

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

Nepalese women constitute slightly more than half percent, i.e. 50.05 percent of the total population. The national census 2001 has estimated 23.15 million where male accounts for 49.95 percent and female for 50.05 percent.

Different study related to women shows that they can play multidimensional role to overall development of the country. But the contribution of women to overall development of the country is very unsatisfactorily because of the traditional norms, values and concepts. Nepalese women are still found to be suppressed, exploited, neglected and forced to live insecure life caused by illiteracy, lacking access to health facilities, poverty, orthodox tradition and discriminatory legal system (NPC: Ninth Plan).

Traditionally women's status in Nepal, compared to men has always been low. They lacked proper nutrition, and were not sent to school for education. Their access to health services was very limited. Moreover, they were denied property inheritance and even reproductive rights. In recent years, things have been changing and the status of women in Nepal is also improving, (Nepal Population Report, 2007:101).

Two crucial parts of society, male and female, which could not be separated for the whole existence of the world, were separated according to religion, social norms, rites, rituals and tradition keeping male to the upper position and female to the lower position. Thus, women got low status and men got high status in the society. Women were considered

weak and to be protected by male and were obliged to perform household duties and their presence in productive sector was also denied which reduced all the productive potentiality of women. This exclusion of women from productive role, which was the main stumble of development, was ignored from the beginning.

Women although, cover half of the total population in Nepal, their involvement in economic activities is not fully assessed. Due to lack of education and skill most of the women depend on their husband or family for their living. Only a few women are engaged in high professional Jobs such as doctor, engineer, officer etc. Some are engaged in business, industries however it's number is quite negligible.

Since the historic period, women have been taking household responsibility contributing to the family, communities and the country even being in trap of religion, patriarchal system, gender discrimination. They have been deprived of equal rights, equal freedom and equal opportunity in social, economic as well as political fields. Being deprived of all these opportunities and rights, they are performing their duties for regulating the society. One of the crucial responsibilities they are performing that is households management through their economic support. But their contribution in maintaining households have been ignored from the past to the present.

Women have been holding the key responsibility in the house. They are the manager and future path maker for their children and creator of suitable environment for the betterment of their family. In the participation of household work women constitute fairly high percentage than that of men both in developed and developing countries. Women in our rural society bear the burden of backbreaking work, non-paying

responsibilities, perform subordinate roles and in return they get lower status than man in the family, community and in country. They work very hard from dawn to dusk for their family (Subedi, 8, March, 2000, The Ktm. Post). Women engaged in agriculture labour are paid less than their male counterparts and they do not get respectable high class job because of lack of education and are obliged to work in unhealthy environment of factories where they get less than their labour expensed. In the third world women contribute to the household economy from fuel wood gathering, water fetching from distance, child rearing, working in the farm and they are also involved in income generating activities like food processing, agricultural products, cottage industries etc. to help the family financially.

Women both in traditional and modern social structure have been the victim of great exploitation. Condemning women as being economically unproductive and limiting their role to that of reproduction have a host of repercussion, all of which are detrimental to women and their status in society (Devi, 1991:86).

In the developed countries women enjoys better respect and opportunities than in the developing country like Nepal. They are equally involved in economic activity and there is no disparity in women's salary. The sex oriented jobs are minimized. But in the developed countries too, the responsibility of family and house goes to the women's head. Women's share of total hours per week at housework exceeds that of men in great extent. Total hour spend by women in household works accounts in Canada 64 percent, Germany 79 percent, Italy 75 percent, Japan 90percent, Russia 63 percent, U.K. 72 percent and USA 63 percent where men participation to this stands 36, 21, 25, 10, 37, 28 and 37 percent respectively (News week, 18, may 1998). The

labour force participation rate of women remains higher as compared to their male counterparts.

Gender based discrimination is deeply rooted to our society. The extent of discrimination is prevailed not only in social spheres but also in economic and productive fields. Despite their contribution to household and agricultural sectors they are labeled as a house maker and dependent. Women have both productive and reproductive capabilities. Our society only considers them as reproductive neglecting all their productive contributions to the family, society and to the country.

Discriminatory social outlook, social trend, traditions, rite, and rituals, lack of education, lack of legal consciousness and patriarchal social system are the most prominent factors dominating women and keeping them in subordination in our society. This domination towards them has reduced all their potentiality from the childhood and they have become the victim of our religiously bounded culture and society.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Women make important contribution to their family and community, but because their work is not considered productive from a socio-economic point of view. Their contribution has been ignored and is not included in the national statistics. Their social, economic, and political situation seem pathetic.

Nepalese women who constitute even more than half of the population, are still confined within the four walls of their houses. They are underprivileged and backward in terms of their socio-economic standing compared to their male counterparts. They have become the victim of gender discrimination, Hindu culture and traditions prevailed

in our society. In our society education for girl child is considered unnecessary and they are taken as a family's liability.

Much more studies have been conducted and all those studies have emphasized women participation in Development process and income generating activities. But women household burden and their involvement in productive sector are not sufficiently reported so far. They perform nearly 25 percent more hours than those of men but their consistent workload is never accounted in the national economy.

The "Universal Declaration of Human right" has cross a half long century along with the global call for "Gender Equity" Nepalese women, who constitute even more than half of the population, are still confined within the four walls of their household. For instance, life expectancy at birth is 60.6 years for men while it is 61.0 years for women, (CBS, 2001). Likewise the estimated literacy rate of man is 65.1 percent but that of women is only 42.23 percent (CBS, 2001).

Women in rural area work heavily from morning to twilight not caring the season. They have been bearing double responsibility of household work in which cooking, fetching water, collection of firewood; processing food and caring for child and included. Apart from these work women work in agricultural field as a porter and processor. They have no say in decision making in household, economic and any other family related issues. They are always behind the men but they have not failed to support the family through their earning the entire household burden depends upon women. Despite their great contribution both in the family and outside economic fields they are still under privileged and their labour is valued with low respect.

In the Nepalese social context most of the women are deprived of educational opportunity which has affected them to know their actual

image, their value of work and social role. Their labour is supposed less important and they get low amounts in every economic activity. On the other hand, because of patriarchal system, lacks of education and strict religious tradition women have no access in decision making in household, social and economic issues. They earn money from different economic activities but because of lack of decision - making access their earned money goes to other's hand. In our society women earn money but for the expense of the earning the household head, who is generally a male, decides where to use and how to use. Therefore women's actual contribution to the family has become unclear. The entire household burden depends upon women. Despite their great contribution both in the family and outside economic fields they are still underprivileged and their labour is valued with low respect.

This study is a product to value the women's unreported household participation, gender discrimination as well as their less reported socio-economic activity which they undertaken in small business or wage labour that women are engaged in.

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

The main objective of this study is to study the socio-economic role of women to their households in Chhisty village, ward No-1.

The specific objectives are:

- i. To know the socio-economic background of women in Chhisty village.
- ii. To study the present socio-economic status of the women in Chhisty village.
- iii. To assess the women's economic role to their households.
- iv. To study the decision making process within the household.

#### **1.4 Importance of the Study**

Women are still remaining a disadvantaged group in our society. Whereas they are equal partner and one of the wheels to regulate the society. They are always behind men, behind national plans and they have not their sole identity in the society. The speed of social or economic development never accelerates until the contribution of women is considered invaluable. But for this situation, Nepal has been launching a number of programmes in order to uplift the women's in the development endeavors but the expected result is not yet to be realized or in the other words, the gained from our past attempts are not seemed exciting. Women's household responsibilities, their economic activities are differ from communities to communities and in different geographic regions. To know the fact we should go to the certain communities. After completing this research it will bring out the findings of women's economic support to their household in Chhisty village.

Similarly, this study will be a milestone for all those national and foreign sociologist and economist wishing to conduct the similar study about women besides, it will equally help government and non-governmental organizations and agencies to understand a simple rural characteristics about the socio-economic condition of the Nepalese women.

#### **1.5 Organization of Study**

This study is divided into six chapters. First chapter includes background, statement of the problem, objective of the study, importance of the study, limitation of the study. Second chapter reviews the available theoretical and empirical literature. Third chapter relates to the

research methodology that describes research design, area selection, sampling, source of data, nature of data, data collection method and tools of analysis. Fourth chapter describes features of study area demographically and socio-economically. Like-wise, Fifth chapter includes the description of social, economic and health status of the responded women. Decision making role is also included in this chapter. And lastly, Six chapter includes summary, conclusion and recommendation.

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

- \* This study is based on field work.
- \* This study is mainly confined to women living in ward no. 1 of Chhisty Village. The study will not represent the socio-economic role of the whole nation.
- \* Only the economically active population of aged between 15 to 59 years women are taken in this study.

