

**ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION  
MAKING PROCESS**

**(A Case Study of Thasikhel, Lalitpur Ward No. 5 Sub-Metropolitan)**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development**

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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Date: 2068/12/26 (2012-04-08)

The Thesis entitled "*Role of Women in Households Decision Making Process*" (A Case Study of Thasikhel-5, Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan)" has been prepared by Sangita Rijal under my supervision for her partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree of Arts in Rural Development. I therefore, recommend this thesis to be accepted for its evaluation.

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Date: 2068/12/26 (2012-04-08)

The Thesis entitled "*Role of Women in Households Decision Making Process*" (A Case Study of Thasikhe15, Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan)" has been evaluated by this Department in the prescribed format of the faculty of the Humanities and Social Science, Tribhuvan University

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The title of the study is to assess the role of Women in Household Decision Making Process: A Comparative Study of Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Magar and Gurung Women of Thasikhel", in Ward No. 5 Sub-Metropolitan, Lalitpur.*

*The general objective of the study was to analyze the household decision making power of women in study area. The specific objectives were to analyze the socio-economic status of women in study area, to examine the role of women in resource mobilization and its utilization and to identify the constraints and opportunities in household decision making process.*

*This research design adopted in this study is exploratory in nature. This research is slightly descriptive as well as analytical. It means that the data interpretation has been supported by presentation data analysis followed by their explanations. There are total 950 households in Thasikhel having different caste and ethnic groups. In this case study area there are about 500 households among which is universe of the study. For the study purpose, 55 households are taken as a sample which was selected on the basis of simple random sampling which stands about eleven percent of the universe of the study. Each household consists of one respondents having age group 15-60 years.*

*For the collection of primary data, Survey, Observation and Focus Group Discussion were used as techniques and structured questionnaire and checklist were used as tools.*

*To sum up, women are socio-culturally dominated, economically deprived and psychologically traumatized. They are living just supportive role of men in any circumstances. Women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources but from the lack of power to utilize available resources and lack of power to assert their rights. Females are suffering from exploitation and injustice. To empower women, social injustice and gender disparity is socio-economical as*

*well as decision making process should be addressed and there by raise the status of female in the society. Policy and programs should be formulated and implemented properly to solve the problems related to women.*

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDA	:	Central for Economic Development and Administration.
FP	:	Family Planning
HHs	:	Households.
ICPD	:	International Conference on Population and Development.
INGOs	:	International/ Non-Government Organization
MA	:	Master in Arts
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
NGOs	:	National Government Organizations
NO	:	Number
RD	:	Rural Development
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
UNFPA	:	United Nation's Fund for Population Association.
VDC	:	Village Development Committee

# CHAPTER - I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

It is obvious that women constitute half of the population of the world. Hence, their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable and essential as well to speed up the development process. The slogan of development remains in paper only unless women participate equally in sharing the fruits of the developments.

Nepal is the poorest country in the world. Except a few professionals and businessmen and some large farmers, everyone in Nepal is poor. The infant mortality rate is 64.6 out of 100 live births. Forty six percent of the population above the age of 6 years is illiterate with 57.5 percent female illiteracy. The maternal mortality rate is 539 out of 100,000 and total fertility rate is 4.1 percent women (CBS, 2003)

Nepal is generally male dominated country where male has higher status than that of female. Females are discriminated in various fields even though recently country's laws are activated. Women have low socio-economic status as well as low decision making power. Women have to bear three responsibilities as households, reproductive and productive economic activities. However, their household roles are not considered as productive works.

In Nepal women comprises more than 50 percent of total population (CBS, 2003). But only 42.49 percent females are literate (CBS, 2001). Women are heavily engaged in domestic chores along with the socio-economic activities. They have major role in household management and they have to do more than 50 percent of household work but they have low decision making power. Even in 21st century they are not enjoying equal decision making power with their male counter parts. They are discriminated since their childhood. In childhood

they have to live under these parents, in adulthood they should follow their husbands and in old age they are under their children. They have no liberty to decide freely even their own.

Socio-economic status of females affects the role of women in society. However, they are capable and potential their capability and potentiality do not respected if they have low status. As females are less educated, they have low decision making power. These women who have higher education and sound economic background have higher chance on decision making. Females are not considered to participate in decision making process in most of the socio-economic, religions and other activities. There are very few households which are headed by female. According to census 2001, only 17.18 percent households are headed by women.

The economic, demographic and social factors have the strong role in terms of decision making power women are not in leading roles; they are less comfortable in decision making field. They have low access to resources which make them depending and it affects their role in households as well as in society.

Very few women are involving in main stream of development and very few women are also in service sectors. There are very few women in policy making level. More than 70 percent female are involving in agriculture sector. Only few percent females are in service.

Recently, only one women is nominated as a member of National Planning Commission (NPC Report, 2004)

It is essential for the development that male and female should enjoy equal opportunities for decision making either in lower or in higher level of policy making, plan formulation or in programme implementation as well as in monitoring and evaluation sectors. Unless women are not bringing into the

mainstream of development, participating them in decision making process the path of development will not be smothered.

This study has been carried out in Thasikhel to find out the socio-economic condition of women of that study area. This area is urban place. The settlement is agglomerated many facilities are found. In this area many women are traditional view are prevailing. But both males and females are literate. In the community we find involvement of women in different community based programmes like ward meeting, school management and other programs. Business and services are the main sources of income of people of this area. Women's participation is high the home working. But outside the home various types of works like business, official works are mostly handled by male member. We find high involvement of male in this sector.

Women in this area are mostly involved in service. There is involvement of women in other economic activities like business and governmental services with male counterparts. Women have clear concepts to elaborate various economical programme to enhance their financial condition.

While considering total population of economically active age (14 and above), males are 71.7% and females are 43.4% (CBS, 2007). Statistic data shows that women are subjects to both unemployment and under development. Majority of the women are restricted to domestic activities. Total unemployment rate is 90.2%, which among males and females are 70.0% and 80.1% respectively (CBS, 2007).

