

**Socio-Economic Status of Women in Pahalmanpur  
VDC -2, Kailali: A Sociological Study**

**A Thesis Submitted to  
Birendranagar Multiple Campus, Birendranagar, Surkhet**  
(Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
for the partial fulfillment of Master's Degree in Sociology)

**Submitted by  
BED PRASAD GAUTAM  
Campus Roll No.: - 25/061/062  
Exam Roll No.: - 4799  
T.U. Regd. No. : - 16751-95**

**August 3, 2009**

**TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY /ANTHROPOLOGY  
BIRENDRANAGAR MULTIPLE CAMPUS BIRENDRANAGAR,  
SURKHET**

**Recommendation**

This is to certify that Mr. Bed Prasad Gautam has Completed his dissertation entitled "Socio-Economic Status of women in Pahalmanpur,-2 A Sociological study" of pahalmanpur,V.D.C. Kailali. A Sociological study under my guidance and supervision. Therefore I recommend this dissertation for the final approval and acceptance.

.....  
Anand Prasad Subedi  
Department of  
sociology/Anthropology  
Birendranagar M.Campus Surkhet

3, August 2009

**TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**BIRENDRANAGAR MULTIPLE CAMPUS BIRENDRANAGAR, SURKHET**

**Approval**

On the recommendation of Mr. Anand Prasad Subedi ,this dissertation work of Mr. Bed Prasad Gautam is Approved for the examination and is submitted to the Birendranagar Multiple Campus, Birendranagar, Surkhet for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the M.A. Degree in sociology .

**Evaluation Committee**

**Name And Designation**

**Signature**

**Krishna Bahadur Regmi**

Head of Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
Birendranagar Multiple Campus  
Birendranagar, Surkhet

.....

**Keshar Sing Rana**

Campus Chief  
Birendranagar Multiple Campus  
Birendranagar, Surkhet

.....

External Supervisor

.....

**Anand Prasad Subedi**

Internal Supervisor

.....

Date:–

## **Acknowledgement**

I am extremely grateful and indebted to my respected and honorable advisor Mr. Anand Prasad Subedi for his valuable guidance, suggestion, comments and kind supervision.

Most of all, I am very thankful to Mr. Krishna Bahadur Regmi, Head of Department, Department of sociology/Anthropology Birendranagar Multiple Campus ,Birendranagar Surkhet.

I would like to convey my thanks to all the teachers, friends and other people who directly or indirectly assist me in preparing my thesis. Similarly, I am very obliged to all the people of Pahalmanpur V.D.C. for helping me through my research study period.

**Bed Prasad Gautam**

3, August 2009

## **ABSTRACT**

The study entitled "Socio-Economic Status of Women in Pahalmanpur VDC -2" was completed under the supervision of Mr. Anand Prasad Subedi, Lecturer of Birendranagar Multiple Campus, Surkhet.

More than half of the population is covered by female even; they remain centered on their traditional roles like taking care of most household chores, fetching water, and fodder, bearing child and doing farm work. Women of Nepal have faced various problems which are centuries old, they suffer much oppression, suppression all over the rural areas. The present study is related with socio-economic status of women in Pahalmanpur VDC of Kailali district. The overall all objectives of this study were to assess the social and economical status of women of Pahalmanpur VDC of Kailali district. For this purpose the secondary and primary data were collected at first and after then these data were analyzed and interpreted on the basis of descriptive as well as statistical way by using very simple statistical methods such as pie-charts, tables and bar graphs etc. Out of 1707 households in the study area, 406 households were selected in the study. Hence the study had tried to seek the grassroots based status of women.

This VDC is diversity in caste and ethnicity which is the root cause of discrimination between upper and lower caste and obstacle of development process. It is to be said that 'men and women are two wheels of the same cart' but not practiced in behaviors and always women are dominated by men in this VDC.

While analyzing the economic condition of the women in this VDC it can be studied by categorizing in four types of occupation. Majority of women are involved in household activities and agriculture. Minor women are involved in income generating activities like small sized

business, labor work, civil servant etc. So a small part of women are economically sustainable.

There is no doubt that education is the back bone of the overall development of the country. When women are educated they can face every problems easily, which occurs in their daily life. When a single woman is educated then the good civilization starts in her family. The education status of women in this VDC is found more satisfactory than the national literacy rate of women, which is found positive aspect of development process.

Decision making plays a crucial role in daily household activities. Women has lead role in household activities like buying daily necessities, buying clothes, religious work, animal care and buying utensils, so it is found women are confined only in peripheries of the household chores with maximum working load comparatively than male.

Bed Prasad Gautam

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## **Abbreviations**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| GDP    | Gross Domestic Product                                  |
| CBS    | Census Bureau Survey                                    |
| UN     | United Nations  |
| UNDP   | United Nations' Development Program                     |
| UNICEF | United Nations' International Children's Emergency Fund |
| HDR    | Human Development Report                                |
| VDC    | Village Development Committee                           |

# **Chapter I**

## **Introduction**

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

Nepal is multiethnic, multicast, multicultural, multireligious, multilinguistic Independent, Democratic and a small landlocked with great natural beauty, abundant natural resources and a diverse agro climatic developing country with an area of 147181 sq km covered mainly with rural village. The kingdom of Nepal is bounded on the north by the Tibet autonomous region of People's Republic of china; on the east by Sikkim and West Bengal of India, on the south by Indian state of Bihar and Utter Pradesh and on the west by Utter Pradesh of Indian Union. The length of the country is 855 km east-west and breadth varies from 145-241 km north-south. it is divided in three Geographical region (viz. Himalayan-range of 4847 to 8848 m; Mountain-305 to 4847 m and Terai-70 to 305 m range)

From the social & economic points of view, Nepal is too much backward. The process of industrialization has just begun in agriculturally based Nepal. Slow economic process, dependence of agricultural activities on monsoon and traditional method, low per-capita income, low productivity, high population growth rate, failure to maximum utilization of natural water resources, speedy growth of unemployment, low rate of market development, low standard of education, division of society of various cast and creeds, meager development in drinking water and health fields ,growing population problem existence of racialism, regionalism and un touchable situation in the society, faith orthodoxy and superstition, state of unbalance regional development, failures in creation of prerequisites of

economic and social development etc. the main factors of backwardness of Nepal (c.d. group.1993)

In Nepal, ecological region, Terai includes most of fertile land and forest of the country. 40% of its land area is under cultivation but occupies only 23 % of the total land area. This region is inhabited by 48.4 % of the total population. (Poudel & Giri, 2063 ). The Hill region is the melting point of the traditional Nepalese cultivation where the capital of Nepal, Kathmandu valley is located. 17.2 % of its land is under cultivation but occupies most of the part of the country or 42 % of total land area. 44.3 % of the total population are living in this region ( Poudel & Giri , 2063 ). Similarly the mountain has highly rugged topography, which occupies 35 % of its land area. 4.4 % of its land area is under cultivation and only 7.3 % of the total population are living in this region ( Poudel & Giri ,2063 )

The country as a whole has been divided in to five developing region, 14 zones and 75 districts for administrative and development purpose. The east west orientation of the country is drained by three major rivers which influence population movement, socio-economic development and cultural pattern. The Koshi basin in the east is mostly inhabited by mongoloid peoples and Karnali basin in the west is inhabited by Caucasoid groups. Cultural transition zone at the middle is represented by the Gandaki basin. This demarcation at present is arbitrary due to increasing movement of people. Agriculture is the mainstay of Nepal in income generating on about 80 % of population depends on subsistence farming about 59 % of countries GDP comes from agriculture, 66% labors directly involved in it. Similarly, agriculture contributes about 45% of total export (CBS, 2001).

The proportion of female in the total labor forces decreased after the age of 15 and over. About 57% of the total population at the age of 10 and over was economically active, 81% of the economically active population were engaged either as farmer or as fisherman (Bastola, 1993). It is obvious that women constitute more than half of the population of Nepal. The census shows that women exceed men by 23,521 by numbers. Most of them are living in rural areas and only a little part about 14% of the total population is in urban area (CBS, 2001).

The status of women is nutritionally, economically, socially, educationally inferior than men and maternal mortality rate is very high. Nepalese women are married early and over burdened with child care and rearing practices. Women in Nepal are engaged in domestic child care and economic productive activities added to the burden of child bearing frequent and closely spaced pregnancies and labor intensive tasks, such as carrying water, collecting firewood, planting, harvesting, tending to household livestock, washing clothes, breast feeding and carrying young children and beside their domestic activities. They spend their long hours outside the home in gainful economic activities. Women as a group are generally poor, powerless and disadvantaged, due to deep rooted patriarchal values, low level of literacy and awareness'. In terms of food consumption, poor households are sustained in an average at just about serving levels but in case of women they are consuming somewhat less than equal share. Female baby generally gets less care feedings compare to male so the mortality rate of female baby is high.

women's earnings are substantially lower than men because of the household division of labor which assigns domestic work mostly to women due

to lack of awareness, cultural and social customs also limit female participation to work outside the home. There are substantial pressure with respect to health, education, mobility and job entry, which keep women in lower wage works. Socio economic status of women even though rising, is still low in Nepal. They still lack adequate access to employment, income, education, health care, nutrition and still require development despite impressive, legislative and constitutional provisions favoring there equal right to work, employment and education. The gender gap in term of their economic opportunities and participation in public life and decision making exists in the society. In America and western countries, women are free and equal to men (UN, 1995). Their social status is very high and strong. In under developed and developing countries like Nepal, socio-economic status of women is very low and they are treated as a second class citizen. About 89% women are economically involved in agriculture (CBS, 2001). Therefore Nepali women make a significant contribution in the Nepalese economy, which is basically agricultural in nature.

In general, it is said that, "men and women are two wheels of a cart" but it is not practiced in behaviors. They are endowed with equal rights to perform their activities. In our society men have always been regarded as the sole, controller and supervisor of all the activities and also regarded as a bread winner woman are subjected to several boundaries and isolated from the social activities. In the context of Nepal due to conservative tradition, literacy, poverty to serve her husband smoothly without any comment our social myth is that women are basically interior and their labors and efforts are less valuable than men. There are many cultural restrictions to women (sing, 1990). Nepalese women are in general haven't been active participants

in the overall development activities of the nation, mainly because of the grinding poverty, mass illiteracy, poor health, a traditional conservative attitude towards them and lack of access to and control over productive resources, technology and information.

The socio-cultural ideological, political and legal factors prevailing in the country have forced women to remain in a low status and seriously restricted their participation in economic activities and in decision making (Adhikari, 1999).

The male literacy rate increased from 54% in 1991 to 65% in 2001 where the increases for women were from 24.7% to 42.8% in 2001. the enrollment of rate for female student is generally low, while the dropout rate among them is much higher (CBS; org).

While there are regional and ethnic variation within the country, women's health is generally poor. Diarrhea, respiratory and other preventable disease and malnutrition take a heavy toll on them. Reproductive and basic health issue needs further attention to adequately improve the situation women life expectancy 61.9 yrs.(CBS, 2001). Even though has enhanced significantly over the past decade is still less than men.

According to the study by Acharya and Bennet on the status of women in nepal (1979-1981), women spent on the average of 9.91 hours per day in domestic farm labor as opposed to 5.68 hours for men. The following findings from Archery's and Bennett's study reveal women's economic position and work in Nepal.

