

**An Analysis
Of
Budget Allocation to Target Groups and People
Participation at VDC Council Meeting**
(A case Study of Local Bodies in Dhankuta District by
Using Right to Information Act)

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Submitted By:

Nodanath Trital

T.U. Registration No: 9-1-9-661-98

Roll No: 40198

Tribhuvan University

Post Graduate Campus, Biratnagar, Nepal

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POST GRADUATE CAMPUS
BIRATNAGAR, MORANG

Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled "**An Analysis of Budget Allocation to Target Groups and People Participation at VDC Council Meeting**" has been prepared by **Nodanath Trital** under my supervision; I hereby recommended this thesis for examination by the thesis committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

Kedar Nath Niraula

Supervisor

Department of Rural Development

Post Graduate Campus, Biratnagar

Nepal

Date: 08 Magh, 2071



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BIRATNAGAR, MORANG

Letter of Approval

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by **Nodanath Trital** entitled **"An Analysis of Budget Allocation to Target Groups and People Participation at VDC Council Meeting"** has been approved by the Department as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master Degree of Arts and Rural Development.

Evaluation Committee:

Dr. Ramesh Prasad Adhikari

Head, Department of Rural Development

Post Graduate Campus, Biratnagar

.....

Keshab Pahadi

External Examiner

Mr. Kedar Nath Niraula

Supervisor

Date: 12 Magh, 2071

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NodanathTrital

Abstract

The present research makes an effort to analyze the local bodies' council meeting decision for allocating budget to target groups and the participation at VDC council meeting. This research is descriptive one, based on the secondary sources of data. The data for the study was collected by seeking written information about VDC council meeting decisions using RTI act 2007 from the VDCs and their records.

The required data were collected using RTI application as the data collection tool. The outcomes derived from the record of VDCs, budget allocation at VDC council meeting and the participation of local stakeholders were listed, tallied and tabulated on the basis of data and linguistic characteristics. An effort has been made firstly to analyze the budget allocated by VDC council meeting and people participation at the meeting. After that, the budget was analysed in comparison with inter-VDC decision to allocate the budget for five fiscal years since FY 2066-67 upto 2070-71. Therefore, the research has found out the total investment of local bodies in the sector of target groups, which is the main provision of the guidelines.

The main objectives of this research are to find out the budget allocation by local bodies on target groups at VDC for their poverty elimination and empowerment of the community and to access the participation of local people on VDC council meeting. The research found out the allocation of budget of local bodies to target groups for their empowerment. The main findings of this research is local bodies has regularly invested and allocated some budget to target groups but the participation of target communities don't regularly increasing to some fiscal years and there is very difficult to increase the utilize of the budget and participation of target groups. The allocation of local bodies to target group is comparatively not increasingly. This research has found out that the main priority to allocate budget to target group is mandatory for VDCs and approval from local people through VDC council meeting is obligatory for all VDCs within second week of January.

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ABBREVIATION

ADDCN	Association of District Development Committees of Nepal
CAC	Citizen Awareness Center
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
DC	District Council
DDC	District Development Committee
DDF	District Development Fund
DIMC	Decentralization Implementation Monitoring Committee
DIP	Decentralization Implementation Plan
IO	Information Officer
JCFD	Joint Coordination Forum for Decentralization
LBFC	Local Bodies Fiscal Commission
LSGA	Local Self-Governance Act
LSGR	Local Self-Governance Rules
MC/PMs	Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures
MCs	Municipal councils
MoALD	The Ministry of Federal and Local Development
MuAN	Municipal Association of Nepal
NAVIN	National Association of VDCs in Nepal
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIC	National Information Commission

NRs	Nepalese Rupees
PBGS	Performance Based Grant System
RGA	Rapid Governance Assessment
RTI	Right to Information
Sq.	Square
VCs	Village councils
VDC	Village Development Committee
WCF	Ward Citizen Forums

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

This section of the study includes brief description of background of the study, introduction of the study area, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is a hilly country. Land structure is difficult nature. Only 15% earth surface of Nepal lies on Terai region. Rest surface area is hill and mountain nature. The total area of Nepal is 1,47,181 sq. km. and total population is 2,64,94,504(CBS. 2012). 86% people stay in rural area and they are dependent on agriculture. Few people have settled on facilitative town area.

Nepal is a landlocked country. About 85 percent Nepalese people stay in rural area (CBS 2068). The land structure of Nepal is hill and mountains structure. Therefore, it is a huge challenge of Nepal for development. However, it is also an opportunity. When Nepal is success in rural development, it is also eliminate the poverty. Rural area is remote area too.

The concept of decentralization and participatory development has a long history in Nepal. A significant process of decentralization was initiated with the enactment of the Decentralization Act in 1982 and the adoption of relevant regulations in 1984. These legal frameworks forwarded the process of de-concentration of functional responsibilities to the district level of governance. Formally, decentralization was inscribed in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal-1990 as a fundamental element of democracy. Three separate Acts-The District Development Committee (DDC) Act, the Village Development Committee (VDC) Act, and the Municipality Act- were enacted in 1992. Based on the recommendation of a High Level Decentralization Coordination Committee formed under the Chairpersonship of the Prime Minister in 1996, the Local Self-Governance Act (LSGA) was enacted in 1999 to consolidate the three separate acts of 1992. The Act laid the foundation for a local self-governance system in the country. It has statutorily recognized the role

of local self-governance and devolution to make Local bodies more responsive and accountable to their populace.

Nepal has a two-tier local governance structure with district development committees (DDC) (75) on the top tier and municipalities (58) and village development committees-VDC (3913) in the grass-root tiers. The DDC has become the focal institution of decentralized planning and coordination at the district level. These local self-government bodies have become prominent in implementation aspect of local development efforts where the people's representatives are involved in policy making planning and prioritization of development needs. At the grassroots level the Municipality and Village Development Committees are formed on the basis of popular voting. The elected local representatives practiced the local governance for two full terms after 1990 until their terms expired in July 2002. Furthermore, government dissolved elected local bodies in 2002 following the assumption of increasing powers by the monarch. Decentralization has been recognized in the overall national development plans (PRSP) as essential for poverty reduction. The Ninth Plan emphasized decentralized governance focusing on poverty reduction and rural development and the current Tenth Plan has considered decentralization as a cross-cutting sector reassuring commitment for fiscal, administrative and functional devolution along with capacity building initiatives focusing entirely on achieving the goal of poverty reduction. Major milestones regarding the implementation of the decentralization reforms have been could be achieved before both government and development partners focused their attention on the conflict situation and the momentum for the reform process was lost. The milestones include the approval of the Local Self-Governance Regulation and Financial Administration Regulations in 2000, the creation of a high-level Decentralization Implementation Monitoring Committee (DIMC) according to the provision made in the LSGA, the establishment of a common platform called Joint Coordination Forum for Decentralization (JCFD) involving government agencies, civil society, the private sector and donor representatives, the preparation of the Decentralization Implementation Plan (DIP) approved by the DIMC as well as the establishment of

the Local Bodies Fiscal Commission (LBFC) and the setting up of the District Development Fund (DDF) as uniform funding window for local governments. However, conflict and political crisis over the last decade have severely affected the progress in implementing the decentralization reforms and a larger number of challenges remain to be addressed to make decentralization effective. The interim constitution agreed upon by the interim government including the former government as well as the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) recognizes the role of local government for development and it is generally assumed that the decentralization process will be resumed. However, the new constitution to local government recent policy debates tend to point to the maintenance of some kind of local governance system under the new constitution, perhaps framed by ‘federalist parameters’. The next years will be a critical period for Nepal with the challenge of overcoming the decade of armed conflict and consolidating the peace process which is far from complete as demonstrated by the repeated outbreaks of violence in different parts of the country.

Local Self-Governance Rules (LSGR) 2000 that vested unprecedented development authority with local governments, along with the concomitant transfer of grant resources and the provision of taxing authority. This devolutionary policy intends and allows District Development Committees (DDCs) and VDCs to take charge of local development that contributes towards poverty reduction through inclusive, responsive and accountable local governance and participatory community-led development. Now, the conditional and unconditional annual budgetary grant to VDCs ranges from a minimum of NRs 1.5 million to a maximum of NRs 3 million (with an average of about NRs 2.1 million), based on 11 minimum compliance criteria.

Since the early 1990, Nepal has made significant progress in decentralization. Political developments in the country however have slowed down the momentum in the last few years. The results of decentralization efforts so far have been mixed. The legal and institutional framework for local governance has been created, some

devolution of functions and responsibilities to local bodies has been made, and promising results in the form of improvements in the delivery of essential social services to rural communities are already evident. Nevertheless, it is also possible to point out several shortcomings: weak expenditure management, inadequate coverage and low quality of expenditure reporting, the need for improved accounting and transparency arrangements etc. Also, revenue mobilization by local bodies is very low; and there is little incentive for them under existing arrangements to improve their capacity and performance.

1.1.1 System of Local Government in Nepal

Nepal has a two-tier system of local governance, with village and municipal bodies as the lower tier and district bodies as the higher. The village bodies are called village development committees (VDCs) with municipalities serving the same function in town areas. The district bodies are the district development committees (DDCs). These are the units of local government. Currently there are 3913 VDCs, 58 Municipalities and 75 DDCs in Nepal.

- All VDCs are divided into nine wards. Municipalities are divided into a minimum of nine wards but the maximum number is not specified. Wards are the smallest units of local governance. Each district is divided into from nine to seventeen Ilakas, which cover clusters of VDCs and municipality. Each ward has a committee (WC) made up of the five elected members, one of which must be a woman. VDC committees and municipal committees run LGs' affairs.
- Village councils (VCs) and Municipal councils (MCs) meet biannually to approve or question VDC and municipality policies, programmes and budgets. VDC chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, ward members and six nominated members representing women and DAGs form the village councils. Municipal councils (MC) have a similar structure but the number of nominated members can be a maximum of twenty.

- Each district has a district council (DC), which serves the same role as VCs and MCs, and an executive committee (DDC). The DCs meet annually and are made up of mayors and deputy mayors of municipalities, VDC chairpersons and vice-chairpersons, DDC chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and members, the district's MPs and six nominated members.
- The Ministry of Federal and Local Development (MoALD) appoints LG secretaries. At DDCs it deposes additional professional staff such as accountants, engineers and planners. LGs generally appoint lower level staff, although, some DDCs have started to appoint professional staff themselves.

The DDC have become the focal points of decentralized planning and coordination, (most of the DDC prepare their own periodic development plans), and implementation of development activities involving people's participation at the district level. A single window financing framework, (the District Development Fund), has been set up as envisaged in the LSGA, to institutionalize and manage all funds received at the district level. And, capacity building at both DDC and VDC levels has been carried out, with extensive financial and technical support from several external donors, and by the Government.

Local government elections were held in 1992 and 1997. But since 2002 the absence of elected local governments has had a negative impact on local bodies. It is fully establishing the system of local self-governance in Nepal. The five-year term of elected local bodies (DDC, VDC and Municipalities) expired in July 2002; and local elections have not been held since that date, initially because of the conflict and later because of the dissolution of the Parliament and ensuing political instability.

Nepal has two-tier system of local governance, with Village Development Committees and municipalities as the lower tier and District Development Committees as the higher. There are 3913 VDCs, 58 Municipalities and 75 districts in Nepal. Establishment of local bodies' associations viz. Association of District Develop-

ment Committees of Nepal (ADDCN), Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN) have an important role in institutionalizing decentralization, developing the capacity of local bodies, policy lobbying, mobilizing external resources through local bodies and implementing of LSGA, 1999.

The LSGA, 1999 has provided spaces to VDCs to provide basic services to the people in the various areas such as agriculture, rural drinking water, works and transportation, education and sports, irrigation and soil erosion and river control, physical development, health services, forests and environment, language and culture, tourism and cottage industries and miscellaneous (LSGA, section 28).

Likewise, municipalities are responsible about finance, physical development, water resources, environment and sanitation, education and sports development, culture, works and transport, health service, social welfare, industry and tourism and miscellaneous (LSGA, section 96). Similarly, DDCs have to work in agriculture, rural drinking water and habitation development, hydropower, works and transport, land reforms and land management, development of women and helpless people, forest and environment, education and sports, wages for labor, irrigation and soil erosion and river control, information and communication, language and culture, cottage industry, health services, tourism and miscellaneous (LSGA, section 189).

