

# **Role of Women in Household Decision Making**

(A Case Study of Hansposha VDC, Sunsari)

A Thesis

Submitted to Tribhuvan University, Faculty of  
Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Rural  
Development

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Masters of Arts in Rural Development

Submitted by

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March, 2014



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This is to certify that the thesis submitted by **Ganga Devi Rai** entitled "**Role of Women in Household Decision Making: A Case Study of Hansposha VDC, Sunsari**" has been approved by the Department as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master Degree of Arts and Rural Development.

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## *Acknowledgements*

As a researcher, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor **Mr. Kedar Nath Niraula**, Teaching Assistant of the Department of Rural Development, for providing me with continuous guidance, valuable suggestions, insightful comments, constant encouragement and meticulous supervision in accomplishing this thesis.

Similarly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **the Department Head Dr. Ramesh Prasad Adhikari and External Supervisor Mr. Nabin Gautam**. In the same way, I would like to express my gratitude to **Dr. Shom Prasad Khatiwada, Mr. Mahendra Pokharel, Mr. Mohan Regmi** and all the respected teachers of the Department of Rural Development for inspiring me to carry out this thesis in this form.

Likewise, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my friends **Sita Bhattarai, Nodanath Trital, Rita Bhattarai, Sanjay Bhattarai, Rishi Nath Niroula, Rajendra Prasad Kafle, Yogendra Bhattarai, Hemraj Ghimire** and all colleagues of the Rural Development Department for constantly advising and helping me throughout this study.

I also wish to acknowledge my friends Ashish Rai and Man Kaji Rai for their invaluable cooperation at my work. I am also grateful to Hansposha VDC officials and all respondents of my research for providing me necessary information from their own offices and responsibility. Finally, I would like to express my due thanks to my father Gajan Bahadur Rai, Mother Nanda Maya Rai, Brother in Law Dr. Rohit Rai, Father in Law Dilli Kumar Rai, Mother in Law Durga Devi Rai, Husband Ramesh Kumar Rai and son Reebow Rai and all my family for their valuable encouragement and support for preparing this research.

- Ganga Devi Rai

Date: 2070.11.19

## *Abstract*

The present research makes an effort to analyze the role of women in decision making process of households.

The specific objectives of this study are to explore the socio - economic status of women in the study area along with the comparison of the participation level of working women (those women who are economically active, have a continual source of income and who provide economic contribution to their family) and non-working women ( House-wives) in household decision making and also to find out the factors that affect their decision making in household affairs. Hence, this study is an attempt to study the power and participation level of women in Household decision making.

The study also covered the factors that affect the decision-making level of women in their households. Majority of women reported that education is the most affecting factor that influences their decision making power. Similarly, it is found that the economic status of women also has a positive role in their decision-making. Social norms are also such factors. However, it is found that non-working women are more pressurized by social norms and tradition than working women

This thesis is composed of five chapters and each chapter is divided into necessary headings and sub-headings. Chapter I represents introduction of the study, objectives of the study, limitation of the study etc. Chapter II has covered by literature review and chapter III has described the methodology of the research. Chapter IV has included analysis and interpretation of the data and chapter V has covered findings and recommendation of the research. Then, the references and appendixes have mentioned on the research work.

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## **List of Abbreviations**

BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
GOs	:	Government Organizations
HHs	:	Households
INGOs	:	International Non-Government Organizations
NGO	:	Non Government Organization
NWO	:	Nepal Women's Organization
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
TV	:	Television
UN	:	United Nation
UNDP	:	United Nation Development Programme
UNICEF	:	United Nation Children's Fund
VDC	:	Village Development Committee

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 General Background of the Study**

Nepal is located in the South Asia and surrounding land with India from east, west and south and China from North. So, it is called landlocked country. It's total area is about 1, 47,181 sq. km. Nepal is one of the least developed country which is divided in 75 districts, 58 metropolitan cities and 3915VDCs (Village Development Committee).

From the view point of human development index 2005 it is ranked into 144 position. Our per capita income is about \$468 (MOF, 2008), economic growth rate is around 2.5 percent . Likewise the adult literacy rate about age of 15 is around 40.6 percent. Nepal has 18.5 percent million people in 1991 within an annual growth rate of 2.1 percent. In 2012, it reached to 26.4 million with an exponential rate of 2.21 percent per annum. In next census the population is estimated to have reached to 28.4 million.

In this 21st century men and women are considered as two wheels of a cart. Women can give tough competition to men in each and every field. They are equal in each and every sector either that is administrative, force, games, social activities or household activities. So, in the development process of any nation women can play a key role. In past days women were considered to be low grade citizen and given less importance. But in today's era people have started realizing the importance/value of women's participation in the economic as well as in social development activities in many developed countries, it has been realized that relation between male and female is just like the relationship

of the "Blood with body". This mutual relationship between male and female can bring drastic change in the socio-economic status of nation.

In Nepal, women consist of more than 50 percent of total population (CBS, 2001). Women are heavily engaged in domestic cores along with the socio-economic activities. They have major role in household work. Less than 50 percent have got chance in decision making power. Even in 21st century they are not enjoying equal decision making power in comparison to their male counterparts. They are being discriminated since their childhood. In childhood they have to live under their father, in adulthood they should follow their husband, and in old age they have to live under their son. They have no liberty to decide freely even on their own activities.

Socio-economic status of female affects the role of women in society. Even though, they are capable and potential, their capability and potentiality have been devalued. Education is one of the major factors for their development. Those women, who have got higher education and social higher economic background, have greater chance on decision making power. According to Census, 2001 only 17.18 percent households are being headed by women.

Education and labour force participation are the strongest variables affecting the status of women. Education provides some of the basic skills and confidence to being taking control of their lives. Labor force participation may help control over social and material resources within the households. Thus, status of women refers to the extent to which human beings have control over their own lives and access to knowledge, economic resources and political power. The status of women is an important factor affecting the socio-economic development of a country.

It can not be fully realized if women who constitute more than 50 percent of population enjoy a subordinate position to men and their talents remain unutilized or underutilized.

Prior to the UN declaration of 1975-1985 as the UN decade for women, only well defined women organization in Nepal was practically not in existent. Those few women's organization which emerged as an outcome of the political upheavals of the pre 1950s and 1960s were primarily interested, motivated, designed to some their own circle of families and friends instead of women at large. The focus of Nepal Women's Organization (NWO), established in 1960 was directed more towards social welfare activities like knitting, sewing and weaving. Although, its interest was not purely in the upliftment of women never these, its efforts to indicate and interest and concern for women and their development cannot go unappreciated.

It was only after the UN declaration of 1975 as the international year of women and 1975-1985 as the UN decade for women that a national committee on international women year in Nepal was formulated. This committee attracted considerable foreign funds, which helps in some extent to uplift the socio-economic status of women.

In the world as well as in Nepal, women covered half of the total population. They are backbone of the society. Though male and female are considered as the 'two wheels of a cart' having equal rights and responsibilities, there is gender disparity in various sectors like socio-economic, political as well as in the decision making process. Very few females are lucky to get opportunity in white -collar job. Most of women are surrounded by household boundaries. They are limited only in cooking, livestock, earning, firewood collection, grass management, child

rearing, agricultural activities and household chores. They have low access to education, employment and medical facilities.