- ) Rural women's total work burden is high, on the average, women work 10.81 hours per day as compared to 7.51 hours per day for men.
- ) Rural women generate more of the total household income than men, 50% of the total income contributed by a woman, as compared to 44% by men and 64% by children.
- ) Women generally don't have legal ownership or legal domination despite their greater contribution to the household economy.
- ) Women have little share in the decision making process. Men make the majority of decisions regarding households, finance, and distribution of resources, education and health care. Women access to development resources and the participation in the development process is mediated through men.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem.**

In general, women have less access to income, wealth, modern avenues of employment and educational health facilities than men. It is true that human resources should be developed to raise the community as the nation for this rapid progress in building the women capabilities and in closing the gender gaps in those capabilities is necessary. The status of women in Tibetan-Nepalese communities generally is relatively better than other women. Women from low cast group also enjoyed relatively more autonomy and freedom than of Chhetri and Brahmin women. ( Acharya, 1995 ).

Women's low status inspire them to have large family size, it entirely depends upon their education, income etc. Women's education, occupation of children and ultimately it helps to improve the overall well being of the family. The senior female member played a commanding role within the family by controlling resources, making, crucial planting and harvesting decisions and determining the expanses and budget allocation. Yet women live remains centered on their traditional roles like taking care of most household echoers, fetching water, fodder, and doing farm works. The work load of women is very high as compared to men. The average workload of women is 610 minutes per day and that of the men is 550 minutes per day, in urban area it is 579 minutes per day (UNDP & South Asia HDR, 1999).

The discrimination between women and men generally starts from the childhood. Girls usually receive less quality and less nutritional verities of food than boys, and are less likely to receive medical care. In many households, the girl child's work day begins before sunrise and end long after dark-in there mid or late teens, most of rural girls are sent away in arrange marriage, to take on the additional burdens of motherhood, more than half of Nepal's population comprises of women. In spit of this dominant majority, the irony of fate lies here. Women have various problem, which are centuries old they suffer much oppression, suppression all over the country; more in the rural area than in the urban. They are the victims of the circumstances, which have taken created due to gender discrimination, which persists in Nepal from ' cradle to grave'.

In Nepal, the vast majority of girls in early teen age group are denied the opportunity to develop and realize their full potential as they are discriminated against in all spheres of life. The gender bias against them

begins from the moment of their birth and continuous one from another through out their lives. Customs, traditions, legal right and the harsh economic reality have conditioned the parents to perceive a daughter as a liability, both morally and economically. The sooner she becomes the responsibility of another family, the better. A son on the other hand is viewed as an economic assets, from early in life, it is drummed into a girl child that her ultimate goal in life to get married to bear children and serve husband and in-laws, parents, with all the best intention in the world, accordingly train their daughters, so that they can slip smoothly in to the social predetermined role of wife, mother, and daughter in- law. Parental perception of the girl child's inferior status and subservient role has inexorably influenced her socialization, her access to health care and education, her work burden and her childhood experience in general. Available evidence indicates that the majority of girls' children in Nepal have no childhood worth mentioning (Singh, 1990).

Nepal has amongst the highest indices of son preference in the world. Sons are desired because they carry on the family name and represent the old age insurance; however, property is transmitted through them from one generation to next. They are required to conduct rituals at and after the death of father to secure his spiritual salvation. Among orthodox Hindu groups, the birthday of a boy is an occasion for rejoicing while the coming of a girl, specially a third or fourth one cause for disappointment, "***To be born a daughter is misfortune "*** and "***let it be later, but it be a son"*** are common saying in Nepal's society (Ghimire, 1991).

In Nepali society, whether Hindu or Buddhist, male birth is preferred because son must light their parents' funeral pyres and continues their family line (Dahal, 1992).

In this way it can be said that the lower status of women is a very serious problem of Nepal.

- Women's condition is very poor, exploited and they have long working hours.
- Poor socio-economic status is general, but for women in particular.
- Women from lower cast and ethnic communities have been more exploited.
- No employment opportunities in rural areas.
- The level of sanitation is low.
- The extent of malnutrition especially among women and children is high.
- Fragmentation of land due to the tenancy of nuclear family.
- There exists a big disparity between male and female literacy.
- Women are heavily involved in agriculture production.
- The family decision making is mainly by male.
- The youth from the rural area drink and pester the girls and also attack other people.

Therefore, it is very important to look in to the matter with the view of gender perspective in all families and household activities. This study will be tends to look in to various aspect of gender equalities and discriminations prevailing between male and female.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The overall objective of the study was to asses the social and economical status of women of Pahalmanpur VDC of Kailali district. The specific objectives were given below.

- ❖ To examine the economic condition of women in the study area.
- ❖ To examine the education status of women.
- ❖ To examine the role of women in decision making process.

### **1.4 Limitation of the study**

The study had been the following limitations:

- I. The study was based on small sample size of Pahalmanpur VDC of Kailali district. Thus the finding may not be generalized to the district and national level.
- II. This study had examined socio-economic position of women and gender relation of some selected households. Therefore it would not include all the aspect of gender relations.
- III. Due to sample size, constraint of time and money, researchers knowledge, the finding occurs often completely the research do not

reflect the condition of whole Nepalese women, finds only stands for women of Pahalmanpur VDC.

## **1.5 Importance of the study**

There is famous slogan in our society that "*Men and women are the two wheels of the same cart* ", but in Nepal women are living in second class level. The study will be quiet important from the view of its contribution to Nepalese sociology, the planners and organization focusing on the status of women and bringing new measure to uplift their life style. The academician's and researcher's interest in the study of Nepali sociology will get new input to compare and go deep in the problem. The society which academic pursuit of social problem that remains in the shade of hills and jungles for the social development of the country be uncovered. It will provide new set of literature in the status of rural women and their problems which will make the way towards this searching process easier in the future. This study would help for further research, the policy makers and planners to drive some useful insights from the finding, which will be useful in formulating more effective and suitable policies.

In the point of view, for researcher, the study will helpful for the knowledge of real fact about the status of women in this area. it is also helpful to study the other parts of the society such as impact of women by men. For further study this research will be the helpful in any other sector.

## **1.6 Organizations of the study**

The dissertation is divided in to six chapters. The first chapter is related with the introduction, which includes background of the study,

statement of the problem, objectives, importance, limitation and organization of the study. Chapter two is related with literature review and it deals review of literature. Chapter three is related with research methodology which includes the research design, selection of the study area, sample design, nature and sources of data, techniques of data collection and data analysis. Chapter four provides the general features of the study area which includes demography and socio-economic situation of study area. The fifth chapter is related with social, educational and economic status of women in the study area and analysis the present data. The sixth chapter describes finding conclusion and recommendations. After this references and appendices are organized.

## **Chapter II**

### **Literature Review**

This study was related mainly the past studies of women situation, status and role in the society. Most of Nepalese women suffer from domination, exploitation, suppression, oppression, subordination and discrimination by their male counterpart (Bhattachan, 2001).

#### **2.1 Women's Role in the society**

Nepal's interim constitution (2063) has guaranteed that there will be no discrimination against any citizen in the application of general laws, as well as in respect of political and civil rights, on the ground of religion, race, sex and caste. Whenever men and women are given equal right under the constitution of vote, participate in government or inter public service.

- ❖ Most of routine work inside the home is the responsibilities of women, who cook, clean, fetch water and care for children and elderly family members. Little time is left for activities with potentially higher economic returns or to contribute to the economic and social development of the country. Since the early 1980s, it has been established that women in Nepal are vital contributors to the domestic and thus, the national economy, women and girls together contribute more than 53% of the household income in the rural areas of Nepal (Acharya & Bennett, 1981).

- ❖ Gender inequality has been a subject of much concern in recent decades. Since the 1975 UN conference on women (Mexico) the world community has acquired the great deal of knowledge about the situation of women worldwide and gain valuable insights in to the process of development from a gender perspective. Women are being conscious of there own situation and are active in bringing about gender perspective changes in the existing discriminator social, economic and political structures. The demand for gender equality has pervaded all spheres of live, including the design and content of development strategies, policies and programs (Acharya, 1997).
- ❖ High growth rate of population if low status of women in society, low level of literacy, high infant mortality rate, socio-economic tradition which favoring son, poverty and universal child marriage (Manandhar, 1993).
- ❖ Nepalese women perform basically triple roles; that of (a) production (b) reproduction and (c) community activity. Their work burden in daily life generally exceeds that of their male counterparts rural women work 10 to 14 hours daily as compared to 8 to 10 hours of men (Adhikari, 1999).
- ❖ Most of rural women walk and live in difficult social and ecological conditions. In the hills and mountains, providing water, foods and worth for their families often means walking long distance and working from dawn to dusk. On many of the country's marginal forms, the food supply is insufficient to meet

the energy demands created by their heavy work load, especially during the hungry months. Landless women, and those living on small, marginal forms, are at a particular disadvantage, for they are often fully responsible for providing food and shelter for their families, While their husband spend many months of the years seeking work else where in the countries for many women, the cumulative effect of number and closely spaced pregnancies aggravates their work burden, and bring increased risks of infant and maternal mortality. The low social status of women, in many communities may also be a contributing factor to high infant and child mortality rates. In most cases, women tend to have fewer opportunities, less decision making power and more restrictions on their movement than men. A few women have become employed as nurses, doctors, engineers, development workers and teachers in positions, which have often, required them to have home, and live and work in other parts of the country. A large section of the women are growing in darkness of ignorance and squalor (UNICEF, 1987).

- ❖ Education for life itself because it is that element which equips a women with the tool to solve her problem in life and helps her to live in a better life. Education is therefore essential for the rural women in a measure as well as in a form that they need to become more productive and worthier citizen of the country (Kasaju, 1979).

- ❖ Women's education has a significant effect on the number of children they bear. A survey conducted in 1991 showed that Nepali women have average 5.1 children during their reproductive lives women with secondary education have an average of 4 children while women with no education have an average of 6.2 children. According to the survey, the median birth interval was 34 months (MOH, 1993).
  
- ❖ Position of women in many communities of Nepal's women's are usually not authorized to take major decision and they are bound to obey the instructions of the male members of the family i.e. father, or husband or son and even brother and nephews. In the traditional Hindu family hierarchy, the male is accorded superiority over the female and the elder over the younger. According to customs, the eldest male has authority and control over all other members of the family. Among Tibet Bur man communities such as Sherpa and Gurung, women are accorded more decision making power. They have more access to resources and property and more likely to conduct business on their families behalf (UNICEF, 1996).
  
- ❖ One of the principle forms of discrimination and one, which goes for reaching implication for women is the preference accorded to the boy child over the girl child. This practice Denise the girl child's good health, education, recreation, economic opportunity and the right to choose her partner. In Many societies, male children carry on the family lineage. The preservation of the family

name is guaranteed through the son. A girl takes her husband's family name and dropping that of her own parents the fear of losing a name promotes families to wish to have a son. Some men marry a second or a third wife to the sure of having a male child. In the communities in Nepal, son performs burial rights for parents with no male child do not expect to have an appropriate burial to "secure their peace in the next world". The son is considered to be the family pillar, which ensures continuity and protection of the family property. Sons are the source of family income and have to provide for parents in their old age. They are also interpreters of religious teaching and the performers of rituals, especially on the death of parents, which include feeding a large numbers of people called "Sharaadha" the birth of a son is welcomed with celebration as in asset, where as that of a girl is seen as a liability, and pampering economic drain. It is worth while to note a popular proverbs "*Bringing up girl is like watering the neighbor's garden*" (UN, 1995).

