

# **SOCIAL INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN COOPERATIVES**

**(A Study of Gaidakot Municipality, Nawalparasi District )**

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## RECOMMENDATION LETTER

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The thesis entitled **Social Inclusion of Women in Cooperatives: A Study of Gaidakot Municipality, Nawalparasi District**, has been prepared by Shova Gautam under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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## **APPROVAL LETTER**

The thesis entitled **Social Inclusion of women in cooperatives: A Study of Gaidakot Municipality, Nawalparasi District**, submitted by Shova Gautam in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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## ABSTRACTS

The present study is an attempt to find out the Social Inclusion of Women in Cooperatives: A Study of Gaidakot Municipality, Nawalparasi District. The general objective of the study is to analyze the pattern of the women inclusion in cooperative management. The specific objectives are: to identify the situation of the participation of women in Cooperative Management, to assess the participation of women in decision making process on the Cooperatives, to assess the economic and social empowerment of women through the Cooperative.

The study has been carried out both on the basis of descriptive and exploratory research design. The study has been focused on to investigate the impact of cooperative in rural women's. For this study both primary and secondary data have been used. Both qualitative and quantitative data have been collected in this study. The Gaidakot Municipality has 28 co-operatives. Out of 28 co-operatives 20 saving and credit co-operatives has been selected. Out of 20 saving and credit cooperatives 3 cooperatives has been selected for the study.

The study shows that 50 female respondents nevertheless felt that cooperative in Gaidakot were inclusive. A major cause behind the low participation of women in decision making process is the existing patriarchal culture in Gaidakot, however, the situation is changing. Many women in Gaidakot have their perception that there is no restriction for women participate in the executive committee, although they maintain that many women simply lack the time. Some of the women told that women are missing in the executive committee because the general assembly always finishes late at night, and women have to go home early to cook and undertake house work. On the other hand women are missing from opportunities of capacity building, because the study shows that women are mostly selected for local level training; with males receive priority for national and international level trainings.

The representation of women in decision making process is very low. Out of total 28 cooperatives in Gaidakot 22 cooperatives are led by males, where only 6 cooperative are led by females. Out of the 6 women led cooperatives 4 cooperatives are women only cooperative. This

shows that either most of the men do not let the women lead, or that women themselves cannot make competition for the men in the cooperative. Beyond this, most women perceive that cooperatives are generally playing a vital role in female empowerment. The contribution of cooperative for the economic and social empowerment of women has been perceived positively and appreciatively. Cooperative offers loans without deposit of physical property, and people only require the witness of another member in order to obtain a loan for income generation activity.

Mostly women are doing General store, cosmetic shop, beauty parlor, as well as other. In this sense cooperatives are diversifying the occupational pattern of women from farming to other, although many of the women took loans for farming as well. Women are becoming more empowered by regular visits to the market for their business. Out of the three selected cooperatives, all have a women empowerment committee within them, which may act positively towards ensuring the inclusion of women in the decision making process.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistic
CMF	:	Centre for Micro finance
CTDO	:	Cooperative Training and Division Office
DDC	:	District Development Committee
Dr.	:	Doctor
FY	:	Final Year
HHS	:	House Holds
ICA	:	International Cooperative alliance
i.e.	:	that is
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
KM	:	Kilometer
m	:	meter
No.	:	Number
NRs.	:	Nepalese Rupees
PRA	:	Participatory Rural Appraisal
Rs.	:	Rupees
SCCs	:	Saving and Credits Cooperatives
Sq	:	Square
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
UK	:	United Kingdom
VDC	:	Village Development Committee