In male dominated country like ours, we find a large gender inequality. Male are given preference in many socio-economic activities. We find involvement of males from district level to national level program rather than women.

It can be concluded that only strong status in society can enhance the decision making power of women otherwise they have to play subordinate role of their male partners. Women of Nepal are suffering from lack of resources such as property rights; the general income goes to family pocket. Because of the lack of power to asset which is their natural rights, they are suffering from exploitation and injustice. Women strategies should be focused on as: increasing self confidence, increasing women participation in development, educating people.

So, at last everybody agrees that a woman play a very important role in setting up a good family. Women can spoil a house as well as make it a heaven. In fact, women have very strong character in every household. According to Mahatma Gandhi "Educate a man of you will have a person educated but educate a women and you will have a whole family educated".

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

According to Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012, the total population of Nepal is 2, 64,934,504 of which 49.9 percent are male and 50.1 percent are female. The data shows that women cover more than half of the country's population but still in the Nepalese context women suffer from illiteracy, unemployment and household burden. The estimate literacy

rate for men is 65.1 percent and that of women is only 40.23 percent (CBS, 2012). So women are poorest among the poor, since women are more vulnerable than men in all sectors.

The role and status of women differ according to caste and ethnicity however their sub-ordinate to men exist in all caste, ethnic and religious groups. Women play important role in household subsistence, in agriculture, in labor work and so on. Women labor participation in agriculture is thus the backbone of Nepalese economy. Besides agriculture, they have to perform many other household activities such as childcare, cooking, feeding, cleaning and decorating houses. These activities of women in household are not taken into account into monetary terms. So, it is necessary to do depth analysis of Nepalese women's situation in order to support the planning of facilitating increased integration of women to the national developing process. Women have also substantial contribution on household economy through skill-based entrepreneurship like weaving, poultry, fishing, vegetable farming etc.

The role and contribution of women in household economy has been "invisible" because women's involvement in domestic works and skill-based activities such as handicrafts, agriculture works etc. have been regarded as non-productive sector. This has been devaluating the women's contribution in household economy which is no doubt a significant constraint to uplift the socio-economic status of Nepalese women. Thus it is necessary to study the contribution of women in household economy.

Therefore, the present study focuses taking into an account the diversity of Nepalese population in terms of caste, ethnicity, age, locality to study

the role of women of Hansposha VDC ward No. 05 in their household decision making. The major research questionnaires will be as follows:

- What is the role of women to household decision making process?
- What is the family background of the woman in terms of their family type, education, husband education and occupation?
- What is the household decision making on farm management aspects, socio-economic aspect, health aspect, education aspect and household management aspect?

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

The general objectives of this dissertation are to study the role of women in household decision making process. Other specific objectives of the study are follows:

- a. To explore the socio-economic status of women of Hansposha VDC.
- b. To analyze the role of women in household decision making.
- c. To forward suggestions for promotion of women's role in household decision making and empowering them.

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

This study has attempt to reflect the women's status in terms of decision making power inside and outside the household. Furthermore, this study will be important in finding out the actual condition of women in study area in terms of socio-economic status and their decision making roles. As in the world, women constitute half of the total population in Nepal. They should have equal rights and responsibilities for the development of the society.

So, this study will be very useful for those individuals and institutions, who are interested to know about the women's role in decision making power in the whole nation. It will provide the glimpse of women's condition in the whole country. It will also be useful even for planners, policy makers, NGOS/INGOS and other organizations to formulate and implement appropriate policies, plans and programs focusing on the issues of women, mainly in decision making sector. It may be helpful for the researchers, and person interested in gender studies too.

All the development activities are performed by people for the people. They are main focal point of development. Decision making power gives space of women's skills and ability. They can envision better life looking at their equal position to males. If this happened male will also learn the necessity of women to accelerate and enhance the development.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

This study has been focused in very small range of geographical area of Hansposha VDC Ward No. 5, Tarahara only. The overall data analysis is based on micro level of household survey but not at the macro level of the society and nation.

Due to lack of proper and sufficient field survey, as well as time constraint, not responding the questionnaire asked, this study may not be able to grab the estimated target however this study has tried best to evolve the real scenario an superb outcome.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This study mainly has been divided into 5 chapters. They are as follows:

**Chapter One:** The first chapter provides introduction or role of women in various sector and civil society, statement of the problems, objectives, limitations and importance of the study.

**Chapter Two:** The second chapter consists the review of literature. The review of literature from the previous studies publication books, theories and research reports on the concept the regarding status of women, role of women in decision making as theoretical framework.

**Chapter Three:** Third chapter comprises the research methodology on which the researchers design, sample size, nature of data and collection procedure, data analysis and data analytical tools is explained.

**Chapter Four:** The fourth chapter is related to the role of women is household decision making which is analyzed and explained through statistically.

**Chapter Fifth:** The fifth chapter is summery, conclusion and recommendation derived from the whole study. At last Appendix and Bibliography have been affixed to make this study authentic and relevant.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

United Nation (1987) focused that the role of young women workers in manufacturing of rapidly industrializing economy is closely associated with the international division of labor. Garment and textile industries of Philippines and Thailand were chosen to analyze the role of women. The data presented in this study indicated that women's employment has been concentrated in the most labor-intensive and wage industries and that in associated with this fact, the labor force participation rate of women has increased much faster than that of men during the export oriented phase of industrialization. The wage levels of men and women are found to be similar in Thailand, but the work burden of women and the task assigned to them does not revealed as the same. Since the development programs have not effectively addressed women's contribution as industrial workers, fairer laws are required to cover women working in manufacturing .If governments are genuinely interested in protecting women as well as promoting opportunities, then social policies and jobs of the future.

Report of UNICEF (1987) depicts that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information which the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women, the written world still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male requirement may also

negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government services only 7 percent of graduated officers and 5 percent of the supporting staff were women. Women constitutes less than 10 percent of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decision making concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50 percent of decision are made by men, 19 percent jointly and 31 percent by female which shows very low percentage of decision making power on the part of women.

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

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

Dr. Vina Mazumdar(1982), in her article on "Another Development with women: A view from Asia" speaks of the Asian women who have been subject to acute social, economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and which continue even to this day, may be to a lesser degree.

According to her, “the monopolies of economic and political power as well as access to knowledge are the three major instruments by which the present structure of inequality between and within nations are maintained”. The majority of the women in the world, especially the Asian women, are excluded from these instruments. Their position is further belittled by the fact that their work is considered as “non-productive”. This under devaluation of women’s contribution to the economy is closely associated with their inferior social status and also “the relative loss of individual freedom and status with the family” (Mazumdar V: 69), Mazumdar also talks of non-socialist countries, where the extension of capitalism has further marginalized the economic and social roles of women. They have been projected as mere consumers, worthy of only social welfare services but not as partners with equal say in building a new society. Such welfare policies, no matter how well intentioned, are found to reinforce various forms of exploitation of these women.