Although local bodies are autonomous, self-governed and continued representative institutions, there are no elected representatives in local bodies¹⁰. Public servants are fully responsible to lead the local bodies in close coordination with all party mechanism at local level. The Interim Constitution of Nepal has also strongly focused the existence of elected representatives in local bodies. There is explicit provision to hold local election (article 139 (1)) and form accountable and responsible political mechanism (article 139 (2)).

1.1.2 The Decentralization Process in Nepal

The initial efforts to promote peoples' participation in development started in the early 1960 under the Panchayat system, when elected district, village and municipality level Panchayats were given limited responsibilities for undertaking local level programs and levying local taxes. However, the Panchayats remained very largely extensions of the central government, and were primarily centrally driven. Later reforms in the 1980s introduced further progress by putting all district level line agencies under the umbrella of district level Panchayats; but, it gave little emphasis to promoting local governance and fiscal decentralization. Moreover, many of the key issues with regard to decentralization, such as the roles and tasks of local bodies, their relationships with the line agencies, overlaps in functions and responsibilities, and accountability arrangements remained unresolved.

The main impetus for decentralization came with the success of the Democracy Movement and the promulgation of a New Constitution in 1990. The latter explicitly recognized "wider participation of the people in the governance of the country and by way of decentralization" as an explicit state policy. It also created the legal and organizational structure for decentralization. Three separate Acts in 1992 created a two-tier local government structure of District Development Committees (DDC) at the higher level, and Village Development Committees (VDC) and Municipalities at the lower level; and local elections were held in 1992. However, it did little to clarify the roles and responsibilities of local bodies, to improve their decision making powers, or to realign implementation responsibilities from sectoral / line agency levels to local bodies. Nevertheless, it helped to create a strong constituency for decentralization—representatives of local government associations, elected officials, national level political parties who saw potential benefits (at least for themselves) in furthering decentralization, and a growing body of other (Nepali as well donor) stakeholders, who increasingly viewed participatory local level development as an effective alternative to an inefficient central government.

Local Self-Governance Act, 2055 (1999) was promulgated after more than five decades long struggle for devolution of power with an aim to make provisions conducive to the enjoyment of the fruits of democracy through the utmost participation of sovereign people in the process of governance by way of decentralization. Local Self-Governance Act 1999 deals local bodies making them accountable to the people under the principle of policies of Local Self Governance. Decentralization Coordination Committee chaired by the Prime Minister. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, (the Ninth Plan in parallel recommended greater devolution of powers to local bodies, along with adequate supporting mechanisms and increased role for the private sector and civil society), the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA), was promulgated at that time. The LSGA, its associated regulations and follow up government actions provided the enabling framework within which the local government system evolved over the next few years.

The clause 3 (d) says: having the Local Bodies oriented towards the establishing the civil society based on democratic process, transparent practices, public accountability, and people's participation, in carrying out the functional devolved on them. The clause 3(e) says for the purpose of developing local leadership, arrangement of effective mechanism to make the local body accountable to the people in its own areas. However, less than two years after the implementation of the Act the tenure of elected representatives of municipalities expired in 2002.

“The findings of the report are critical for reporting to the responsible authority. Local governance is the closest state organ for the people to deliver voices and choices through local governance,” said Shoko Noda, UNDP's country director. “The perception of government depends on the perception of local people about their local governance.”

One of the primary functions of the local bodies is to institutionalize the process of development by enhancing the participation of all the people including the ethnic communities, indigenous people and down-trodden. The members nominated un-

der the recommendation of political parties pay attention to their party and personal interest but the institutionalization process of development is often ignored.

According to Local Self Governance Act 1999, there are various provisions to run the affairs of local bodies. An elected local body consists of elected representative chairman, vice chairman and, ward chair, woman ward member and ward members. Similarly, there is a position of executive secretary appointed by the Ministry of Local Development. The functions of local bodies are divided into executive and legislative. The local bodies also exercise the judicial functions.

1.1.3 Local Bodies in Disorder

Although People's Movement II was launched to restore complete democratic rights of the people, political parties have been ignoring the essence of grass root democracy. No political parties raise the voice to hold the elections.

Yet, some positive changes are coming against the misuse of resources. Local civil society groups have already launched the mission to clean the mess in the local bodies. "The government has been making its best to create the order in the local bodies. "The government has been taking measures like Citizens' Charter, Citizen Ward Forums and Reflect Center in order to improve the status of local bodies in the country," said Bodh Raj Niroula, joint secretary at the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.

In general, looking back over the past decade and a half, there has been noteworthy progress. The importance of, the need for, decentralization has been clearly recognized and explicitly incorporated in the development strategy of the Government. By Alignment Strategies: Country Study Nepal three development partners; the legal and institutional framework for decentralization has been created, (political decentralization); some of the expenditure/service delivery functions which are particularly important for rural areas have been transferred to local bodies and communities, (administrative decentralization); and their resource base has been improved to some extent, (financial decentralization). In addition, several initia-

tives are under way to strengthen the capacity of local bodies, and to more generally accelerate the decentralization process.

Despite over a half century long experiences of running the local affairs by through the elected representatives, this is for the first time the bodies remain without elected representative for such a long period. As Village Development Committees VDCs, District Development Committees (DDCs) and Municipalities are the primary political institution at the grass root level, every political party wants to control it. As there are huge resources and main institution at grass root level and direct connect with the livelihood of local population on day to day basis, political control of local bodies is important for main stream parties. According to Ministry of Federal and Local Development, there are over Rs. 40 billion annual budgets allocated to the local bodies to perform social security and development works.

“No one has the right to ignore the demand of local level elections in order to stop corruption and irregularities at local bodies. In order to improve the status of accountability and transparency in the country, local level election should be held,” said Norwegian Ambassador to Nepal Alf Anre Ramslie. The Rapid Governance Assessment (RGA) conducted by MIREST-Nepal will be helpful in the process of implementing the government’s development policies in the local level.”

1.1.4 Local Government and Right to Information

The local government is known as specific institution or entity established by national constitution by the government in Brazil, Denmark, France, India, Italy, Japan, and Sweden determined by state constitutions. It has been known as grass-roots level entity In Australia and the United States; by ordinary legislation of a higher level of central government in New Zealand and the United Kingdom; by provincial or state legislation in Canada and Pakistan; and by executive order in China to deliver a range of services to a relatively small geographically delineated area⁷. Local government is the closest tier and unit of government to the citizen at

the lowest level. It is also the first entry point for people to gain access of and influence decision-making process in government.

Similarly, information is an inalienable and natural right of every human being. In a democratic country each person has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes right of holding public opinion and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas from the public authorities. The available and appropriate information helps citizen to live a dignified life in a civilized society. Moreover there is a close link between right to information and good governance. Good governance is characterized by transparency, accountability and responsiveness. Consequently, the citizen's right to information is increasingly being recognized as an important mechanism to promote openness, transparency and accountability in government administration. People are the sole part in a representative form of government. So it is necessary that they must have to know all the functioning of government activities to frame a practical regime of good governance in administrative process.

The 2006 Peoples' Movement has not only made historical changes in the political arena by declaring Nepal as a federal republican as well as a secular state, but also provided impetus to inclusive participation in decision-making process in transparent and accountable manner. The constitution of Nepal has ensured that every citizen shall have the right to demand or obtain information on any matters of his/her own or of public importance. (Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2006, Article 27).

Introduction of RTI

Information may be defined as data that has been verified to be accurate and timely, is specific and is organized for a purpose; is presented within a context that gives it meaning and relevance; and that can lead to an increase in understanding and decrease in uncertainty. The value of information lies solely in its ability to affect a behavior, decision or outcome. A piece of information is considered valueless if, after receiving it, things remain unchanged.¹ With the dawn of the 'Information Society', freedom to access information held by public bodies has increas-

ingly been recognised as being crucial to any democracy. Democracy is a political form of governance in which the governing power is derived from the people themselves. As a matter of fact, the term 'Democracy' itself means rule of the people and equality and freedom are often identified as the two important principles of democracy since ancient times. These principles by themselves imply equality before law as well as an equal access to power.

"Right to Information" is the right of citizen to request and obtain information of public importance information produced by the public bodies. And the right to study or observe any written document, material etc held in public body or proceedings of such public body. Similarly, it is to right to obtain a verified copy of such document, to visit or observe the place where any construction of public importance is going on and to obtain verified sample of any materials. Such a way that to obtain information held in any type of machine through such machine (RTI act 2007, section 2(e)).

The right to get information is the natural right in a democratic form of government. One of the predominant rights of the people is to know the working and performance of its government. These rights enable transparency and promote accountability in the public affairs.

An effort at democracy falters in many nations due to lack of systems that support people's meaningful participation in the decision-making processes and the actions that result. To ensure mass awareness of decision-making and to pave the way for people's participation, many countries across the world prioritize freedom of expression as one of the pillars of a sound and healthy democracy. A vibrant citizenry is the prerequisite of any democratic society and the very foundation of democratic governance. It is not possible for any democratic government to survive without accountability which can be realized only when people have information about the functioning of a participatory democracy. It is, therefore, the duty of the representative rulers to allow the real sovereign, that is, the people, to decide and be an integral part of every decision making process in a given society.

Secrecy and accountability do not go together. There is no room for secrecy in a responsible government where all agents of the public must be responsible for their conduct. Citizens have the right to know about every public act as everything done by their representatives is ultimately for the betterment of the citizenry. However, it has generally been seen that the public functionaries need to be reminded time and again about the representative character of their job by insisting that they should inform the public every detail of their activities at every relevant point of time. Thus, it has now widely been recognized that openness and accessibility of people to the information about the functioning of government is essential to the health of a democracy.

The veil of secrecy that has traditionally shrouded the activities of governments is being progressively lifted and this has had a salutary effect on the functioning of governments in free societies. As a matter of fact, it can safely be said that the right to know has evolved with the maturity of the democratic form of governance.

The right to access to information is integral to freedom of expression, too. Without access to information, freedom of expression would be meaningless. Merely having a government that commits itself to the freedom of information is not adequate. It should necessarily be backed by some sound and effective legislative measures that lay down processes for requesting and obtaining information from the government and from other organizations working in the public sphere.

As it is, information cannot be said to be anybody's private property. Even if we assume it to be, then its owner is the nation and the beneficiary must be each and every citizen. Therefore, government as well as the public authorities who are supposed to serve the people in exchange of payment from the public purse, are nothing more than the mere trustees of this national resource. However, unlike other laws, access to information laws have to be implemented by the people themselves. Unless people seek information, the law will remain a dead letter.

Corruption seems to thrive in an environment that is insulated from public scrutiny and where there is no room for accountability of public servants to the law or the public whom they are mandated to serve. This is why, in reality, every population, however diverse it may be, needs to be afforded the opportunity, even encouragement from the government, to meaningfully participate in the decision-making process. If people are able to participate in the political process only then will democracy, take root in the fullest sense of the term. People can participate actively only when they have information about the system of government, the budget making and money spending exercises, and the monitoring and accountability mechanisms that have put in place.

Hence, the government and all the public authorities should be required to put all such information in the public domain voluntarily or on request to keep the citizenry informed about what they are doing and why they are doing it.

All this requires a dedication to openness and information sharing by the public servants at all levels of administration with a view to creating a critical level of awareness amongst the people at large and it is only when such a critical level of awareness and participation is attained that it becomes difficult for the ruling elite to manipulate or dupe the people.

As citizens of the country, people pay taxes and they expect good governance in return. Perhaps the time is now overdue for every citizen to demand accountability from government and its institutions and their functionaries. The Right to Information Act is being used by many people and civil society groups to this end. However, it is indeed sad to note that knowledge about such a law has not reached every nook and corner of the country.

Democracy means people's rule and for people to have influence in the government, they must first be informed about what is going on and they must then have a way to express their opinion in an effective way so that their opinions can be considered before a final decision is taken. Hence, the people themselves have to

be the foremost users of the Right to Information Act, beginning a movement across the country to cleanse the system.

Poverty reduction strategies are doomed to fail when they are not designed in consultation with the people whom they are intended to benefit. It is these people who should be the primary players in the conceptualization, design, delivery and evaluation of the development schemes intended for them. Beneficiaries are best placed to assess what kinds of developmental projects would have the greatest impact on their communities -be it the digging of wells, the construction of schools, or functional health care facilities complete with doctors, nurses and stocks of essential medicines. Unfortunately, poor communities usually suffer from a dual poverty: they not only lack the basic resources necessary to lift themselves out of poverty, but also suffer from a scarcity of information about the poverty reduction programs and welfare schemes run by the government.