This study will represent only the women of this area. This study does not represent all the women of Nepal and their contributions. Time and budget are also the limitation of this research.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Review of Selected Literatures**

There have been some studies and feature article, books as well as training papers, concerning the women's development program, women's economic role and household decision making access both at national as well as international level.

Stressing on the status of women UN decade for women writes; "Women perform two thirds of all working hours, receive one tenth of the worlds income and own less than one percent of the world property (UN Decade for Women, 1980).

Boserup Easter's "Women Role in Economic Development" was published in 1970. The book has shown the economic role played by women in the economy of all underdeveloped and developing countries. She writes "In many countries of their many parts women have played pivotal role in supporting the family through their significant economics contribution. In south Africa women take a large share of work and in addition they have to support their husband not only in household activities but also in major alternative economic activities like employment trade and crafts. The west African women contribute 44 percent of the gross income of the family and most of the self-employed women have to provide at least, part of the clothing and cash amount out of their earning. In this way they perform domestic duties for the husband half of them also help him on his form. Economically the women are supported to be weak and subjected to low paying unskilled job in many developing countries. In fact women work two thirds of the total work hours but the tragedy is that their backbreaking toil is not

recognized as work. They are taken for granted as women's born duty and natural responsibility. Thus women are suffering from the sense of insecurity and feeling of inferiority.

The participation of women in various development activities is a prerequisite for the long term socio-economic development of a country. But there is a tendency to value men's work and thus overlook women's contribution to household work and agriculture. Unequal rank and power in decision making and benefit are legitimized by traditional societal norms. Owing to this there is a strong belief that females should confine themselves to such tasks as cooking, washing, taking care of children and should be involved in traditional male activities. But studies reveal that women also participate in farm activities besides performing household task (Bennett; 1981).

Women in most countries are the integral part of the labor force, but level of participation in production process varies quite considerably across society. Numerous are the factors which determine the nature or level of economic involvement in a society. The most important determinant of economic role of women in any society is possibly the traditional division of labor by sex which has further been influenced by numerous factors varying from one historical phase to another. Partly because women are supposed differently in different societies and partly because the term 'work' has no standard definition, marked variation in the level of workforce participation rate are noted across the country (Singh, 1996:56).

Men and women in society are situated not only differently but also unequally. This inequality results from the organization of society, not from any significant biological or personality difference between

men and women. Although individual human beings may vary somewhat from each other in their profile of potentials and traits, no significant pattern of natural variations distinguishes the sexes. All inequality theories assumed that both women and men would respond fairly, easily and naturally to more equalitarian structures and situation (Ritzer, 2000).

One of the most useful study presented by (ILO) has been "Assessing women's economic participation to development 1988" by Ruth Dixon Muller and Richard Anker. Several pragmatic approaches are made to the issues of women, particularly in respect to their economic participation.

The book, in particular, has cited the importance and usefulness, by incorporating an analysis of women's economic roles and of prevailing constraints on their economic productivity. It also portrays the picture of females' overwhelming participation of their total family incomes, that is to say, slightly more than 50 percent of household incomes. Daily work burden is more on women than in men, the study reveals. The study also indicates that the female working duration exceeds that of men by 2 to 3 hours per day. The average work hours for Nepalese adult women is about 12-13 hours and for adult men about 10 hours (Dixon, p.45,1998).

Asian Development Bank has conducted several studies on Nepalese women and then found that women in the economy, a substantial proportion of Nepalese women (40%) are economically active; most of them are employed in agriculture. They work as unpaid family worker in subsistence agriculture with low technology and primitive farming practices. They carry the double burden of work in the family and the farm and have to work long hours with more men

entering other non farming sectors. Agriculture is becoming increasingly feminized. Women participate on a large scale in tourism and related sectors. Their employment in organized manufacturing is also expanding. But in all these sectors they are concentrated at lower levels due to educational disadvantages and management biases. Their working conditions are very poor and trade union activism is low. These issues are aggravated by lack of gender - disaggregated data on employment and wages (ADB, 1999).

Dr. Meena Acharya and Lanne Bennet have published a remarkable research book about the women's economic participation and their command over decision making process under the title "Women and the subsistence sector: Economic participation and the household decision making in Nepal, 1993". They have listed some important findings which contain the women's participation in economic activities and their decision making power over their family.

Nepalese women are bearing a overwhelming role in, economic as well as domestic sector's work and hence, their contribution to the family's household income is also significant. However, there is some variation on the extent of their assistance to the family in terms of caste and the communities but not on the work burden. The time allocation studies reveal women's major role in agriculture production, both as labours and as manager of the production process.

Men are able to spend considerably more time in the market economy not only because of their socialization but also the greater mobility and the greater access to education and capital. Female labor and efforts are likely to confine within the family, mobilizing themselves only in the subsistence base. (Acharya and Bennet)

Women have been playing crucial role not only in the household sector but also in agriculture field. It can be said without exaggeration that major activities in agriculture are performed by women themselves from cultivation to purification which adds extra income to the family management. But their overwhelming role in economic as well as domestic sector's has increased their total working hours comparing to their male counterparts, which has become one of the factor playing favorable role to reduce their notable representation in market economy. This low representation of women in the market economy not only reduces their contribution in the overall economy but also plays a negative role for the minimization of decision making process in issues. Therefore women's involvement in the economic sectors positively effects the throughout development of a country and affects can also be seen in women's status as well as in reducing fertility rates.

Showing women's contribution Dr. Meena Acharya writes, Women play a significant role in the Nepalese economy. According to the 1991 census women constitute 71 percent of the labor force in agriculture. They also generate more of the average household income than men do (55 percent compare to 44 percent by men) and they work on an average 10.8 hours per day compared to 7.5 hours by men. The status of women study completed contribute more than 58 percent of the household community to Nepalese agriculture is substantial or at least equal to that of men. Women contribute to both in terms of labor and decision - making. The hill agriculture is primarily depended on women due to male migration from the hill, and women operate most of the farms. Even in the Terai areas women are engaged in farm work in small holding directly. The better off household women support farming activities by looking food for the labor in the field, helping in harvesting, storage, seed selection etc. Animal care is a women's responsibility

among all farm groups. Agriculture is becoming progressively feminized. Many women engaged in family farms are still reported as economically not active. (Acharya, 39). According to the 2001 census, women constitute 43 percent of the labor force, 73 percent in agriculture and 27 percent in non-agriculture sectors. Women's proportion has increased almost in all occupations to some extent. But their greater concentration in agriculture is also visible.

Various studies show the pathetic condition of women in our society even at the very even of twenty first century, and the situation is even worse in case of some communities. They have to work more hours than that of men and hence, they are providing a significant economic support in their household management, involving in various income earning activities, such as vegetable, farming and selling, weaving etc. along with all their household responsibilities.

In this respect Nepalese women have double responsibilities child care, kitchen works, managing fodder for livestock etc. are supposed to be their regular duties and on the other hand they are providing a notable financial assistance to their family, participating in various alternative income earning sources. However their active participation has not been reflected in the national economic statistics.

## **2.2 Women and Systematic Plan**

Following the United Nation's call for celebrating international women year 1975 by developing various women related activities to bring the women in the main stream of the development. National working plan was prepared incorporating educational, health and employment, agricultural, co-operatives and ensuring women's involvement in developing policy for the first time in sixth plan (1980:85). The plan in principle showed its commitment to increase

women participation by eliminating the obstacles apparent in the process and work towards all round development of the Nepalese society including the women community.

Similarly, the seventh plan (1985-1990) also adopted national level policy and working policy for the women development to increase their participation by raising their social and economic status. the government after the restoration of democracy in 1990 to had been committed to equitable and meaningful participation of women in the development.

The order to foster such participation, the eight plans (1992-97) adopted policies for women in development through institutional arrangement. the commitment was also made through wider extension of credit and technical know-how. Likewise the Ninth plan (1997-2002) having two major aim of poverty alleviation and Human resource development has made women the target group that actively needed to addressed during the plan period. Considering the need for an enhanced participation of women in national development stream, the ninth plan has a policy to empower and to extend the institutional structure for the women development with effective coordination to the related sectors.

The Tenth plan (2059/060-2063/064) B.S.) was aimed at abolishing all kinds of discriminations against women engrossing them at policy and decision making level as well as streamlining them in every sectors of development in accordance with Nepal's commitments on the international women conference (Beijing +5) recognizing women as the center of development to meet the objectives of the plan, economic growth, poverty alleviation and so on.