Mazumdar also highlights upon the fact that in Asia, women constitute the single largest group engaged in agriculture and food production. Some Asian traditions even claim that women discovered agriculture. Yet very few of them control the basic asset-land-Although they participate actively in the labor process, they are often excluded from the decision making process.

Further, women in agriculture attach highest priority to food crops, as it becomes their responsibility to feed their families. Therefore their greater control on agriculture decision could be made instrumental in reducing the areas under food crops.

Mazumdar concludes, saying the constraint to family, illiteracy and all traditional barriers and attitudes prevent women's ability to influence vital decision making she suggest farming grass root level organizations responsive to the needs of poor, local women. Along with this is needed a new approach to study the social organizations, i.e. families and household in a clearer perspective. Better knowledge of women both in the past and present can bring a lot changes to these perceptions.

Jiggins (1989) in the article "How Poor Women Earn Income in Sub Sahara Africa and what works against them" has highlighted on the condition of women who are involved mostly in household based agricultural activity. An overall 30 percent of rural household are estimated to be headed by women who contributed 80 percent of agricultural labor mainly as unpaid labor. They produce 60 percent of the food consumed by rural households and contribute over one third of all household income through small business, trading and casual labor.

But despite their major input to household food and economic security, "patriarchal family and social structures deny women real property rights in land, limit women's access to control over the proceeds of their own labor and constrain their decision making roles".(Jiggins.1989:1953).

However, Jiggins also suggest various micro level interventions which would strengthen women's position "in the labor process, within the household and as independent wage and income earners" (Jiggins.1989:1960).Such interventions would be supportive of the expansion of income generation opportunities and activities for women which would stop further deterioration of their livelihoods.

## 2.2 National Context

M. Acharya and L. Bennett (1981) focused that women are primarily involved inside the household. Women are frequently dependent on men as mediators with the outside world. This dependency deprives women of the opportunity to learn the skills necessary for forms of development increasingly being made available by government. Women in the economically defined non dichotomous communities (Lohorung Rai, Baragaonole and Kham Magar) have considerably more decision making responsibility both outside and inside the household than women in the dichotomous communities (Maithali, Parbatiya and Tharu), while remaining communities (Newar and Tamang) women's decision making roles falls in between.

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

Acharya and Bennett have singled out "decision making" from the multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. They developed some models from the study of eight different village communities from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the villages were more conceived to be operating in such four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in village labor

market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

Acharya and Bennett (1983) mentioned that various socio-economic, cultural and demographic factors affect the extent and structure of female economic participation in the largely subsistence economy of rural Nepal. The women's labor is heavily concentrated in their own agricultural production activities. However female percent's involvement can be seen in the local market economy and wider economy beyond village. Women in the more orthodox Hindu communities who are subsistence production display a much less significant role than those in the Tibeto-Burman communities where women participate actively in the market economy. The proportion of time spent by women in domestic activities emerged as a positive factor in the determination of her input in farm management decisions and as a negative factor in her input into resource allocation decisions. Participation in the market economy outside the village had a positive influence on women's input into both domestic and resource allocation decision and a negative influence on farm management decisions. Women who participate in the market activities make a measurable contribution to the household income, while women working in the subsistence agriculture are generally laboring on land, controlled by the male household head. The women involving in the development process and expanding their acceptable roles beyond those of mother, household and subsistence agricultural worker can be expected to have important long range effects in terms of reduced fertility rates and changed social attitudes towards children's education.

According to Shrestha S.L. (1994), decision making power of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labor and input contribution

and consultants but as active change agents at the concerned level. It does mean the involvement of one or two women or the wives of the leaders, but the involvement of women and men in the sample proportion in decision making as their proportion in the community at large.

She further added that women of Nepal are so dependent to men that if the partners of members deny giving shelter to them, it is a question of basic survivals. This system has made women so helpless, houseless and dependent that women men they will not survive. So in this human system the right of survival is laid on the heart of men.

M. Acharya (1995) had described as : "Women have very low participation in decision making process, 75 percent of household related and external decision making are entirely made by male member of house."

Baburam Pandit (2003) mentioned in his dissertation that community based development and welfare programmers should focus on increasing women's representation in decision making procedure. They should also be added in some relevant training in community for money.

UNDP (1995) described that women in Nepal, as elsewhere, hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and frame work. However, reproduction is not treated as work and household is not considered as productive work by government system. Women also suffered from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision making.

The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) aimed at integrating women to the development though; gender equality and women's empowerment

increasing, women's participation in every sector, giving a concrete shape to gender concept in the process of formulation, implementation and evaluation of sector policies and programmers, accelerating the process of multi-faced development of women's empowerment by uplifting their social, economic, political and legal status projecting and promoting the right and interests of women and gradually eliminating violence, exploitation, injustice and atrocities being committed against women (Tenth Five Year Plan,2003).

The article of the Katmandu Post (March 16,2005) all UN agencies are committed to advancing gender equality and women empowerment as well as fighting discrimination against women and girl children at all level, especially in remote and rural areas. We believe that gender equality should be a guiding principle throughout the year than a day celebration.

Even in this age of miraculous changes where we are breathing, we can see that women still fell the suppression of one kind or the others, especially in the developing countries. But women are directly or indirectly involving in the place of economic development. (The Rising Nepal, 2008).

According to National Planning Commission (1992): "A situation analysis of children and women in Nepal" depict that, women have less access to income, wealth, employment education and health facilities etc then men. Women figure are predominately has been explained as four concentric spheres of activities.

- i. Household chores.
- ii. Agricultural production activities.
- iii. Local market economy.

Our village economy i.e. implement through short term migration. In the same way, the major quantitative indicator of female status used was the relative input into areas of decision making.

- iv. Farm Management.
- v. Involvement in local market economy and domestic activities.

### **2.3 Concluding remarks**

The reference maintained in the previous pages confirms that women's decision making power is influenced by many factors. In Nepalese context, women are observed as heading weak decision-making power of women. Therefore, the issues of women empowerment would not be fulfilled till women attain decision-making process rights for their own households. Therefore, this study focuses the women's decision making power in households, in Hansposha VDC-05, Sunsari.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study has been designed both on descriptive as well as exploratory methods. The generated information has been displayed in descriptive formats. At the sametime exploratory research is used for collecting information about repondents views and ideas about the program and their problems.

#### **3.2 About the Study Area**

The present study has been conducted in Hansposha VDC of Sunsari district - which is located at the middle area of two municipalities: Dharan and Itahari municipalities of Sunsari district. According to CBS 2012, the total population of this area is 9,454. Out of the total population 4726 are males and 4728 are females.

Hansposha VDC is an ancient village in Sunsari. It is located between the two big cities: Dharan and Itahari. Itahari municipality is the main gateway city to the eastern region. This is the doorway for Biratnagar in the south, Dhankuta, Bhojpur, Sankhuwasava, Terahathum in the north and Jhapa, Ilam, Panchthar, Taplijung in the east. and the main way to go to Kathmandu district from the east region of the country. It is located in Koshi Zone. It is one of the high density of population area of the district. It is about 1125m above from the sea level. This VDC became a main migration area from the hill districts like Dhankuta, Khotang, Okhaldhunga, Terhathum, Sankhuwasabha, Bhojpur etc. with the total area of 14.76 sq km.