- ❖ Young wives rarely address their husband in the presence of others and than only indirectly through a third party. If she has to talk with husband outside then it would be shame. She did not talk with husband or him with her. An equally important part of husband wife relationship ideally in both public and private aspect is the extreme respect, which a wife must show the husband. The most forceful expression of the wives defense is in the ritual in which the woman washes her husband's feet and drinks that water by splashing some of it into her moth *Goda ko pani khane village*

women, expect when they are ritually impure through menstruation or childbirth, do this before every meal. They also eat of the unwashed plate from which their husband has eaten and consume whatever food he has left for them. Both the plate and the left over food are considered *JUTHO* or polluted, likewise the water from washing the feet, on impure part of the body, is considered defiled. The wives consumption of her husband foot water and his left over food is symbolic statement that he is so high above her that even his impurities are pure for her (Bennett, 1983).

- ❖ Population control policy is in Nepal relating to fertility determinants in Nepalese context. It was found that higher the social status i.e. the higher the standard of family in relation to other families as represented by income education etc. It was also found that the higher economic status i.e. the greater the economic received and wealth controlled in relation to families, the lower fertility of the families (CEDA, 1993).
- ❖ Dowry has become a threat to society often compelling girl to commit suicide. It is nothing but an extraction of money or valuable items from bride's father. On the one hand it has lowered down the status of women in society and on the other hand it has given as impetus for earning black money and several malpractices of social level. In Terai, this evil has been like an epidemic. A large number of women are being forced to commit suicide or are burnt to death for dowry (Krishna, 1973).

- ❖ Mostly marriages are arranged by parents of bride or bridegroom in Nepal. So, the new bride generally arrives as a complete stranger in her new home. She is often assigned to the most arduous tasks, and her performance is likely to be closely scrutinized, particularly in the early months. The demand on her labors, are only likely to be relived when another new bride enters the house. A women marrying in to a large extended family seems likely to spend less time on domestic work because it is shared among the women of the household. Women living in nuclear families spend more time on domestic, tasks although there also seem to be greater likelihood that these will shared with the household (Acharya & Bennett, 1970).
  
- ❖ Early marriage is another serious problem that some girls must force. The practice of giving away girls for marriage at the age of 10-14, after which they must start producing children, is prevalent among certain ethnic groups. The principle reasons for this practice are the girls' virginity the bride price and the lack awareness and education. Early marriage for many girls in Nepal leads to high rates of maternal and infant mortality. Early marriages robs girls of her childhood time necessary to develop physically, emotionally and psychologically, in fact, early marriage inflict great emotional stress as the young women is removed from her parents home to that of the husband and in-laws. Her husband who will invariably be many years senior will have little in common with young teenager, it with this strange man that she has to develop an intimate emotional and physical relationship. She obliged to have

intercourse, although physically she might not be fully developed (UN, 1995).

- ❖ Nutritional anemia is one of the major contributors to the high maternal mortality in Nepal. Women's iron requirement increases during pregnancy and in normal delivery some blood is lost. Additionally increasing the iron requirement. After delivery, women need to make up rapidly for the blood loss, for iron is required for breast feeding. Women with subsequent pregnancies are greater risk. Adequate supplementation of iron foliate is required to rise hemoglobin levels and insure that women can cope with the risks of delivery when a woman is anemic even relatively small blood loss during delivery can increase the risks of mortality. Higher infant and maternal mortality is also a product of unhygienic traditional birthing practices and a health care system, which reaches only 15% of the population. Approximately 15.5% of the pregnant women receive prenatal care and only 10.5% receive any postnatal services. While 20% of the estimated 800,000 pregnancies each year are considered high risks, only 3.1% of all babies are delivered by a trained birth attendant. Less than one in four women has received the required five doses of tetanus toxoid. (UNICEF, 1996)

## **2.1 Government policies for the Advancement of women**

Since the international women's year Nepal has responded to the UN call improve the health and socio-economic situation of women in the country. The national concern and political parties will be to focus on issues

relating to women's role in development crystallize in 1980 when an administrative focal point was created to deal with women's affair. The women's development section is established in the ministry of local development. In 1987, women's Development Division was also established under the ministry of labor and social welfare. This, now a days serves as the national focus point for SAARC.

- The interim constitution of Nepal(2063) guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any citizen in the application of laws, in respect of political and civil rights and on the ground of religion, race, sex and caste etc.
- *Muluki Ain* of Nepal amendment in different time, brought about significant changes on family land property laws, the legal status of women, moving toward equal work is corporate in the legislation in minimum ways for industrial workers.
- More recently, policy directives of the Interim Government has guaranteed, the 33% participation of women in any government offices.
- To uplift the socio-economic status of women there will be equal participation in every affair.

## **Chapter III**

### **Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study was specially designed to describe the status of women. It was based on the descriptive research design in order to fulfillment the specific objective of the study, the analysis is mainly based on primary data basically, the variable such as: social and economic condition, family background, residential background and their present and past status have been identified and described to light on the status of women in Pahalmanpur VDC.

#### **3.2 Selection of the Study Area and its Justification**

Pahalmanpur VDC of Kailali is one of the remote and underdeveloped areas. The particular area is chosen for study because it is heterogeneous in socio-economic, cultural and geographical structure. The researcher is the local inhabitation of the same area, familiar with local people and their main problems. Therefore by selection of this VDC, it is believed that more accurate information could be collected during study and also study could be accomplished easily.

#### **3.3 Universality and Sample Size**

Among 1707, Total household of Pahalmanpur V.D.C. 406 households scattered in 2 wards is the universe of the study. Recognizing the time, economic sources and limitations, only ward no 2 was identified as the study

area of data collection. Out of 406 households, 100 were interviewed (100% of them were women).

### **3.4 Sampling Technique.**

The simple random sampling was adopted to determine the facts. In somewhere mass, communication and discussion technique was determine to find out the facts.

### **3.5 Source of Data**

The study was largely based on primary data collection through field survey. Some secondary data were also collected from different sources at VDC, district and national levels. Primary data were collected from villagers using constructed questionnaire set. The set of questionnaire which are used in study provisions are in "Appendix- A" Questionnaire set were the main tools of information of base line survey.

### **3.6 Technique of data collection**

#### **3.6.1 Household Survey**

To fulfillment the specific objective, Household survey was the main technique of data collection where a researcher has to go with structured questionnaire in each HHS which was selected for sample.

#### **3.6.2 Key Information Interview**

Local people having good knowledge about the local area and resources, such as school teachers, leaders development workers , secretary of VDC as

well as women leader were consulted through interviews, conversation for boarder information collection.

### **3.6.3 Observation**

Relevant information regarding the status of women in rural village was also collected by direct observation in these study areas. the working load, dieting patterns etc of women was observed during the field survey.

### **3.6.4 Questionnaire**

The questionnaire survey methods were employed to collect data from sampling units. The interviews with need of sample household were conducted with the guidance of structured questionnaire but in case of in availability, the interviews were conducted with any members of the family.

### **3.6.5 Secondary Data**

Secondary data were collected from the available literature such as records, reports, publication of different related offices, institution and other possible resources of information's.

## **3.7 Data Presentation And Analysis**

The collected data were analyzed in descriptive as well as statistical way by using very simple statistical method such as pie chart, tables, percentage, and bar graph etc with the help of computer program.

## **Chapter IV**

### **General Features of the Study Area**

#### **4.1 Physiographic & Demographic Characteristics.**

Pahalmanpur VDC is situated in the middle of the Kailali district in far western Development region of Nepal. According to the history this district is also known as "Nayamuluk or Kalapani". There are 42 VDC & 2 municipalities in this district. Among them 35 VDC & 2 Municipalities lies in the Terai and rest are in Chure sector.

Pahalmanpur VDC totally lies in Terai region. The Mahendra highway crosses this VDC and goes toward Dhangadhi and Mahendranagar. The periphrrical VDC of this VDC are Masuriya, Udasipur, Basauti in the west, Hasuliya and Khailad in south, Darakh in the east and Masuriya and Ramshikharjhala in the north.

The total area of this VDC is 77.97 Square Km, and lies about 50 Km east from district head quarter Dhangadhi. There are 1 Higher secondary school, 5 high schools, 5 primary schools and 4 Bal education center. The VDC has 1707 household with the total population 11,892. Among them 5879 female & 6013 male. Total voters of this VDC are 9018 (District profile, 2063 ). The highlighted figure of Pahalmanpur VDC has shown in Appendix-B.

**Table 4.1****Age wise Population of Pahalmanpur VDC**

| S.N   | Age group  | Population | Percent |
|-------|------------|------------|---------|
| 1.    | 0-4        | 1566       | 13.17   |
| 2.    | 5-9        | 1900       | 15.98   |
| 3.    | 10-14      | 1708       | 14.36   |
| 4.    | 15-19      | 1304       | 10.97   |
| 5.    | 20-24      | 1059       | 8.91    |
| 6.    | 25-29      | 872        | 7.33    |
| 7.    | 30-34      | 724        | 6.09    |
| 8.    | 35-39      | 648        | 5.45    |
| 9.    | 40-44      | 498        | 4.19    |
| 10.   | 45-49      | 416        | 3.50    |
| 11.   | 50-54      | 336        | 2.82    |
| 12.   | 55-59      | 312        | 2.62    |
| 13.   | 60-64      | 163        | 1.37    |
| 14.   | 65-69      | 147        | 1.24    |
| 15.   | 70-74      | 93         | 0.78    |
| 16.   | 75 & above | 146        | 1.23    |
| Total |            | 11892      | 100     |

Source: CBS, 2001

Above table shows that about 48% people are dependent or passive. It consists less than 15 years of age and over 60 years. In the context of development, especially in development is unable for the nation.

**Table 4.2**  
**Literacy status over 6 years by sex**

| S.N | Literacy status    | Population |         |        |         | Total | Percent |
|-----|--------------------|------------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
|     |                    | Male       | percent | Female | Percent |       |         |
| 1.  | Can't read & write | 1696       | 34.35   | 2875   | 58.71   | 4571  | 46.48   |
| 2.  | Can read only      | 100        | 2.03    | 116    | 2.37    | 216   | 2.20    |
| 3.  | Read & write       | 3142       | 63.63   | 1906   | 38.92   | 5048  | 51.33   |
| 4.  | Not started        | 00         | 00      | 00     | 00      | 00    | 00      |
|     | Total              | 4398       | 100     | 4897   | 100     | 9835  | 100     |

Source: CBS 2001

Above table shows that, above 49% people of Pahalmanpur VDC are illiterate, only 51% are literate so, the lack of education (especially of women which are in about 59% ) socio-economic status of women is getting lower.

**Table 4.3**

**Population over 6 years by status of school attendance of Pahalmanpur  
VDC**

| S.N.  | Attendance              | population | percent |
|-------|-------------------------|------------|---------|
| 1.    | Currently attending     | 2931       | 51.74   |
| 2.    | Currently not attending | 2734       | 48.26   |
| Total |                         | 5665       | 100     |

Source: CBS, 2001

According to the table 4.3, about 52% of population over 6 years attending school & 48% are still not attending school. This figure seems very poor for the development activities.