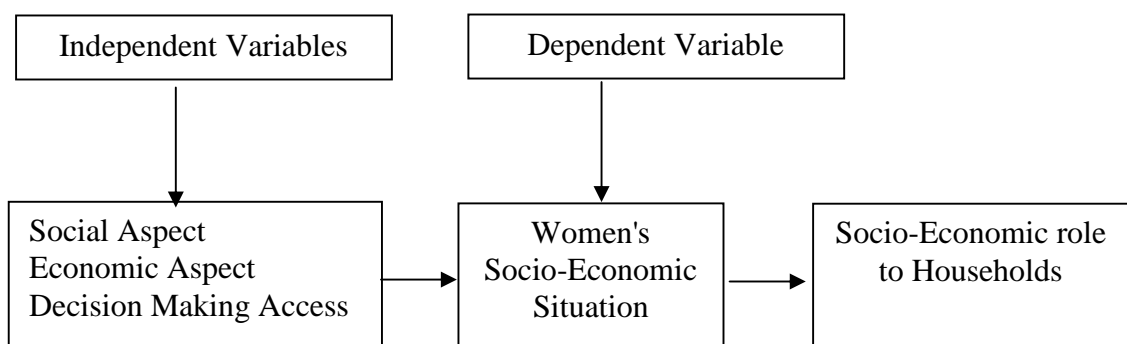
Stressing unliterary programs, health care facilities, employment and income earning opportunities, the plan has set some strategies,

Nevertheless, we have come a long way, in changing the existing attitude towards women, though the programs launched for the development of women in the past have not been able to raise the social and economic status of women as desired. Despite efforts made for the upliftments of women as a whole, the urban women have nearly always been core benefited such programs.

### 2.3 Conceptual Framework

Many variables can affect women's socio-economic activities which determines their socio-economic condition and is the main indicator of their socio-economic support to the household. However, some key variables such as economic aspect, decision-making access and social aspect are taken as independent variables, in to account for the purpose of the present study.

It is difficult to find out the extent of economic support of women in the household (family) because most of the household activities performed by them are taken as an uneconomic and unproductive. However, it has been examined through three phases which are supposed to be the determinant of the women's economic condition to the household.



As shown in the figure women's social aspect, in which many social variables such as age, material status, family size and family

types, education, caste/ethnicity etc. effect their socio economic aspect and decision making aspect. Therefore, they are interrelated to each other. If women's social status is favorable, their economic aspect and decision making assess over their economic matters will increase simultaneously. These three variables determine the women's actual economic situation in the household.

Women's economic aspect (women's involvement in economic activities and their income source), is the main indicator of women's socio-economic status, determines the extent of their economic support in the family. But their economic aspect is also influenced by social variables. For instance take an economic variable work opportunities and it's relation to another social variable education. Educated and learned women can participate in economic activities and may seek the source of income and their income source keep them in a decision making position in the family due to their financial contribution. If the women have decision making power in the household, it will positively influence to upgrade their economic and social status. Thus, women's decision - making access also helps their family economically because it allows them to choose a right job and can go outside to work and earn women having decision rights over the social event, family related issues and over their earning might give them a chance to properly utilize their money on social fields such as child's education: health, housing, land etc. also support family economically because proper utilization of money is also an economic support.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research methodology to achieve above objective in depth addressing the statement of problems in the study area is structured below.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The ongoing research has been conducted mainly depending on descriptive research method. Some statistical tools and its interpretation has also been used to make research more empirical. In other words information and data have been collected and systematized following both tabulated as well as descriptive research designs.

#### **3.2 Selection and Rational of the Study Area**

For this study, ward No. 1 of Chhisty area has been selected. This VDC is one of the rural and remote area of Baglung district and has rural characteristics. In this ward women are involved in various economic activities to earn for household need. There are some reasons to select this area for the present study which is mentioned below.

- \* No research work in this issue has been conducted before in this area through a sociological point of view.
- \* The researcher is interested to study about the status of women, though it is a small scale study.

#### **3.3 Population and Sampling Method:**

The ward No. 1 of Chhisty VDC. is purposively selected for this study. According to the office of the VDC, total female population of this ward is 328. Out of total female population there are 170 women of 15-59 age group which is the universe of the study. Only 30 percent women among 15-59 age groups from the universe have been selected

by applying Random Sampling method which is 51 in Number. Women below 14 years and above 60 years are not included in this study.

### **3.4 Nature and Source of Data**

Data collection is an important part of any research. Until and unless data are properly collected the study cannot be completed satisfactorily. In the research two types of data have been collected by researcher through the data collection techniques. Secondary data have been collected from various published and unpublished books, VDC records, articles and central Bureau of statistics and primary data have been collected from the following technique.

### **3.5 Data Collection Technique**

In this study various technique of data collection have been used to bring the successful result. These techniques have been used to sample women. The applied technique in this study are discussed below.

#### **3.5.1 Interview Schedule**

For this study necessary data, related to women's socio-economic aspect, their decision making access and their economic support, have been collected by semi-structured questionnaire. For the data collection, a set of semi-structured questionnaire has been formed. A set of questionnaire has been listed on appendices.

#### **3.5.2 Observation**

In this study the researcher has personally visited the study area to observe women's daily way of life, residence, food habit, their interpersonal relationship and the relationship between their families. Information of their economic and social conditions is gathered from this method.

### **3.5.3 Case Study**

To make this research successful, information about a particular unit, be it a person or family, have been gathered from this case study. So the two women units of different economic status have been taken for case study. In this research, case study of Laxmi Sharma- 33, Rita Pariyar-44 are included.

### **3.6 Data analysis and interpretation**

The collected data and information have been processed data manually in master table. The data have been analyzed by both in quantitative and qualitative ways. Descriptive as well as statistical method such as tabulation method is also used wherever is felt necessary

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE SETTING**

#### **4.1 Physical Setting**

Baglung district is in Dhawalagiri zone of western Nepal. Its area is 1784 square kilometer. It is situated in between 28°15' to 28°37' Northern latitude and 83°00' to 83°36' eastern longitude. It is bordered with Parbat to east, Gulmi and Pyuthan to south, Myagdi to north and Rolpa and Rukum to west. The total population of the district is 268,937 (145,409 Female and 123,528 male) with 1.46 percent annual increment rate (CBS 2001). This district consists of 59 VDCs and 1 municipality. Average population density is 151 per square kilometer.

Chhisty V.D.C lies in the southern part of the district. It is about 17 K.M far from the district head quarters of Baglung. It is situated near the bank of Kaligankdaki River. The main occupation of the people of this village is agriculture and agriculture related activities. The research site of this study is ward No. 1 situated in the middle of the village. There is no access of motor road.

#### **4.2 Climate**

The climate of the study area is sub tropical and monsoon type of climate. The seasonal monsoon normally arrives over this region during the second week of June and lasting for 4-5 months till August and sometimes September in accordance with the extent of monsoon.

#### **4.3 Natural Resources**

In Nepalese context, land, forest and water are the main important natural resources in the village. Most of the people directly depend upon agriculture. Because of irrigation problems a large quantity of land is useless.

In the study area the land resources are divided in three parts they are Khet, Bari and Pakho. The Khet is useful for paddy, maize and wheat, which is cultivated land with irrigation facilities. Pakho is poor land which is not useful grow crops it is only for grass.

Another natural resource of the study area is forest, which is the main source of obtaining fodder, fuel wood, medicine and construction materials for the households.

#### 4.4 Population

The Population composition of this VDC varies in terms of different wards and ethnic groups. The total population of this VDC is 5674 with 2455 male and 3219 female. The total number of household of this VDC is 1134. Ward wise population distribution is given below in table No 4.1

**Table No 4.1**  
**Ward Wise Population Distribution by Sex**

Ward No	H .H .No.	Male	Female	Total	%
1	108	220	328	548	9.65
2	125	243	365	608	10.72
3	103	216	317	533	9.39
4	142	328	405	733	12.91
5	124	291	346	637	11.23
6	153	313	423	736	12.98
7	124	284	340	624	10.99
8	127	254	358	612	10.79
9	128	306	337	643	11.33
Total	1134	2455	3219	5674	100.00

Source: Population Census, 2001

From the table No 1, we observe that there are 2455 (43.27%) male and 3219 (56.73%) are female in the VDC.