In the Hansposha VDC, there are 9 wards which constitutes 1278 household according to the National Census 2012. Out of these 9 ward, ward no. 5 is taken as the study area. In this ward there are total 278 household and the total population is 1454. Out of the total population 726 are males and 728 are females. Since, this VDC is nearby the two big cities: Dharan and Itahari municipalities. There is facilities of all the things as communication, transportation, electricity, education, health service, market centers etc. This VDC is moderately with people from diverse ethnic communicates. The Brahmin, Chhetris and Newars are found as the most economically supreme groups. The Cobblers, Khadji, Nakarmi, Damai and Least in this respect.

Since, this study has been carried out at Hansposha VDC ward No. -05. The main aim of this study is to find out the socio-economic status of women of this ward. Many women of this study area believe in traditional customs though it lies in the capital city. The society still follows conservative ideas, superstition rituals and belief. The main occupation of the women in this study area is domestic work. Besides this, some of the women involved in business, official works and others. Most of the women in this study area is literate and few of them are able to get higher education.

To raise the living standard of women government is organizing different sorts of women oriented programmes. But the women of this area are still lagging behind. They are still backward in education and social status.

### **3.3 Rational of the Selection of the Study Area**

As mentioned earlier the main objective of the present study is to examine the decision making role of women in household economy at micro level. The present study area has been selected for the case study

because though this ward lies in capital city, the women of this ward are still lagging behind cause of illiteracy and empowering skill.

### **3.4 Sampling Procedure**

From total household of ward no. 5, sample coverage 50 households are surveyed. The selection of household has been done using 'random sampling' lottery method.

### **3.5 Nature and Sources of Data Collection**

The study is based on primary and indicate the source of secondary data set. The primary data has been collected with the help of questionnaire by using both structured and non structures questionnaire. Some additional information has been collected with the help of observation, discussion, interview etc. Important relevant materials-books, journal published/unpublished/ research, articles and Hansposha VDC records are consulted, for secondary data.

### **3.6 Tools of Data Collection**

#### **3.6.1 Primary Data**

To generate primary data field survey has been carried in the study area Hansposha VDC (ward no. 05, Tarahara). Primary data has been collected by using structural questionnaires, among the women respondents, where as some of the male participats have also contributed together opinion and views as interviewees. Those interviews and survey has been conducted with the household women of Hansposha VDC ward no. 05, Tarahara and key informants as the teachers and the social leaders of the study area.

### **a. Structured Questionnaire**

The structured questionnaire consists of various components such as farm management, economic aspect, household management, educational, health aspect and so on. The first section dealt with the purpose of getting information about socio-economic status of the households and the second section dealt with the purpose of getting information about decision making role in farm management, health aspect, educational aspect and household management. The used questionnaire has been displayed in Annex. Similarly, some relevant queries were floated to concerned key informants to generate the facts regarding the role of women in household decision making status.

### **b. Interview with Key Informants**

The present study has conducted by discussing with the local teacher, ward representatives and the community leaders to respond such as business, migration to foreign countries and household management

#### **3.6.2 Secondary Data**

Secondary data has been collected from various publications, Nepal Government, Hansposha VDC, CBS, brochures, articles, previous thesis work, websites, journals, etc.

### **3.7 Sample Size**

Out of 1278 household of Hansposha VDC and 278 households of ward no. 05 according to the VDC profile, the sample size selected for current study is around 20 percent of the total number of households. It approximately comes around 50 household. Here, the women below 14 years and above 60 years are not included in this study as a sample. This study is confined to female respondents because the purpose of this writing is to dig out the status of female decision making within a family.

But to explore the real scenario or to find out the information in relative term, males were interviewed as Key Informants.

### **3.8 Data Processing and Analysis**

The collected data and information have been processed and analyzed with the highlights on a descriptive and explanatory technique to fulfill the objectives of the study. The data have been analyzed in both ways i.e. qualitatively and quantitatively. The generated data has been tabulated and analyzed using simple statistical tools such as percentage.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter provides some socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the Household, where ethnic composition, educational status, marital status, occupational status and other socio-economic characteristics are incorporated. Similarly, it explains the women's status in terms of decision making in different aspects of household as well as other activities. It reveals women's participation in making decision in household activities, where decisions are regarded to HHs related expenditure, social and other HHs related activities.

#### 4.1 Ethnic Composition of Household

The ethnic groups reveal a tendency to stay clustered among their own communities. However, people from different groups were also found to be believing together in certain areas of settlement. The study area is the mixture of different cultural groups. The major portion of the population comprises of Chhetri which is followed by Brahmin, Newar and other:

**Table 1 Ethnic Composition of Households**

S.N	Ethnic Group	No. of Households	Percentage
1	Chhetri	18	36
2	Brahmin	10	20
3	Newar	7	15
4	Sarki	5	10
5	Kami	4	7
6	Nakarmi	4	7
7	Magar	2	5
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The above table shows the ethnic composition of households. Among the total household, Chhetri is the highest, Brahmin contains the second position and Newar is stayed third position in which Sarki, Kami, Nakarmi and Magar are 10 percent, 7 percent, 7 percent and 5 percent respectively. In comparison with the females of the so-called upper class, the condition of the females of the lower class is even more pathetic. They are forced to obey whatever the males say.

#### **4.2 Marital Status of the Household**

Marital status is also a significant social indicator for understanding gender participation in household economy. Gender ideologies for married and unmarried male and female differ and consequently their roles also differ in the household economy. Therefore, the marital status of the respondents have been taken into consideration. The marital status of the respondent is shown in the table below:

**Table 2 Marital Status of the Respondents**

S.N	Marital Status	No. of Households	Percentage
1	Married	37	74
2	Unmarried	9	18
3	Widowed	4	8
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

Out of the total 50 female households, 37 of them are found to be married, 9 of the them unmarried and only 4 widowed. The married women constitute large majority of 74 percent, unmarried 18 percent and widowed 8 percent out of the total number of households.

Married, unmarried and widowed females get different treatments in the society. In comparison with others, unmarried females can enjoy more

freedom in the family. The married females have to lose all their rights and freedom. Their main duty is supposed to satisfy their husband. They are not allowed to doubt and question their husbands. The condition of widowed females is even worse. They have to face the curses and unnecessary blames of the society.

### 4.3 Educational Status of the Household Couple

Education is an important element of life that exposes the bright future of life. It plays a vital role for the development of people, national economy as a whole. It is the principle mechanism for fulfilling the awareness and change of the people. Therefore, it is one of the most important demographic characteristics for empowering both men and women.

The educational status of the sampled household of the study area has been presented below:

**Table 3 Educational Status of Household Couple**

Educational Status	Male	Female	Total	
			No.	Percent
Illiterate	2	13	15	15
Literate	12	10	22	22
Under SLC	10	13	23	23
SLC	13	8	21	21
Above SLC	13	6	19	19
Total	50	50	100	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The educational status is divided into 5 categories which are literate, illiterate, under SLC, SLC and above SLC those people who can only read and write are kept in literate and having school education but did not pass the SLC are kept under SLC and above SLC represents are all who have attained all the levels above SLC level education.