**Table 4.4**

**Population composition by caste and Ethnicity**

| S.N. | Caste   | Population | Percent |
|------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1    | Tharu   | 8460       | 71.14   |
| 2    | Chhetri | 1130       | 9.50    |
| 3    | Brahman | 1127       | 9.48    |
| 4    | Thakuri | 491        | 4.13    |
| 5    | Kami    | 230        | 1.93    |

|       |                 |       |      |
|-------|-----------------|-------|------|
| 6     | Damai           | 157   | 1.32 |
| 7     | Muslim          | 61    | 0.51 |
| 8     | Magar           | 57    | 0.48 |
| 9     | Undefined caste | 41    | 0.34 |
| 10    | Sunuwar         | 32    | 0.27 |
| 11    | Sunar           | 25    | 0.21 |
| 12    | Newar           | 17    | 0.14 |
| 13    | Sanyasi         | 14    | 0.12 |
| 14    | Gurung          | 8     | 0.07 |
| 15    | Sudhi           | 6     | 0.05 |
| 16    | Marwadi         | 6     | 0.05 |
| 17    | Sarki           | 5     | 0.04 |
| 18    | Teli            | 5     | 0.04 |
| 19    | Undefined Dalit | 5     | 0.04 |
| 20    | Other           | 15    | 0.13 |
| Total |                 | 11892 | 100  |

Source: CBS, 2001

According to the table 4.4 there are many caste and ethnicity in the study area. About 71% people are Tharu and nearly 20% people are Brahmin, Cheetri with other different caste and ethnicity.

**Table 4.5**

**Population by Mother tongue of Pahalmanpur VDC.**

| S.N.  | MOTHER TONGUE   | POPULATION | PERCENT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|---------|
| 1.    | Tharu 'Dagaura' | 8332       | 70.06   |
| 2.    | Nepali          | 3419       | 28.75   |
| 3.    | Hindi           | 63         | 0.53    |
| 4.    | Other           | 78         | 0.66    |
| Total |                 | 11892      | 100     |

Source: CBS, 2001

Above figure shows that, there are mainly two mother tongue groups, among them Tharu is main which possesses about 70% likewise Nepali mother tongue people are about 29%, similarly Hindi & other unidentified people are in rarely get they possess, about 1% only.

**Table 4.6**

**Population by Religion of Pahalmanpur VDC**

| S.N.  | Religion   | Population | Percent |
|-------|------------|------------|---------|
| 1     | Hindu      | 11802      | 99.24   |
| 2     | Buddha     | 20         | 0.17    |
| 3     | Islam      | 61         | 0.51    |
| 4     | Christian  | 8          | 0.07    |
| 5     | Not-stated | 1          | 0.01    |
| Total |            | 11892      | 100     |

Source: CBS, 2001

Above table shows that about 99% people of VDC are Hindu religion. Similarly, Buddha, Islam, Christian are too little. There is no religious war or movement so development process is in positive.

## 4.2 Economic Characteristics of Pahalmanpur VDC

**Table 4.7**

**Households having Agricultural land, Livestock and poultry of  
Pahalmanpur VDC**

| S.N   | DESCRIPTION               | HOUSEHOLDS | PERCENT |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|---------|
| 1.    | Agricultural land only    | 86         | 5.04    |
| 2.    | Live stock only           | 74         | 4.34    |
| 3.    | Poultry only              | 17         | 1.00    |
| 4.    | Land & Live stock         | 228        | 13.36   |
| 5.    | Land & Poultry            | 68         | 3.98    |
| 6.    | Livestock & Poultry       | 103        | 6.03    |
| 7.    | Land, livestock & poultry | 979        | 57.35   |
| 8.    | Non of all                | 152        | 8.90    |
| Total |                           | 1707       | 100     |

Source: CBS, 2001

According to above figure, most 57% of household of VDC had livestock, land & poultry. Similarly, about 13% of people had land and livestock. Likewise the people of VDC had engaged in different economic

activities such as agriculture land, livestock, poultry etc. Thus the economic activity of the study area was going in positive aspect.

#### **4.2.1 Households Operating Small Scale, Non Agriculture Economic Activity of Pahalmanpur VDC**

Among the 1707 total households of Pahalmanpur VDC, only 294 households were active in economic activities and 1413 households were not active in economic activity.

#### **4.2.2 Economic activities of Pahalmanpur VDC**

There were 1707 households economically divided in to two categories (a) economically active households (b) economically inactive households.

**Table 4.8**

##### **Economic Activities of Households**

| S.N.  | Description     | Households | Percent |
|-------|-----------------|------------|---------|
| 1.    | Manufacturing   | 14         | 4.76    |
| 2.    | Trade/ Business | 197        | 67.01   |
| 3.    | Transport       | 7          | 2.38    |
| 4.    | Service         | 52         | 17.69   |
| 5.    | Other           | 24         | 8.16    |
| Total |                 | 294        | 100     |

Source: CBS 2001

Among 294 household, engaged in economic activities, most of 67% were involved in trade/business. Likewise, 18% of households were involved in service. There were too little households involved in non agricultural activities.

### 4.2.3 Economic activities of Pahalmanpur VDC Over 10 years of population

**Table 4.9**

**Economic Activity of Population in Pahalmanpur VDC**

| S.N   | Description | Population |       |        |       | Total | Percent |
|-------|-------------|------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
|       |             | Male       | %     | Female | %     |       |         |
| 1.    | Active      | 3072       | 72.16 | 2738   | 66.06 | 5809  | 69.11   |
| 2.    | Inactive    | 1186       | 27.86 | 1407   | 33.94 | 2593  | 30.86   |
| Total |             | 4257       | 100   | 4145   | 100   | 8402  | 100     |

Source: CBS, 2001.

According to the table, about 69% of the total populations over 10 year of age were active. Similarly, only 31% were economically passive in the study area.

### 4.3 Health Status of Women

According to the CBS 2001, female life expectancy is lower than the male in Nepal due to poorer health status and higher mortality among

females. Because of early marriage, most of women spent bulk of their life in bearing and rearing children, similarly illegal abortion suspected to account for a substantial number of maternal deaths.

During the field, researcher found that, about two third part of the total work is done by women; they have less care for their health and nutritional sector. So the health status of women is very poor in this VDC.

#### **4.4 Problems of the women in Pahalmanpur VDC**

Most of the household of this VDC are below poverty line so their male usually goes to earn money in India and other foreign country. At least one male of each household has gone, out side the country that is why, working load of women is increasing. Less education of women and poor health status they should face a critical problem like economic, decision making and even some times being pestered by other male.

## Chapter V

### Presentations & Analysis of Data

This chapter presents the discussion of the findings of this study in three different parts. The first part deals with the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The second part deals with economic characteristics of respondents and the third part is devoted to describe the women's role in decision making process of the respondents.

As mentioned above, this part deals with the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, such as household size age, ethnic composition, education, religion, marital status marriage age, marriage system etc which are presented in the following paragraphs.

#### 5.1 Socio-demographic characteristics of the Respondents

##### 5.1.1 Household size

Table 5.1

##### Household Size

| S.N.  | Household size | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 0-5            | 46          | 46      |
| 2.    | 6-10           | 45          | 45      |
| 3.    | 11-15          | 8           | 8       |
| 4.    | 16 and above   | 1           | 1       |
| Total |                | 100         | 100     |

Source: Field survey, 2009

On the basis of the number of the family member, size of the family is divided in to four categories. The first categories is small, it covers 0-5 members, second is medium it covers 6-10 members, third is higher it covers 11-15 members and fourth categories is highest it covers more than 15 members. Sizes of the family determine the working condition and the time spent by a house wife in households and other chores. Large size of family is one of the characteristics of one of the underdeveloped society. In this study, highest percent of the families 46% are found to be small (0-5) size, followed by, the medium sized (6-10) families 45%. Similarly, higher (11-15) sized families are found to be 8% and highest (16 +) family sized found to be only 1%.

### 5.1.2 Religion

Table 5.2

#### Religion of Respondent

| S.N.  | Religion  | Respondent | Percent |
|-------|-----------|------------|---------|
| 1.    | Hindu     | 98         | 98      |
| 2.    | Christian | 2          | 2       |
| Total |           | 100        | 100     |

Source: Field survey, 2009

According to the interim constitution 2063, Nepal is absolute religious country. There is no bar to be only religious even in the study area there are about 98% respondent are Hindu and only 2% are Christians. There

is none of from Buddha religion. Some respondents even didn't know that religious in fact in this situation. The researcher had to ask about their God which they worshipped.

### 5.1.3 Caste and Ethnicity of Respondents

**Table 5.3**

**Caste and Ethnicity of Respondent**

| S.N.  | Caste/ Ethnicity   | Respondent | Percent |
|-------|--------------------|------------|---------|
| 1.    | Brahmin            | 32         | 32      |
| 2.    | Tharu              | 32         | 32      |
| 3.    | Chhetri            | 25         | 25      |
| 4.    | Thakuri            | 2          | 2       |
| 5.    | Magar              | 2          | 2       |
| 6.    | Kami, Sunar, damai | 7          | 7       |
| Total |                    | 100        | 100     |

(Source: Field survey, 2009)

Nepal is a multicast and multilingual nation as well. It is heterogeneous in its ethnic composition. In the study area, there were also many ethnic group such as Brahmin, Tharu, Chhetri, Thakuri, Magar, Dalit(Kami, Sunar, Damai). . All these ethnic groups were included in the sample.

The highest percent were Brahmin & Tharu which consist 32/32 percent of the respondents. Chhetri respondents were 25%. Similarly, Thakuri, Magar, Sunar and Damai were 2/2 Percent and Kami were 3% of total respondents.

#### 5.1.4 Educational Situation of the Respondents

Education is the sign of development. Educated female can provide better lifestyle. Education is that elements which equips women with the too to solve her problems in life and helps her to live in better life. Education is therefore essential for the rural women in measure as well as in a form that they need to become more productive and worthier citizen of the country.

**Table 5.4**

#### **Educational Situation of Female**

| S.N.  | Education                     | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Illiterate                    | 42          | 42      |
| 2.    | Literate ( read &write only ) | 20          | 20      |
| 3.    | Below SLC                     | 27          | 27      |
| 4.    | SLC                           | 5           | 5       |
| 5.    | Intermediate level            | 6           | 6       |
| Total |                               | 100         | 100     |

Source: -Field survey, 2009

According to the above table, 58% respondents were literate and 42% women were illiterate. Among the literate 20% respondents were literate they could read and write only, 27% respondents were under SLC. Similarly, SLC level respondents were 5%, Intermediate level respondents were 6% and Bachelor level and above respondents were not found. Hence, the literacy rate in this VDC is comparatively higher than that of the average Nepalese.

### 5.1.5 Age of the respondents

**Table 5.5**

**Age Wise Distribution of Respondents**

| S.N.  | Age Group | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 10-19     | 16          | 16      |
| 2.    | 20-29     | 26          | 26      |
| 3.    | 30-39     | 34          | 34      |
| 4.    | 40-49     | 16          | 16      |
| 5.    | 50 +      | 8           | 8       |
| Total |           | 100         | 100     |

Source: -Field survey, 2009

Age is an important demographic characteristics, age makes difference in working hours, types of work and involvement in decision

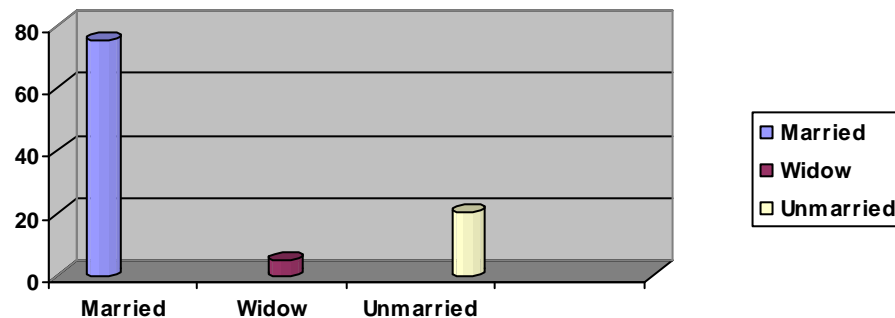
making process. In this study different age grouped respondents were sampled.