#### 4.5 Caste/Ethnic composition

Chhisty VDC is inhabited by heterogeneous ethnic group with major domination of Brahmin. Caste/ethnic composition of Chhisty VDC is given below in table No 4.2

**Table No 4.2**  
**Caste/Ethnic composition of Chhisty VDC**

S.N	Caste/ Ethnicity	Population	Percent
1	Brahmain	2254	39.73
2	Magar	1394	24.57
3	Sarki	720	12.68
4	Kami	534	9.42
5	Chhetri	526	9.28
6	Damai	160	2.82
7	Gharti/Bhusel	61	1.07
8	Unidentified Dalit	12	0.21
9	Others	13	0.22
	Total	5674	100.00

Source: CBS, 2001

#### 4.6 Religion

There is mainly only one religion practices by the people of this Chhisty VDC. The composition of religion of the village has been shown in the following table no. 4.3

**Table No 4.3**  
**Distribution of Population by Religion**

S.N	Religion	Population	Percentage
1.	Hindu	5646	99.52
2.	Buddha	8	0.14
3.	Islam	1	0.01
4.	Not Stated	19	0.33
	Total	5674	100.00

Sources: CBS, 2001

#### **4.7 Festivals**

In the village people celebrates all the festivals according to the Hindu religion. The main festivals are Vijaya Dashami, Tihar, Maghe Sankranti, Teej (festivals of women in which married women take a fast expecting long life of their husband)), Bala Chaturdashi, and Krishna Janmastami, Janai Purnima, Fagu Purnima (festivals of color's), Ram Navami etc are celebrated by the people but Dashain and Tihar are celebrated as major festivals.

#### **4.8 Rites and Rituals**

There are certain rites and rituals related to Hindu religion that people follow in the village. The main rites and rituals are, birth ceremony, name-giving ceremony which takes place at the eleventh day of the birth of a new child.

Rice-feeding is the ritual in which baby is fed food after six months, tonsure ceremony is organized when a boy enters to an adolescence age, initiation, marriage ceremony and death rites which all are operated according to the Hindu religion.

## **4.9 Residential System**

Traditional structures of the house and compound have been representing their years long identify. However some new styles of residential system is taking place. There does not exist the sufficiency of drinking water supply though there seems a potential if fairly mobilized the existing internal sources to the existing population.

## **4.10 Occupation**

The pattern of women's as well as households occupational confinement in the study area seems to differ among every community. Their occupational involvement largely seems dual in character. For example, the same household is found to be engaged in agriculture, but at the same time a significant fraction of income is found to be derived from the service they are engaged in. Likewise the same household is seemed to be involved both in agriculture and wage labour. This shows that the household derive the income for livelihood from various sectors as for example agriculture, business, wage labor, service, etc. Dalit community seemed engaged in the wage labor. Rich Brahmin/Chhetri and some extent of Magar keep themselves up in agriculture.

## **4.11 Infrastructure development**

Development process of the overall village is far behind due to its physical feature. There is not motor road facility. Agriculture has become a common occupation of the people but most of the agriculture lands are deprived of irrigation facility and farmers should depend on the rainwater to perform agriculture activities.

There are 5 primary, 2 lower secondary, 1 secondary and 1 higher secondary school. There is a sub health post. It has one post office and

telephone service is found in the field of communication. There is not electricity facility. But in the present study ward there is a micro hydropower which produces just 8000 watt. The VDC has some drinking water facility but the supply is not enough.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTIC**

The degrees of women's socio-economic condition are affected by numbers of social and economic factors. So in this chapter women's social and economic aspect are highlighted and discussed.

#### **5.1 Social Aspect**

While studying the social aspect of the society, a number of factors would be accounted for, in order to understand their socio-economic condition as well as their relative status. Women's social aspect is highly influenced by various cultural factors. Cultural factors has highly influenced the way of life, his/her economic mobility, the individual status etc. Which identifies the level of their recognition over the family and the society. This study tries to incorporate all these social aspect and variables to make the status more complete. There are variables such as caste, ethnicity, age, education, marital status, land ownership etc. which fix the women's socio-economic condition insider and outside the domestic circle. the social aspects of the respondent have been described taking the following variables into consideration.

##### **5.1.2 Age Distribution of Respondent**

Age is one of the important factors responsible to determine the economic activity of the people. The age-wise distribution of the respondent of the study are is shown in the table No. 5.1.

**Table No 5.1**  
**Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Age Group**

Age Group	No. of Respondent Women	Percentage
15-19	9	17.64
20-24	12	23.52
25-29	8	15.68
30-34	5	9.8
35-39	6	11.76
40-44	4	7.84
45-49	3	5.88
50-54	2	3.92
54-59	2	3.92
Total	51	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The above table shows the women of 20-24 age group are highest in number. They share 23.52 percent in the conducted sampled figure. Similarly, women of 15-19 age group are 17.64 percent whereas the age group between 25-29 are remain 15.68 percent. Likewise the age group of 30-34 years are found 9.8 percent. The age groups of 35-39, 40-44, 45-49 and 50-54 have share of 11.76, 7.84, 5.88 and 3.92 percent respectively. Women of the age group of 55-59 is seemed only 3.92 percent.

From the table we find the nature of population distribution terms of age group, the higher age of women less in their number, i.e. their age-wise number in decreasing in order except the age group of 20-24.

The observation reveals that the majority member of women who are economically active falls on very child bearing age which

subsequently effects in the extended economic performance of the individual. The result is than, dual burden of workload child caring to performing other household and subsistence responsibility. However the work burden does not fairly diminish as the age o women increases."

### 5.1.1 Cast/Ethnicity

Caste/ethnicity is another social variable, which also effects the women's involvement in economic fields. In the societies like ours caste and ethnicity have become an indicator of economic independence various studies have shown that Buddhist women re more independent from economic point of view than the women of Hindu communities. The caste/ethnic composition of the respondent women has been tabulated in the following table No.5.2.

**Table No 5.2**  
**Distribution of Respondent by Caste/Ethnicity**

Caste/Ethnicity	No. of R. Women	Percentage
Brahmin	43	84.3
Sarki (Cobbler)	5	9.8
Kshetri	3	5.9
Total	51	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From table No.5.2 we observe that Brahmin women have occupied the majority in caste/ethnic composition, which are 84.3 in percent. The cobbler (Sarki) women have the second majority occupation 9.8 percent. The Kshetri women constitute about 5.9 percent out of the total respondent of the study area.

The study reveals that all above total caste group are living in own communities. Brahmin and Kshetri are found living together keeping Sarki a bit far from their communities. It could be easily observed that

caste ethnic discrimination was clearly found with the distribution of settlement of the respected caste. Now a day they are not treated as they were treated before. Co-operation and exchanges of household goods and labour between communities are found in practice among the households in the study area. Education, labour migration and Maoist people war have been played a crucial role to change the concept of traditional caste system.

### 5.1.3 Education

Education is the main factor, which affects the overall social as well as economic aspect of women. It is considered that education is the crucial agent in achieving economic as well as political transformation. Education not only supports to enhance women's ability to fulfill their traditional domestic and familial roles but also works as a level for getting employment. If women are educated with the help of education they can efficiently handle the household matters and the socialization of their children. The researcher has made attempt to know the educational status of women and its impact on their economic involvement. The following table shows the educational status of the respondent of the study area.

**Table No 5.3**  
**Distribution of Respondent by Education**

S.N.	Education	No. of R. Women	Percentage
1	Illiterate	27	53.9
2	Literate	7	13.7
3	Primary	8	15.7
4	Secondary	5	9.9
5	Higher Education	4	7.8
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the table No 5.3 we observe that the majority of women in the study area are illiterate which constitutes 52.4 percent and literate women have occupied 13.7 percent out of total respondent. Likewise, women who attended primary level of school is 15.7 percent and 9.9 percent women achieve secondary level of education only. Similarly 7.8 percent women achieved higher level education.

The study revealed that more than half of the women were found illiterate. Such illiteracy of the respondent was found their main barrier in economic participation. Most of the respondents were found married at the age of 12-18 years. They become the house maker from the beginning of their married life and could not complete their school due to being a pure housewife as guided by the culture. Only one women was found educated in Sarki (Cobbler) community where 5 women respondents were selected as sample. Only four women out of the total respondents were found completed intermediate level of education from Brahmin community. Only unmarried respondent were found attending secondary level and higher level education in the study area.

Education plays a pivotal role for economic as well as social change of women. It broadens the capacity to handle the life successfully. But education achieved by women in the study area seemed pathetic which was found affecting their economic setting. However, the literacy rate of the women in this study are remain higher (47.1) than the overall national rate (42.49)% as of 2001 census, but the educational attainment in terms of academic levels, women shown is rather lower.

#### **5.1.4 Marital Status of the Respondents Women**

Nepalese rural society is still based on the traditional way of living containing the same cultural norms and religious values that our

procedures Has followed. Marriage in this society is supported to be indispensable social phenomenon and conjugal life is the feature. The study informs the marital status of the respondent women.