The right to information can help to ensure that poorer communities can avail of opportunities for extricating themselves out of poverty. Rural communities, for example, are often particularly excluded from government decision making due to their geographical isolation, lack of access to information and poor literacy levels. This situation is only made worse when public officers are under no obligation to consult widely while making policy decisions that are likely to affect the lives of others. Setting a legal obligation on governments to voluntarily disseminate information can provide people with vital knowledge such as the best agricultural practices and market strategies so that they can consider participating in the economy more actively. If they choose to do so, such information ensures that they are in a more competitive position from which to participate.

The enactment of a right to information law should not be considered as an isolated action, instead it is a part of an ongoing movement toward a more open, transparent and accountable public policy environment. Such an environment has the potential to make a country more attractive to both domestic as well as to foreign investment. For the investors to feel secure about the funds they are contributing to

a country's economy, they require access to timely information, such as the industrial and investment policies; the operation of regulatory authorities and financial institutions; the criteria used to choose successful bidders in procurement processes, provide licenses and give credit; expatriation policies; and dispute redress mechanisms. In this way, the encouragement of a culture of transparent governance can be a significant step towards achieving a more open dialogue between a country's government, its people, and domestic and foreign investors. Economic growth is more likely to be sustainable and distributed in an equitable fashion in a transparent environment.

In a functional democracy, media is an essential watchdog for the public, scrutinizing government actions and policies in order to expose mismanagement and corruption and demand accountability. Media is often the main source of public information constantly engaged in informing and shaping public opinion and contributing to public debates about important issues. This is a two-way process: the coverage of current events by the media also serves to inform the government of public opinion, which in turn feeds into policy-making.

1.1.5 Steps for Planning Process at Local Bodies in Nepal

In each Village Development Committees (VDCs) has formed nine Ward Citizen Forums (WCF) one in each Ward and one VDC level Citizen Awareness Center (CAC). Each forum comprises of 20 to 25 members and they are selected through organizing onsite mass meetings. Due to diverse geographical settings, entire settlements of the VDC are not represented in WCF and CAC in some VDCs. The WCF comprises of women, dalit, poor, disables, civil society, elites, and community forests user group members too.

Some community-based organization have leading role for social mobilization. One social mobilizer is working at one VDC and the role of Social Mobilizer for mobilizing WCF and CAC is important for empowering target communities. Social mobilizers have played vital role for local development. They encourage people to participate on development task. Many rural roads are digging by using hu-

man resources. Therefore, it is important to upkeep their motivation of work in the days to come. One way towards it would be considering them as an integral part of local bodies instead of recognizing them as NGO staff.

WCF, which is predominantly represented by women, dalit and disadvantaged communities, are instrumental for bringing voice of the target communities in the local bodies decision making process particularly in the situation where the local bodies are running without elected representatives.

From the environment management point of view, existence of WCF that represents all sectors of a society and their involvement in planning process will definitely help mainstreaming environmental criteria including climate change and disaster risk responsive activities in local planning and budgeting process.

There must have other successful initiatives across the country that needs documentation and dissemination.

The prescribed steps for green road construction in Nepal are as follows:

Social mobilization Steps:

- Dialogue and meetings with VDC and community
- Formation of user committee
- Achievement of political balance and consensus
- Training of user committee, road building groups, record keepers, etc
- Facilitation of user committee for mobilization of road building groups and social welfare of workers
- Facilitation of user committee for payment of workers
- Assistance to user committee for maintenance of Project Book
- Guidance of road building groups to operate group saving
- schemes and income-generating activities

1.1.6 Decision-Making Processes, Unsustainable Roads and Implications

There are broadly two modes of decision-making as regards rural road construction in Nepal:

- (i) well-planned, with complete feasibility and environmental studies and with transparent participation processes; and
- (ii) Political or elite-influenced, without serious studies and without open and transparent processes.

In terms of the time for road construction/rehabilitation, Nepal's budgetary process, with budget release mainly at the end of the fiscal year (June–July) and budget freezing in mid-July, often forces roads to be constructed during the monsoon period when local people are busy with agriculture. This obviously discourages the choice of LB technology. The pressure to reduce time taken for construction is also increasing the tendency to choose EB technologies.

As a consequence of inappropriate technologies and poor construction timing (whether deliberate or from necessity), not only is the sustainability of most rural transport infrastructure uncertain but the social and poverty reduction impacts of rural roads are also questionable.

Some roads are constructed without adequate economic feasibility and environmental studies.

1.2 Introduction of Study Area

In Dhankuta district, there are 2 constituencies, 1 municipality and 35 VDCs in its geographical structure. Recently, Pakhribas municipality is announced by the government including 4 VDCs as municipality. Among 35 VDCs, there are seven VDCs are taken under this study area for research. Among them, four VDCs are chosen from constituency one and three VDCs were taken from constituency two. Budhimorang, Chhintang, Khuwaphok and Mauna Budhuk are in constituency no. one and Aankhisalla, Pakhribas and Phalante VDCs are in constituency no. two of Dhankuta district.

The selected area of the study is seven VDC among 35 VDCs of Dhankuta district. Dhankuta district is lies on Koshi zone of Nepal. It is located on eastern part of the country. It is located in the 26°54'40" to 26°59'15" north latitude and 87°26'30" to 87°31'45" east longitude.

The study area is a hilly region. The geographical structure is sloppy. There are some hill-tops. The upper hill area is more than lower hill area. The district area is sloppy about 25° to 45°. Some area of the district is sloppier than 45°. The height from the ocean side is 730 metres upto 3500 meters. This VDC is located at Tamor river and Arun river bank. The geographical height of the VDC is 5500 metres in the average. (DDC Profile- 2065)

Dhankuta district is located in the hilly region, but not Himalayan. So semi-hot temperature is realized on the low level land area. But mainly tropic climate is found on the other area. Medium temperature has realized on the road coverage area. In the winter season, minimum temperature decreased. In the summer season, maximum temperature is increased up to 35°C near Tamor and Arun River that was the lower part of district. As a whole, tropic (semi-cold) climate found there.

1.3 Statement of the Problems:

Local bodies are the lowest government entities for service providing to the grass-root people. This study concerns on people participation and budget allocation status of VDCs in Dhankuta district. It also studies on impact of budget allocation and status of target group participation either it is increasingly or decreasingly? As a whole, the study has presented the impact of government investment at grassroots level and importance of RTI to find out the actual public service of local bodies. The main purpose of the study is to analyze the status of budget allocation and participation of local and target groups in VDC council meeting during five fiscal years. It is not found any study on this topic by any agencies or any person. That is a cause of non-achievement of expected development; I have expected that the study has been a supporting document for the fulfillment of that lack to further researchers.

Mainly, the topic of this area is selected for searching given options:

- How much investment have been done by local government bodies until now?
- How do local bodies' invest to target groups effectively?
- What is the status of people participation in VDC council meeting?

- Has target group received the allocated budget timely from local bodies?
- Has allocated budget helped the target group people the growth of income level?
- Does the study recommend to support on VDC level, Ilaka level and district level regional planning process?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to find out the budget allocation by local bodies on target groups for rural development through VDC council meeting. The following are the objectives of this study:

- to find out the budget allocation by local bodies' council meetings on target groups for rural development.
- to analyze and assess the participation of target groups and local people at VDC council meetings for rural development.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

VDC council meeting is an obligation of VDC to conduct earlier than second week of January every year under the provision mentioned in the Local Bodies Resource Management and Mobilization Directives 2012. Similarly, target group participation in the meeting is also very important on participatory planning and decision-making process under participatory approach.

In this thesis, investment of local bodies for the years to target groups empowerment and target group participation on VDC council meeting had been analyzed through the comparatively on other aspect at VDC level. The data had collected from VDCs, using Right to Information (RTI) act. RTI act provided the right to every citizen to know the public information writing application to seek information addressing Information Officer (IO) of the public agencies.

The participation of local stakeholders especially target groups during VDC council meeting had analyzed in the study. The study had covered only seven VDCs. It had not covered overall population of the district. It has covered only five years' budget allocation and target group participation during VDC council meeting of seven VDCs. Therefore, it is not able to include all features of VDC council meet-

ing and target group participation on decision making-process to allocate budget for them. It had just analyzed the investment of local bodies to target groups when conducting VDC council meetings.

Limitations of the study were present below:

- This study has non-represented target groups' budget allocation, their participation and VDC council meeting in the rural development of all over the country.
- The study is limited on budget allocation to target groups from VDC council meeting and target groups' participation on the meeting to decision making process.
- The study is selected only seven VDCs who provided complete information using RTI act.
- - The secondary data about the investment of govt. resources to rural community through DDC has also analyzed in the research.

In this way, the following VDCs have selected as study area and the limitation of the study is under the VDCs. Investment of government to target groups through VDC council meeting, participation of target groups on council meetings and budget allocation for target groups are the main study area of this research. I had posted 35 letters to seek information about the data in all 35 VDCs. I got the response from only 21 VDCs and I have selected 33 percent VDCs from the VDCs who provided me the necessary information using RTI act. The list of research area is as follows:

Table 1 List of VDCs for Study Area

S.N.	Name of the Rural Roads at Kurule Tenupa VDC
1	Ankhisalla VDC
2	Budhimorang VDC
3	Chhintang VDC
4	Khuwaphok VDC
5	Mauna Budhuk VDC
6	Pakhribas VDC
7	Phalante VDC

1.6 Organization of the Study (Chapter Plan)

The research work has prepared in five chapters. Chapter I represents introduction of the study and study area, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study. Chapter II has covered by literature review and chapter III has described the methodology of the research. Under this chapter, sources of data, research design, research tools and techniques for data analysis has been discussion. Chapter IV has included analysis and interpretation of the data that is the main body of this study and chapter V has covered findings and recommendation of the research. Then, the references and appendixes have mentioned on the research work.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2. Literature Review

Research is complex work. Before research writing, study of related literature is necessary. A researcher must have the knowledge of previous studies, which are closely associated with the topic. The study of previous literature provides the foundation of the present study. Theoretical and behavioral knowledge acquired from the review of the reference literatures is useful for this research. A researcher gains creative imagination and design of study by review of literature. The review does not fit hundred percent for further study but they are more or less helpful to reach the conclusion and also they help in enhancing the knowledge about the study in general.

2.1 Conclusion of Some Review of the Literature:

2.1.1 Development of Plans and Its Implementation at Local Level

According to the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) 1999, the following provisions are made for formulation of plans, selection of projects, Implementation and management of local level projects and monitoring and evaluation of the project implemented at local level.

a. Formulation of Plan

- Each Village Development Committee shall formulate periodic and annual plans for the development of the village development areas (LSGA, 1999-section 43).
- Each municipality shall formulate periodic and annual plans for the development of the municipal areas (LSGA, 1999-section 111).
- Each District Development Committee shall formulate periodic and annual plans for the development of its District (LSGA, 1999-section 195).

b. Selection of Project

- The information on the selected projects shall have to be making public among the inhabitants of the village (LSGA, 1999-Section 46-(5)).
- The information on the selected projects shall have to be making public among the inhabitants of the municipality (LSGA, 1999-Section 144-(5)).
- Inhabitants of the district shall have to be informing about the projects selected by the DDC (LSGA, 1999-Section 202-(2)).

c. Projects Implementation and Management at Local Level

- The village level projects shall be carried out through consumer's committees (LSGA, 1999 section 49).

The projects which have direct concern with the people at municipal level shall be operated through consumer's committees (LSGA 1999, 117 (2)).

- Similarly, the VDC or consumer's group shall have the responsibility for the implementation of the plan (LSGA 1999- section 205 (2)). The projects under the district level plan may be implemented and operated through consumer's group (LSGA 1999- section 205 (3)).

d. Mechanism of Monitoring and Evaluation at Local Level

In order to see situation the resources and means estimated have been mobilized as per the goals and to give necessary directions for the solution to the obstruction or hindrances that may occur in the implementation of project, there is provision of one supervision and monitoring committee in each DDC to be chaired by the parliamentarian of the concerned district in the alphabetical order for each year (LSGA, 1999 section 210 (1)).

Pursuant to the section 210 of LSGA, 1999, with a view to carry out regular supervision and monitoring of the district level programs/projects and to submit report to the supervision and monitoring committee, a supervision and monitoring sub-

committee under the chairmanship of vice-president of each DDC is provisioned (LSGA/R, 2000, (regulation 202)).

Although special provision has been made about the supervision and monitoring committee until the new election in local bodies grant procedure, 2010 and also focused **in Performance Measures (PMs)** indicators, due to the absence of elected representative in local bodies, this provision is made flexible or suspended until the new election in local bodies.