Above table shows that the highest percentages of the respondents were 30-39 age groups which were 34%, only 8% respondents belonged to 50 years or above age group. Similarly, the percentage of (10-19) group, (20-29) group and (40-49) age group were 16%, 26% and 16% respectively.

### 5.1.6 Marital status of Respondents

Figure5.1

#### Marital status of Respondent



Source: - Field Survey, 2009

In this study all the respondents are female. Marriage is one of the important characteristics of Nepalese women. Marital status makes the difference in women's status, because it is through the marriage that the women change their status from the status of daughter to daughter in law. Because of the tradition of the early marriage, most of the respondents were married.

According to the above figure 5.1, among the total 100 respondents most 75% were married, 5% were widow and 20% were unmarried. The researcher didn't find any problem like divorce case

### 5.1.7 Marriage age of respondents

**Table 5.6**  
**Marriage age of respondents**

| S.N.  | Marriage Age | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 11-15        | 25          | 31.3    |
| 2.    | 16-20        | 40          | 50      |
| 3.    | 21-24        | 11          | 13.7    |
| 4.    | 25 +         | 4           | 5       |
| Total |              | 80*         | 100     |

Source: - Field Survey, 2009

\* 20 respondents were unmarried

According to the above table, 80 respondents were married, and only 20 respondents were unmarried. Among the married respondents most 50% married respondents were engaged in their marriage in (16-20) age, only at least 5% respondents got marry in above 25 years of age group and 13.8% of total respondents got marry 20-24 age group. About 81% of total married respondents got married before 20 years of age. Here it can be said that marital status have been changing. The women's role and increase the duties and work load of the women

### 5.1.8 Marriage system of respondents

**Table 5.7**  
**Marriage systems of respondents**

| S.N.  | System   | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|----------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Monogamy | 75          | 75      |
| 2.    | Polygamy | 5           | 5       |
| 3.    | Other    | 20          | 20      |
| Total |          | 100         | 100     |

Source: - field survey, 2009

According to the above table, most 75 % of the respondents were monogamy marriage system, 5 % were polygamy system. Similarly, 20 % respondents were unmarried.

### 5.1.9 Family types of the respondents

Types of family play an important role in the women's poverty. There were mainly two types of the families in the study area, Nuclear and Joint. Here nuclear family includes husband, wife and their unmarried children and it is comparatively small in size. Likewise joint family means husband, wife, one or more their married children and other relatives living in one husband who take their meal in the same kitchen.

**Table 5.8**  
**Types of family by respondents**

| S.N.  | Types of family | Respondents | percent |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Nuclear         | 68          | 68      |
| 2.    | Joint           | 32          | 32      |
| Total |                 | 100         | 100     |

Source:- Field Survey, 2009

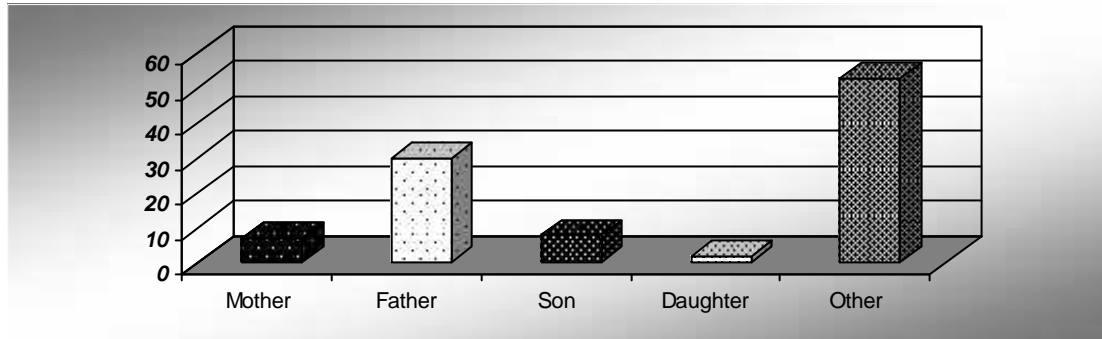
According to the above table the highest 68 % of the respondents were of nuclear type and only 32 % of the families were found to be joint in their family structure. But they are not so large in size, because, in joint families also only father, mother and their son, daughter in law, grand sons, unmarried daughters and grand daughters are found living together. In case of two or more married sons, most of them are separated from their parents

Generally, in joint families, women's economic conditions are found much poorer than in nuclear families. However, work load of women in joint family is less than in nuclear family. Female numbers of the family are more than male members.

#### **5.1.10 First Telling If Respondents Get ill**

The problem of household, they used to share in their family is one of the important factor to determine the position of women. It also determines the status of women in their own family. The following figure shows the situation of women in their own family in the study area.

**Figure 5.2**  
**Responsive person**



Source: - Field survey, 2009

According to the above figure 53 % of the total respondents had first consulted with their husband (other) when they got ill. Similarly, 30.5 of the respondents told to their fathers, 8 % to their sons, 7 % to their mother and remaining 2 % to their daughter

This indicates, female was dominated by male because 91% respondents told to their male persons when they had abnormalities.

### **5.1.11 Respondents treatment place**

**Table 5.9**

**Treatment place of the respondents**

| S.N.  | Treatment place | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Hospital        | 89          | 89      |
| 2.    | Clinic          | 7           | 7       |
| 3.    | Dhami           | 4           | 4       |
| Total |                 | 100         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

Above table shows that, most of respondent's 89 % using hospital for their proper treatment. Similarly 7 % respondents were using clinic and 4 % were using Dhama for their health treatment. Generally Dhama were popular in lower caste or those people are totally illiterate and those who have no access of any medical sources.

### **5.1.12 Importance of Son/ Daughter by respondents**

**Table 5.10**  
**Importance of Son/Daughter**

| S.N.  | Importance | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Son        | 19          | 19      |
| 2.    | Daughter   | 12          | 12      |
| 3.    | Both equal | 69          | 69      |
| Total |            | 100         | 100     |

Source: - Field Survey, 2009

According to the above table, there was a little discrimination between son and daughter because of education and awareness most of respondents 69 % were giving priority to both son and daughter only 19 % respondents were in favors of son and 12 % respondents were giving priority to daughter.

### **5.2 Economic characteristics of the respondents**

To analyze the data, occupation was divided in to six categories. Among them only four types of occupied respondents were found. They

were agriculture, office, labors and business. In rural Nepalese society, main occupation of the women was household activities, but their contribution are not confined within the household activities alone they perform agricultural work, office, labors and business as well.

### 5.2.1 Occupation of respondents

**Table 5.11**  
**Distribution of Respondents by Occupation**

| S.N.  | Occupation                   | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Household work & Agriculture | 79          | 79      |
| 2.    | Household work & Office      | 4           | 4       |
| 3.    | Household work & Labor       | 7           | 7       |
| 4.    | Household work and business  | 10          | 10      |
| Total |                              | 100         | 100     |

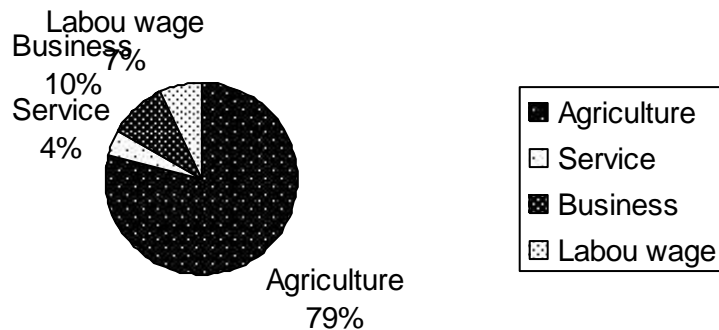
Source: - Field survey, 2009

From the above table 5.11, maximum 79 % of the total respondents were engaged in household work as well as their agricultural works. There were 10 % of the respondents involved in household work and business. Similarly, 7% of the total respondents were found to engaged in labor and household work and left 4 5 of the respondents were found to be engaged in household work and office.

### 5.2.2 Main source of Income

Though agriculture was the main source of income of the respondents, there were also other sources to earn livelihood. Main sources also of family income were divided in to four categories; agriculture, service, business and labor wage.

**Figure 5.3**  
**Source of Income**



Source: - Field Survey, 2009

According to the above figure agriculture was the main source of income of 79 % of the respondents. The lowest percentage of the respondents 4% were involved in service. Similarly, 7 % of the respondents were depended in labor wage for the main source of income.

### 5.2.3 Working hour of the respondents in a day

**Table 5.12**  
**Working hour in a day**

| S.N.  | Hour's/day | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 4-8        | 24          | 24      |
| 2.    | 8-12       | 47          | 47      |
| 3.    | 12 +       | 29          | 29      |
| Total |            | 100         | 100     |

Source: - Field Survey, 2009

Working hour of the respondents ranged from 4 hours per day to above 12 hours per day. Besides household works, women are equally involved in farm activities too. In peak season of agriculture, Nepalese women have to bear double load of house works, transplanting and housework etc. Working hour of the women differ according to different socio-economic variables.

According to the above table 24.5 respondents have to work (4-8) hours per day. Similarly, most of the respondents 47 % have to work above (8-12) hours per day and 29 % of the respondents have to work above 12 hours per day.

## 5.2.4 Leisure time of the respondents in a day

**Table 5.13**

### Leisure time in a day

| S.N.  | Leisure time(in hour) | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 2                     | 30          | 30      |
| 2.    | 4                     | 54          | 54      |
| 3.    | 6                     | 12          | 12      |
| 4.    | 8                     | 4           | 4       |
| Total |                       | 100         | 100     |

Source: -Field survey, 2009

According to the table, most of the respondents 54 % had 4 hours leisure time in a day, only 4 % had 8 hours and above leisure period. Some aged women are regarded for this. Similarly, 30 % had 2 hours and 12.5 had 6 hours of leisure period.\*Research was conducted in harvesting the crops.

## 5.2.5 Respondents Busy in Leisure period

**Table 5.14**

### Busy in leisure period

| S.N. | Busy                | Respondents | Percent |
|------|---------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.   | Watch T.V.          | 6           | 6       |
| 2.   | Gossip with friends | 28          | 28      |
| 3.   | Rest                | 63          | 63      |
| 4.   | Other               | 3           | 3       |
|      |                     | 100         | 100     |

Source:- Field Survey, 2009

According to the above table, most of the respondents 63 % were having their leisure time by taking a rest, 28 % of the total respondents were busy in leisure period with gossip with friends. 6 % were being watched T.V. program and left 3 % used to study in their leisure period.

### **5.2.6 Land holding**

Generally, Nepal's agrarian economy is characterized by its low outputs, high man land ratio and small and fragmented land holding. In Pahalmanpur VDC, most of the people are farmers whether small or big. Therefore, in this study, most of the samples represent farmers. About 80 % of the respondents were farmers in the study area. The size of farming land has been given below.

**Table 5.15**  
**Land Holding**

| S.N.  | Land (in kattha) | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 0-10             | 42          | 42      |
| 2.    | 10-20            | 42          | 42      |
| 3.    | 20-30            | 11          | 11      |
| 4.    | 30 +             | 5           | 5       |
| Total |                  | 100         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

Above table 5.15 shows that, about 42 % respondents had small sized (0-10) Kattha land. Similarly 42 % of the total respondents had (10-20) Kattha of farming land, 11 % had 20-30 Kattha land and rest 5 % of the total respondents had more than 30 Kattha of land for their livelihood. Hence we can say that most of the sampled household had small sized land for farming.