**Table No 5.4**

**Percentage Distribution of Marital Status of Respondents**

S.N.	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Married	35	68.62
2	Unmarried	13	25.5
3	Widow	2	3.93
4	Separated	1	1.96
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the table No 5.4, we can observe that out of total 51 respondent 35 (68.62%) of them were found married and unmarried women constituted 25.49 percent. Likewise 3.93 percent women are found widows and 1.96 percent are found separated.

In the study area the work border of married women was found relatively higher than unmarried women. Their participation and engagement in economic activities was found highly influenced by their marital status. The unmarried women in the study area were found having good status in the family than married women. Widowed and separated women who were also the head of the family were found in a state of helplessness and need of guardianship. In terms of the work land of women it was found that the married women have more work land than unmarried women in the same family and it was also found that the greater number of women in the family the less was the work burden among themselves.

### 5.1.5 Family Types

Along with the wave of modernization and urbanization, the traditional family system have been changing its shape. Traditional extended and joint family system are gradually breaking down replacing by the nuclear family system. Comparatively, less of the household is found living jointly.

**Table No. 5.5**

**Distribution of Respondent by Family Type**

S.N.	Family Type	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Jointly family	20	39.2
2	Nuclear Family	31	60.8
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table No 5.5 indicates that the existence of nuclear family constitutes family high percentage that is 60.8 percent than that of joint family 39.2 percent.

From the study it is observed that majority of the respondents were living in nuclear family. It was also found that the nature of the family type had complete them to involve in earning job because the earning of their male counterparts did not sufficiently help to meet the household needs.

The trend of nuclear family is being increased with the hope of happy and prosperous family as well as self - dependent economy in the society but job scarcity has made it more complicated. In nuclear family women have less time to involve in earning activities due to household workload. Women having small children re responsible for maintain household chores and earning activities.

### 5.1.5.1 Family Size

The size of the family affects in various aspects of women's status in the household. It can be seen that health aspect, economic aspect and education of the family members are interrelated to its size. What women works are highly affected by the number of family members they had in the family. Women having small family size are less likely to face household work burden and more possible in economic participation and they have less economic stress than women having big family. The family size of the respondent has been shown in the table No. 5.6.

**Table No 5.6**

**Distribution of Respondent by Family Size**

S.N.	Family Size	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	1-4	15	29.5
2	4-7	26	50.9
3	7-10	19	17.7
4	Above 10	1	1.9
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the table No. 5.6 we observe that 15 women out of total respondents have small size of family which occupies 29.5 percent and 26 respondents have the family size of 4-7 members which is 50.9 in percent. Similarly 17.7 percent women have the family size of 7-10 members and there are only 1.9 percent women who have more than 10 family member.

The study has revealed that women economic involvement is also forced by the size of the family. The more children in the house the more household need increase. So this compelling factor was found forcing women to engage in earning.

### 5.1.6 Health

Women's health is directly related to her social and economic aspect. There is interrelationship among social status, income and health condition of women. The extremely low - income women push health care to low priority. as a result ill health of mass particularly female has been accepted fact of life. A healthy women may work for a long time, which adds extra income for family's prosperity. A women who is suffering from diseases has less change of economic support in the family. women health is also related to work they do. The working hour duration of women shows us that women work hard from dawn to dusk. It is needless to say that Nepalese women are deprived of education, safe drinking water and are also suffered from malnutrition heavily. Our social norms, rites and rituals as well tradition have kept them behind the male, in front of the kitchen but always after the remnant meal. It has been the social trend that they should take meal after all the family members and quality and quantity of food they take is always less than required for their health. Education, high fertility rate, lack of proper health facility and superstitious beliefs has definitely adverse impact in their health.

**Table No. 5.7**  
**Distribution of Respondent by Diseases**

S.N.	Disease	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Malnutrition	19	37.5
2	Whooping cough	6	11.8
3	Vaginal cancer/problem	2	3.9
4	Respiratory Disorder	4	7.8
5	Breast cancer	1	1.9
6	Gastric problem	14	27.5
7	Physical weakness	5	9.8
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The above table reflects the majority of the respondent is suffered by malnutrition which constitutes 37.3 percent. Women suffering from whooping cough, vaginal comcer, respiratory disorder, breast cancere and physical weakness constitute 11.8 percent, 3.9 percent, 7.8 percent, 1.9 percent and 9.8 percent respectively. Likewise 27.5 percent women are found suffering from gastic laker problem.

Smoking habit was found among respondent women. The chance of suffering by diseases was found higher in less educated and poor women. These women were found addicted to smoking cigarettes and Bidi.

The dual role expected from women in the home and outside has resulted in lack of rest, unequal access to health and nutrition and negligible social participation are the factors of women's ill health.

When they fall sick, some go to visit a doctor for medication and some fro local healers like Shamans and herbalists. Study made, in order to get information as to what they do? And where they go? and whom they believe most? when they sick, precise mix responses.

**Table No. 5.8**  
**Percentage Distribution of treatment methods used by the respondents.**

S.N	Preferred place for treatment	No. of Res.	Percentage
1.	Doctors	24	47.1
2.	Herbalist	11	21.6
3.	Shamans/healers	7	13.7
4.	Believe on all	9	17.6
	Total	51	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2008

The above table indicates that the large proportion of the women (47.1) are found to believe in doctor for treatment. On the other hand, the

number of women who believe on herbalists amounted 21.6 percent. Believe on shaman has 13.7 percent 17.6 percent of them are found to believe in all. It can conclude from the above analysis even in the modern era, quite a large number of people in this village believe in superstitious practices like Shamanism.

### **5.1.7 Women's Involvement in institution/organization**

Social institutions always influence women's social and economic aspect. The status of a woman involved in a institution is better than that of a woman not involved in such type of institution not only changes the status of women but also develops women's self -confidence, co-operative attitudes and increased leadership. In our society women's involvement in such institution is not satisfactory due to lack of education. In this study the researcher has tried to know the women's involvement in various institution to know their social and economic aspect. The following table no. shows the women's involvement in institution.

**Table No. 5.9**

#### **Distribution of Women's Involvement by Institution**

S.N.	Involvement Institutions	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Women's surplus group	18	35.3
2	Participatory district Dev. Program (PDDP)	14	27.5
3	Community forest	2	3.9
4	WSG + PDDP	12	23.6
5	Club	2	3.9
6	Political institution	2	3.9
7	All above	1	1.9
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The table No. 5.9 shows us that out of 51 respondent, 18 women are involved in women's surplus group, which constitutes 35.3 percent. The women involving in PDDP are 27.5 percent women's involvement in both WSG+PDDP occupies 23.6 and 3.9 percent women are involved in community forest. The women's involvement in political institution occupied 3.9 percent similarly 3.9 percent women are involved in club.

From the study of women's institutional involvement, it was found that women's engagement in economic organization was fairly higher than their involvement in other social organization. This is a good indicator that shows the women's representation in economic institution. Most of the women in the study are were of the opinion that their involvement in such types of organization would help to fulfill the monetary need. The main objectives of the involvement of respondents in such organization was to save money and to borrow loan with low interest rates for the fulfillment of household needs. There involvement in other social organization was found very low. Most of the women were found uninterested in political parties. This may be the reason of women's low educational status.

## **5.2 Economic Aspect**

Women's economic aspect refers to their access over resource; earning captivity and work in which they engage. It has been already mentioned that social aspect and economic aspect of women have direct relationship to their status in the household and in the community. There are lots of factors, which are affecting the economic condition. In this chapter, different variable have been analyzed in assessing the economic aspect of the women.

### 5.2.1 Occupation

A women having sound occupation has higher status with in the family as well as in the community. She has also the greater possibility in decision making rights and the chances of her economic support to the family is higher than that of a women having less attractive occupation. Occupation is one of the main indicators of women's economic status, which also increase their social status in the society. In the study area women were found involved in various occupation, which was influenced by various social variables such as age, health, education, caste and geographical situation etc. The respondents occupational involvement has been shown in the following table.

**Table No. 5.10**

**Distribution of Respondent by Occupational Involvement**

S.N.	Occupation Type	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agriculture	17	33.3
2	Wage labour	8	15.7
3	Business	2	3.9
4	Service	2	3.9
5	Agriculture + wage labour	18	35.4
6	Household work/House wife	4	7.8
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The table shows that 33.3 percent out of the 51 respondents women are holding agriculture as the occupation. Likewise 15.7 percent women are engaged in wage labour. The percent of women holding service and business as the main occupation are 3.9 and 3.9 percent respectively. Women holding agriculture and labour as the main occupation are found 35.4 percent. Table shows the highest percent of

sampled women involved in agriculture and wage labor (35.4%) which indicates the dual character of occupation among the population. The percentage of the service and business holder seems relatively lower of which the researcher feels is due to the lack of their educational attainment.