2.1.2 Present Information System at Local Government

One of the most important principles and policies of local self-governance is to orient local bodies towards establishing the civil society based on the democratic process, transparent practice, public accountability, and people's participation, in carrying out the functions devolved on them (LSGA, 1999 section 3 (d)).

There shall be one information and record centre in each DDC to identify the real situation of the district and enhance the planned development process. Such center shall have to collect and maintain proper information (LSGA, 1999 - section 212).

Although there is no provision about the establishment of information and record center by VDCs and municipalities in the LSGA, there is a mandatory provision for municipalities to establish information center in MCPM indicators.

2.1.3 Positive Initiatives for Implementation of RTI Act

In order to provide effective service, good governance must be ensure by increasing the degree of transparency, participation, accountability and rule of law¹¹. Moreover, Right to Information Act, 2007 is considered as one of the most important tools to translate into practices the basic theories and assumptions of good governance. The government of Nepal has given more emphasis for effective information system to make the works and decisions made by public bodies transparent. Likewise, in order to make the process of public service delivery transparent and understandable, the Government of Nepal has expressed strong commitment to prepare, amend and implement service delivery guidelines. For this, provi-

sion of intensive trainings is made to enhance the capacities of the officials of public bodies.

Although the Ministry of Local Development initiated some positive steps by drafting the District Information and Documentation Center Management Procedure-2007, it has not yet finalized the process. The Association of District Development Committees of Nepal (ADDCN) with the support of Danida HUGOU has prepared a District Information and Documentation Center-Information Management Manual, 2007. Similarly, Ministry of Local Development has prepared action plan regarding proper management of report system and maintain transparency of local bodies in 2010.

The good governance (Management and Operation) act, 2008 has strongly accepted that public administration must be transparent and accountable and maintain financial discipline properly. Additionally good governance regulation, 2009 regulation 10 has focused that decisions made by local bodies related to the public concerned must be post in the notice board and disseminate through the website and other proper means of communication. Local bodies must disseminate the details of income and expenditure (internal and grant received from central government) must be posted in the separate hoarding board to be accessed by the general people. The separate hoarding board must be made of the project having more than one million budget of project in the respective site of the project.

Table 2 Provisions Regarding Transparency in Grant Procedure

DDCs grant procedure, 2010(Chapter10,point 42)	Municipalities grant procedure, 2010 (Chapter 10, point 42)	VDCs grant procedure, 2010(Chapter10,point 42)
Each DDC has to keep hoarding board in project site of the project of more than 0.5 million	Each municipality has to keep hoarding board in project site of the project of more than 0.5 million	Each VDC has to keep hoarding board in project site of the project of more than 0.2 million
Each DDC has to conduct	Each municipality has to	Each VDC has to conduct

DDCs grant procedure, 2010(Chapter10,point 42)	Municipalities grant procedure, 2010 (Chapter 10, point 42)	VDCs grant procedure, 2010(Chapter10,point 42)
public audit of the completed projects to get last installment of the project.	conduct public audit of the completed projects to get last installment of the project.	public audit of the completed projects to get last installment of the project. stakeholders
Each DDC has to conduct at least one social audit in the presence of ward citizen forum and other stakeholders	Each municipality has to conduct at least one social audit in the presence of ward citizen forum and other	Each VDC has to conduct at least one social audit in the presence of ward citizen forum and other stakeholders

Similarly, we can see the following table about provisions regarding Good Governance in Local Bodies Grant Procedures in Nepal :

Table 3 Provisions Regarding Good Governance in Local Bodies Grant Procedures in Nepal

DDCs grant procedure, 2010 (Chapter 10, point 41)	Municipalities grant procedure,2010(Chapter 10, point 41)	VDCs grant procedure, 2010 (Chapter 10, point 41)
Each DDC has to prepare clear term of reference of each staff and approve by the district council	Each municipality has to prepare clear term of reference of each staff and approve by the municipal council	Each VDC has to prepare clear term of reference of each staff and approve by the village council
Each DDC has to appoint Nodal person to hear the grievances	Each municipality has to appoint Nodal person to hear the grievances	
At least two public hearing must be conducted by each DDC about the service delivery situation at district	At least two public hearing must be conducted by each municipality about the service delivery at district	At least one public hearing must be conducted about the service delivery situation at district

DDCs grant procedure, 2010 (Chapter 10, point 41)	Municipalities grant procedure,2010(Chapter 10, point 41)	VDCs grant procedure, 2010 (Chapter 10, point 41)
Each DDC has to manage and conduct Citizen monitoring , social audit, public audit, citizen charter through Local Governance and Accountability Facility (LGAF) for reduce fiduciary risk and increase accountability	Each municipality have to manage and conduct Citizen monitoring , social audit, public audit, citizen charter through Local Governance and Accountability Facility (LGAF) for reduce fiduciary risk and increase accountability	Each VDC have to manage and conduct Citizen monitoring , social audit, public audit, citizen charter through Local Governance and Accountability Facility (LGAF) for reduce fiduciary risk and increase accountability
Each DDC has to manage vital registration, social security allowance, daily certification of citizen concerns to ensure the service delivery	Each municipality has to manage vital registration, social security allowance, daily certification of citizen concerns to ensure the service delivery	Each VDC has to manage vital registration, social security allowance, daily certification of citizen concerns to ensure the service delivery
DDCs' staffs have to maintain detail information of individual asset in the prescribed format of National Alert Center	Municipalities' staffs have to maintain detail information of individual asset in the prescribed format of National Alert Center	VDCs' staffs have to maintain detail information of individual asset in the prescribed format of National Alert Center

2.1.4 RTI Act, 2007 and Local Self-Governance Act, 1999

According to the provision of RTI Act, 2008 (section 2a), District Development Committees, Village Development Committees and Municipalities (local bodies) are also defined as public bodies. LSGA, 1999 has defined DDCs, VDCs and municipalities as local bodies. It is duty of local bodies to comply with the provision of Right to Information Act fully. Based on the provision of Local self-governance act, 1999 and RTI Act, 2008, some provisions are made mandatory for local bodies

to comply with as minimum conditions and performance measures that is tied up with the grant system of government of Nepal to be provided to local bodies. It is very important to know the present real status of implementation of the indicators and provisions by reviewing the report of MCs and PMs which is available in Local Bodies Fiscal Commission (LBFC) Secretariat, Ministry of Local Development, Pulchowck, Lalitpur, Nepal.

Some important indicators of Minimum Conditions (MCs) and Performance Measures (PMs) are explaining below:

Table 4 Comparison between the Provision of RTI Act and Regulation and LSGA/R

Provisions of RTI Act and Regulation	Provisions of LSGA/MCs and PMs Indicators	Present Status
Public information should be published and disseminated through national and local means of communication (section 3 sub section 3)	It is made mandatory for local bodies that local bodies have to public information of progress of last fiscal year, income and expenditure, MCs and PMs results, audit report etc through local and national news media such and printing new papers and local FM radios and keep in notice board	It is most important indicator in MCs and PMs process.
Public bodies have to update and publish the important information periodically (section 5)	Local bodies have to update and make information public through publishing report of annual programme and budget.	It is made compulsory by MCs and PMs indicators.
Public bodies have to manage information officer (section 6 subsection 1)	DDCs and Municipalities have to recruit or depute information officer for collection and dissemination of information (PM-5 for municipality).	It is further enforced by MCs and PMs indicators.

Provisions of RTI Act and Regulation	Provisions of LSGA/MCs and PMs Indicators	Present Status
Public bodies have to establish information section (section 6 subsection 3)	There shall be a District Information and Documentation Center in each DDC (LSGA, 1999, section 212), and Municipal Information Center in each municipal (PM-5)	It is also made mandatory by MCs and PMs indicators.
Public bodies have to publish the following information (regulation-3) - Program and project carried out last fiscal year - Information of website if created - Information published by others	Local bodies use to public the mentioned information in the annual progress report of the respective local body.	It is also made compulsory by MCs and PMs indicators.

2.1.5 Performance Based Grant System (PBGS) and Right to Information

Although the impact of PBGSs on efficiency of service delivery and on poverty alleviation is harder to document, it can usefully complement other reform measures, and be supplemented by other tools for influencing local government performance.

Ministry of Local Development has managed and overseen the performance based grant system (PBGS) based on the Minimum Conditions (MCs) and Performance Measures (PMs) as a formula to assess the performance of local bodies VDCs, Municipality and DDCs which is tied up with the grant system of the Government of Nepal. PBGSs generally include an annual assessment of local bodies' performance using a set of indicators. MCs are the basic conditions with which local bodies need to comply in order to access their grants. Likewise, PMs are more qualitative and variable measures of local bodies' performance, and typically go into more detail within each functional area.

In order to assess the performance of DDCs, there are altogether 15 indicators of MCs and 62 indicators of PMs. Due to absence of elected representatives in local

bodies, two indicators of MCs and five indicators of PMs have been exempted until the replacement of elected representative in local bodies. Similarly, for municipality, 15 MCs' indicators and 40 PMs' indicators are fixed. Out of these, two indicators of MCs and four indicators of PMs are also exempted. Moreover, there are 11 indicators of MCs for VDCs. The very important indicators relating to the transparency, accountability and right to information under MC and PMs are briefly explained below.

a. MCs and PMs for DDC (Communication and Transparency)

Some important indicators of MCs and PMs with regard to communication and transparency to be complied by District Development Committees of Nepal are as follows.

1. DDCs have to inform to VDCs, municipalities and related stakeholders about the approved annual program and budget (MC-3)
2. DDCs have to establish District Information and Documentation Center (Minimum Condition-15)
3. DDCs have to inform people about the planning process and approve budget and program through national and local newspapers and FM radios (PM-39)
4. DDCs have to make public the details of annual income and expenditure through local new print, FM radios, books, bulletin etc. (PM 40)
5. DDCs have to display project information board in project site of the project having more than 0.5 million budget (PM-41)
6. DDCs have to establish District Information and Documentation Center¹⁶ and depute full timer staff to work as Information Officer (PM-43)
7. According to good governance act, 2007, and regulation 2008, DDCs have to conduct or manage public hearing about the development construction and service delivery (PM-44)

8. DDCs have to carry out social audit of the completed programs of last year by the first quarter of the current fiscal year (PM-46).

9. DDCs have to establish inquiry/help desk and depute Nodal Officer/Person to hear grievances (PM-61)

b. MCs and PMs for Municipalities

Some important indicators of MCs and PMs to be complied by municipalities are as follows.

1. Municipalities have to make public citizen charter, form good governance committee and deputy nodal person (MC-9)

2. Municipalities have to prepare and make public the detail of income and expenditure of last fiscal year and make public the rates of taxes/revenues (MC-11)

3. Municipalities have to establish information unit and depute staff to work in the unit to disseminate information in accordance with the provision of RTI act (PM-5)

4. Municipalities have to conduct social audit and public hearing (PM-9).

5. Municipalities have to conduct public audit of the entire program completed in last fiscal year (PM-26).

6. Municipalities have to prepare and update vital registration of birth, death, marriage, divorce and migration (PM-40)

c. MCs Provision for VDCs

Some important indicators of MCs to be complied by Village Development Committees are as follows.

1. VDCs have to make public the income and expenditure of last fiscal year (Minimum Condition-5)

2. VDCs have to carry out the financial audit of last fiscal year and make it public (MC-6)

3. VDCs have to update the information about the persons who receive the social security allowance from the state (MC-9)

4. VDCs have to prepare and update vital registration of birth, death, marriage, divorce and migration (MC-10)

Janahit Good Governance Club, Dhankuta (2012) had concluded his research book titled "An Analysis of Public Finance Management at VDCs] Budget" as in the following points:

- The VDC offices are not well managed with sufficient staffs and equipments.
- The accounting system of each VDC is different and not well managed.
- The VDC secretary has too much load of work about the basic needs of the people.
- The VDC office should manage the accountant staff to recruit to manage accounting system of VDC well.
- The quality of service delivery the local people are getting in VDC offices is good but they are unknown on planning, budget allocation and participation.
- The participation of the target groups during the planning and the budgeting found not satisfactory, it should be increased and make sure for the active and meaningful participation.
- In reality the VDCs organize orientation training for stakeholders but the stakeholders are still unknown about the working procedure, their participation and role of ward citizen forum.
- In the absence of the Chief of the DDC i.e. it was very difficult to make any decision and things to move in DDC.
- We are facing unexpected problems because of the summer session, weather for local people who are busy for farming at VDCs and they have no time to take part in our activities easily.
- Many people who are far from the VDC offices have no access on service delivery of VDC office.
- Around fifty percent of total people are unknown about citizen charter and VDC service delivery status.
- Except from the ward where VDC office is situated, very low participation of other wards had been seen in VDC council meeting and other activities of VDC. One or two ward became dominator to other all wards in the VDC.
- Majority of the people are unconscious towards VDC budget and its process.
- VDC itself has been facing the problems because of the absence of elected body of 53 members. Only one secretary has been handling all works of VDC since last 11 years.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

3. Methodology

Research depends on different methodology. Methodology prescribes the research structure at all level. Therefore, methodology is a combination of tools and techniques of research. Methodology presents that which types of tools and techniques have used in the study.