### 5.2.7 Production of food from the land

**Table 5.16**

**Food production from the land**

| S.N.  | Production(in Quintile) | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 0-10                    | 46          | 46      |
| 2.    | 10-20                   | 40          | 40      |
| 3.    | 20-30                   | 8           | 8       |
| 4.    | 30 +                    | 6           | 6       |
| Total |                         | 100         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

According to the above table, most of the respondents 46 % had low production about 0-10 Quintile per year, 40 % respondents had 10-20 Quintile production and 8 % had 20-30 Quintile of production. Similarly, 6% respondents had more than 30 Quintile productions from their farmland.

## 5.2.8 Duration of food product Sustain in Respondent's Family

**Table 5.17**  
**Sustain of food product**

| S.N.  | Duration    | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 0-4 months  | 13          | 13      |
| 2.    | 4-8 months  | 26          | 26      |
| 3.    | 8-12 months | 27          | 27      |
| 4.    | 12 +        | 34          | 34      |
| Total |             | 100         | 100     |

Source: -Field survey, 2009

Above table 5.17 shows that, only 34 % of total sampled household were able to provide sufficient food for the whole years. Similarly, about 39 % of respondents were able to sustain food for less than 8 month and 27 % respondents were able to sustain food for 8-12 month for their family.

Although, 79% of the sampled households were farmers, most of them are not able to provide sufficient food for the whole years. Only a fourth part of the total household had surplus food grains to sell. The main reasons of this problem were traditional farming system, lack of irrigation, involvement of more women in farming etc.

## 5.2.9 Respondents income per Month

On the basis of monthly income of each household, respondent were divided in to four categories. Household which had an income RS 1500 per

month belong low household income group, middle income group were those whose income ranged between Rs.(1500-3000), high income group were those whose income was ranged between RS(3000-4500) and higher income group were those whose income was more than RS 4500 per month.

**Table 5.18**  
**Income per month**

| S.N | Income    | Respondents | Percent |
|-----|-----------|-------------|---------|
| 1.  | 0-1500    | 38          | 38      |
| 2.  | 1500-3000 | 48          | 48      |
| 3.  | 3000-4500 | 10          | 10      |
| 4.  | 4500 +    | 4           | 4       |
|     |           | 100         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

According to the above table 5.18 shows that most of the respondents 48 % had RS (1500-3000) income per month and only 4 % respondents had more than RS 4500 income per months. Similarly, 38 % had (0-1500) income per months and remaining 10 % had RS (3000-4500) income per months

### 5.2.10 Expenditure of the respondent per month

**Table 5.19**  
**Expenditure per month**

| S.N.  | Expenditure(RS) | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | 0-1000          | 52          | 52      |
| 2.    | 1000-2000       | 37          | 37      |
| 3.    | 2000-3000       | 8           | 8       |
| 4.    | 3000 and above  | 3           | 3       |
| Total |                 | 100         | 100     |

Source: -field survey, 2009

According to the above table, 5.19 most of sampled household 52 % were being expenditure by RS (1-1000), only a least 3 % were being expenditure by more than RS 3000. Likewise, 37 % were being done RS 1000-2000 and 8% were being done RS2000-3000 expenditure per month.

### 5.2.11 Respondents More Money Expenditure for

**Table 5.20**  
**More expenditure for**

| S.N.  | Expenditure Sector | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Food               | 33          | 33      |
| 2.    | Clothes            | 2           | 2       |
| 3.    | Education          | 54          | 54      |
| 4.    | Health             | 11          | 11      |
| Total |                    | 100         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

According to the above table, 5.20 maximum numbers of respondents 54 % had invested in education, followed by food 33 %, health 11% and finally clothes 2 %. It shows that education and food are the most important sector.

### **5.2.12 Number of Livestock of the Respondents**

There were various types of live stocks in surveyed area such as cows, buffaloes, goats, pigs, chickens and ducks. Therefore all the household were categorized on the basis of number of animals they possess as following, zero (0), up to 2, 3 to 4 and above 4.

Livestock rising is an integral part of the Nepalese country, irrespective of caste, Creed, wealth and economical region of the country. Each and every farmer household maintains a few numbers of livestock. The main objective of raising livestock is for milk, curd, ghee, meat for household consumption as well as sale and plugging their field. Livestock rising varies according to their ethnicity, ecological belts and economic conditions.

**Table 5.21**  
**Number of Livestock**

| S. N. | Number of Livestock | Cow |     | Buffalo |     | Chicken |     | Goat |     | Pig |     |
|-------|---------------------|-----|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
|       |                     | No. | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.  | %   | No. | %   |
| 1.    | 0                   | 39  | 39  | 71      | 71  | 44      | 44  | 40   | 40  | 83  | 83  |
| 2.    | 1-2                 | 42  | 42  | 23      | 23  | 5       | 5   | 32   | 32  | 14  | 14  |
| 3.    | 3-4                 | 17  | 17  | 5       | 5   | 5       | 5   | 19   | 19  | 1   | 1   |
| 4.    | 4 +                 | 2   | 2   | 1       | 1   | 46      | 46  | 9    | 9   | 2   | 2   |
|       |                     | 100 | 100 | 100     | 100 | 100     | 100 | 100  | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

According to the above table, different types of livestock were found to be kept for different purpose. Among the livestock, buffaloes were the expensive ones. Therefore only 29% of the sampled household had kept buffaloes and 23% of the household had risen up to 2 buffaloes and 5 % had 3 to 4 buffaloes. 39% of the household without cow and 61% of the respondents had raised cows.

Chickens and goats were cheaper and easy to keep. Therefore chicken found 56% of the total sampled household and goats were found 60% of the total sampled households. Similarly, only 17% of the household were raising pigs. Generally pigs were not kept in higher caste household so that it was not common in village households.

### 5.2.13 Contribution of livestock Toward Family Income

**Table 5.22**

#### **Contribution of livestock towards family Income**

| S.N. | Contribution (in RS.) | Respondents | Percent |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.   | 0-500                 | 72          | 78.26   |
| 2.   | 500-1000              | 17          | 18.48   |
| 3.   | 1000-1500             | 2           | 2.17    |
| 4.   | 1500 +above           | 1           | 1.09    |
|      |                       | 92*         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

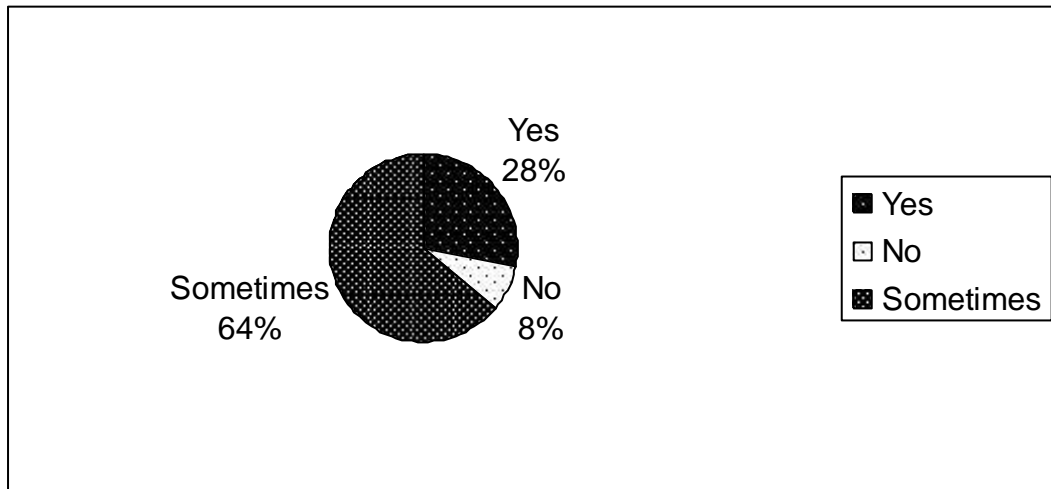
Note: - \* only 92 respondents had reared Livestock

Above table shows that, most of the respondents of the sampled households 78.26 % had been earned less then RS. 500 per month by livestock, 18.48% had earned RS. (500-1000) per month by livestock and only 1.09% of the total sampled household had been earned above 1500 per month by livestock.

### 5.2.14 Respondents View about Taking Loan

Women's social, education and cultural condition always affected by their economic status. If they have more or sufficient money they can participate in every social program which lead them to up ward their lifestyle. So to meet to take loan from different social intuitions i.e. bank, communities saving institutions and relatives as well.

**Figure 5.4**  
**View about Taking Loan**



Source: - Field survey, 2009

According to the above figure, 92% of the total sampled households were taking loan for their household maintains. Among 92%, there were 28% household who takes loan regularly and 64% of the sampled respondents takes loan sometimes according to their problems. Remaining 8% of the total sampled respondents were not taking loans.

According to the field survey, the fact shows that most of the sampled households were involved in economic activities. Sampled 64% of the respondents who were taking loan sometimes are also the good performances in economic activities.

### 5.2.15 Sources of Loan

**Table 5.23**  
**Sources of Loan**

| S.N.  | Source    | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Relatives | 28          | 30.43   |
| 2.    | Banks     | 63          | 68.48   |
| 3.    | Others    | 1           | 1.09    |
| Total |           | 92*         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

Note: - \* 92 of the sampled household were taking loan

Above table shows that, most of the respondents 68.48% were taking loan includes some commercial banks, community based organizations etc. Similarly, 28% of the total sampled household were taking loans from their relatives and rest 1.09% of the total sampled household were taking loan from other sector i.e. business, friends etc.

### 5.2.16 purpose of taking Loan

Economy is that thing, which can perform most of the work accruing in the human life. In the study area the researcher found different task performed by wealth. In the study area the purpose of taking loan has being categorized in different sector i.e. treatment, house expenditure and others. Here other includes education, business etc.

**Table 5.24**  
**Purpose of Taking Loan**

| S.N.  | Purpose           | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|-------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Treatment         | 12          | 13.04   |
| 2.    | House expenditure | 73          | 79.35   |
| 3.    | Others            | 7           | 7.61    |
| Total |                   | 92*         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

\*92 respondents were taking loan.

According to the above Table, most of the respondents 79.35% were being taken loans for household expenditure. Similarly, 13.04% were for treatment and rest 7.61 % were being business and other specific work.

### **5.2.17 Respondents Attitude toward the Use of Loan Freely**

**Table 5.25**  
**Attitude to use Loan freely**

| S.N.  | Attitude | Respondents | Percent |
|-------|----------|-------------|---------|
| 1.    | Yes      | 89          | 96.74   |
| 2.    | No       | 3           | 3.26    |
| Total |          | 92*         | 100     |

Source: -Field survey, 2009

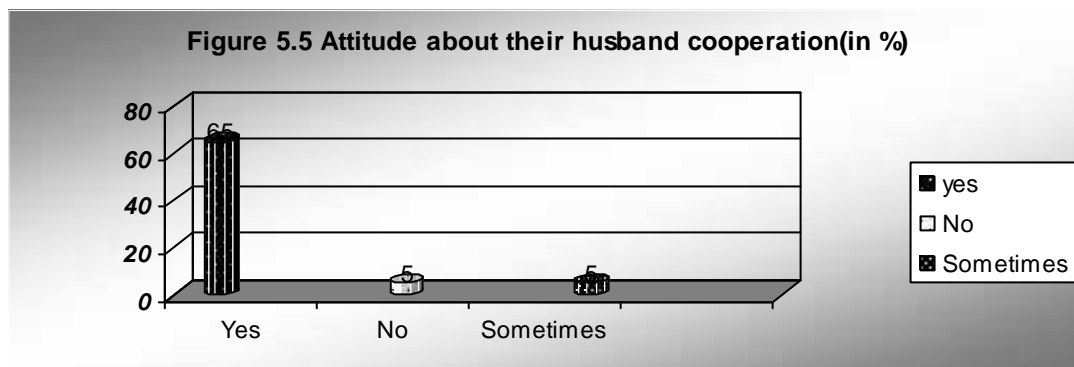
\*92 Respondents were taking loan.