Accordingly, the Interim constitution (2063) of Nepal has stated the state policy of making special social provision for the protection and progress of women, *article 20*. Likewise, the issue has also been mentioned in the present 3-year strategies of government interim plan, (Three years interim Plan 2064/65-2066/67).

In conclusion women are socio-culturally dominated, economically deprived and psychologically traumatized. They are living just supportive role of men in any circumstances.

Women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources but from the lack of power to utilize available resources and lack of power to assert their rights. Females are suffering from exploitation and injustice. To empower women, social injustice and gender disparity is socio-economical as well as decision making process should be addressed and there by raise the status of female in the society. Policy and programs should be formulated and implemented properly to lesson the problems related to women.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Women constitute 50.6 percent of the total population of 2,31,54,423 (CBS, 2001) this vital section of the society has minimal access to resources, information food and service both within and outside the household sphere. This shows that women suffer from discrepancy and have to face unequal social and economic conditions. Their status in economic social and legal aspects is much low in the society. Their low status is mainly because of their less involvement in the economic activities. As they work mostly inside the house their contributions remain invisible. Such a "domestication of Women" may cause a decline in women's decision making power inside household (Shtrii Shakti, 1995)

In Thasikhel area decision making role of women is less than male counterpart women's social economic aspects is low due to the constrains of education. They have less chances is employment opportunities. The role of women is most important part in our society women discharge lots if responsibility and productive economic activities.

Our social structure, which has come from traditional views, where women are treated as second class people. In ancient time religion was main cause of

society which held women backward in every way as well as decision making power. This social factor is one of the most problems to regard as a genuine counterpart of men to women in the society.

Women participation in earning is less because men are more qualified than women. They have used the resources for their own purpose, like education and to build their skill for earnings. And they can go for earning. So, men get first priority to earning. Obviously whose economic status is high that has high decision making power, even though women cannot decide for child births.

As men and women are considered two wheels of a cart, so both should be equally strong and powerful to draw the society towards a developed and well equipped direction. This type of span between men and women should be treated as soon as possible. Otherwise this discrimination can break great disaster for country.

To make significant improvement household in society and in nation, the policy and program should be formulated which can address the women's issues. The program should enhance the decision making power of target and needy women. Gain of decision making power in women will play vital role to make equal and justice society.

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

The general objective of the study is to analyze the role of women in household decision making power. The specific objectives are as follows:

- ) To analyze the socio-economic status of women in study area.
- ) To examine the role of women in resource mobilization and its utilization.
- ) To identify the constraints and opportunities in household decision making process.

## **1.4 Importance of the Study**

In the world as well as in Nepal, women cover a half of the total population. They are backbone of the society. They have equal responsibilities to make society developed or underdeveloped. Both men and women are equally responsible for the development of a nation.

This study has attempts to reflect the women's status in terms of decision making power inside and outside the households furthermore this study will have the importance to find out the actual condition of women in study area in terms of socio-economic status and their decision making roles. The main issues of these problems are as follows:

- ) To reduce poverty on women and enable them to participate full in social and economic development.
- ) To reflect the women's status in terms of demographic, socio-economic and political participation.
- ) To identify the main attitudes of women rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

## **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

The issue of women's participation in decision making process is unclearified to analyze the situation of women in household, educational and socio-economic sectors of Thasikhel. The present study is subjected to the following limitations.

- ) This study covers only the selected area of Thasikhel in Lalitpur Sub Metropolitan.
- ) This study conducted in one Nagar with in limited time framework.
- ) This study has been focused on decision making role of women in Thasikhel.

- ) The generalization of this research may be applied or may not apply for other places in some subject and same matter.
- ) Respondents taken in this study has been taken only of age group 15 to 60 years.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The section deals how the chapter are organized this study is divided into five chapters. They are as follows:

- ) The first chapter is introduction, which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, importance, limitation and organization of the study.
- ) The second chapter deals with the literature review from the previous studies, publications, books, theories and research reports on the concept the regarding status of women, role of women in decision making. Women's and legislation regarding women's rights.
- ) The third chapter deals with research methodology containing general background, sources of data collection, research design, sampling procedures, data collection tools and techniques and data analysis.
- ) The four chapter deals with data presentation and analysis to show the actual role of women in house hold decision making process. This chapter contains the essence or findings of the study in table format generated from the data analysis.
- ) The five chapters contain the summary, conclusion and recommendations derived from the whole study.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter deals with the available literature about decision making role of women and men. In this section, efforts have been made to review past researches, publication and documents pertaining to area of study.

This section can be discussed in two topics.

1. Role of women in decision- making
2. Socio-economic status of women

#### **2.1 Role of Women in Decision Making Process**

Women have very low participation in decision-making process. About 70% of households related decisions are entirely made by male members of the house (Acharya1995).

Acharya and Bennett (1981) gave a wider overview of women's status in their decision making process in household. Acharya and Bennett claim that economic factors affect women's role in decision making process both directly and indirectly .If a woman has a greater economic participation, she has a greater power of decision-making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision-making. For example, small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision-making power for women.

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

agricultural production activities, work as the labour in the local area and the employment in the wider economy beyond the village. The finding of the model show that women participation in farming and domestic activities constituted 86 percent. y. Their total contribution to the house hold's income remains 50 percent.

The same study conducted by Acharya and Bennett highlights another interesting pattern also. The different degree of female participation in market economy in different communities, which subsequently relates to their decision making power within the households. Women from Hindu communities have greater concentration in domestic and subsistence production. Nepalese women from Tibeto-Burma origin have concentrated in market activities. This implies “women in the more orthodox Hindus communities who are largely confined to domestic and subsistence production display much less significant role in major households’ economic decision”. “In the Tibeto- Burma communities, where women participate actively in the market economy”. (Acharya and Bennett, 1983)

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of the major reasons of the obstruction of women from fully participation in economic development, which results low decision- making power in the women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision-making power of women. On the other hand, social conception that only the women are responsible for the reproduction i.e. delivery and upbringing of the child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the developmental process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons, their status compared to male is very low. Even political social and cultural developments follow the economic developments of a country. In this context the committee constituted by United Nations in the status of women is trying to gain the equal rights for women in various fields of their social and economic life. The suggestion has been made for the removal of gender inequalities in legal, economic, social and educational matters.