This study had accessed on micro level analysis of investment of local government bodies on target groups through VDC council meeting decision and specifically, it has analyzed of people participation on VDC council meeting to decide the budget allocation process in the VDCs. This study has been valuable according to the objectives, although budget and sources are limited. The study has been on secondary information. The study has presented the analysis of the budget allocation to target groups during five fiscal years by VDCs and people participation on VDC council meetings during five fiscal years. It has comparatively presented the budget allocation of local bodies to target groups and people participation on their council meetings. It also has analyzed people participation on decision-making process through VDC council meetings. This study has analyzed the local bodies' investment on target groups for rural development. So, this study has become vital for local level.

3.1 Sources of Data

Secondary sources of information have used in the study. The main part of research data are secondary data. The data have collected using RTI application to VDC secretaries from all VDCs. Secondary data has collected from the records of VDC council meeting that has been provided from the VDC offices. Other necessary data have collected from government offices, DDC and different websites as per need.

3.2 Data Collection Procedure

The study related secondary data was collected by submitting RTI applications to VDC offices and VDC secretaries have followed the RTI Act and provided infor-

mation as approved copies of original documents. When the VDC secretaries didn't response as per RTI act provision, then complaints have been registered to National Information Commission (NIC), Kathmandu to order them to provide information. After that NIC have ordered to VDC secretaries to provide information following the RTI act to the applicant. After that, VDC secretaries provided the necessary information to the researcher. So, all VDCs are asked for information and the records of VDC council meetings had also included in the study.

Similarly, the secondary data had taken from VDC, DDC and other government offices. Different kinds of publications were use related to the research topic. The data of population and literacy rate had taken from VDC profiles records of VDCs.

3.3 Research Design

The present research has found out the budget allocation to target group at VDC council meeting and people participation on the meeting for past five fiscal years since FY 2066-67 up to FY 2070-71. For this purpose; RTI application process using RTI act is used as a main research design on the study. The location, socio-economic condition and other factors had collected and presented by descriptive design. RTI complaint to NIC process has been used to get necessary information from the VDC offices.

3.4 Sample Size

Dhankuta district has one DDC, one municipality and 35 districts as a local bodies. This study has covered seven VDCs of Dhankuta district as research area or sample size. Ankhisalla VDC, Budhimorang VDC, Chhintang VDC, Khuwaphok VDC, Mauna Budhuk VDC, Pakhribas VDC, Phalante VDC are the research area of this study. The status of local people participation at VDC council meetings and the situation of allocating budget to target groups at council meeting during five fiscal years was the main observation of the study. These seven VDCs were taken as sample size.

The sample size has covered the geographical representation of the district and the document has shown the representation of dalit, janajati, men women etc as the theme of inclusiveness at VDC council meeting. So it was representative sample size of the VDCs in Dhankuta district.

3.5 Tools for Analysis

The information thus obtain had presented using simple mathematical tools such as ratio, percentage and average. Simply descriptive method had used for analyzing data. When the information obtained from VDCs, it had analyzed and raw data have been prepared for comparison using tabulation and other presentation charts and graphs.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

4. Analysis and Interpretation of the Data

This chapter has comprised the analysis and interpretation of the data. The researcher has collected data from the VDCs. The data of local bodies allocation of budget to target groups and people participation on VDC council meetings during five fiscal years of seven VDCs had obtained on this research. On the base of analyzing and interpretation, the researcher had drawn the conclusion, present the findings and provide the recommendation to local bodies. Systematically collected data using RTI application have analyzed, interpreted and presented by using appropriate statistical tools, diagrams, charts, graphs bars and tables in this chapter. These presentations have shown in the following sub-headings:

4.1 Analysis of Budget Allocation to Target Group at VDC Council Meeting

4.1.1 Analysis of Fiscal Year-wise Budget Allocation

The study has focused for budget allocation to target groups in different fiscal years. The observation had done on budget allocation for five fiscal years to target group at seven VDCs. The detail budget allocation in each fiscal year has given in the following sub-point:

a. Analysis of Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2070-71

Table 5 Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2070-71

Name of VDC	FY 2070-71					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
Aankhisalla	590850	65000	129730	173100	49920	173100
Budhimorang	401955	20000	126695	115130	25000	115130
Chhintang VDC	1134000	100000	356000	324000	30000	324000
Khuwaphok VDC	368742	43446	90236	109175	16710	109175
Mauna Budhuk VDC	320000	30000	50000	110000	20000	110000
Pakhribas VDC	478500	30000	136500	141000	30000	141000
Phalante VDC	437200	45000	75000	110000	30000	177200

Source: VDCs' Records

In the table presented above, during the FY 2070-71, Chhintang VDC had highest budget allocated to target group than other six VDCs followed by Aankhisalla VDC allocated the budget to the target groups. Mauna Budhuk VDC had lowest allocation to target groups. Chhintang VDC had allocated 11 lakhs 34 thousand and the Mauna Budhuk VDC had allocated 3 lakhs 20 thousand only. Similarly, all VDCs had been allocated budget to dalit, janajati, woman, children and disabled. The equal budget distribution and allocation to woman and children had been done in all VDCs. Chhintang VDC had highest budget allocation for dalit, janajati, woman and Aankhisalla VDC became first to allocate budget for disabled in this FY 070-71.

b. Analysis of Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2069-70

Table 6 Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2069-70

Name of VDC	FY 2069-70					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
Aankhisalla	708450	50050	125000	216700	100000	216700
Budhimorang	382175	17500	126325	109175	20000	109175
Chhintang VDC	605500	65000	154500	173000	40000	173000
Khuwaphok VDC	368742	43446	90236	109175	16710	109175
Mauna Budhuk VDC	308000	20000	35000	120000	18000	115000
Pakhribas VDC	365000	30000	100000	110000	15000	110000
Phalante VDC	377800	46000	67550	116000	32250	116000

Source: VDCs' Records

In the table presented above, during the FY 2069-70, Aankhisalla VDC had highest budget allocated to target group than other six VDCs followed by Chhintang VDC allocated the budget to the target groups. Mauna Budhuk VDC had lowest allocation to target groups. Aankhisalla VDC had allocated 7 lakhs 8 thousand 4 hundred fifty and the Mauna Budhuk VDC had allocated 3 lakhs 8 thousand only. Similarly, all VDCs had been allocated budget to dalit, janajati, woman, children and disabled in this fiscal year too. The equal

budget distribution and allocation to woman and children had been done in Aankhisalla, Budhimorang, Chhintang, Khuwaphok, Pakhribas and Phalante VDCs but Mauna Budhuk VDC had allocated 1 lakhs 20 thousand for woman and 1 lakhs 15 thousand for children. Chhintang VDC had highest budget allocation i.e. 65 thousand for dalit, 1 lakhs 54 thousand 5 hundred for janajati. Similarly, Aankhisalla VDC had been allocated highest budget i.e. 2 lakhs 16 thousand 7 hundred for woman and children and 1 lakhs for disabled in this FY 069-70.

c. Analysis of Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2068-69

Table 7 Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2068-69

Name of VDC	FY 2068-69					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
Aankhisalla	722422	82562	165126	206406	61922	206406
Budhimorang	624819.3	10000	207779.7	178519.8	50000	178519.8
Chhintang VDC	605500	65000	154500	173000	40000	173000
Khuwaphok VDC	599336	69225	149103	177504	26000	177504
Mauna Budhuk VDC	512000	45000	42000	205000	15000	205000
Pakhribas VDC	524600	32000	152000	155500	30000	155100
Phalante VDC	569400	70000	90000	177200	55000	177200

Source: VDCs' Records

In the table presented above, during the FY 2068-69, Aankhisalla VDC had highest budget allocated to target group than other six VDCs followed by Budhimorang VDC allocated the budget to the target groups. Mauna Budhuk VDC had lowest allocation to target groups in this fiscal year. Aankhisalla VDC had allocated 7 lakhs 22 thousand 4 hundred twenty two and the Mauna Budhuk VDC had allocated 5 lakhs 12 thousand only. Similarly, all VDCs had allocated budget to dalit, janajati, woman, children and disabled in this fiscal year too. The equal budget distribution and allocation to woman and children had been done in all VDCs. Aankhisalla VDC had highest

budget allocation i.e.82 thousand 5 hundred 62 rupees for dalit, 2 lakhs 6 thousand 4 hundred six rupees for woman and children, 61 thousand 9 hundred twenty two rupees for disabled. Budhimorang VDC had highest budget allocation for Janajati, i.e. 2 lakhs 7 thousand 7 hundred 79 rupees in this FY 069-70.

d. Analysis of Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2067-68

Table 8 Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2067-68

Name of VDC	FY 2067-68					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
Aankhisalla	722421	82562	165125	206406	61922	206406
Budhimorang	721293.83	50000	270558.75	180362.58	40000	180372.5
Chhintang VDC	816900	135000	165100	233400	50000	233400
Khuwaphok VDC	599336	69225	149103	177504	26000	177504
Mauna Budhuk VDC	479400	20000	45000	192200	30000	192200
Pakhribas VDC	667800	115800	100000	191000	70000	191000
Phalante VDC	657378.63	99328.63	120000	191525	55000	191525

Source: VDCs' Records

In the table presented above, during the FY 2067-68, Aankhisalla VDC had highest budget allocated to target group than other six VDCs followed by Budhimorang VDC allocated the budget to the target groups. Mauna Budhuk VDC had lowest allocation to target groups. Aankhisalla VDC had allocated 7 lakhs 22 thousand 4 hundred twenty one rupees and the Mauna Budhuk VDC had allocated 4 lakhs 79 thousand 4 hundred only. Similarly, all VDCs had been allocated budget to dalit, janajati, woman, children and disabled in this fiscal year 2067-68 too. The equal budget distribution and allocation to woman and children had been done in all VDCs. Chhintang VDC had highest budget allocation i.e. 1 lakh 35 thousand for dalit, 2 lakhs 33 thousand 4

hundred for woman and children each. Similarly, Budhimorang VDC had allocated highest budget for Janajati, i.e. 2 lakhs 70 thousand and Pakhribas VDC had allocated highest budget for disabled, i.e. 70 thousand among the VDCs in this FY 069-70.

e. Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2066-67

Table 9 Budget Allocation on Fiscal Year 2066-67

Name of VDC	FY 2066-67					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
Aankhisalla	346000	30000	93000	86500	50000	86500
Budhimorang	305000	50000	50000	77500	50000	77500
Chhintang VDC	125000	30000	30000	30000	30000	5000
Khuwaphok VDC	297600	40300	86800	77500	15500	77500
Mauna Budhuk VDC	229000	15000	35000	77000	25000	77000
Pakhribas VDC	230000	45000	75000	50000	35000	25000
Phalante VDC	285350	40000	52675	76337.5	40000	76337.5

Source: VDCs' Records

In the table presented above, during the FY 2066-67, Aankhisalla VDC had highest budget allocated to target group than other six VDCs followed by Budhimorang VDC allocated the budget to the target groups. Chhintang VDC had lowest allocation to target groups. Aankhisalla VDC had allocated 3 lakhs 46 thousand and the Chhintang VDC had allocated 1 lakh 25 thousand only. Similarly, all VDCs had been allocated budget to dalit, janajati, woman, children and disabled in this fiscal year too. The equal budget distribution and allocation to woman and children had been done in Aankhisalla, Budhimorang, Khuwaphok, Mauna Budhuk and Phalante VDCs but Chhintang VDC had allocated only 30 thousand for woman and 5 thousand for children. Similarly, Pakhribas VDC had allocated 50 thousand for woman and only 25 thousand for children in this FY 2066-67.

Similarly, Budhimorang VDC had highest budget allocation i.e. 50 thousand for dalit and Mauna Budhuk VDC had lowest budget allocation, i.e. 15 thousand for dalit. In the same way, Aankhisalla VDC had allocated highest budget to Janajati and woman than other VDCs, i.e.93 thousand for janajati and 86 thousand 5 hundred for woman and Chhintang VDC had lowest allocation for Janajati, i.e. 30 thousand and 30 thousand for woman. Aankhisalla and Budhimorang VDCs had equally allocated budget for disabled people, i.e. 50 thousand each in this FY 066-67.