Table 3 shows the educational status of the respondents. Out of the total 50 respondents 15 illiterate consisting 2 males and 13 females. It was found that only 22 are literate among them 12 males and 10 are females. Only 13 males and 8 females have attained SLC education. This table shows that higher proper times of females are literate.

#### 4.4 Occupation and Source of Income

Occupation and source of income represent the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as the main source of income. Business is the main occupation in the study area along with government services. Thus, the major sources of income are business and service. However, some households are engaged on agricultural occupation too and some HHs are engaged in non-agriculture occupation for e.g.: Foreign employment, Tourism, Daily-wage earners etc. The following table shows the occupational composition of sampled HHs with reference to male and female population.

**Table 4 Occupational Composition of the Respondents Couple**

S.N	Occupation	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage
1	Business	16	38.1	14	28
2	Services	13	30.95	13	26
3	Agriculture	7	16.67	9	18
4	Oversees	5	11.9	2	4
5	Others	1	2.62	12	24
Total		42	100	50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The above table shows that 16 out of the 42 male are involved in business, 13 in govt. service, 7 in agriculture, 5 in overseas and 1 in others. Out of 50 females, 14 of them concentrated mainly upon business, 13 in service sector, 9 in the agriculture, 12 in household work (other)

and 2 in overseas. Therefore we find a comparatively higher rate of men in business (38.1 percent), service (30.95 percent), and other as compared to women. But, we also see no involvement of men in the household activities while the women score 24 percent .

The great portion of females do not have access to paying jobs. Though, they have to do more works in comparison with their male counter parts in total, they get nothing in return. The household works, which are completely non-paying works, pull the females backward from their creativity. This further compels their submission before the males.

#### 4.5 Working Hours among the Male and Female

The working hour of female is definitely higher than that of their male counterpart. This can be attributed to their involvement in both business, HHs work as well as the agricultural sphere of activities.

**Table 5 Working Hours among the Male and Female Groups**

S.N	Working Hours	Male	Female	Total	Male percent	Female percent
1	Up to 2 hrs	9	-	9	100	-
2	3-5 hrs	10	10	20	50	50
3	6-8 hrs	17	25	42	40.48	59.52
4	9-11 hrs	5	8	13	38.46	61.54
5	11+hrs	1	7	8	12.5	87.50
Total		42	50	92	45.65	54.35

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

We find only men in the category where the working hour per day is 2 hours. On the other hand women constitute 87.50 percent and men 12.5 percent within the category of the highest number of working hours/day. Overall finding is that, men comprise a larger proportion of the lesser

number of working hours, whereas women constitute a greater percentage of the higher number of working hours.

The working hours between males and females definitely shock everybody. The females are compelled to internalize the fact that they are born to work. In other words, working always becomes their natural duty towards their family and society.

Thus, in the male-dominated societies like ours, females are considered just as machines which can easily be repaired and replaced if they do not function. They are confined within the narrow walls of kitchen. Furthermore, they are given their prime duty of giving birth, rearing and nourishing their children. The age-old male ideology deprives them from their natural, innate and inborn rights of equality, freedom and justice. The females of all classes and families are trapped in the claws of cruel and ruthless male ideology.

#### **4.6 Decision Making Role in HHs Related Expenditures**

Decision making is one of the indicators of social status. The ability to make decision makes people powerful. The decision maker is considered as centre both in the family and society, around which all other members revolve. Decisions have to be taken in all sectors including business, household works, education, choosing bridegroom and so on. The chances and opportunities to make decisions determine the progress and development of people.

##### **4.6.1 Decision Making in Business Investment**

Business is the major source of income in some families. It yields large profit to those who invest. In almost all families, decision about business investment is taken by male members, as a consequence, females have to

be dependent on males. The following table clearly shows the decision making in business investment.

**Table 6 Decision Making in Business Investment**

S.N	Decision maker	Think First (No. of H.H)	Percentage	Final decision maker (No. of H.H)	Percentage
1	Husbands	21	42	24	48
2	Wife	13	26	18	36
3	Other Male members	9	18	4	8
4	Other Female members	1	2	-	-
5	Jointly	6	12	4	8
Total		50	100	50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The above table shows that only 50 percent out of the 50 households are involved in business investment. Although wives have a greater input as initiators 26 percent, however the husbands appear as the main persons to be consulted 42 percent and as final decision makers 36 percent as well. The other male members have some kind of contribution in all three stages of the decision making process, while the joint decisions in the final stage score 8 percent . Ignoring the females, males make decisions in business investment and other income generating activates.

Despite their negligible involvement in income generating and profit making activities, we can find large involvement of women as major decision maker regarding food expenditure, clothing, medical treatment, loans and gifts, social and religious ceremonies.

#### 4.6.2 Decision Making on Buying Household Items

In this section radio, T.V, furniture and (telephone/mobile) are categorized as household things. Almost all households have a radio in their home but only 51 percent of the households own television.

Maximum number of women replied that they had mutually decided to buy a Television. But in the case of telephone/mobile) women were found to decide less than men. The responses from the households are shown in the table below:

**Table 7 Decision on Buying Household Things**

S.N	Household things	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Both	Percentage	Total
1	Radio	22	44	16	32	12	24	50
2	T.V	21	42	18	36	11	22	50
3	Telephone	19	38	19	38	12	24	50
4	Furniture	17	34	21	42	12	24	50

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The above table shows, the decision of male, female and both of them on buying of household things. As shown in the table, 44 percent of male and 42 percent of female and 24 percent of both of them made decision on purchasing Radio. 42 percent of male, 36 percent of female and 22 percent of both of male and female made decision to purchase T.V. Similarly, the decision to purchase Telephone (Mobile) is made by 38 percent of male 38 percent of female and 24 percent of both of them made decision to purchase Telephone (Mobile). Likewise, 34 percent of male, 42 percent of female and 24 percent of both of them made decision to purchase furniture.

Therefore, as shown in the table, the decision to purchase Radio, Television and Furniture were found to have relatively more than that of male. This clearly indicates the role of female to be effective only deciding about the minor household activities.

#### 4.6.3 Educational Management Aspect

Parents have to take the responsibility of educating their children. Better educated women may have more status in the household and have greater

authority to speak openly with their husbands about their children's education. In the present study, all the households (50) were asked about who decides to take admission of their children to school, buy books, uniforms and payment of fees. The responses are presented in table below:

**Table 8 Decision Making Role in Educational Management**

S.N	Educational Instrument	Male	Male Percent	Female	Female Percentage	Both	Both Percentage	Total
1	Books/Copies	22	44	18	36	10	20	50
2	Uniforms	15	30	22	44	13	26	50
3	Payment of fees	24	48	16	32	10	20	50
4	Admission in school	19	38	18	36	13	26	50

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The above table shows the decision of males and females regarding to buy the educational instruments of the children. As shown above table, 44 percent of male, 36 percent of female and 20 percent of both of them made decision to buy books and copies for children. Similarly, to buy their uniforms, the decision is made by 30 percent of male, 44 percent of female and 26 percent of both of them. Likewise, 48 percent of the male 32 percent of female and 20 percent of both of them made decision to pay the fees of the children. 38 percent of male, 36 percent of female and 26 percent of both of them decided regarding selection of school regarding their children's admission.