According to the above table 5.25, maximum of sampled households 96.74 were freely using the loan or they could expend their loan where it

needed and there was no obstacle to use loan freely. Likewise, only 3.26% of the total sampled household house holds were not freely using the loan. Their elder person of house expends the loan any where or where it is necessary.

### 5.2.18 Respondents View on their husband cooperation to their daily Life

In Nepalese society, here exists a clear division of work between men, women and children. No doubt, in general, there exist prevalent patriarchal attitudes in the society where women have too taken care of all the household chores. Women are also equally involved in agriculture together with their male counterparts; male members of the family also help to perform some particular types of household work. Such as help to case the livestock, book after children, to cook meal and help to perform other work such as brining firewood, fodder and water. Within household works, some particular works are done only by women and some household works are shared by their husbands, but only sometimes.



Source: - Field Survey, 2009

\*75 Respondents were married.

According to the above figure 5.5, most of the respondents 86.67% of them were not receiving way kind of help from their help sometime by their male. This indicates that the working load of women in the study area is very high.

### **5.2.19 Respondents Involvement in any Extra Income Generating Activities**

Rural women spend most of their in their domestic work. Beside domestic works, they spent also equal time outside the household boundary. In agriculture while their income generated forth works other than household and garniture work such as working in daily wages and small businesses.

**Table 5.26**  
**Involvement in any extra income generating activities**

| S.N. | Involvement | Respondents | Percent |
|------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| 1.   | yes         | 36          | 36      |
| 2.   | No          | 64          | 64      |
|      |             | 100         | 100     |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

This table 5.26 shows that, 64% of the respondents were not engaged in any income generating activities and only 36% of the respondents had some source of extra income but they are not free to spend that money according to their will. Because most of them had to run their households themselves and money earned by other family member was not sufficient to fulfill the household recessives.

### 5.3 Dieting Pattern

Food is the essential basic need, on which all living exists. Varieties of food taking differ according to economic status of the family.

Main diet of Pahalmanpur VDC is rice, porridge, bread and vegetables. Majority of the people eat rice twice a day and only a little of the respondents eat rice once a day. Pulses an important item in our diet but in the study area of Pahalmanpur VDC, the researcher found to be taken pulses only in the occasion by some respondents. Vegetables are not necessary for a balanced diet. Villagers have started to grow more vegetables in this study area. They sell these vegetable in the market and earn money to meet their other expenses. And most of the respondents eat green vegetables twice a day.

Rising of livestock is decreasing in this VDC, household consumption of milk and curd was found normal because fodder for livestock was not a available sufficiently in the village. Therefore most of the villagers had kept only a pair of oxen and he buffaloes for field work. All the respondents eat meat but lower caste eats meat more frequently than that of the higher caste, because they also eat buff and pig which is much cheaper than mutton and chicken. However the higher caste is not allowed to take buff. Now days Brahman & Chhetri are also taking buff& pigs.

Dieting pattern also affected by time of taking meal. In our Nepalese society, especially in higher caste, women must take their food only after their male counterparts. This situation is much more badly when the women are in the role or daughter in-law. Qualitative food such as pulses, vegetables are almost not left for them. Because of traditional concept women they did not get qualitative food equally than men. Since a balance diet, that satisfies all kinds of requirements e.g. calorie, vitamin and proteins reasonably

consistent with consumers preference turn out to be very expensive in relation to actual dietary standards in the village, the result are malnutrition and causes of many diseases.

Hence it can be said that the dieting pattern of people of the Pahalmanpur VDC is very low.

#### **5.4 Role of women in decision making Process**

Generally, involvement in family decision making process indicates one's higher or equal status in the family. Status of women is also religiously higher in Nepal, especially in higher caste Hindu Families. But it is only in theory or it can be said that it is true to some extent, when they are in status of daughter. When they enter in the status role of daughter in-law, their status is very low. In their role of daughter or daughter in-law, women are not accepting as a decision maker outside the kitchen except animal care and some farm activities. When, particularly at their old age, performing the role of mother in-law, she can take part in decision making process.

**Table 5.27**

#### **Women's role in Decision making Process**

| S.N | Particular            | Male % | Female % | House consult % | Total % |
|-----|-----------------------|--------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| 1.  | Buy Daily Necessities | 8      | 75       | 17              | 100     |
| 2.  | Buying Clothes        | 6      | 48       | 46              | 100     |
| 3.  | Religious work        | 4      | 62       | 34              | 100     |
| 4.  | Treatment             | 13     | 7        | 80              | 100     |
| 5.  | Agriculture work      | 18     | 5        | 77              | 100     |

|     |                       |    |    |    |     |
|-----|-----------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| 6.  | Saving                | 4  | 3  | 93 | 100 |
| 7.  | Taking Loan           | 3  | 1  | 96 | 100 |
| 8.  | Utilization of saving | 4  | 0  | 96 | 100 |
| 9.  | Animal care           | 8  | 66 | 26 | 100 |
| 10. | Income Activities     | 2  | 0  | 98 | 100 |
| 11. | Buy utensils          | 1  | 85 | 14 | 100 |
| 12. | Face social meeting   | 84 | 6  | 10 | 100 |

Source: - Field survey, 2009

Above table shows that the women have good authority in decision making process. In this case about 90% respondents are doing with house consult .Most of women have involved in kitchen related or household chores i.e. buy daily necessities, buying clothes, animal care, religious work, buying utensils etc. On the other hand most of the male have involved in decision making of some important issues i.e. treatment, agriculture work, saving. Taking loans, utilization of saving, income activities etc. But in some cases women who are earning widens or respected from the husband and in all cases they are earning their livelihood themselves. They are the main earner of the family. There are not active male members in their family. They have to make all decisions related to their life.

## **5.5 Work load of women**

Women have to perform various types of heavy as well as light works which may be more time consuming and troublesome. In our rural society there are not any fixed types of works routine for women. They have to perform all domestic tasks such as cooking, cleaning house and utensils, fetching water(from tap to kitchen), grinding and processing of the cereals,

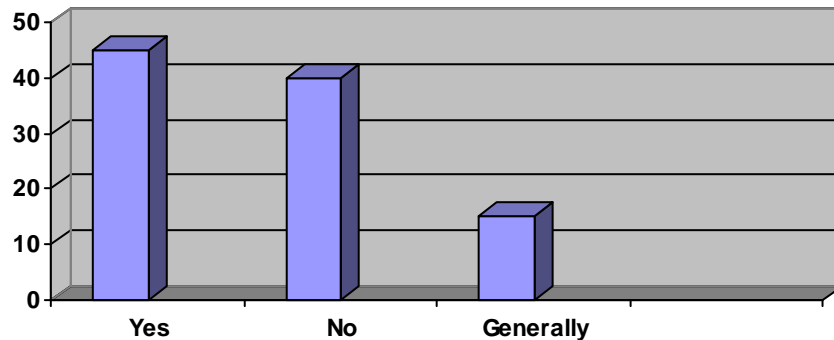
making liquor, dairy products, cutting grass for cattle, food preservation, looking after the children, bringing firewood, washing clothes, caring children and animals etc. Besides all these domestic works they are also working in the agriculture field. In the surveyed areas women are performing all the above types of works. Especially in farm work, men usually prepare land (i.e. ploughing, hoeing and harrowing the soil) for crop cultivation, while women are generally responsible for many of the ensuring activities, whether it is rice, maize, wheat are performed by women. For the processing (drying, thrashing and winnowing) is done mainly by women.

Due to this above mentioned heavy working load, women can't read easily from their childhood age. They have to perform two-third part of the total work which occurs in the daily life. So women can't participate in any income generating activities and social, cultural work, their status is poor.

## **5.6 Women's Right**

In the study area, the researcher asks the question about the women's right, most of the respondents gave satisfactory answer but actual answer was not replied by the women in research area.

**Figure 5.6**  
**Knowledge about women's Right**



Source: - Field survey, 2009

According to the above table, sampled 45% of the respondents gave the answer that they have the knowledge about their right but 40% of the respondents had no knowledge about women's right. Similarly 15% of the respondents had generally knowing about the women's right.

Above fact clarified that women's status is poor. To know about their own right is necessary but below 50% had knowledge about their right. Because of the low level of education they have no knowledge about their own empowerment and women's right.

### **5.7 Lack of government and non-governmental coordination**

In the study area, there is seemed that the governmental and non-governmental sectors have a deep gap to push up the women's empowerment and their actual status. When the researcher was gone to collect the data, there was the lack of governmental and non-governmental sectors support to the women's empowerment. This gap has caused to no collaborate and the launched programs are not effectively accessible to the target group and this

is a de-motivating factor. Even there was not too much programmed to motivate the women's participation in every sector.

### **5.8 Miscellaneous Factors:**

There are some other factors such as carelessness of implementers and beneficiaries, lack of community mobilization, no income generating programs for respondents, low household income and low level of education as the de-motivating factors.

## **Chapter VI**

### **Findings, Conclusions & Recommendations**

#### **6.1 Findings**

This study is a case study to probe the status of the women in Pahalmanpur VDC of Kailali district. The researcher found the following major finding in the study area.

- ❖ Among the total respondents, 98% were Hindu and 2% were Christian but Buddha was not found.
- ❖ Pahalmanpur VDC has the diversity of caste and ethnicity among 100 respondents (32/32) % were Brahman and Chaudhary, Chhetri were 25% and rest were Dalit, Thakuri and other.
- ❖ The average household size of sampling was 5.82 people. Among the total, 46% respondents had (6-10) family members and only 1% had more than 16 family members.
- ❖ Out of 100 respondents 42% were illiterate, 58% were literate, but SLC level were 5% and Intermediate were 6%. In the study area no respondents were found to be bachelor and above level.
- ❖ Out of 100 respondents, 34% were lies in (30-39) age group, only at least 8% were lies above 50 Year of age group. Similarly 26% were lies in 20-29 age group and rest 16/16% were lies in 10-19 and 40-48 age groups.
- ❖ Most of the respondents, 75% were found to be married, 5% were widow and 20% were unmarried.
- ❖ Among the 100 respondents 80% were found to be married, among them 40% got married in (19-20) age group. Similarly, 25% got

married in (11-15) age group and only 4% got married in 25 years of age and above.

- ❖ Among the 80 married women, 75% were monogamy marriage system and 5% were polygamy marriage system.
- ❖ In the study area only two types of family were to be found i.e. joint and nuclear.
- ❖ Out of 100 respondents, 53% used to say first with their husband when they got sick. Similarly, 2% were used to say first with their daughter and 30% were using father for this.
- ❖ 89% of the respondents were using hospital for their health treatment and 4% were using Dhama for health cure.
- ❖ Asking them a question whom do you give importance to your son or daughter, 60% were replied both equal, 19% were replied son and rest 12% were in aspect of daughter.
- ❖ Among the 100 respondents 79% were farmer, 7% were labors, 10% were businessmen and rest 4% were office holder.
- ❖ The main source income was agriculture of 79% respondents. Similarly, the income sources of 4 % were office holder.
- ❖ Out of 100 respondents 47% were working 8-12 hour per day. Likewise, the working hour of 29% of the respondents was above 12 hour per day, only 24% were working 4-8 hour per day.
- ❖ Among the 100 sampled household 42% had (10-20) kattha of farming land, 42% had less than 10 kattha of land and only 5% had above 30 kattha of farming land.
- ❖ According to the survey, 54% had 4 hours of leisure time in a day, 30% had 2 hours leisure time and 4% had 3 hours and above leisure time in a day.