4.1.2 Analysis of VDC-wise Budget Allocation to Target Group

a. Analysis of Budget Allocation at Aankhisalla VDC

Table 10 Analysis of Budget Allocation at Aankhisalla VDC

Fiscal Year	Aankhisalla VDC					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
FY 2070-71	590850	65000	129730	173100	49920	173100
FY 2069-70	708450	50050	125000	216700	100000	216700
FY 2068-69	722422	82562	165126	206406	61922	206406
FY 2067-68	722422	82562	165125	206406	61923	206406
FY 2066-67	346000	30000	93000	86500	50000	86500

Source: VDC Record, Aankhisalla

In the table presented above, it shows the trend of budget allocation to target groups from VDC council meeting every fiscal year. The comparison had made during the five FYs since 2066-67 up to 2070-71 of the one VDC council meeting decision to allocate budget to target groups. In Aankhisalla VDC, the equal amount of 7 lakhs twenty two thousand four hundred and twenty two had allocated to target groups in FY 068-69 and FY 067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years. The council meeting had decided to allocate budget for dalit, janajati, woman, disabled people and children compulsorily, which was the provision in VDC grants mobilization directives. In comparison within years, there

was lowest total budget allocation to target groups in FY 066-67 among the years which was 3 lakhs 46 thousand in amount.

b. Analysis of Budget Allocation at Budhimorang VDC

Table 11 Analysis of Budget Allocation at Budhimorang VDC

Fiscal Year	Budhimorang VDC					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
FY 2070-71	401955	20000	126695	115130	25000	115130
FY 2069-70	382175	17500	126325	109175	20000	109175
FY 2068-69	624819.3	10000	207779.7	178519.8	50000	178519.8
FY 2067-68	721293.83	50000	270558.75	180362.58	40000	180372.5
FY 2066-67	305000	50000	50000	77500	50000	77500

Source: VDC Record, Budhimorang VDC

In the table presented above, it shows the trend of budget allocation to target groups from VDC council meeting of Budhimorang VDC every fiscal year. The comparison had made during the five FYs since 2066-67 up to 2070-71 of the one VDC council meeting decision to allocate budget to target groups. In Budhimorang VDC, the amount of 7 lakhs twenty one thousand two hundred and ninety two had allocated to target groups in FY 067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years. The council meeting had decided to allocate budget for dalit, janajati, woman, disabled people and children compulsorily, which was the provision in VDC grants mobilization directives. In comparison within years, there was lowest total budget allocation to target groups in FY 066-67 among the years which was 3 lakhs 5 thousand in amount.

c. Analysis of Budget Allocation at Chhintang VDC

Table 12 Budget Allocation at Chhintang VDC

Fiscal Year	Chhintang VDC					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
FY 2070-71	1134000	100000	356000	324000	30000	324000
FY 2069-70	605500	65000	154500	173000	40000	173000
FY 2068-69	605500	65000	154500	173000	40000	173000
FY 2067-68	816900	135000	165100	233400	50000	233400
FY 2066-67	125000	30000	30000	30000	30000	5000

Source: VDC Record, Chhintang VDC

In the table presented above, it shows the trend of budget allocation to target groups from VDC council meeting every fiscal year. The comparison had made during the five FYs since 2066-67 up to 2070-71 of the one VDC council meeting decision to allocate budget to target groups. In Chhintang VDC, the equal amount of 6 lakhs 5 thousand five hundred had allocated to target groups in FY 068-69 and FY 069-70. The total amount of 11 lakhs 34 thousand allocated to target groups in FY 2070-71 which was highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years followed by FY 2067-68 in amount of 8 lakhs 16 thousand 9 hundred. The council meeting had decided to allocate budget for dalit, janajati, woman, disabled people and children compulsorily, which was the provision in VDC grants mobilization directives. In comparison within years, there was lowest total budget allocation to target groups in FY 066-67 among the years which was 1 lakh 25 thousand.

d. Analysis of Budget Allocation at Khuwaphok VDC

Table 13 Budget Allocation for Target Group at Khuwaphok VDC

Fiscal Year	Khuwaphok VDC					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
FY 2070-71	368742	43446	90236	109175	16710	109175
FY 2069-70	368742	43446	90236	109175	16710	109175
FY 2068-69	599336	69225	149103	177504	26000	177504
FY 2067-68	599336	69225	149103	177504	26000	177504
FY 2066-67	297600	40300	86800	77500	15500	77500

Source: VDC Record, Khuwaphok VDC

In the table presented above, it shows the trend of budget allocation to target groups from VDC council meeting every fiscal year. The comparison had made during the five FYs since 2066-67 up to 2070-71 of the one VDC council meeting decision to allocate budget to target groups. In Khuwaphok VDC, the equal amount of 3 lakhs sixty eight thousand seven hundred forty two rupees had allocated to target groups in FY 070-71 and FY 069-70. Similarly, the VDC council meeting had allocated equal amount of 5 lakhs 99 thousand 3 hundred thirty six rupees in FY 2068-69 and FY 2067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years. The council meeting had decided to allocate budget for dalit, janajati, woman, disabled people and children compulsorily, which was the provision in VDC grants mobilization directives. In comparison within years, there was lowest total budget allocation to target groups in FY 066-67 among the years which was 2 lakhs 97 thousand six hundred in amount.

e. Analysis of Budget Allocation at Mauna Budhuk VDC

Table 14 Budget Allocation at Mauna Budhuk VDC

Fiscal Year	Mauna Budhuk VDC					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
FY 2070-71	320000	30000	50000	110000	20000	110000
FY 2069-70	308000	20000	35000	120000	18000	115000
FY 2068-69	512000	45000	42000	205000	15000	205000
FY 2067-68	479400	20000	45000	192200	30000	192200
FY 2066-67	229000	15000	35000	77000	25000	77000

Source: VDC Record, Mauna budhuk VDC

In the table presented above, it shows the trend of budget allocation to target groups from VDC council meeting every fiscal year. The comparison had made during the five FYs since 2066-67 up to 2070-71 of the one VDC council meeting decision to allocate budget to target groups. In Mauna budhuk VDC, the amount of 5 lakhs twelve thousand had allocated to target

groups in FY 068-69 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years in the VDC followed by FY 2067-68 in the amount of 4 lakhs 79 thousand four hundred. The VDC council meeting had decided to allocate budget for dalit, janajati, woman, disabled people and children compulsorily, which was the provision in VDC grants mobilization directives. In comparison within years, there was lowest total budget allocation to target groups in FY 066-67 among the years which was 2 lakhs 29 thousand in amount.

f. Analysis of Budget Allocation at Pakhribas VDC

Table 15 Budget Allocation at Pakhribas VDC

Fiscal Year	Pakhribas VDC					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
FY 2070-71	478500	30000	136500	141000	30000	141000
FY 2069-70	365000	30000	100000	110000	15000	110000
FY 2068-69	524600	32000	152000	155500	30000	155100
FY 2067-68	667800	115800	100000	191000	70000	191000
FY 2066-67	230000	45000	75000	50000	35000	25000

Source: VDC Record, Pakhribas VDC

In the table presented above, it shows the trend of budget allocation to target groups from VDC council meeting every fiscal year. The comparison had made during the five FYs since 2066-67 up to 2070-71 of the one VDC council meeting decision to allocate budget to target groups. In Pakhribas VDC, the amount of 6 lakhs 67 thousand eight hundred had allocated to target groups in FY 067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years. The council meeting had decided to allocate budget for dalit, janajati, woman, disabled people and children compulsorily, which was the provision in VDC grants mobilization directives. In comparison within years, there was lowest total budget allocation to target groups in FY 066-67 among the years which was 2 lakhs 30 thousand in amount.

g. Analysis of Budget Allocation at Phalante VDC

Table 16 Budget Allocation at Phalante VDC

Fiscal Year	Phalante VDC					
	Total budget	Dalit	Janajati	Woman	Disable	Children
FY 2070-71	437200	45000	75000	110000	30000	177200
FY 2069-70	377800	46000	67550	116000	32250	116000
FY 2068-69	569400	70000	90000	177200	55000	177200
FY 2067-68	657378.63	99328.63	120000	191525	55000	191525
FY 2066-67	285350	40000	52675	76337.5	40000	76337.5

Source: VDC Record, Phalante VDC

In the table presented above, it shows the trend of budget allocation to target groups from VDC council meeting every fiscal year. The comparison had made during the five FYs since 2066-67 up to 2070-71 of the one VDC council meeting decision to allocate budget to target groups. In Phalante VDC, the amount of 6 lakhs 57 thousand 3 hundred seventy eight rupees had allocated to target groups in FY 067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years. The council meeting had decided to allocate budget for dalit, janajati, woman, disabled people and children compulsorily, which was the provision in VDC grants mobilization directives. In comparison within years, there was lowest total budget allocation to target groups in FY 066-67 among the years which was 2 lakhs 85 thousand three hundred fifty rupees in amount.

4.2 Analysis of People Participation at VDC Council Meeting

4.2.1 Analysis of FY-wise People Participation at VDC Council Meeting

a. Analysis of People Participation in Fiscal Year 2070-71

Table 17 Comparison of People Participation in FY 2070-71

Name of the VDC	FY 2070-71										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Aankhisalla VDC	2	1	8	27	0	2	2	6	12	36	48
Budhimorang VDC	0	4	18	55	0	0	0	2	18	61	79

Name of the VDC	FY 2070-71										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Chhintang VDC	0	1	8	28	0	1	1	0	9	30	39
Mauna Budhuk VDC	1	1	5	31	1	0	5	19	12	51	63
Khuwaphok VDC	1	5	8	46	0	1	0	2	9	54	63
Pakhribas VDC	5	4	11	23	0	1	4	22	20	50	70
Phalante VDC	5	7	12	13	1	2	19	23	37	45	82
Total	14	23	70	223	2	7	31	74	117	327	444
Percent	37.84	62.16	23.89	76.11	22.22	77.78	29.52	70.48	26.35	73.65	

Source: VDCs' Records

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting among the VDCs in a fiscal year 2070-71. Phalante VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting. Chhintang VDC had lowest number of attendance. Phalante VDC record showed 82 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Budhimorang VDC with the number of 79 participants. Chhintang VDC had only 39 participants presented at the meeting. Among 7 VDCs, the total of 14 female and 23 male were dalit, 70 female and 223 male were janajati and 2 female and 7 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2070-71. Budhimorang VDC had no record of disabled representation.

b. Analysis of People Participation at VDC Council Meeting in FY 2069-70

Table 18 Comparison of People Participation in FY 2069-70

Name of the VDC	FY 2069-70										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Aankhisalla VDC	0	2	13	31	0	1	3	10	16	44	60
Budhimorang VDC	1	5	13	38	0	0	1	2	15	45	60
Chhintang VDC	0	2	17	27	0	1	0	1	17	31	48
Khuwaphok VDC	0	3	11	22	0	0	0	3	11	28	39
Mauna Budhuk VDC	0	3	2	27	0	1	2	10	4	41	45
Pakhribas VDC	1	0	6	17	0	0	4	18	11	35	46
Phalante VDC	4	6	11	15	1	2	18	22	34	45	79
Total	6	21	73	177	1	5	28	66	108	269	377

Source: VDC records

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting among the VDCs in a fiscal year 2069-70. Phalante VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting. Khuwaphok VDC had lowest number of attendance. Phalante VDC record showed 79 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Aankhisalla and Budhimorang VDC with the equal number of 60 participants. Khuwaphok VDC had only 39 participants presented at the meeting. Among 7 VDCs, the total of 6 female and 21 male were dalit, 73 female and 177 male were janajati and 1 female and 5 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2069-70. Budhimorang and Khuwaphok VDCs had no record of disabled representation in this fiscal year.

c. Analysis of People Participation in Fiscal Year 2068-69

Table 19 Comparison of People Participation in Fiscal Year 2068-69

Name of the VDC	FY 2068-69										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Aankhisalla VDC	1	2	12	41	0	1	7	11	20	55	75
Budhimorang VDC	0	3	8	40	0	0	0	2	8	45	53
Chhintang VDC	0	5	18	43	0	2	1	2	19	52	71
Khuwaphok VDC	0	3	10	40	0	0	1	0	11	43	54
Mauna Budhuk VDC	2	5	3	40	1	0	3	20	9	65	74
Pakhribas VDC	0	3	8	30	0	0	10	28	18	61	79
Phalante VDC	3	5	13	11	0	1	17	19	33	36	69
Total	6	26	72	245	1	4	39	82	118	357	475