Acharya (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities being performed under national and international auspices activities involving women in development process, status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving attention to such thing as making specific studies about the economic, social and cultural activities of women in Nepalese societies i.e. providing similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students, eliminating inequalities in inheritance rights, family rights and all over legal rights, involving the educated women in office and involving them in seminar and symposia from the time to time etc.

Greater participation of women in decision making will be a great step towards ensuring women of their right and in turn to improve her status (Dahal, 1992). He summarizes the information from the “Status of Women in Nepal (CEDA, 1981)” that among so called high cast groups (Brahmin and Kshetri), the authority structure is male dominated, women cannot make their own decision and they have no independent sources of income and property too. Among the women for Baragaule, Loharung Rai and Kham Magar, they have liberal social structure, which permit in the accumulation of property. Likewise, the Newar, the Tamang and the Tharu women can have their own independent source of property. Out of that, among some societies, a woman cannot make her own independent decision to take her sick baby even to the hospital, without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family (Dahal, 1992).

Women’s public life is culturally restricted to a degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women’s participation in public life and also control in their private life. These factors have shaped the social perception towards women and governed individual self- image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision making position (Shtri Shakti, 1995).

UNICEF Report (1987) depicts that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information. For a large proportion of women the written word still finds no meaning. Many rural women who become literate however, are being losing their skill, because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government service only 7% of gazette officers and 5% of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10% of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decisions concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50% of decisions are made by men, 19% jointly and 31% by female, which shows very low percentage of decision making power on the part of women.

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

Emphasis should be given for the education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's input in the decision making process. She explored the fact that "Educated women are better placed in comparison to their illiterate counterpart" (Kaur, 1987:120).

Vina Mazumdar in her article on "Another Development with Women- A View from Asia" speaks of the Asian women who have been subjected to acute

social, economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and which continue even to this day, may be to a lesser degree.

According to her, “the monopolies of economic and political power as well as access to knowledge are the three major instruments by which the present structure of inequality between and within nations is maintained”(Mazumdar v: 65). The majority of the women in the world, especially the Asian women are excluded from these instruments. Their position is further belittled by the fact that their work is considered as non-productive. This undervaluation of women’s contribution to the economy is closely associated with their inferior social status and also “the relative loss of individual freedom and status with the family” (Mazumdar V: 69). Mazumdar also talks of non-socialist countries, where the extension of capitalism has further marginalized the economic and social roles of women. They have been projected as mere consumers, worthy of only social welfare services, but not as partners with equal say in building a new society. Such welfare policies, no matter how well intentioned are found to reinforce various forms of exploitation of these women.

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

Mazumdar concludes, saying that constraints of family, illiteracy and all traditional barriers and attitudes prevent women’s ability to influence vital decision-making. She suggests forming grass root level organizations responsive to the needs of the poor local women. Along with this there is needed a new approach to study the social organization, i.e. families and households in a clearer perspective. Better knowledge of women both in the past and present can bring a lot of changes to these perceptions.

According to PCRW tripartite Review (1989) and Impact Evaluation Study of PCRW 1988, Production Credit for Rural Women extends credit facilities especially to rural women which acts as an initial boost for them to involve in income generating activities and subsequently achieve sustained self-reliance. Although, the overall performance of PCRW in this direction has not been significant, yet it is considered as a major breakthrough in the livelihoods of the rural poor women.

PCRW, through a sponsor agent hopes to influence policies for achieving equity between the male-female wages to increase the overall household earnings. Therefore, its main objective is to draw the women into the market economy. For this, PCRW allows easy access to low cost credit for rural women. It also provides various trainings that would empower women with skills and increases their participation rate in local decision-making and development schemes. It also supports activities that would reduce the time spent by women on domestic chores which could then be utilized in productive income generating activities.

Krishna Ahooja Patel speaks of the absolute necessity to bring women's issues into the forefront of development strategies. Although such issues have been denied access in important national and international discussions in the past, she feels that the preliminary term of "Women and Development" now being replaced by "Women in Development" is quite a significant step towards a realistic perception of women and their lives.

Ahooja Patel observes that "the collective effect of perceptions, values and lifestyles have distorted women's personality and stunted her growth, reducing her to the size of a crippled tree" (Krishna Ahooja Patel, 1982:19).

Ahooja Patel goes on further to highlight upon the roles of women in food production industrial work, health provision and education.

According to her, women constitute the largest number of food producers approximately 50% in Africa, 30-40% in Asia and slightly less in Latin America. Yet this vital section of the food procedures are themselves “the most undernourished and in some places the hungriest part of population” (Ahojja-Patel, 1982:22).

The industrial scene also provides a picture of the women’s need to struggle for survival. While women occupy the least qualified jobs, almost all qualified jobs are filled up by men. Moreover, the women’s jobs are characterized by minimum wages which account for the fact that their earning is much lower as compared to that of an average man.

Beside the heavy manual and menial work that women perform their energies are further drained throughout their life by the reproductive processes. They are also the ones to be highly neglected regarding medical treatment.

However, women’s health problems cannot be resolved unless the perception of her sexuality undergoes a fundamental change. Until it is the third party or the male member who decides on her reproductive capacity, there seems little possibility of resolving the health problems faced by these women, when education is concerned. One billion women in the third world countries cannot read and write and in some countries as much as 90% of the female population is illiterate. Besides, the female dropout rates increase as they move up the educational ladder from primary to secondary education. Their education enhances their inferiority complex in the competitive world, a complex which starts from home where they are given a low priority in household expenditure and other equally important matters.