It was found that every occupation of the respondents was highly influence by economic variables. Women having agriculture land were found mainly involved in agriculture and cattle husbandry. Educated women were found involved in teaching, health and business sector. women who had no any piece of land were found obliged to involve in labour occupation. The dual characteristics on women's occupation was also found. Some women who had insufficient land were found involved in agriculture and wage labour.

In the study are it revealed that for the fulfillment of household need the earning from the main occupation was found insufficient and they were involve in other job along with above mentioned occupations for sufficient earning. The respondents were also found involved in secondary occupation. The dual characteristic of women's primary and secondary occupation was interrelated. Women engaged in agriculture found also involved in cattle husbandry and wage labour. Like wise women involved in service and business were also engaged in agriculture occupation.

### **5.2.2 Land Ownership Pattern**

In every society, there are both rich and poor people. Observation reveals, as the size of the family grows, the ultimate partition of land and property leads them to the stage of landless and destitution. Most of the people in this area are found occupied in agriculture. Studies has been

conducted to get information about the land ownership pattern of the sampled respondents.

Most of the people, according to the study, who are holding small part of land as their own. The study discovered that some household were holding proportionately high amount of tenant land in their total land holding.

The study reveals that the female ownership of land remains in significant. The interesting matter is that ownership over the land increase as the age of women increases. The following table clears the land holding pattern of the sampled women.

**Table No. 5.11**

**Distribution of Respondent Women by Land Ownership Pattern**

S.N.	Land holding of own and as a tenent	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Landless	35	68.6
2	Less than 2 ropani	6	11.8
3	2 to 4 Ropani	8	15.8
4	4-6 ropani	1	1.9
5	Above 6 ropani	1	1.9
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the table No 5.11 It is found that most of the sampled women, about 68.6 percent in this area have no land under their ownership. The percent of the sample women having the land less than 2 ropani are found 11.8 percent. Likewise 15.8 percent sample women 2-4 ropani land ownership. Only 1.9 percent women have 4-6 ropani and 1.9 percent sample women have above 6 ropani land ownership. It is found that most of the sampled women, who have land under their ownership are head of the family.

Women of the personal land holding household were found have superior feeling in social settings comparing to the women of other types of land holding household. Therefore, it was known from the study that if women had land on their ownership, they would feel secure and superior themselves in the household and outside the social arena which is very significant to upraise their dominant sentiments.

Ownership over the land, is observed one of the very important factors determining the women's states and correspondingly to their decision making participation within the family. The more land she has the more is observed her decision making authority in the family, especially on the resource allocation and disposal of wealth. Another interesting finding is that the land ownership pattern of women increases as their age increases.

### 5.2.3 Food Sufficiency

Sufficiency of agriculture productions reduces extra expenditure of women. Family's economic situation also becomes well if agriculture production is sufficient for the whole family for the whole year. They may use their earning in other sector for the betterment of family further. The food sufficiency status of the respondent has been shown in the table.

**Table No. 5.12**  
**Distribution of Respondent by Food Sufficient Status**

S.N.	Food sufficiency Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Whole year	13	25.5
2	Half year	17	33.3
3	Three months	12	23.5
4	Less than 3 months	6	11.8
5	None	3	5.9
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the table No. 5.12 we can see that agriculture production is sufficient for the whole year for 25.5 percent women. Food sufficient for half a year was found for 33.3 percent women, 23.5 percent women were found having 3 months food adequacy and 11.8 percent women were in a state of less than 3 months of food adequacy. 5.9 percent women were landless and they were found buying food for the whole year.

The study shows that food sufficiency status of respondents is directly related to the land ownership, land size, and nature of their agriculture land. Small segment of Khet land has the capacity to produce more production than Bari land. the respondent's land pattern showed that more than 50.0 percent women were found holding the tyrant land. This is also the cause for insufficiency of food for respondent because half of the reproduction from tenant land goes to the owner. The whole respondents who face food insufficiency situation were found buying food from their earning.

#### **5.2.4 Income**

One of the most difficult task is estimating the women's income because of their heavy input in household duties. But because of increasing trend of nuclear family and impact of urbanization women are obliged to involve in earning activities to add the total annual income for the family support. Women's personal income not only strengthen their status in the household and in community but it also increases her decision making access in the household. The following table indicates the respondent women's annual cash earning involving in various activities apart from their regular household responsibilities.

**Table No. 5.13**  
**Distribution of Respondent by Annual Income**

S.N.	Annual Earning in Ra.	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	1500-5000	15	29.4
2	5001-10000	17	33.3
3	10001-15000	8	15.8
4	15001-20000	5	9.8
5	20001-25000	4	7.8
6	Above 25000	2	3.9
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field survey.

The above table indicates that the highest percentage of respondent women revealed that they earned Rs.5001-1000 per year. Women earning Rs. 1500-5000 ranked as second scoring 29.4 percent. 15.8 percent women earn Rs. 10001 to 15000 annually. There are 9.8 percent women found earning Rs. 150001 to 20000. The earning of respondent above 25000 is found 3.9 percent.

Despite women's less involvement in higher remunerative activities, their support in managing the family by means of earning remains significant. The cash income of the study area's women notably supports in handling their family. Which subsequently supports in maintaining the household expenditure. Still their domestic subsistence activities remain the same. wage labour, vegetable selling, home made beer selling, some corn selling, small scale business trip are found to be the major forces of income the business activities and mainly agriculture oriented. Most of the respondents were of opinion that if they could find job in every season (9season) their annual earning would be higher than they had now.

### 5.2.5 Daily Working Hour

One of the most reliable indicators in measuring the women's economic participation can be supported the 'Working hour unit'. It is needless to mention that in all and every Nepalese society women work heavily from dawn to dusk. But their work minimally changes to a monetary form. So, until women get money from the work they perform, their work considers uneconomic. But in this study researcher has given emphasis to find out women's economic contribution keeping the view in mind working hour method. The following table shows the working hour distribution of the respondent of the area.

**Table No 5.14**

#### **Distribution of Respondent of Daily Working Hours**

S.N.	Working Hours	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 3 hours	5	9.8
2	3-5 hours	13	25.5
3	5-7 hours	15	29.4
4	7-9 hours	13	25.5
5	above 9 hours	5	9.8
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the above table it can be observed that respondents working above 9 hours constitutes 9.8 in percent. 29.4 percent women were found working 5-7 hours and 25.5 percent respondents were working 7-9 hour per day women working less than 3 hours were found 9.8 percent. The working hours discrimination between male and female was found in the study area. Male were found working less hours than the female did. The respondent were found involved in earning activities in the above

mentioned working hour table. If their household working hours were added it would raise up to 15 hours a day.

### **5.2.6 Decision Making Pattern**

Derivation making pattern of the women not only impact the household development but also the social and national issues of the development process. It has already mentioned many times on this study men and women have been equal activators for the development of the society but women have been kept behind the men in many issues of development. Study also shows that women's access in terms of decision making is far behind the men.

Some cultural and economic variables have played crucial role to reduce women's hand in decision making. It was found from the study that women's engagement in earning activities increased their household decision making power and unengaged women have less power in decision making. The economic passion of the respondent was found directly related to their decision making access in the household. It is obvious truth and trend of our society that most of the crucial sectors are hold by men from home to institutions and women have less say in those sectors. Some important factors such as education age, employment, and social as well as political consciousness of women having affects the decision making command over the family.

The table No. 5.15 shows some factors about the decision making and women is the study area.

**Table No. 5.15**

**Distribution of Respondent in Terms of Final Decision Making**

S.N.	Activities	Female %	Male %	Jointly by family
1	Purchasing goods	24.5	53.3	22.2
2	education sector	34.5	47.7	17.8
3	Social ceremonies	30.5	45.7	24.8
4	Selection of work	30.2	45.2	24.5
5	Selection of Bride/groom	18.3	45.3	30.3
6.	Expenditure on Health	22.6	51.7	16.1
7.	Borrowing/Lending loan	32.7	61.3	19.0
8.	Family expenditure	63.3	18.8	17.9

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The table No. 5.15 clears some fundamental characteristics of decision making practice within the household of the study area. Only in the issue of the family expenditure women decision making power seems leading male comparing to other sectors of decision making. The final decision making share seems greater in women especially in the category of household affairs and other sectors are seemed reserved by men in ultimate decision making rights. We can say in the few words that women have greater influence in managing the household affairs. But in taking important and mainly economic concerning activities, man has the leading role.