Source: VDC records

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting among the VDCs in a fiscal year 2068-69. Pakhribas VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting. Budhimorang VDC had lowest number of attendance. Pakhribas VDC record showed 79 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Aankhisalla VDC with the number of 75 participants. Budhimorang VDC had only 53 participants presented at the meeting. Among 7 VDCs, the total of 6 female and 26 male were dalit, 72 female and 245 male were janajati and 1 female and 4 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2068-69. Budhimorang, Khuwaphok and Pakhribas VDCs had no record of disabled representation.

d. Analysis of People Participation in Fiscal Year 2067-68

Table 20 Comparison of People Participation in FY 2067-68

Name of the VDC	FY 2067-68										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Aankhisalla VDC	1	1	9	37	1	1	5	7	16	46	62
Budhimorang VDC	1	2	15	76	0	0	1	4	17	82	99
Chhintang VDC	1	5	15	72	0	2	1	5	17	84	101
Khuwaphok VDC	0	5	5	47	0	1	0	3	5	56	61
Mauna Budhuk VDC	5	5	6	41	1	0	12	25	24	71	95
Pakhribas VDC	1	0	3	7	1	0	2	10	7	17	24
Phalante VDC	3	4	9	15	0	1	11	17	23	37	60
Total	12	22	62	295	3	5	32	71	109	393	502

Source: VDC records

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting among the VDCs in a fiscal year 2067-68. Chhintang VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting. Pakhribas VDC had lowest number of attendance. Chhintang VDC record showed 101 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Budhimorang VDC with the number of 99 participants. Pakhribas VDC had only 24 participants present at the meeting. Among 7 VDCs, the total of 12 female and 22 male were dalit, 62 female and 295 male were janajati and 3 female and 5 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2067-68. Budhimorang VDC had no record of disabled representation in this fiscal year VDC council meeting.

e. Analysis of People Participation in Fiscal Year 2066-67

Table 21 Comparison of People Participation in FY 2066-67

Name of the VDC	FY 2066-67										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Aankhisalla VDC	0	2	10	24	0	1	4	9	14	36	50
Budhimorang VDC	0	3	17	93	0	0	1	6	18	102	120
Chhintang VDC	0	3	15	57	0	0	1	5	16	65	81
Khuwaphok VDC	0	3	7	55	0	1	0	4	7	63	70
Mauna Budhuk VDC	1	3	7	40	1	0	2	18	11	61	72
Pakhribas VDC	0	1	2	29	0	0	6	21	8	51	59
Phalante VDC	2	3	7	13	0	1	9	14	18	31	49
Total	3	18	65	311	1	3	23	77	92	409	501

Source: VDC records

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting among the VDCs in a fiscal year 2066-67. Budhimorang VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting. Phalante VDC had lowest number of attendance. Budhimorang VDC record showed 120 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Chhintang VDC with the number of 81 participants. Phalante VDC had only 49 participants presented at the meeting. Among 7 VDCs, the total of 3 female and 18 male were dalit, 65 female and 311 male were janajati and 1 female and 3 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2066-67. Budhimorang, Chhintang and Pakhribas VDCs had no record of disabled representation.

4.2.2 Analysis of VDC-wise People Participation at VDC Council Meeting

a. Analysis of People Participation at Aankhisalla VDC

Table 22 People Participation at Aankhisalla VDC

Fiscal Year	Aankhisalla VDC										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
FY 2070-71	2	1	8	27	0	2	2	6	12	36	48
FY 2069-70	0	2	13	31	0	1	3	10	16	44	60
FY 2068-69	1	2	12	41	0	1	7	11	20	55	75
FY 2067-68	1	1	9	37	1	1	5	7	16	46	62
FY 2066-67	0	2	10	24	0	1	4	9	14	36	50
Total	4	8	52	160	1	6	21	43	78	217	295

Source: Records of Aankhisalla VDC

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting in a VDC for five fiscal years since 2066-67 up to 2070-71. In the Aankhisalla VDC, there were 75 people participants in the fiscal year 2068-69 which was the highest number of participants during five years' attendance record of Aankhisalla VDC. There were 48 participants attended at VDC council meeting of fiscal year 2070-71, which was the lowest number of people participants among the five fiscal years. The total number of 295 participants had attended in the VDC council meetings during five years. In which, 78 were female and 217 were male participants represented in the VDC council meetings of the VDC during five fiscal years. The majority of participants were janajati in the VDC.

b. Analysis of People Participation at Budhimorang VDC

Table 23 Analysis of People Participation at Budhimorang VDC

Fiscal Year	Budhimorang VDC										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
FY 2070-71	0	4	18	55	0	0	0	2	18	61	79
FY 2069-70	1	5	13	38	0	0	1	2	15	45	60
FY 2068-69	0	3	8	40	0	0	0	2	8	45	53
FY 2067-68	1	2	15	76	0	0	1	4	17	82	99
FY 2066-67	0	3	17	93	0	0	1	6	18	102	120
Total	2	17	71	302	0	0	3	16	76	335	411

Source: Records of Budhimorang VDC

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting in a VDC for five fiscal years since 2066-67 up to 2070-71. In the Budhimorang VDC, there were 120 people participants in the fiscal year 2066-67 which was the highest number of participants during five years' attendance record of this VDC. There were 53 participants attended at VDC council meeting of fiscal year 2068-69, which was the lowest number of people participants among the five fiscal years. The total number of 411 participants had attended in the VDC council meetings during five years. In which, 76 were female and 335 were male participants represented in the VDC council meetings of the VDC during five fiscal years. The majority of participants were janajati in the VDC.

c. Analysis of People Participation at Chhintang VDC

Table 24 Analysis of People Participation at Chhintang VDC

Fiscal Year	Chhintang VDC										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
FY 2070-71	0	1	8	28	0	1	1	0	9	30	39
FY 2069-70	0	2	17	27	0	1	0	1	17	31	48
FY 2068-69	0	5	18	43	0	2	1	2	19	52	71
FY 2067-68	1	5	15	72	0	2	1	5	17	84	101
FY 2066-67	0	3	15	57	0	0	1	5	16	65	81
Total	1	16	73	227	0	6	4	13	78	262	340

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting in a VDC for five fiscal years since 2066-67 up to 2070-71. In the Chhintang VDC, there were 101 people participants in the fiscal year 2067-68 which was the highest number of participants during five years' attendance record of this VDC. There were 39 participants attended at VDC council meeting of fiscal year 2070-71, which was the lowest number of people participants among the five fiscal years. The total number of 340 participants had attended in the VDC council meetings during five years. In which, 78 were female and 262 were male participants represented in the VDC council meetings of the VDC during five fiscal years. The majority of participants were janajati in the VDC.

d. Analysis of People Participation at Khuwaphok VDC

Table 25 Analysis of People Participation at Khuwaphok VDC

Fiscal Year	Khuwaphok VDC										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
FY 2070-71	1	5	8	46	0	1	0	2	9	54	63
FY 2069-70	0	3	11	22	0	0	0	3	11	28	39
FY 2068-69	0	3	10	40	0	0	1	0	11	43	54
FY 2067-68	0	5	5	47	0	1	0	3	5	56	61
FY 2066-67	0	3	7	55	0	1	0	4	7	63	70
Total	1	19	41	210	0	3	1	12	43	244	287

Source: VDC records, Khuwaphok VDC

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting in a VDC for five fiscal years since 2066-67 up to 2070-71. In the Khuwaphok VDC, there were 70 people participants in the fiscal year 2070-71 which was the highest number of participants during five years' attendance record of this VDC. There were 39 participants attended at VDC council meeting of fiscal year 2069-70, which was the lowest number of people participants among the five fiscal years. The total number of 287 participants had attended in the VDC council meetings during five years. In which, 43 were female and 244 were male participants represented in the VDC council meetings of the VDC during five fiscal years. The majority of participants were janajati in the VDC.

e. **Analysis of People Participation at Mauna Budhuk VDC**

Table 26 Analysis of People Participation at Mauna Budhuk VDC

Fiscal Year	Mauna Budhuk VDC										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
FY 2070-71	1	1	5	31	1	0	5	19	12	51	63
FY 2069-70	0	3	2	27	0	1	2	10	4	41	45
FY 2068-69	2	5	3	40	1	0	3	20	9	65	74
FY 2067-68	5	5	6	41	1	0	12	25	24	71	95
FY 2066-67	1	3	7	40	1	0	2	18	11	61	72
Total	9	17	23	179	4	1	24	92	60	289	349

Source: VDC records, Mauna Budhuk VDC

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting in a VDC for five fiscal years since 2066-67 up to 2070-71. In the Mauna Budhuk VDC, there were 95 people participants in the fiscal year 2067-68 which was the highest number of participants during five years' attendance record of this VDC. There were 45 participants attended at VDC council meeting of fiscal year 2069-70, which was the lowest number of people participants among the five fiscal years. The total number of 349 participants had attended in the VDC council meetings during five years. In which, 60 were female and 289 were male participants represented in the VDC council meetings of the VDC during five fiscal years. The majority of participants were janajati in the VDC.

f. Analysis of People Participation at Pakhribas VDC

Table 27 Analysis of People Participation at Pakhribas VDC

Fiscal Year	Pakhribas VDC										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
FY 2070-71	5	4	11	23	0	1	4	22	20	50	70
FY 2069-70	1	0	6	17	0	0	4	18	11	35	46
FY 2068-69	0	3	8	30	0	0	10	28	18	61	79
FY 2067-68	1	0	3	7	1	0	2	10	7	17	24
FY 2066-67	0	1	2	29	0	0	6	21	8	51	59
Total	7	8	30	106	1	1	26	99	64	214	278

Source: VDC records, Pakhribas VDC

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting in a VDC for five fiscal years since 2066-67 up to 2070-71. In the Pakhribas VDC, there were 79 people participants in the fiscal year 2068-69 which was the highest number of participants during five years' attendance record of this VDC. There were 24 participants attended at VDC council meeting of fiscal year 2067-68, which was the lowest number of people participants among the five fiscal years. The total number of 278 participants had attended in the VDC council meetings during five years. In which, 64 were female and 214 were male participants represented in the VDC council meetings of the VDC during five fiscal years. The majority of participants were janajati in the VDC.

g. Analysis of People Participation at Phalante VDC

Table 28 Analysis of People Participation at Phalante VDC

Fiscal Year	Phalante VDC										
	Dalit		Janajati		Disable		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
FY 2070-71	5	7	12	13	1	2	19	23	37	45	82
FY 2069-70	4	6	11	15	1	2	18	22	34	45	79
FY 2068-69	3	5	13	11	0	1	17	19	33	36	69
FY 2067-68	3	4	9	15	0	1	11	17	23	37	60
FY 2066-67	2	3	7	13	0	1	9	14	18	31	49
Total	17	25	52	67	2	7	74	95	145	194	339

The table shows the comparison of attendance of local people participation with target groups' representatives at VDC council meeting in a VDC for five fiscal years since 2066-67 up to 2070-71. In the Phalante VDC, there were 82 people participants in the fiscal year 2070-71 which was the highest number of participants during five years' attendance record of this VDC. There were 49 participants attended at VDC council meeting of fiscal year 2066-67, which was the lowest number of people participants among the five fiscal years. The total number of 339 participants had attended in the VDC council meetings during five years. In which, 145 were female and 194 were male participants represented in the VDC council meetings of the VDC during five fiscal years. The majority of participants were other community followed by janajati in the VDC.

CHAPTER- V

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Findings and Recommendations

The main objective of the study was to find out the budget allocation by local bodies on target groups for rural development through VDC council meeting. The principal aims of the present study were to find out the budget allocation by local bodies' council meetings on target groups for rural development and to analyze and access the participation of target groups and local people at VDC council meetings for rural development. The data has carefully presented in tables, then analyzed, and interpreted under different headings and sub-headings to accomplish the objectives.

5.1 Findings

On the basis of the analysis and interpretation of the data, the findings of the study can be summarized in the following points:

5.1.1 Findings related to budget allocation:

- I.* Chhintang VDC had highest budget allocated to target groups in FY 2070-71. Aankhisalla VDC had allocated highest budget to target groups in FY 2069-70, 2068-69, 2067-68 and 2066-67. Mauna Budhuk VDC had allocated lowest budget to target groups during four fiscal years rather than FY 2066-67. In FY 2066-67, Chhintang VDC had allocated lowest budget to target groups among the other six VDCs.
- II.* All VDCs had regularly allocated budget to target groups at VDC council meeting during all five fiscal years, i.e. dalit, janajati, woman, children.