Finally, Krishna Ahojja Patel concludes on a questioning note- “can we afford to trace any path of development without pooling the untapped resources of women?” She emphasizes upon women as an indispensable human resources and the necessity to mobilize them for any significant and balanced development of a nation.

Different books and prospectus supported a lot for my study. I have consulted various writings and magazines which inspires me to study about the women of a typical VDC, which finally gives the national status of the women as a whole. Some of the references are: World Bank Report, Human Rights in Nepal (A Status Report 2003), Economic Participation and Household Decision Making in Nepal, Dangerous Wives and Sacred Sisters, Women in Rural Development and Shtri Shakti etc.

## **2.2 Socio-Economic Status of Women**

According to the constitution of Nepal, all citizens of Nepal are equal under the law, regardless of sex, caste and ethnicity. Nevertheless, in actual practice, illiteracy poverty, deep-rooted socio-cultural values and traditions, especially cost prejudice and political factors have all often combined to prevent women from exercising their human rights. While human rights are common to men and women, there is a large area in the human rights of women that are either not recognized or neglected.

Human Right is the right by birth being a human. Thus there should not be any biasness by ethnicity, sex, language, religion, politics, socio-economic and cultural aspects regarding human rights. So to honor one's respect and development of human, UNO in 10 December 1948 announced worldwide layout about human rights.

“The constitution of Nepal guarantees all citizens the equality before law and equal protection of law. No one shall be discriminated against on the basis of sex. Despite these constitutional and legal provisions, Nepalese women are suffering from social, economical and political discrimination. Major areas of discrimination include citizenship rights, property, employment, reproductive health rights, marriage, family relation and punishment and legal proceedings. Deep –rooted cultural norms and patriarchal values are themselves unfavorable to women. As a result, social preference for sons in schooling, neglect of

women's health needs, child marriage bigamy/polygamy is still part of the reality. Dowry and domestic violence are still other problems" (CEDA, 1995).

"Discrimination between males and females start in the family. Females are not included in the decision making process and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women's participation in socio cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of their husband/ fathers/ parents/ male relatives" (Human Rights in Nepal 2005).

To avoid any social, economical and cultural discrimination to the women, UNO in 18 December 1979 prepared convention on the elimination of any forms of discrimination against women. Nepal also signed this treaty in April 22, 1991.

"Nepalese society being patriarchal, people still doesn't like women politicians as their leaders, no matter how capable they are. They tend to see them through the prism of social roles as sister, wife and daughter- in -law etc" (Karki, 2003). "It is contented that currently there are more than 100 legal provisions in 54 different laws, including the constitution that discriminate against women" (Human Rights in Nepal, A status Report, 2003:76).

Human Rights are women's rights which they should exercise. Constitution of Nepal 2047 and Interim Constitution 2063 also describe all are equal and are to be treated equally. The Interim Constitution of Nepal has also proposed the provision of 33 % reservation seats for women in different sectors.

"The proportion of women employees declines as one moves up the administrative hierarchy of the total 647 special and first class officers i.e. only 26 are women(4.02)%" (Human Rights in Nepal, A status Report,(2003:74).

Every time women's sorrow, tears and feelings are taken as weakness and disability of women (Parajuli,Rajdhani 2058 Falgun 16<sup>th</sup>).In the study of Nepalese women sociology by Bennett (1983), how women are facing the hazardous situation in family and society as a whole has been described. To

talk, share advice and solve the worldwide problems of women, four world wide women conferences have been held. First women conference was in Mexico, second and third in Nairobi and fourth in Beijing. After die participation of Nepalese women in fourth worldwide conference in Beijing, His Majesty's government of Nepal established the women, children and social welfare ministry in 2052 B.S.

The fourth worldwide women's conference organized by UNO in 1995 in Beijing is the historical milestone of women's empowerment and their rights. From 5<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> June in 2000 A.D., UNO organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference regarding women which is also known as Beijing +5. To insure the layout of Beijing +5 and to improve the hindrances and face the present challenges, National Women Commission was established in Nepal on 24 Falgun 2064 in the chairmanship of Mrs. Durga Pokherel.

Education is the most important factor for the development of human personality as well as for the development of a nation. As women make more than half of the country's population, education of women is very important and it should receive top priority in the context of development of new Nepal as advocated by Nepalese leaders.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Educating a man you will have a person educated but educate women you will have a whole family educated".

The study undertaken by Meena Acharya and Lynn Bennett reflects that in Nepal people express less desire to educate girls than boys. This is manifested in two ways (i) fewer people are willing to send girls to school and (ii) even among those who send girls to school there are very few who want as much education for the girls as for boys (Acharya, 1982).

A research done by Family Health found the vast majority (80%) of Nepalese women have never been gone to the school. One in nine has attended primary

school, 6% have secondary education and less than 3% have passed the S.L.C, four of five women are illiterate(Family Health Survey, 1996).

Marital status makes women totally dependent upon her husband because her rights upon the family property are only through husband. About the women's right upon family property, Bennett wrote - "men are endowed with the right to property by virtue of the biological fact of birth, women's right to property depend almost entirely upon the social fact of marriage (i.e. on their role as an wife)". Therefore women's economic security is entirely dependent on their adherence to the strict social norms of proper marital behavior (Bennett, 1980: 89).

Economically, women have no rights to parental property as well as in the husband's home. They bear 70% of the household work burden and yet have no success to economic resources. Even doing the same work, they get low wages as most of the women work as unskilled labour in carpet and garment factories and get low paid due to illiteracy (Luitel, 2000).

In the Nepalese society the status and position of women depend on their economic condition. Women play significant role in the development of the nation. In the past, women were considered a second grade citizen in most of the countries including Nepal. The status of Nepalese women is very poor. They have very less access to health, security and other basic needs of life.

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resource and political power and their personal autonomy in the process of decision – making. Women from different cast/ethnic groups have different social status in their respective communities and women from the ethnic groups seem to possess better status than the women from traditional Hindu society. The dominant Hindu culture and the patriarchal value system of the country have influenced the status of Nepalese women as their subordinate position.