Likewise, in social sector also, the decision making process does not seem surprising, the male dominance is seemed the feature.

The study was also focused to fine out whether women have decision making power on their earning or not. In this issue male were

found reserved and occupied the decision - making power over women's earning. The following table shows women's decision - making power over their earning.

**Table No 5.16**

**Distribution of decision Making Over Women's Earning**

S.N.	Decision making pattern	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Always by women	10	19.6
2	Always by husband	18	35.3
3	By family member	5	9.8
4	Always by spouse	7	13.7
5	According to problems by women	5	9.8
6.	Sometimes by women	6	11.8
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The above table clear once again that male dominance in decision making process over women's earning. Only 19.6 percent respondents were found having decision making rights over their earning. Husbands of the 35.3 percent respondent were found reserved the rights on their wives earning. 11.8 percent women are found having decision - making rights over their earnings only sometimes and another 9.8 percent women used their decision to expend their money according the problem.

From the study it can be said that women in this study are have greater influence of their earning to manage their household affairs but they are kept behind men in making decision in many important issues. Only 20 percent women were freed to use. Their earned money according to their wish, which is not satisfactory with the view of women's decision making access over the earning.

Cultural variables also play an important role in women's decision consulting process. In this regard, Sarki (cobbler) women are found to be more active in this process than Brahmin/Chhetri women. And this, perhaps, is because of their high involvement in out economy i.e. wage labour out from the home.

### **5.2.7 Women Problem in Economic participation**

There are various uneven social problems, which have played an indirect role, affecting women's economic participation and in their earning activities. Some factors that are affecting them to go outside for economic activities are shown in the following table.

**Table No. 5.17**

#### **Women's Problem in Economic Participation**

S.N.	Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Family disapproval	13	25.5
2	Education	14	27.5
3	Household burden	18	35.2
4	Health	3	5.9
5	Tradition	3	5.9
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the above table, we can see that 25.5 percent women are facing family disapproval as the main problem to go outside for earning. 27.5 percent women are taking education as their problem to involve in earning activities. The household burden has come the main problem for 35.2 percent respondents and health of 3 women has become the main problem in economic involvement. Similarly, tradition has become the main problem for 3 respondents.

Women of the study area were found facing problems to go outside economic activities even though they have willingness to go outside to earn money. Family's disapproval was found becoming the main problem for the women of Brahmin community because in societies Brahmin are strong to hold traditions and rituals. Although, they were found literate. Education was the main problem for the illiterate women to involve in earning activities and their health status was also not sound. Women having small children and whole husbands go to work outside were found responsible for household care and their household burden was found their main problem that is stopping them to engage in earning activities. In this study area some women shown problem of tradition for the participation in economic activities.

### **5.2.8 Loan Borrowed for Family Support**

Women were found involved in women surplus group and participatory district development program with the purpose to land money to satisfy family problems. In this study area women are met received loan from WSG, and PDDP, which is shown in the table No. 5.18

**Table No. 5.18**

#### **Distribution of Respondent Loan Support by Institution**

S.N.	Institution	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Women Surplus Group	22	43.1
2	PDDP	18	35.3
3	Individual + WSG	2	3.9
4	No Debtors	9	17.7
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the above table, it has been observed that the major position of the total respondent's women are found taken loan from surplus group which constitutes 43.1 percent. Women received loan from PDDP are found 35.3 percent and 3.9 percent women received loan from individual and WSG. 17.7 percent women are found no debtors.

Institution such as surplus group and PDDP were found playing crucial role to reduce an economic stress of respondents through their saving and credit service. Most of the emergency needs were found fulfilled by the women from such institution by receiving loan. The main objective of the respondent to involve in such institution was to borrow loan in the situation of crisis such as, scarcity of food and fodder, festivals school fees sick period. In this way women were found helping the family even by borrowing loan from institutions.

### **5.2.9 Expenditure of Women's Earning**

Without women support be it physical support, be it economic support family can not run properly only by the earnings of the male in the household. From the study it revealed that almost all women earned more or less from economic activities. They are only centered to fulfill the basic needs of the family from their earning. Women were found disburse their earning giving priority in various sectors. The following table shows the women giving the first priority to the following sectors.

**Table No 5.19**  
**Expenditure of Women's Earning by Sectors**

S.N.	Expenditure Sectors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Food + Fodder	18	35.3
2	Child's Education	7	13.7
3	Festivals + Cloths	6	11.8
4	Health + Food	8	15.7
5	Hire labor	5	9.8
6	Investment in business	1	1.9
7	All above	6	11.8
	Total	51	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From the Table No. 5.19 we can see that 35.3 percent women give first priority to paying out for food and fodder. Women giving importance to expend their earning on their children's education are found 13.7 percent. 15.7 percent women are found giving first priority to paying out for health aspect and food and another, 11.8 health aspect and food and another, 11.8 percent women were found used their earning to festivals and cloths. 9.8 percent women are found paying in all above mentioned sectors.

From the study it revealed the women giving first priority to food and fodder were found in a state of insufficiency of agriculture production. The sector of the expenditure of respondent earning was found varying according to the economic statues of the family women having small land size landless and inadequate agriculture production were found giving priority to buying food and fodder. These 35.5 percent women gave second priority to children's education. 15.7 percent women who gave first priority to health and fodder were found health

conscious because of the fear from the attack of diseases and extra economic burden. They give second priority for education of children. Women having sufficient land for the family give priority to expend their earning to hire labour to perform agriculture work. So, women in study area were found spending their earning according to the problem they face in the household.

### **5.2.10 Expenditure on Labor**

Out of the total 51 respondents 5 respondents were found to be disbursed their earning on hiring labor, which constitutes 9.8 percent of total figure. The following table shows the expenditure on hiring labor by the respondent women.

**Table No. 5.20**

**Distribution of Respondents' Annual Expenditure on Labor**

S.N	Expenditure Range (RS)	No.	Percent
1.	2000-3000	1	20.0
2.	3000-4000	1	20.0
3.	4000-5000	1	20.0
4.	Above 5000	2	40.0
	Total	5	100.00

Source: field survey 2008

From the above able, we can see that out of the total respondents 9.8 percent were found expensed their part of earning on hiring labor for agriculture performance. In the above table 20 percent women's expenditure on hiring labour was found up to Rs 3000. Another 20 percent women expenditure on labour was found up to 4000 and expenditure up to 5000 was found 20 percent. 40 percent women's expenditure on hiring labour was found above 5000.

### 5.2.11 Expenditure on Food and Fodder

In the study area women were engaged in earning activities although they had no certain jobs for regular income. They were maintaining their families from their income from the work they do. Women were found fulfilling their family needs through their earning till they had money of their earning. The following table shows women's expand on food and fodder.

**Table No. 5.21**

#### **Distribution of Respondents Annual Expenditure on Food Fodder**

S.N	Expenditure rang	No.	Percentage
1.	3000-6000	4	22.2
2.	6000-9000	6	33.3
3.	9000-12000	6	33.3
4	Above 12000	2	11.2
	Total	18	100.0

Sources: field server 2008

From above table we observe that out of total respondent 51, 35.3 percent women expended on food and fodder. The table shows that 22.2 percent women expend up to 6000 annually on food and fodder. There are 33.3 percent women, whose expenditure is up to 9000 and 33.3 percent women expend up to 12000. Only 11.2 percent women's expenditure is above 12000.

The study observed, these 18 women fulfilled the food problem by buying food from their earning. The variation on their expenditure on food and fodder was because of their family size. Expenditure of two landless women was higher among other women due to regular buying of food.

### 5.2.12 Expenditure on Health

Women in the study area are found less careful for health and 43 women did not give priority to health, the annual expenditure of respondent has been shown on table.

**Table No. 5.22**

#### **Distribution of Respondents Annual Expenditure on Health**

S.N	Expenditure Range	No	Percentage
1	1500-2500	2	25
2	2500-3500	3	37.5
3	3500-4500	1	12.5
4	Above 45000	2	25
	Total	8	100.00

Sources: field survey, 2008

From the table No 5.22 we observe that out of total respondent (51), only 15.7 percent of respondent were found their earning used on health annually. The we can see that 37.5 percent women expend on health sector up to 3500 and 25 percent women expend above 4500. 12.5 percent women's expenditure is seen up to 4500 and 25 percent women expend up to 2500.

The women in this category were found having members in the family suffered by chronic disease. Therefore, they used their expense for the treatment of suffered. They rarely found going for health checkup of their and their children's until the case was painful. At this time they used the money they had.