According to the table, it is clear that most of the decision regarding education of the children, their fees selection of school for admission is made by males where as female made the decision regarding the uniform of their children only. Though some of the roles are given to females, they are of less value. The major roles are assumed by the males

themselves. Thus, the females are engaged only in insignificant things, in which the final and most decisive decision is taken by males.

#### 4.6.4 Decision Making on the use health Services (Traditional /Modern)

Wives are again seen as the primary initiator and final decision makers for expenditure on medical treatment (both traditional/modern) among the 50 households.

**Table 9 Decision Making on the Use of Health Services**

S. N	Decision maker	Think First (No. of H.H)	Percentage	Final Decision Maker (No. of H.H)	Percentage
1	Husband	14	28	20	40
2	Wife	26	52	21	22
3	Other Male members	7	14	5	10
4	Other Female members	2	4	2	4
5	Jointly	1	2	2	4
Total		50	100	50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

Such decision making depicts women's greater control for the health of the family members. The husbands, however are consulted the most in such matters, as they score the highest 48 percent in the second stage of the decision making process. The other male members have a greater input than the female members in all three stages of decision making. The joint decisions are 2 percent only.

Hence, females are taken as only house keepers whose main duty is only inside the family. Their decisions do not contribute to the overall development of the family as these decisions can be completely subverted by the males. The females are forcefully made to internalize that they are

physically and mentally immature and weak, and as a result, they cannot make wise decisions.

#### **4.7 Decision Making Role in Social and Other Activities**

Males and females have different roles in the social activities. Males can participate in all social and other activities whereas females are restricted only within the family. The exposure of males in different activities supercede them than females in many respects. The female are made to be passive and silent, and accept whatever the males decide irrespective of the advantages and disadvantages.

##### **4.7.1 Decision Making in the Choice of Bridegroom**

The natural right to choose the bridegroom is not given to daughters. Moreover, their mother and other female members are also pathetic in this regard. The final decision is made by male members.

**Table 10 Decision Making in the Choice of Bridegroom**

S.N	Decision Maker	No. of H.H.	Percentage
1	Husband	18	38
2	Wife	12	24
3	Other Male members	6	12
4	Other Female members	2	4
5	Jointly	12	24
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey 2014

From the above table it can be concluded that husbands from 18(38 percent) out of the 50 household decide on the bridegroom for their daughters. The wives and other male members and joint decisions have 24 percent, 12 percent and 28 percent respectively each for the choice of bridegroom. It has been proved that the other female members are including the choice of the bridegroom.

Thus, female members are made just silent recipients of the male's decisions. Due to the age-old male ideology, the false and fake inferiority of female is naturalized.

#### 4.7.2 Decision Making in Dowry System

Dowry system is observed to be practiced among all the 50 households. Women are questioned whether taking fewer dowries with them during their marriage meant greater condemnation from their laws or the profile in households.

**Table 11 Decision Making in the Dowry System**

S.N	Decision Makers	No. of Household	Percentage
1	Husband	20	40
2	Wife	12	24
3	Male members	6	12
4	Female members	2	4
5	Jointly	10	20
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

From the above table, we see that husbands in the households appear to have a greater say 40 percent in the amount of dowry to be giving away for their daughters. Joint decisions are also comparatively strong 24 percent in these matters. The other male members and wives of the households have a low, while the other female, male including daughters(brides) have say no at all in this decision making process.

#### 4.7.3 Social/ Religious Ceremonies

Wives are mainly responsible for the two stages of decision making process namely as initiators and final decision makers for expenditure on

social/ religions obligations. But, their input as persons consulted equal that of the husbands.

**Table 12 Religious Ceremonies**

S.N.	Decision maker	Think First (No. of H.H)	Percent	Final Decision Maker (No. of H.H)	Percent
1	Husband	17	34	11	22
2	Wife	23	46	19	38
3	Male members	9	18	8	16
4	Female members	1	2	3	6
5	Jointly	-	-	9	18
Total		50	100	50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The above table clearly shows that the male members show the greater input as final decision makers than the other female members, the later show greater input as initiators than former, while joint decisions, and although low are found in the second and third stage of decision making.

The females are found to be most pathetic members in their own family. They are suppressed and dominated by their male counterparts. They are considered only as the manager of the household activities, where the important role is played by male members. Their decisions are only nominal and insignificant.

#### 4.7.4 Decision Making for the Use of Family Planning Measures

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present in most of the developing countries. Rapid population growth is the cause of the degradation of the quality of life as well as environment.

Family planning is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people. In developing countries, the

food production is low and there is lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is essential to balance and manage population and environment properly.

**Table 13 Decision Making for the Use of Family Planning Measures**

S.N	Decision maker	No .of Households	Percentage
1	Husband	19	38
2	Wife	17	34
3	Jointly	14	28
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

These 50 households using family planning measures reported their decisions for its use as being the strongest. Their inputs in this process constitute 34 percent of the total percentage. The joint decisions rank second 28 percent among the 40 households with the decision of the husbands following closely behind with 38 percent .The husband are found to be privileged to make the choices of family planning devices. Their dominant role in each and every sphere of life indicates the culmination of male domination and hegemony.

Thus, family planning was adopted in large households in my study area. So, it can be said that people have knowledge about family planning. Both husband and wife jointly decide which family planning measures to adopt. However, temporary family planning measure was practice in great deal. Though both husbands and wife use and decide the family planning devices, the role of husbands in deciding these devices is crucial.

#### 4.7.5 Decision Making in Sending Children to School

Education is generally regarded as the light of life, which leads us from the darkness to the brightness. It enlightens and brightens our life, thereby

removing the inherent weaknesses and short-comings. Every family has to take wise and timely decision about the education of their children. The role of husband and wife is found as follows regarding decision making in sending their children to school in my area of study:

**Table 14 Decision Making in Sending Children to School**

S.N.	Decision Maker	No. of Households	Percentage
1	Husband	22	44
2	Wife	20	40
3	Jointly	8	16
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

From the above table hundred percentage households are found to send their children to school. 44 percent of male, 40 percent of female and 16 percent of jointly have made decisions to send children to school.

The close analysis of the above table shows that women are backward in making decisions about sending their children to school. Though some of the women can be involved in decision making, others have to obey the decisions of their husbands. This clearly exhibits the dependency of female on male.

#### 4.7.6 Decision Making for Women's Education

Women education is one of the fundamental steps for women empowerment. Educated women can be self-supportive and self-dependent. It is helpful to release them from the cruel trap of male domination. But, the women are not free to decide about their education. They need to take permission from their husbands to attend the adult literacy classes. Only few of them can decide independently. The following table shows the decision making for women's education:

**Table 15 Decision Making for Woman's Education**

S.N	Decision making	No. of Households	Percentage
1	Husband	12	40.00
2	Wife	10	33.33
3	Jointly	8	26.67
Total		30	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The above table shows that only 30 of women among the 50 households are found to participate in adult literacy classes.