- ❖ 63% respondents used to take a rest in leisure time, 20% used to gossip with their friends in leisure time and 3% used to study in their leisure time.
- ❖ Out of 100 respondents 46% produced only less than 10 quintile of food from their land, 40% produced 10-20 quintiles and only 6% produced more than 30 quintile of food from their land.
- ❖ 34% of the total sampled household had sufficient of food production all over the year and rest 66% had not sustaining food production all over the year.
- ❖ The monthly income of 30% respondents had less than 1500, 48% had 1500-3000 and only 4% had more than 4500 per months.
- ❖ Out of 100 respondents, per month expenditure of 52% had less than 1000 and 3% had more than 3000 per months.
- ❖ 54% were expending more money for education, 33% were expending in food and 2% of only were expending in clothes.
- ❖ About the total 100 respondents 61% had cow, 29% had buffaloes, 56% were rearing chicken, 60% rearing goat and only 17% were rearing pig in the study area.
- ❖ The contribution of livestock in family income was different. Among the, 70.26% of total respondents, the contribution of livestock in monthly income was less than RS 500. Similarly, 1.09% respondents replied RS 1500 and above was the contribution.
- ❖ In the question of about individual property '*pewa*' 97% had no any kinds of individual property. Only 3% had some '*pewa*' like goat, buffaloes and small pieces of land.
- ❖ Among the total respondents 92% were taking loan for their household maintains and only 8% were not taking loan.

- ❖ Among the 92 respondents who were taking loan, 68.48% were took loans from banks, 39.4% were from relatives and 1.09% were taken loan from other sector i.e. from businessman, friends etc.
- ❖ Out of 92 respondents 79.35% had taken loan for household expenditure, and only 7% had taken for study or to perform business activities.
- ❖ Out 92 respondents, 96.74% were freely using their loan and 3.26% were not using freely.
- ❖ In the 100 sampled household 75 were with their husband. Among them, 86.67 % were being cooperating by their husband in their daily work and 6.67% were being not cooperating by their husband. Similarly 6.67% were being cooperated only sometimes.
- ❖ Among the 100 respondents 36% were involved in extra income generating activities 64% were not involved in any extra income generating.

## 6.2 Conclusion

More than half of the population is covered by female even; they remain centered on their traditional roles like taking care of most household chores, fetching water, and fodder, bearing child and doing farm work. Women of Nepal have faced various problems which are centuries old, they suffer much oppression, suppression all over the rural areas. The present study is related with socio-economic status of women in Pahalmanpur VDC of Kailali district. Though study is on socio-economic condition of women, following conclusion are stressed on the basis findings.

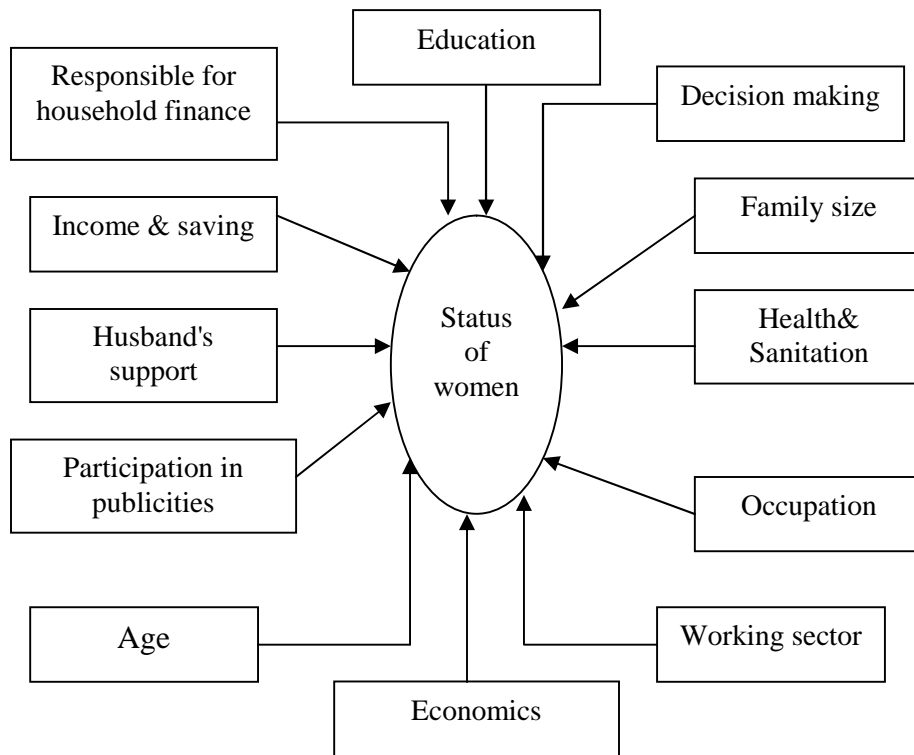
This VDC is diversity in caste and ethnicity which is the root cause of discrimination between upper and lower caste and obstacle of development process. It is to be said that 'men and women are two wheels of the same cart' but not practiced in behaviors and always women are dominated by men in this VDC.

While analyzing the economic condition of the women in this VDC it can be studied by categorizing in four types of occupation. Majority of women are involved in household activities and agriculture. Minor women are involved in income generating activities like small sized business, labor work, civil servant etc. So a small part of women are economically sustainable.

There is no doubt that education is the back bone of the overall development of the country. When women are educated they can face every problems easily, which occurs in their daily life. When a single woman is educated then the good civilization starts in her family. The education status of women in this VDC is found more satisfactory than the national literacy rate of women, which is found positive aspect of development process.

Decision making plays a crucial role in daily household activities. Women has lead role in household activities like buying daily necessities, buying clothes, religious work, animal care and buying utensils, so it is found women are confined only in peripheries of the household chores with maximum working load comparatively than male.

This study is related to socio-economic status of women in Pahalmanpur VDC. This study found out the actual socio-economic status of women in this community. According to the statement of empirical problems and objectives of the study, following framework was formed.



### 6.3 Recommendations

After the baseline information analysis, the following recommendations are given to the concerned institution.

One of the main causes of women's poor socio-economic condition is illiteracy. Because of the illiteracy they are backward in every aspect of their life. They are reluctant in many gainful programs carried by governmental sectors. Therefore, it is necessary to give compulsory level education to girls. Guardians must be convinced about girl's education most of the household are unable to do outdoor jobs because there are none to look after the household. It will be very useful to train in seasonal vegetable farming, knitting and sewing etc. This can be done in their respective villages. This not only raises household income, but also develops their self confidence.

Because of deforestation, women are facing problems for collecting firewood. So, it should be better if the housewives are introduced to the use

of fuel saving devices such as smokeless stove, Bio-gas plant, Gas stoves etc. It saves time, energy and labor of the housewives. Besides this, they should be informed about soil conservation should be made to involve in conservation activities.

Women the crucial but neglected organ of the society should draw attention to the authorities to their conditions and it is recommended that the concerned authorities should take initiative in generating women's welfare programmers and other relatives privileges, massively.

To uplift the women's poor status proper education, awareness, training of some income generating related sector and empowerment should be provided by governmental & non-governmental authorities.

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**Appendix 'A'**  
**Questionnaire for the study of "socio-economic status of the women" in**  
**Pahalmanpur VDC-2 of Kailali District**  
**A. Social status:**

**1. General Information:**

- (a) Name of the Respondent.....  
(b) Age..... (c) Sex..... (d) Gender.....  
(e) Religion: Hindu..... Buddha..... Christian.....  
(f) Ward no..... (g) Caste.....

**2. Education level of Respondent**

- (a) Illiterate (b) Literate (c) Below SLC  
(d) SLC (e) I.A. (f) B.A.  
(g) M, A. or over

**3. What is your main occupation in family?**

- (a) Agriculture (b) Office (c) Labor  
(d) Business (e) Housewife (f) Other

**4. Married status of respondents.**

- A. Married b. Unmarried c. widow

**5. if you are married, at what age did you get marry?**

- (a) 10-15 year (b) 15-20 year (c) 20-25 year  
(d) above 25 years

**6. If you are married how is your marriage system?**

- (a) Monogamy (b) polygamy (c) Other

**7. What types of family do you live in?**

- (a) Nuclear (b) Joint (c) Extended

**8. How many members are there in your family?**

- a. 0-5 b. 5-10 c. 10-15 d. Above 15

**9. Whom do you tell First, when you get ill?**

- a. Mother b. Father C. Son d. Daughter e. Others

**10. Where do you go for treatment?**

- a. Hospital b. Clinic c. Dhami d. Others

**11. How many hours do you work in a day?**

- a. 0-4 hour b. 4-8 hour c. 8-12 hour d. above 12 hour

**12. How many hours do you have leisure time in a day?**

- a. 2 hour b. 4 hour c. 6 hour d. above 8 hour

**13. What do you do in your leisure time?**

- a. Watch TV
- b. Gossip with friends
- c. Rest
- d. Others

**14. Whom do you give important to your son or daughter?**

- a. Son
- b. Daughter
- c. Both

**15. What are the major festivals you celebrate?**

.....

**B. Economic Status:**

**1. What is your main income source?**

- a. Agriculture
- b. Service
- c. Labor wage
- d. Business
- e. Others

**2. How much land do you have?**

- a. 0-10 kattha
- b. 10-20 kattha
- c. 20-30 kattha
- d. above 30 kattha

**3. How much food is produced from the agriculture?**

- a. 0-10 Quintal
- b. 10-20 Quintal
- c. 20-30 Quintal
- d. above 30 Quintal

**4. To what extent does the agriculture product sustain your family?**

- a. Less than 4 month's
- b. 4-8 months
- c. 8-12 months
- d. above 12 months

**5. How much money do you earn per-month?**

- a. RS 0-1500.
- b. RS.1500-3000
- c. RS. 3000-4500

**6. How much money do you spend per-month?**

- a. RS 0-1000.
- b RS.1000-2000.
- c. RS2000-3000
- d. above 3000

**7. What do you spend more money for?**

- a. food
- b. clothes
- c. education
- d. Health
- e. Others

**8. How much livestock do you have in your home?**

- a. Cow
- b. Buffalo
- c. Chicken/Duck
- d. Goat
- e. Pigs
- f. Others.....

**9. What is the contribution of your livestock towards the family income per month?**

- a. RS.0-500
- b. RS. 500-1000
- c. Rs.1000-1500
- d. above 1500

**10. Do you have any individual property?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**11. If yes, what are they? (in quantity)**

.....



**C. Role in Decision Making Process:**

| S.N. | Description                            | Participation |        |               |               |     |     |
|------|--|---------------|--------|---------------|---------------|-----|-----|
|      |  | Mother        | Father | Mother in Law | Father in Law | Son | How |
| 1.   | Buy daily necessities                  |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 2.   | Buying clothes                         |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 3.   | Religious work                         |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 4.   | Treatment                              |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 5.   | Agriculture work                       |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 6.   | Saving                                 |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 7.   | Taking loan                            |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 8.   | Utilization of saving                  |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 9.   | Animal care                            |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 10.  | Start new income generating activities |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 11.  | Buy utensils                           |               |        |               |               |     |     |
| 12.  | Face social meeting                    |               |        |               |               |     |     |

**Thanks for co-operation**

