.8
Low economic status	10	12.5
Tradition and culture	13	16.3
Total	80	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2012*

## **CHAPTER – VI**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The purpose of this chapter is to summarize the major findings of the study related to women's role in household decision-making in Ichangu Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district. It was also including conclusion of the study.

#### **6.1 Summary of Findings**

This study analyzes the women's roles in household decision-making process in Ichangu Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district. There are 405 households in the selected wards of the study area. Among those households 80 have been taken as sample households to collect information. This study is mainly focused on the role of women in household decision-making as well as in other social activities.

The major findings of the study are as follows:

- In 80 sampled households the total population is 320, among which 168 are males and 152 are females.
- Majority of people in the study area are in the age group 25-29 years.
- Excluding the infants of age group 0-4 years, there are more married people than unmarried.
- Highest proportion of the population has attended just the school level education but not passed SLC.
- The study area is inhomogeneous with respect to the occupational status of the population, highest proportion of the population being that of students.
- All the respondents are married women of age from 15-49 years.

- Majority of the respondents (26.3 %) are in the age group 25-29 years.
- Majority of the respondents (42.5 %) had married in the age from 15-19 years.
- About 88 percent of the respondents have nuclear family.
- Majority of the respondents (86.3 %) are Hindu.
- Though Ichangu is the native land of Newars, in the study area majority of the respondents are Brahmin, Chhetri and Tamang. It is because the study area has been developing as a residential area of migrated people from different parts of the country.
- Out of 80 sampled households, 70 of them possess their own land, majority of them having 1-5 ropanies.
- In most of the cases (about 64 %) elder members of the family (father-in-law or mother-in-law of the respondents) are the legal owner of the land possessed by their family. Only 6.0 % of the respondents themselves are the legal owners.
- Majority of the respondents (58.3 %) are living in their own house and only 41.3 % of the respondents' in rented.
- As in the case of land, in most of the cases (33.0 %) elder members of the family are the legal owner of the house their family possess. Only 14 % of the respondents themselves are the legal owners.
- Majority of the respondents (65.0 %) are using fire woods source of energy.
- The study has shown that majority of the respondents (61.3 %) are not involved in any type of income generating activities whereas only 38.8 % are generating income themselves, most of them being involved in their own business.
- About 58 % of the respondents involved in income generating activities earn, on the average, 1000-5000 rupees per month. Only

about 4 % of the respondents have their monthly earning more than 10000 rupees.

- The main source of income of about 50 % of the respondents' family is job/service.
- The study has shown that majority of the respondents (42.5 %) keep themselves their household income.
- Majority of the respondents are literate with the percentage of "educated" and "under SLC" each being 36.3 %.
- Among those who have knowledge about the family planning, majority of them (50.7 %) learned about it through media like radio and television.
- 3-month injection has been found to be the most popular method of family planning among the respondents using temporary method in the study area (68.3 % of the temporary method users).
- It is found that only 6.3 % of the respondents take regular participation in Local Mother's Committee.
- Only 3.8 % of the respondents are involved in School Management Committee regularly.
- In Drinking Water Committee only 2.5 % of the respondents are the regular members.
- Only 3.8 % of the respondents are the regular members of Political Parties.
- The study has shown that again 3.8 % of the respondents are the regular members of Religious Institutions.
  
- Regarding the purchase of food products 47.5 % of women make their own decision and 15.0 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder age group women (50 %); education wise,

under SLC women (55.2 %); and cast ethnicity wise, Brahman & Chhetri and Magar women (50 % in each case) are seen in better self decision-making position.

- The study has shown that 48.8 % of women make their self decision and 28.8 % make decision together with their husbands while buying clothes for their family. Age wise, younger age group women (57.1 %); education wise, under SLC women (62.1 %); and cast ethnicity wise, Magar women (66.7 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- While making decision on using the type of fuel for cooking, 45.0 % of women make their self decision and 30.0 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder age group women (63.2 %); education wise, educated women (48.3 %); and cast ethnicity wise, Brahman & Chhetri women (56.8 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- Regarding the involvement in income generating activities, 77.4 % of women make their own decision and 12.9 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder age group women (83.3 %); education wise, under SLC women (88.9 %); and cast ethnicity wise, Tamang and Brahman & Chhetri (100 % and 87.5 % respectively) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- The study has shown that 42.5 % of women make their self decision and 25.0 % make decision together with their husbands in the case of household expenditure. The exception is illiterate women group. In majority cases of illiterate women (54.5 %), husbands make the sole decision. Age wise, younger age group women (48.9 %); education wise, under SLC women (62.1 %); and cast ethnicity wise, Magar women (66.7 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.

- In the case of schooling of children, only 14.5 % of women make their own decision. In majority of cases (53.2 %) they jointly make decision with their husbands. 29.0 % of husbands make their single decision. Age wise, younger age group women (16.0 %); education wise, educated women (20.0 %); and cast ethnicity wise, Magar women (25.0 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- It has been found that majority of the women (76.2 %) made their decision themselves on polling. In 14.3 % cases, husbands decided for them and only in 9.5 % cases women made decision jointly with their husbands. Age wise, younger age group women (90.9 %); education wise, educated women (81.8 %); and cast ethnicity wise, Brahman & Chhetri women (79.3 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- While making decision on the participation in social and developmental activities, 77.4 % of women make their self decision whereas only 9.7 % make decision together with their husbands. In 12.9 % cases, husbands made the sole decision. Age wise, elder age group women (80.0 %); education wise, illiterate women (80.0 %), and cast ethnicity wise, Magar women (100.0 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.
- In the view of majority of the respondents (52.5 %), lack of education is the main reason for the backwardness of female.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

Economically, respondents are not found in a better situation. Very few of them have the legal ownership of land and less than 40 % of the respondents are engaged in income generating activities. However, the situation is better in case of house ownership. Majority of the respondents living in their own

house are the legal owners. Majority of the respondents are also found in better situation in terms of the possession of household income. The participatory approach of respondents is not satisfactory.

Media has been found to be the main source of information about the knowledge of family planning. 3-months injection has been found to be the most popular method of temporary family planning among respondents. Majority of the respondents made decision jointly with their husbands in choosing the type of family planning method. Respondents making self decision are also in significant proportion.

Decision-making status of women has been studied under ten different categories. They are – purchasing of food products, purchase of clothes for family, purchase of fuel for cooking, involvement in income generating activities, household expenditure, use of family planning methods, consultation with health workers during pregnancy, schooling of children, polling and participation in social and developmental activities. The study has shown that elder age group women have better self decision-making power (in 6 cases) than younger age group women (in 4 cases). Likewise, under SLC women are found to be in better decision-making position (in 5 cases) than educated women (in 4 cases) and illiterate women (in 1 case). Caste/ethnicity wise, Magar women are in better decision-making position (in 6 cases). Brahman & Chhetri women come after them (in 4 cases). Newar women take the lowest position (in 1 case only).

Though women are lagging behind in terms of land ownership and income generating activities, they have satisfactory access in terms of using the modern resources and household income possession. Their participation in social activities is in the bottom line. Married women of the age group 15-49

years are well informed about family planning and most of them are involved in making decision on choosing the proper method. Age wise, women of age grater than or equal to 30 years; education wise, women with under SLC level of education; and caste/ethnicity wise, Magar women are found in a better self-decision-making position regarding the household activities.

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