### 5.2.13 Expenditure on Education

Women giving priority to their children education are found only 7 in number, which constitutes 13.7 percent of total respondent, gave priority their earning in children's education. The following table shows the respondent women's expenditure range on education.

**Table No. 5.23**

**Distribution of Respondents Annual Expenditure on Education**

S.N	Expenditure Range	No.	Percentage
1	2000-4000	3	42.8
2	4000-6000	2	28.6
3	6000-8000	1	14.3
4	Above 8000	1	14.3
	Total	7	100.00

From the above table we can see that 42.8 percent women expend up to 4000 annually on education. There are 14.3 percent women whose expenditure is above 8000 and 28.6 percent women expend up to 6000. From the study it revealed that the nature of expenditure of women's earning is influence by number of school attending children. Women having two or more than two children, were found obliged to expend more portion of their earning on education. Nature of expenditure on education also depend on the quality of the school. Some respondents children are being taught in a boarding school. Thus, children's education is more costly for these respondent women.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **6.1 Summary**

Nepalese women constitute slightly more than half percent i.e. 50.05 of the total population. But their relative activity ratio in terms of economic accounting, limited only to 43 percent ignoring their more work burden is respect to their total energy loss to conventional economic or household works.

This study was focused to know the socio-economic role of women to their family whether their work be it in the household and in the outside are not still considered work and their contribution is still misrepresented in the national level. They are caring children, managing household and managing the future of family and the society even being neglected from home to every look of national development strategies.

The research site selected for this study was the ward No 1 of Chhisty V.D.C of Baglung district. This present study is based on the descriptive research methodology. It includes only the economically active women of aged between 15 to 59 years. Random sampling method has been used to select the respondents for assessing the women's economic participation and their socio-economic standing within the family. Only 30 percent women among 15-59 age group from universe has been selected in this study. Study has been conducted through interview, schedule, observation and case study in order to obtain information about their economic, social, religious and health condition.

Similarly, information relating to their habit, food clothing, manners and ways of life have been studies through observation.

Information, for this study, is both from primary and secondary data sources. The primary data are collected by the researcher himself by conducting a field survey where as secondary data are derived from the published and unpublished reports books, articles, writing and news items. While studying the social aspect of the women living in chhisty-1, analysis has been conducted on the basis of cast, age, marital status and educational details.

Likewise the economic aspect is analyzed comprising their occupational details, land ownership patterns, their involvement in gainful activities and their working hour. Special consideration is also given to the cultural patterns and the female economic participation. Women's decision-making participation is included which help to after the women's status over the family or community.

While talking on the women's issues whether social or economic a number of cultural religious factors are at work in determining their social or economic standing which are included in the study.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

This study revealed that in the family management women were found giving greater economic help through their earning or labour. It was also found that women's economic situation, their nature of job, working hour were greatly influenced by social as well as economic factors, social factors such as age, marital status, caste, education and family types. Women were found independent in economic participation before marriage and after marriage their earning possibilities by involving in earning activities seemed disappointing. Caste was found playing negative role for the Brahmin women for their economic participation. Brahmin women of the study area were found facing

problems to go outside economic activities. Even though they had willingness to go outside to earn money. Family's disapproval was becoming the main problem for the women of Brahmin community because in societies Brahmins are strong to hold tradition and rituals. Almost all women were blamed to their educational insufficiency as a barriers for more earning to support their family where 53.9 percent of the total respondents were found illiterate. All the illiterate, literate and well literate women were found confident in more earning if they had more education than they had now. Women of the nuclear family were found more compelled to involve in earning activities than the women of joint family.

The economic aspect of the respondent was found not satisfactory in terms of women's income, occupation, working hour and land ownership pattern. In regard of women's occupation most of the respondents were found involve in agriculture and agriculture related activities. Only a small portion of women were involved in service and business sector. Every occupation that women engaged was highly influence by some economic variables. Women having agriculture land were mainly involved in agriculture and cattle husbandry and women having education were involved in teaching profession and small business. Women who had no only piece of land, were obliged to involve in labour occupation. The dual characteristic on women's primary and secondary occupation was interrelated. Women engaged in agriculture found also involved in cattle husbandry and wage labour. Likewise women involved in service and business were also engaged in agriculture occupation.

Women were found obliged to give first priority to their household tasks rather than the job from which they are earning. The4

social characteristics of sex discrimination and female dominance of Nepalese society had shown in the study area. The female were found having greater responsibility in the management of household atmosphere. All the household tasks from cooking to all sorts of kitchen work were laid in their basket. After finishing household tasks they could join the job to earn money. Most of the women earned from wage labour and agriculture (cattle), only 7.8 percent women were found involved in their business services. Women were found working 3 to above 9 hours daily only in earning job. If their household working hours were added it would raise up to about 15 hours per day. Indeed, the earning of women by involving in different market-led activities as well as wage labour have contributed a notable support in their domestic expenses. 33.3 percent women are found to have been earning about Rs 5000-10000 annually while they still continue with their traditional household chores. Likewise 29.4 percent women are found to have been earning Rs 1500-5000, annually. Male's supports to women in household chores was found unsatisfactory.

The study showed that women access over land ownership is highly influenced by their age. The more she grows up the more she has possibility to have land on her ownership in the family. Out of the total women taken to survey, 68.6 percent are found to have no land under their name. Only 31.4 percent women were found to have land under their ownership. The study discovered that some women (household) were holding proportionately high amount of tenant land in their total land holding. The study reveals that if women had land on their ownership, they would feel secure and superior themselves in the family and outside the social arena which is very significant to upraise their dominant sentiments.

The study showed that in the low- income household extra income, which women were earning, helped the family to cross the poverty line. But in every work, women are paid less than their male counterpart. The society's ill behavior over the women's labour was found the same as other parts of Nepalese society.

The decision-making issues were found influenced by women. It is a positive sign for the transformation of house and society towards equality. Most of the household issues were found influenced by women's decision. Such issues were family expenditure, purchase of goods, sell of production, ,lunching social ceremonies etc. The study showed that women had chance of making decision over issues but male had still occupied the authority and women needed final approval of male counter parts. Change has been seen but overall change in every aspect of women's issues unsatisfactory.

**The followings are the findings of the research:**

- The population is engaged and depends mainly on the agriculture and agriculture related activities. Small business activities and services are in the rise.
- Rural women are bearing a overwhelming role in economic as well as domestic sector work, and hence their participation to the family's household income is also significant.
- The working hours discrimination between male and female is found in the study area. Male are found working less hours than the female do.
- Education, family's disapproval and tradition were found playing successive role of barriers for their possible economic participation.

- Women are found to have concentrated mainly on household and kitchen chores with substance farm management.
- The social as well as economic opportunities of the women seemed unequal to that of male counterparts.
- Women's property pattern is found pathetic. The interesting matter is that ownership over the land increase as the age of women increase.
- Some women are holding proportionately high amount land holding.
- The more participation of women in earning activities, the more will be the decision making power within the household and vice versa.
- The backwardness of educational attainment is found to have a long range effect which have been impeding the women's expected potential to uplift their socio-economic condition.
- There seems greater say of women in household and domestic management process but the final approval of male counterparts is necessary. But their share in decision making is found increasing.
- The decision making power of women rise along with their economic status rises. Therefore their social status also rises.
- Cultural pattern is remained to be a variable, which differs the role of women increases.

### **6.3 Recommendation**

- Certain social values and norms have to be removed through modern ideas and providing new economic role to men and women. For this, education can be the best weapon in fighting with this odd social outlook. Therefore, women, men and children should be encouraged towards education by making plans.

- Employment opportunity should be made available for educated women and girls that would encourage them to participate in economic sector. This might reduce their inferior sense of being subordinate to men.
- The government should launch various poverty alleviation programs with special focus as the poor and disadvantage women.
- Steps should be taken to make men and the rural society itself aware regarding the capability of women as effective decision-makers on important issues. The male members of the family should not restrict the mobility and the freedom to take part in income generating and community activities.
- Plans have been made for women empowerment and to make them equal footed to men but they should be implemented and practiced in society so that women could feel themselves the touch of plans made in community, district and in national level. Therefore, here it seems that activities that reforms women's economic situation are felt indispensable.
- During the study women were found involved mainly in agriculture and its related activities, women labor is wasting due to unavailability of jobs. Therefore agriculture alone can't absorb all rural labor and they have to be diverted to other non-agriculture activities.
- The economic contribution made by women in household, agriculture and economic sector would be included in national statistics without hiding their actual contribution and without showing male supremacy.

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