Women have low degree of opportunities for their education and have hardly any access to employment. There is lack of women participation in decision making from a house to the executive levels of the government. There is no positive attitude towards women's health and they do not get appropriate nutrition even in the period of pregnancy (UNICEF, 1996). Women get married early and are considered as child bearing machines (Sherpa and Rai, 1996). Due to early age delivery, there is high maternal mortality rate in Nepal (515 per 100000 live births- CBS, 1991). Higher rate of maternal and child mortality shows the lower social status of women. Women have no economic power and also decision- making role over their fertility too (Acharya, 1995).

According to the preliminary report of population census 2001, women constitute more than 50% of the total population in the country (CBS, 2001). The infant and maternal mortality rates are also highest in Nepal among the countries of south Asia. The adult literacy rate of 40 % ( female less than 1/3of that) is one of the lowest in South Asia (CBS, 1995). Although women who comprise more than half of the population of the country and have always were involved in national development, they are still marginalized from the opportunities such as economic resources, e.g. property, income, employment as well as other resources. Illiteracy unhealthiness, poverty and conservative social taboos have been the fate of Nepalese women in general.

Women in Nepal, as elsewhere, hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and farm work. However, reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by social system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision- making (UNDP, 2008).

When daughter grow up, they will become wives. In other words, a labourer for another family sooner or later, moreover if girl is not good at household and farm work owing to exposure to education, she might be looked down up in her

husband's family when she gets married. So, investment in a girl's education is discouraged. Generally, there are more girls' dropouts than boys at the primary level (Gurung, 2009).

Nepali women are daughters, wives and mothers but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role, confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there due to their marital function. They are discouraged and prevented to take part in public life (Subedi, 1993). Women's economic dependence on men mainly stemming from the fact that men earn cash incomes, contributes to their social status. The few women who earn a salary are often held in higher esteem than women who do not (Gurung, 2009).

Girl's trafficking for prostitution is tremendous in our society due to illiteracy and poverty. It makes them victims of sexually transmitted diseases and in the long run causes psychological depression. Until and unless women are made equal partners in the development process of the nation, no improvement can ever be made in the socio-economic situation of the country. In order to fulfill the commitment made by government of Nepal and also passed by the world women's conference held in Beijing in 1995 to ensure women's equal involvement in the development process in parallel with their male counterparts, the women's empowerment aspect will be worthless.

The movement for women's status all over the world has emphasized the role of education. It is believed that education will bring positive change in the inequalities between sexes and uplift women's subjugated position of the society. In general, educated women have a higher status in the society and the family size become smaller as the education level of the mother rises. In fact women's education is low in Nepal. In SAARC countries, the adult female illiteracy is 88% in Nepal compared to India 71%, Pakistan 81%, and Bangladesh 78 % (World Bank, 1991).

Equality in society cannot be achieved either through slogans, demands, conflicts or through wishes and blessing alone. Experience has also shown that laws and regulations are not adequate. What is indeed required is a climate of public opinion where feeling of equality emanates from the hearts of all.

Women are bounded by socio- cultural norms. Even parents discriminate the girl child. This is because of lack of knowledge, awareness and education. So, if the nation wants to gain something from women their first duty should be given equal opportunity of education, health, empowerment etc. and knowledge of family planning measures and then only drastic changes will come in the nation automatically in every field like economic development, status of women, women's decision- making power etc.

The above referenced studies shows that the decision making power is surrounded by various factors. In Nepal, women constitute more than half of total population with poor status. More facilities are engaged in households' activities without decision making power. They have to follow their male partners in most of the cases. A perusal of the available literature also makes it clear that there is a persisting controversy regarding women's input in decision making process.

It can be concluded from the above studies, that females have low decision making power due to lack of proper socio-economic and demographic status. Nowadays the access of female of resources has been increased but their status has slow motion to forward. Either one way or other females have more responsibilities in household chores, agricultural activities and other but they have fewer chances to decide freely. So, it should not be forgotten that without female in all spheres of households or other activities. There is less change to be developed societies. Therefore, women should bring into the main stream of development activities not by only their physical presentation but by providing fully decision making power.

## **CHAPTER-III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter is most important for the study than the remaining chapter. It contains the methods adopted in the study. Just like research design, sampling procedure, nature of sources, data collection tools and techniques and data analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This research design than has been adopted for this study can be said as exploratory in nature. In other words, our research tries to explore and investigate the socio-economic and family based Thasikhel with special emphasis on the decision compared to their counterpart men. The enquiries and inquiries made during the field survey obviously speak of the exploratory nature of the research.

This research is slightly descriptive as well as analytical. It means that the data interpretation has been supported by tables analysis followed by their explanations.

#### **3.2 Sampling Procedure**

All of the households are not taken for the study purpose. The distribution of the sample is based on household number of random sampling.

There are total 950 households in Thasikhel having different caste and ethnic groups. In this case study area there are about 500 households which is universe of the study. For the study purpose, 55 household are taken as a sample which was selected on the basis of simple random sampling. Each household consists of one respondents having age group 15-60 years.

### **3.3 Nature of Sources**

Mainly this study was based on primary data collection which was obtained through simple random sampling. As supplementary data, secondary data were collected from journal, educational statistics books, previous study, census data and survey report.

### **3.4 Data Collection Techniques and Tools**

In data collection technique household survey in which interview, observation and focus group discussion (FGD) have been made whereas data collection tools consists of a set of structured questionnaire which was used for data collection.

#### **3.4.1 Survey Questionnaire**

For the collection of data, a set of structured questionnaire was prepared. The questionnaire comprises of all relevant questions related to the decision making process in household affairs and other socio-economic activities. Those questions were mainly focused on household, education, transactions, domestic expenditures and etc. the socio-economic status of the respondents was also included in the questionnaire. Thus, the questionnaire was designed in such a manner which had provided over all scenario of the relative status of females in terms of decision making vice-versa the males and it has provided a portray of the socio-economic condition of the selected households within the study area.