- III.* All VDCs had equally allocated budget to woman and children during most of the years.
- IV.* The equal amount of 7 lakhs twenty two thousand four hundred and twenty two rupees had allocated to target groups in FY 068-69 and FY 067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years in Aankhisalla VDC.
- V.* The amount of 7 lakhs 21 thousand two hundred and ninety two had allocated to target groups in FY 067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years in Budhimorarnng VDC.
- VI.* In Chhintang VDC, the equal amount of 6 lakhs 5 thousand five hundred had allocated to target groups in FY 068-69 and FY 069-70. The total amount of 11 lakhs 34 thousand allocated to target groups in FY 2070-71 was the highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years in Chhintang VDC.
- VII.* The VDC council meeting had allocated equal amount of 5 lakhs 99 thousand 3 hundred thirty six rupees in FY 2068-69 and FY 2067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years in Khuwaphok VDC.
- VIII.* In Mauna budhuk VDC, the amount of 5 lakhs twelve thousand had allocated to target groups in FY 068-69 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years in the VDC.
- IX.* In Pakhribas VDC, the amount of 6 lakhs 67 thousand eight hundred had allocated to target groups in FY 067-68 which had been highest budget allocated to target group among five fiscal years and in Phalante VDC, the amount of 6 lakhs 57 thousand 3 hundred

seventy eight rupees had allocated to target groups in the same FY 067-68 had been highest budget allocated.

5.1.2 Findings Related to target Groups' People Participation

- I. The highest number of people participation in Phalante VDC was 82 in FY 2070-71 and the lowest one was 49 in FY 2066-67.
- II. The majority of other people were highest in Phalante VDC than all other VDCs.
- III. All council meetings had held represented and participated dalit and disabled community in Phalante VDC.
- IV. Phalante VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting. Chhintang VDC had lowest number of attendance in FY 2070-71.
- V. Phalante VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting. Khuwaphok VDC had lowest number of attendance in FY 2069-70.
- VI. Chhintang VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting of FY 2067-68. Pakhribas VDC had lowest number of attendance.
- VII. Budhimorang VDC had largest number of target group participation on the meeting. Phalante VDC had lowest number of attendance in FY 2066-67.
- VIII. Phalante VDC record showed 82 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Budhimorang VDC with the number of 79 participants in FY 2070-71.
- IX. Phalante VDC record showed 79 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Aankhisalla and Budhimorang VDC with the equal number of 60 participants in FY 2069-70.

- X. Pakhribas VDC record showed 79 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Aankhisalla VDC with the number of 75 participants in FY 2068-69. Budhimorang VDC had lowest number of attendance.
- XI. Chhintang VDC record showed 101 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Budhimorang VDC with the number of 99 participants in FY 2067-68.
- XII. Budhimorang VDC record showed 120 local people participants in the meeting which was highest number followed by Chhintang VDC with the number of 81 participants in FY 2066-67.
- XIII. Chhintang VDC had only 39 participants presented at the meeting in FY 2070-71. Khuwaphok VDC had only 39 participants presented at the meeting in FY 2069-70. Budhimorang VDC had only 53 participants presented at the meeting in FY 2068-69. Pakhribas VDC had only 24 participants presented at the meeting in FY 2067-68. Phalante VDC had only 49 participants presented at the meeting in FY 2066-67.
- XIV. Among all VDCs, the total of 14 female and 23 male were dalit, 70 female and 223 male were janajati and 2 female and 7 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2070-71.
- XV. Among all VDCs, the total of 6 female and 21 male were dalit, 73 female and 177 male were janajati and 1 female and 5 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2069-70.
- XVI. Among all VDCs, the total of 6 female and 26 male were dalit, 72 female and 245 male were janajati and 1 female and 4 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2068-69.
- XVII. Among all VDCs, the total of 12 female and 22 male were dalit, 62 female and 295 male were janajati and 3 female and 5 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2067-68.

- XVIII. Among all VDCs, the total of 3 female and 18 male were dalit, 65 female and 311 male were janajati and 1 female and 3 male were disabled representatives during the VDC council meeting of FY 2066-67.

5.1.3 About Disabled People Participation:

- i. Budhimorang VDC had no record of disabled representation in FY 2070-71.
- ii. Budhimorang and Khuwaphok VDCs had no record of disabled representation in FY 2069-70.
- iii. Budhimorang, Khuwaphok and Pakhribas VDCs had no record of disabled people representation in FY 2068-69.
- iv. Budhimorang VDC had no record of disabled representation at VDC council meeting in the FY 2067-68.
- v. Budhimorang, Chhintang and Pakhribas VDCs had no record of disabled representation in FY 2066-67.

5.2 Conclusions

Government of Nepal has given high priority to maintain transparency and accountability for reducing the corruption and increasing the peoples' participation in decision- making process. From the above review, it can be said that there are plenty of supportive legal provisions in LSGA/R. RTI act and local bodies grant procedures in favor of promoting right to information at local level.

Basically, Ministry of Federation and Local Development has strongly accepted and followed the legal provisions of Interim Constitution, 2006; Good Governance Act, 2007; Right to Information Act, 2007 and their regulations with regard to maintain transparency and make local bodies more accountability to promote service delivery mechanism in effective and crystal clear manner. However, it is important to assure the quality of implementation of the provisions of RTI in practical field at local level. The following areas are suggested for effective execution of the important provisions relating to transparency and accountability efficiently.

RTI act is a tool to collect evident for any work to minimize the corruption of public agencies. So, we can use RTI to get information from public agencies. Public agencies like local bodies must accountable to the stakeholders and Nepalese citizens.

During this research, it is concluded that all VDCs must allocate the certain percent budget for target groups, ie woman, dalit, janajati, children and disabled people. The provision is not accurate for disable and janajati but the provision is fixed of 10 percent of total budget for woman and children. Budget allocation trend is similar for all VDCs but in the volume of budget, some VDCs have allocated small amount and some VDCs had allocated large volume of amount to target groups. All VDCs have formed target groups' coordination committess to implement the program and expend the budget through the committees. And the VDC have regularly called them to attend the VDC council meeting obligatorily. So, the local target group communities have felt their access to the resources of the VDCs and they have access to use the resources which has been supporting to empower the target group communities and they are benefited by the government investment. The result of this kind of participation of target groups at different activities of VDC and council meetings, human empowerment increased and rural development became easy to facilitate to the government. Rural development couldn't possible without empower the target groups and marginalized community as well as poor people at rural area. So, the government polity to allocate budget to target groups and participation of target groups at VDC council meeting and involvement on budget allocation process and budget implementation process has been useful to rural development in the context of our country. So, it is concluded that the policy should be continue and effectively implementing by the government.

5.3 Recommendations

Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFLD) has identified some problems to implement provisions relating to the transparency at local level. Local bodies have not submitted the periodic report to MoFALD, as a result MoALD has

not been able to submit report to the concerned institutions such as National Planning Commission and Ministry of Local Development. Action plan prepared by MoFALD has identified the alternatives to promote transparency at local levels. Different local development actors have been involved during this local level planning and implementing process. Some of the actors are Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, District Development Committees, Municipalities, VDCs, Political Parties, target groups' district and local committees' members, users' committees, NGOs, INGOs etc. Based on the findings of this study, some recommendations have made for local government bodies separately as below:

For Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development

1. It is very important to evaluate and assess the data of budget allocation for target groups at local bodies if there is the real implementation of the target group budget at local level or not.
2. Local Bodies should follow the RTI act to publish information proactively every three months of the year.
3. Report of MCs and PMs of DDCs and municipalities whether they are followed and effectively implemented the indicators relating to right to information.
4. It is very urgent to evaluate and assess the report of MCs and PMs of DDCs, VDCs and municipalities whether they are followed and effectively implemented the indicators relating to right to information.
5. Each VDC, DDC and municipality should be facilitated for preparing and implementing action plan for strengthening district and municipal information center.

6. Each VDC, DDC and municipality must be supported to create website and to be familiar with email and internet. Technical and resource support to them is important.
7. In order to establish uniformed reporting system, appropriate software of information system must be install and oriented properly to the concerned personnel of the information section/unit of each VDC, DDC and municipality.
8. All VDCs, DDCs and municipalities have to make available periodic reports and board decisions to MoFALD through the email system. The ministry should strongly monitor for this task.
9. Reward and provide career development opportunity to VDC secretaries, Local Development Officers and Executive Officers who regularly provide necessary information to MoLD through email and internet and update website periodically.

For District Development Committees

1. It is very important to evaluate and assess the data of budget allocation for target groups at local bodies if there is the real implementation of the target group budget at local level or not.
2. Local bodies should follow the Local Bodies Resource Management Working Procedure (LBMWP) to allocate budget to target groups in their VDCs, Municipalities or DDCs.
3. Local Bodies should follow the RTI act to publish information proactively every three months of the year.
4. Each VDC, DDC and municipality should be facilitated for preparing and implementing action plan for strengthening district and municipal information center.

5. All VDCs, DDCs and municipalities having not created website must create website with systematic, dynamic, and interactive tools and in a way that can be updated easily at least on monthly basis.
6. The VDCs, DDCs and municipalities, which have already created website, must update their website data on monthly basis.
7. All VDCs, DDCs and municipalities have to create their own separate email address and operate properly.
8. Documents and information related to the public concerned of all VDCs, DDCs and Municipalities must be kept in the website.

For Municipalities and Village Development Committees

1. It is very important to evaluate and assess the data of budget allocation for target groups at local bodies if there is the real implementation of the target group budget at local level or not.
2. It has strongly suggested that the VDCs should increase the target group participation to decision making process of budget planning at VDC council meeting every year.
3. Local bodies should follow the Local Bodies Resource Management Working Procedure (LBMWP) to allocate budget to target groups in their VDCs, Municipalities or DDCs.
4. Local Bodies should follow the RTI act to publish information proactively every three months of the year.
5. Each VDC, DDC and municipality should be facilitated for preparing and implementing action plan for strengthening district and municipal information center.

6. All VDCs, DDCs and municipalities having not created website must create website with systematic, dynamic, and interactive tools and in a way that can be updated easily at least on monthly basis.
7. The VDCs, DDCs and municipalities, which have already created website, must update their website data on monthly basis.
8. All VDCs, DDCs and municipalities have to create their own separate email address and operate properly.
9. Documents and information related to the public concerned of all VDCs, DDCs and Municipalities must be kept in the website.

For I/NGOs, CSOs

1. There is a need of orientation and training for major stakeholders at district, municipal and village level about the provision of right to information act, good governance act, related regulations, guidelines, and procedures with regard to transparency, accountability, good governance and right to information. I/NGOs may play the vital role for this campaign.
2. All the VDCs, DDCs and municipalities have to prepare action plan on strengthening district information and documentation center and municipality information center and inform to MoFALD. I/NGO may facilitate for this task to local bodies.
3. Provide training to the personnel working in information center or taken responsibility of information officer of VDCs, DDCs and municipalities about the use of information system and reporting system. MoFALD has directed to DDC to appoint all VDC secretaries as an Information Officer (IO) in all VDCs of the country.

For Political Parties

1. Political parties should play the catalyst role for the people as a communication bridge for public information. They should help to VDC/ Municipality/

DDC to increase target group participation and support to access their role and responsibility on public resources.

2. All political parties and political leaders should manage the time to social job for the local people, target groups during the process of service receiving. They should create the environment for the target groups to access the local bodies resource mobilization process and all planning process of the local bodies.
3. All political parties and their local leaders should be responsible and must be monitored the development works to conduct effectively and increase people participation during the rural development process. All political parties and their leaders are people representatives. So, they must be accountable and responsible to the people and always support to the target groups and help to increase their access on public services and resources.

For Further Researchers

This study was new on this topic. It will be useful for further researcher if they want to work on this development field. Further researchers will conduct new research using primary data of target groups in the field. It will useful for those who want to find out the actual implementation status of the government resources at local level targeting the marginalized people and they can compare the status of the target group people and other poor people.

This study was carried out on local bodies' investment and allocation budget for target groups through VDC council meeting and the target group people participation on the meeting during five fiscal years in seven VDCs of Dhankuta district. So, it is not represented whole local bodies' budget allocation system in Nepal but it will be the basic guideline for rural development in Nepal through empower target groups to allocate budget to them and their community either it is on the VDC level, or district level or centre level in the country.

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