For the 30 women who participate in these classes, their husbands dominate as decision makers for their education, making up 40.00 percent of the total while the wife's decision is only 33.33 percent of the total and joint decisions of husband and wife is 26.67 percent of the total women.

Thus, with the help of their clever strategy of not sending females to get education, males are successfully continuing their dominating education for most of the females is the matter of mercy of their husbands.

#### 4.7.7 Community Activities

Community activities provide great chance to expose to the public. These activities determine the public image of a person and help to create their own identity. In my area of study, many women are found to be participated in community activities.

**Table 16 Women's Participation in Community Activities**

S.N	Participants	No. of Households	Percentage
1	Yes	28	60.87
2	No	18	39.13
Total		46	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

We see that women from 46 out of them 50 households participate in community groups like mother group, community forest group and agricultural group etc. these women form the large majority of 39.13 percent of the women who do not participate in such activities.

Though most of the females are found to be involved in different community activities, it is not found to be very effective because they are weakened and paralyzed in other sectors. Their interactions and discussions in such activities are not very useful to change their overall status. here, the politics of male ideology is successful to cause them falling behind indirectly.

#### **4.8 Decision Making Role in Other HHs Related Activities**

Different activities are performed within the family to run it smoothly. The role of both male and female is inevitable in every activity. There should be gender equality and equity. But, it is not found in the male - dominated society. The role of male and female in decision making is colored by discrimination and guided by male ideology. Some of the household activities and role of male and female are presented below.

##### **4.8.1 Control over Household Cash/ Expenditure/ Transactions**

Female's share is found more in decision making in case of general household expenditure. They have manage the expenditure of different kitchen items and other materials. The following table shows the control of female over household cash:

**Table 17 Control Over Household Cash**

S.N	Persons	No. of Households	Percentage
1	Husband	13	26
2	Wife	27	54
3	Male members	7	14
4	Female members	3	6
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

From the above table we see that wives make up the highest percent 54 percent among the other members of the household as the ones to keep the household money. However the other female members appear to have no such control as compared to their male counterpart. The female especially wife have dominant role in deciding the expenditure of household materials.

#### 4.8.2 Control over Bazaar Purchase

Every family has to purchase the essential materials from the market. In my field of study, the females have greater authority over purchasing the materials. They can decide what and where to buy but their purchasing authority is indirectly controlled by economy in which husband has complete grip. The following table show this situation:

**Table 18 Control Over Bazaar Purchase**

S.N	Persons	No. of Households	Percentage
1	Husband	14	28
2	Wife	25	50
3	Male members	7	14
4	Female members	3	8
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

The wives alone have a greater control over purchases required from the bazaar as compared to the other members of the household. The other female members, however, show very little control in this matter 8 percent which is in fact the least among the rest of the household.

The husbands alone make up 28 percent for control over bazaar purchases. The remaining males can control about 14 percent .This is less than female members to control over bazaar purchase.

The female despite having almost complete control over purchasing the essential things, are not free from male bondage. As they are engaged only in non-paying works, they have to kneel down in front of their husbands for money. So, inaccessibility to income sources have become a curse to female.

#### 4.8.3 Control over Family Expenditure

Female have sole control over other different family expenditures, which are mainly supposed to be minor. They are free to decide about small gifts. Loan to friends or relatives. But, in most of these cases, the final decisions are made by male. Discarding such things as insignificant and minor, males do not bear their responsibility regarding such things:

**Table 19 Control Over Family Expenditure**

S.N	Decision maker	Think Firstly (No. of H.H)	Percent	Final decision maker No. of H.H	Percent
1	Husband	8	19.05	16	32
2	Wife	22	52.38	24	48
3	Other Male members	7	16.67	3	6
4	Other Female members	5	11.90	5	10
5	Jointly	-	-	2	4
Total		42	100	50	100

*Source: Field Survey 2014*

Note: the decision is made for all sections of table No. 19 are carried out under the stage process, namely:

1. Initiators of the idea.
2. Persons consulted for that idea.
3. Final decision makers.

Only 8 (16 percent) out of the 50 households have expenditure on small gifts and loans to friends or relative. Among them, the wives reveal the greatest input as initiators 52.38 percent and final decision makers 48 percent for such expenditure, while the husbands are consulted the most in these matters, the other male and female members appear to have a low input as initiators and final decision makers.

In sum, the role of female in household decision making is ambivalent. They are allowed to make decisions in some so-called inferior and insignificant works, but the main and final decisions are taken by male only. The voices and suggestions of the females are found to be addressed only in some of the cases. Avoidance and negligence of female in household activities have lead to degradation of the family. Family welfare is possible only with the involvement of female. Active participation and involvement of women in each and every activity of the family including decision making in different matters is needed for the all round development of family members and it also helps to make the family happy, realty, progressive and prosperous.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Summary

This study on “Role of Women in Household Decision Making” was conducted in Hansposha VDC ward no. 05, aiming to assess the socio-economic status of women with the magnitude of their role in household decision making. Among the 278 total HHs, 50 HHs are surveyed. The study is carried-out in some sequential steps of research methodology such as defining research problem, reviewing literature, designing research, collecting data, analyzing data and interpreting data.

Women, being primarily the main agents of household economy, their role in decision making processes of household activities should be addressed. Therefore, it is crucial as well as important to carry out this study. To assess the decision making role of women in household, the socio-economic, cultural and many other variables have been chosen and analyzed. These variables encompass various dimensions of social structure (gender, caste, age group, ethnicity, class), socio-cultural norms, education, extension, motivation, income generation activities, expenditure pattern of HHs and HHs management activities. However the major findings of the study are as follows:

- Out of 50 HHs, 18 HHs are Chettri, 10 HHs are Bramhan, and 7 are Newar, and 5 HHs are Sarki, 4 HHs are Kami and Nakarmi, and 2 are Magar. Among them Chettri, the highest average size (36 percent), Bramhn (20 percent), Newar (15 percent), where Sarki, Kami, Nakarmi and Magar are 10 percent, 7 percent, 7 percent and 5 percent respectively.

- It is also found that there are only very few i.e. (15 percent) illiterate respondents in this area. Where the majority of the respondents are literate and they have passed SLC level i.e. 21 percent . From this, it is clear that there are mostly literate people in this study area.
- It is found that the majority of the population is engaged in business which has accounted 28 percent of the total. On the other hand, services are found 26 percent . Similarly, agriculture is 18 percent, foreign employment is 4 percent and other (daily wage earner, part time job and tourism activities) is 24 percent . Thus, in this study area business is seen as the main occupation.
- Similarly, it is found that the married women constitute large majority of 74 percent, widowed 18 percent, unmarried women 8 percent out of the total number of households.
- Through the study, it is found that we find only men in the category where the working hour per day is 2 hours. On the other hand women constitute 87.50 percent and men 12.5 percent within the category of the highest number of working hours/day. Which implies that women constitute a greater percentage of the higher number of working hours.
- Similarly, it is found that only 50 percent out of the 50 households are involved in business investment. Although wives have a greater input as initiators 26 percent, however the husbands appear as the main persons to be consulted 42 percent and as final decision makers 36 percent as well. 44 percent of male and 42 percent of female and 24 percent of both of them made decision on purchasing Radio. 42 percent of male, 36 percent of female and 22 percent of both of male and female made decision to purchase T.V. Likewise, 34 percent of male, 42 percent of female and 24 percent of both of them made decision to purchase furniture. At the same time 44 percent of male, 36 percent of female and 20 percent of both of them made decision to buy books and copies for

children. It is concluded that women as major decision maker of the many HHs expenditure activities.