#### **3.4.2 Observation**

Observation tool was used in field study. Researcher observed the study area and decision making role of women in household. For the purpose of observation, checklist was prepared to write down some important observations.

### **3.4.3 Focus Group Discussion**

‘Focus group discussions’ with the community members were also conducted to get data and to triangulate primary data from the interview. Two focus group discussions were conducted, one at school and another at the ‘Ama Samuha’ programmer. For this process, the permanent residents of the community, social workers and local leaders had supported and provided some crucial primary data.

## **CHAPTER - IV**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

Chapter four is the main body of the research which deals with systematic presentation and analysis of data. It provides general information of the study area, location, demographic characteristics of the study area and socio-economic characteristics of the community members such as population composition, age, sex, educational status, marital status and general status of people etc. in the study area.

#### **4.1 Study Area at a Glance**

Lalitpur is a valley district of Central Development Region. It is surrounded by Kavre in east and Kathmandu and Bhaktapur in north and south Makawanpur district. It is located between 27<sup>0</sup>22" to 28<sup>0</sup>50" north latitude and 85<sup>0</sup>14" to 85<sup>0</sup>26" to east longitude. The climate is subtropical to Alpine having maximum temperature of 23.06 centigrade and minimum temperature 10.70 centigrade with annual average rainfall 1232.6 mm.

The total population of Lalitpur sub-metropolitan city is 381327 of the total population 194052 are males and 187275 are females with 2.63 percent annual growth rate. The sex ratio is 104, the literacy rate is 70.8 percent of which 80.8 percent males and 60.3 percent are females are literate (CBS, 2003).

Lalitpur district is divided into 13 Illakas, 41 VDC and 1 Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan city at the district center. Lalitpur is the center place it is facilities of road, transportation, hospital, telephone, electricity sufficiently and others. The majority of people is engaged in services and aware to the development activities.

## 4.2 Socio-Economic Status of Women

The socio- economic characteristics of respondents such as age, caste/ ethnic composition, educational status, marital status, family size, family structure, occupation etc are presented in the following paragraphs and tables.

### 4.2.1 Age Structure of Respondents

For the purpose of analysis, the ages of the respondents are categorized into three categories i.e. 15-30, 30-45 and 45-60 years. Age is an important demographic factor which makes difference in working hour, type of work and involve that in decision making process. Age determines the social and economic status of people. In this study, age of the sampled respondents ranged from 15 to above 60 years. The age group divided as 15-30, 30-45 and 45-60 years of age.

**Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Age Group**

<b>Age</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
15 - 30	17	30.91
30 - 45	24	43.64
45 - 60	14	25.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Table 4.1 shows the age distribution of respondents by age in the study area. There is highest proportion of the respondents in age group 30-45 years 43.64 percent. Because in this age group the working capacity is high and able to work. It is also play vital role in decision making. The lowest proportion of the respondents in age group 45-60 years 25.45 percent because in this age group working capacity is low and working capacity is low and unable to work hard.

The age group 15-30 years 30.91 percent in comparison of age group 30-45 years has less proportion of decision making power. They are trying to learning something and cannot make decision.

#### **4.2.2 Family Size**

Family is basic unit of the society and it is an institution which plays vital role in building society. Family size has dominant role in decision making process. There are two categories of family size. They are nuclear and joint family. Nuclear family refers that family which consist husband, wife and unmarried children while joint family contains husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as other relatives who share the kitchen for mea and reside under the same roof.

**Table 4.2: Distribution of Household by Family Size**

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>No. of HHs</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Nuclear family	24	43.64
Joint family	31	56.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

Table 4.2 shows that, out of 55 households, 43.64 percent households have nuclear family whereas 56.36 percent have joint family. It shows that joint family is highest than nuclear family. In joint family people responsibility are faces by all members. So, joint family's role is important for development of women in household decision making power and society. From the table it can be concluded that majority of the households have preferred joint family.

#### **4.2.3 Education**

Education is the most important part in human being. Without education, we cannot imagine the improvement in economic, social and political status which are backbones of a society. It also plays vital role in decision making process. It

can be seen that higher educational status play dominant role in decision making power. These are educated and having higher educational background.

**Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status**

<b>Educational status</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Literate	45	81.82
Illiterate	10	22.22
Total	55	100.00
If literate,		
Primary	12	26.67
Lower secondary	5	11.11
Secondary	9	20
S.L.C. and above	19	42.22
Total	45	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Above table 4.3 reveals that 81.82 percent respondents are found literate and remaining 22.22 percent are found illiterate. Out of literate respondents majority of the respondents i.e. 42.22 percent are found SLC and above education whereas least i.e. 11.11 percent have got loser secondary education. Similarly 26.67 percent and 20 percent respondents have got primary and secondary education respectively. From the above data it can be concluded that majority (81.82%) of the respondents are found literate.

#### **4.2.4 Occupation**

Occupation is one of the key indicator in determining the socio economic status of women. In our society, main occupation of women is household activities alone. They perform agricultural work equal to their male counterparts.

In this study area women are very hard working. They are involved in agriculture and income generating works such as poultry, farm, wearing, shop etc and some are involved in services.

**Table 4.4: Distribution of Households by Occupation**

Occupation	No. of household	Percent
Agriculture	14	25.45
Business	12	21.82
Services	7	12.72
Household work	22	40.00
Total	55	100.00

*Sources: Field Survey 2011*

From table 4.4, majority (40%) of the respondents are found in household work. Only 12.72 percent respondents were found in service sector. Similarly 25.45 percent respondents were adopted their occupation as agriculture and 21.82 percent respondents are involved in business sector. From the data it can be concluded that comparative higher rate of households in agriculture, business, services and household works.

#### **4.2.5 Marital Status**

Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In our society, it determines the social roles and responsibilities of people. It is essential for legitimate birth. Female's role also increases in family only after marriage. And it encourage their decision making power.

**Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status**

Marital Status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Unmarried	8	34.78	5	15.63	13	23.64
Married	15	65.22	27	84.37	42	76.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

In this study, out of total 55 respondents, 42 (76.36%) respondents are married and 13 (23.64%) are unmarried. Out of unmarried respondents 8 (34.78%) are male and remaining 5 (15.63%) are female. Similarly 15 (65.22%) male are married and 27 (84.37%) are female married.

#### **4.2.6 Designation**

Women have different designation in different time and condition. At first women will be a daughter, sister. After marriage women will be a wife, daughter-in-law and mother. So that women have to play various role and responsibilities in a life.

**Table 4.6: Distribution of Respondents by Designation**

Designation	Number	Percent
Sister	9	16.4
Daughter-in-law	5	9.1
Mother	41	74.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

Table 4.6 shows that designation of respondents out of total 55 respondents, 9 (16.4%) of respondents are sister among them 5(9.1%) of respondents are daughter-in-law and 41 (74.5%) of respondents are mother. In this study, the

designation of respondents of mother is higher than other respondents' sister and daughter-in-law respectively.

#### **4.2.7 Landholding Size / shape Cropping Pattern**

In an agrarian economy, the extent of ownership of land is the main indicator of relative economic status of people. The following table gives the landholding pattern of respondents.

**Table 4.7: Landholding size in the sample HHs**

<b>Size of Landholding</b>	<b>No. of Household</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Landless	4	7.3
0-1	29	52.7
1-3	13	23.6
More than 3 Ropani	9	16.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

Table 4.7 shows that out of 55 households 4(7.3%) household are landless. 29 (52.7%) households have 0-1 ropani land, 13(23.6%) households have 1-3 ropanies and 9(16.4%) households have more than 3 ropanies. From the study maximum number of households i.e. 52.7 percent have 0-1 ropany and least i.e. 7.3 percent are landless. This data indicates that there is poor access in landholding.

#### **4.3 Role of Women in Resource Mobilization and Utilization**

The economic status of the women has been studied. There are various type of economic activities in the family such as decision to expenditure, loan taking and paying, ownership in land etc.

### 4.3.1 Sources of Occupation

Occupation is one of the important components for sources of income, food, clothing, and shelter are the basic needs for human. In addition to these basic needs, he has other various kinds of needs such as education, health, drinking water etc. Human fulfills those various needs through the different source.

**Table 4.8: Distribution of Respondents' Occupation Groups**

Occupation	Caste group					Total	
	Brahmin	Chhetri	Newar	Magar	Gurung	No.	Percent
Poultry farm	-	3	2	4	6	15	27.25
Shop	11	4	6	4	2	27	49.09
Weaving	4	3	2	2	2	13	23.64
Total	15	10	10	10	10	55	100.00
Percent	27.25	18.18	18.18	18.18	18.18	100	100.00

*Source: Field Survey 2011.*

From table 4.8, it is clear that majority of the respondents were involved in shop i.e. 49.09 percent and least in weaving i.e. 23.64 percent. Similarly the respondents involved in poultry farm are found 27.25 percent.

In case of caste-wise occupation maximum number of Brahmin are found in shop which is 11 out of 15. Similarly Gurung are found maximum in poultry farm i.e. 6 out of 10 and Brahmin are found maximum in weaving occupation i.e. 4 out of 15.

### 4.3.2 Economic Role

There are various types of economic activities in the family such as decision to expenditure, save income, loan taking and paying others.

**Table 4.9: Distribution of the Respondents' Decision in Economic Role**

Caste/Ethnicity	Decision in economic role					
	Women	%	Men	%	Total	%
Brahmin	4	15.38	11	37.93	15	27.27
Chhetri	3	11.54	7	24.14	10	18.18
Newar	4	15.38	6	20.69	10	18.18
Magar	7	26.92	3	10.34	10	18.18
Gurung	8	30.77	2	6.89	10	18.18
Total	26	100.00	29	100.00	55	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Above table 4.9 shows that among caste/ethnicity groups 26 of women's role was prominent in economic sectors in family While 29 of men's role was prominent in economic sector in family on the group of occupation, higher percent of men's role was prominent. Least women i.e. 3 (11.54%) women have decision in economic from Chhetri community whereas maximum women i.e. 8 (30.77%) have decision women in Gurung community.

### **4.3.3 Economic Opportunity**

Some women had saving for themselves but they said it was done in secret and nobody of the household knew about it. When asked why such secret saving the women said it was for family use in future if there is sudden need of money but nobody reported it was for them.

**Table 4.10: Distribution of Respondents' Economic Opportunity**

Characteristics	Economic Opportunity For Women			
	Yes		No	
Caste/Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brahmin	4	16	11	36.67
Chhetri	3	12	7	23.33
Newar	5	20	5	16.67
Magar	6	24	4	13.33
Gurung	7	28	3	10
Total	25	100	30	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Above table 4.10 shows that out of 55 respondents 25 of women have got opportunity in economic sectors whereas 30 have not got opportunity. Gurung women are found more in getting economic opportunity whereas Chhetri women are least in getting economic opportunity. This figure shows Chhetri women are backward in case of getting economic opportunity.

#### **4.3.4 Decision in Specific Economic Issues in Family**

Women have been assigned a subordinate status to men in our society. They are not allowed to act as decision maker in the family.

**Table 4.11: Distribution of Respondents' Decision in Economic Issues**

Characteristics	Women's Involvement in Decision in Specific Economic work in Family				Total	
	Yes		No			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brahmin	3	14.3	12	35.3	15	27.3
Chhetri	4	19.0	6	17.6	10	18.18
Newar	3	14.3	7	20.6	10	18.18
Magar	5	23.8	5	14.7	10	18.18
Gurung	6	28.6	4	11.8	10	18.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Above table 4.11 shows that the percentage distribution respondents are not involved to decide in specific economic issue in family is high i.e. 34 out of 55. But only 21 women are involved in decision in specific economic issues in family. Maximum women i.e. 6 (28.6%) are found from Gurung community that are involved in taking economic decision Whereas Newar and Brahmin women are found least i.e. 3 (14.3%) each.