- It is found that the wives and other male members and joint decisions have 24 percent, 12 percent and 28 percent respectively each for the choice of bridegroom, husbands in the households appear to have a greater say 24 percent in the amount of dowry to be given away for their daughters, 44 percent of male, 40 percent of female and 16 percent of jointly have made decision to send children to school and 40 percent of the wife decision only 33.33 percent of the total and joint decisions of husband and wife is 26.67 percent of the total women are decision makers for their own education.
- It is also found that the wives make up the highest percent 54 percent among the other members of the household as the ones to keep the household money and wives reveal the greatest input as initiators 52.38 percent and final decision makers 48 percent for control over family expenditure, which clearly shows that female members appear to have no such control as compared to their male counterpart.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

This study is concentrated on the analysis towards the decision making process of women in terms of social as well as household activities. Based on different facts, conclusion can be drawn that females have lower decision making power and they have sub-ordinate role in family or in the society. They are deprived from their right and responsibilities. They have lower decision making power than their male counterparts. In major household activities men played a dominate role in decision making. The females who have higher decision making than merely illiterate households. As our society is male dominated, males have

superior in most of the cases and females have to follow them, even they can't decide for child birth and treatment of illness.

It can be concluded that females have low socio-economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision making. So, it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate in major decision making process. Unless females are brought into the mainstream of development, it is impossible to develop society as well as the nation. For this, education and empowerment play a important role. This study shows that females have to work more in household activities, having less decision making. They have to follow their male partners decision in most of the cases. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

This study has been carried out to analyze the women's situation in decision making in household as well as other activities. Though women's decision making power has been increased in recent days but it is not satisfactory. A lot of governmental and non-governmental organizations are involving to empower the females socially as well as economically but result has not been achieved up to the desired. So, the GOS, NGO/INGOs have to work to empower and increase the potentialities of females. It is essential to implement the existing policies and programmers properly to enhance the capability of female.

On the basis of the above findings, it can be concluded that in order to promote the women's status at Hansposha VDC ward no.-5, many recommendations are forwarded as suggestions. The burning issues which help to enhance the women's decision making process, which are provided to different sectors as follows:

**i) To the Government:**

- The overall literacy rate should be increased with special emphasis upon promoting literacy rate among the women. This could be achieved by adult literacy classes and providing incentive to encourage greater enrollment of girls in schools.
- Discriminatory Acts/Laws and practices in all sectors such as legal, political, social and economical should be addressed carefully to enhance women's participations not only in household decision making process but along within all multi dimensional areas.

**ii) To the I/NGOs or CBOs :**

- Another important program is to increase the public awareness program against the gender discrimination in the study area. Thus, it is recommended to conduct such program by some independent Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- To promote the status and economy of women, skill promotion packages and awareness programs may prove highly effective which can be conducted by NGOs.
- Reforms should be made regarding the various women related government policies and programmed. Though various programmed have been run by NGOs, INGOs and Human Rights Organization to uplift the status of women in every field at national level, these programmed shouldn't only be confined within cities and headquarters but it should be practice from the grass root level. Then only the aim to improve the status of women and to bring equality among male and female can be achieved.

**iii) To the Local Government:**

- Women's role in farm management is significant. So, they should be encouraged through training to adopt latest scientific agriculture technology in order to increase their productivity by contributing their local level resources allocation.

**iv) To the Male and Female People:**

- Late marriage among the women should be encouraged with the aim of reducing their child bearing age and consequently lesser confinement to their reproductive roles.
- Family planning programs should be promoted for greater practice and adoption of these measures by both men and women. Again, the purpose is to reduce the confinement of women to their reproductive roles within the domestic sector and encouragement of economic participation among them.
- Promotion of joint decisions within the household should be stressed upon through informal education program. These joint decisions by both the male as well as female members seem more favorable to reach at effective decisions.

**v) To the Policy Makers:**

- Marketing mechanism for the products of handicrafts is not well established so that the demand status of the product is decreasing. Hence, support to the households in terms of marketing and advertising their products is recommended because their act as incentive for them to produce more so that proper goal of income generation activities can be met.

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9. Please help me with detail information of your family .

S.N	Name	Sex	Age Year			Education	Occupation	Marital Status
			Below 15	15-59	Above 60			

10. How many Children do you have ?

- a. Son                                      b. Daughter                                      c. None

**B. Information Regarding Household Decision Making**

**I. Farm Management Aspect**

1. Please inform me about your cropping pattern.

	Summer	Winter
Area		
Crop		
Production		

**Socio-economic Aspects**

1. What is your attitude towards public service ?

- a. tough                                      b. public oriented                                      c. unavailable for poor

2. Is anybody in the family in public service ?

- a. Yes                                      b. No

3. Who inspired him/her to join public services ?

- a. wife                                      b. Husband                                      c. Other

4. Why s/he prefer to join the public service ?

- a. Security                                      b. facility                                      c. Provident fund

5. In which position does s/he is in ?

- a. Officer                                      b. assistance officer                                      c. others

6. Who decides to spent the money ?

- a. Wife                                      b. Husband                                      c. others

7. Who plays vital role for managing the house ?  
a. Wife                      b. Husband                      c. others
8. Is any one member of your family has been to foreign countries ?  
a. Yes                      b. No
9. If yes, then who has been there ?  
a. wife                      b. Husband                      c. others                      d. Son
10. How the household Economic status improved due to foreign earning ?  
a. Education                      b. Business                      c. Gadgets                      d. all
11. Who decides him/her to send foreign country ?  
a. Education                      b. Business                      c. Gadgets                      d. all
12. What type of alternative source of income do you have ?  
a. rent                      b. business                      c. stock market
13. Who makes decision on all the aspects ?  
a. Wife                      b. Husband                      c. Both

## **II. Health Aspect**

1. Where did you get treatment when you suffered from illness ?  
a. Health Center                      b. Private Clinic                      c. Hospital
2. Who decides to take care for treatment ?  
a. Self                      b. Husband                      c. Both                      d. Others
3. Do you use family planning ?  
a. Yes                      b. NO
4. If Yes , who decided to use family planning method ?  
a. Self                      b. Husband                      c. Both
5. Where did you deliver your first baby ?  
a. Home                      b. Hospital
6. Who made this decision ?  
a. Self                      b. Husband                      c. Both                      d. Others



3. Who decides to spend your income ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Both
4. Who generally keeps the household money ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Others
5. Who usually goes to the bazaar purchases ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Both
  - d. Others
6. Do you sell your agricultural products when it is surplus ?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
7. If Yes, who decides to sell the agricultural products ?
  - a. Self
  - b. Husband
  - c. Both
  - d. Others
8. Do your husband /family member focus your consent while purchasing any kind of property ?
  - a. Yes
  - No.