#### **4.3.5 Views of Women for Parental Property**

Our country is male dominated country. All properties are belongs to male. So, to uplift women's status parental property for women is necessary.

**Table 4.12: Distribution of Respondents' Views on Parental Property for Women by Caste/Ethnicity**

Characteristics	Views on Parents' Property to Women				Total	
	Yes		No			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brahmin	11	29.73	4	22.22	15	27.3
Chhetri	8	21.62	2	11.11	10	18.18
Newar	7	18.92	3	16.67	10	18.18
Magar	6	16.22	4	22.22	10	18.18
Gurung	5	13.51	5	27.78	10	18.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

In this study, the caste groups of females 29.73 percent of Brahmin, 21.62 percent Chhetri, 18.92 percent Newar, 16.22 percent Magar and 13.51 percent Gurung respondents said there was necessary of parents property to women and 22.22 percent Brahmin, 11.11 percent Chhetri, 16.67 percent Newar, 22.22 percent Magar and 27.78 percent Gurung respondents said there was no necessary to parent property to women.

#### **4.3.6 Household Work**

There are various works within the households. Household works depends on women, which include such as cooking meal, cleaning, washing, fetching water, preparing children for school, caring children, caring livestock and others.

**Table 4.13: Distribution of Respondents' Role in Household Works**

<b>Role in Household Work</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Daughter-in-law	6	10.9
Mother	17	30.9
Both	32	58.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

Above table shows that majority of the respondents out of 55 respondents, 6(10.96%) of respondents have prominent role in households work, while women lies daughter-in-law, mother and both 17(30.9%) of respondents are mother and 32(58.2%) of respondents are in both.

#### **4.3.7 Household Works in Family**

There are different kinds of works within the household. In household works in family women perform different works, such as cooking, cleaning, fetching water, child caring, caring livestock etc.

**Table 4.14: Distribution of Respondents of the Reason to do Household Works in Family**

<b>Household Work</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	11	20.00
Female	38	69.09
Other	6	10.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

In this study, out of 55 respondents 38(69.09%) of females are engaged in household works while 11(20.91%) of males are engaged 6(10.91%) of other in household works. Here, participation of female is higher than male respondents.

### 4.3.8 Decision Making in Marriage

Marriage is one of the universal institutions. In our country in most of the castes, parents' decision is acceptable. With the expanding social reform and female emancipation that accompanied economic and literacy growth after independence, there has been gradual demise of arranged marriages, and the inexorable rise of love marriages (i.e. where the initial contact with potential spouses does not involve the parents or family members). That has not yet come to pass and the institution proved to be "remarkably resilient" in the our social context, though it has undergone radical change.

**Table 4.15: Distribution of the Respondents of Decision Making in Marriage**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Father	28	50.9
Mother	11	20.0
Girl/herself	4	7.3
Boy/himself	7	12.7
All members	5	9.1
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

In this study, out of 55 respondents 28(50.9%) of father, 11(20%) of mother, 4(7.3%) of girl/herself, 7(12.7%) of boy/himself and 5(9.1%) of all members of the decision making in marriage respectively. In our society, father's decision is most important in choice of bridegroom than other. So, the percentage of father's decision making is greater than other respondents.

### 4.3.9 Decision Making in Dowry

Dowry system was observed to be practiced among all caste/ethnicity groups. Dowry is the payment in cash or some kind of gifts given to bridegroom's family along with the bride. Generally they include cash, jewellery electrical appliances, furniture, bedding, crockery, utensils and other household items that help the newly-wed set up her home.

**Table 4.16: Distribution of Respondents by Decision Making in Dowry**

Caste/Ethnicity	Decision Making in Dowry System				Total	
	Yes		No			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brahmin	11	31.4	4	20	15	27.3
Chhetri	8	22.8	2	10	10	18.18
Newar	10	28.6	-	-	10	18.18
Magar	6	17.2	10	20	10	18.18
Gurung	-	-	20	50	10	18.18
<b>Total Percent</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

Table 4.16 shows that, out of 55 respondents of all caste/ ethnic groups 11(31.4%) of Brhamin, 8(22.8%) of Chhetri, 10(28.6%) of Newar, 6(17.2%) of Magar are agreed with dowry system. And 4(20%) of Brahmin, 2(10%) of Chhetri, 4(20%) of Magar, 10(50%) of Gurung disagree with dowry system.

### 4.3.10 Family Planning

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

**Table 4.17: Distribution of Respondents by Means of Family Planning**

<b>Means of FP</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	55	100
No	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011*

This study shows that whole respondents are well know about the means of family planning

#### **4.3.11 Kinds of Means of Family Planning**

There are two kinds of family planning. They are permanent and temporary. The temporary method consists of different kinds of contraceptives.

**Table 4.18: Distribution of Respondents by Kinds of Family Planning (FP)**

<b>Kinds of Family Planning</b>	<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Permanent	7	35	11	31.43	18	32.70
Temporary	13	65	24	68.57	37	67.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Table 4.18 shows that 32.7 percent respondents are used permanent method and 67.3 percent respondents are used temporary method of family planning. Among them, 7 (35%) male have used permanent family planning method and 13 (65%) male have temporary family planning method. Similarly 11 (31.43%) women have used permanent family planning method and 24 (68.57%) women have used temporary family planning method.

### 4.3.12 Group Committee in Own Society

Women participation is less than male in group committee in own society. Because of households works and other women can not involved in group committee. This committee helps women development in decision making power.

**Table 4.19: Distribution of Respondents in Group Committee in Own Society by Case/ Ethnicity**

Characteristics	Yes		No		Total	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Brahmin	11	29.73	4	22.22	15	27.27
Chhetri	7	18.92	3	16.67	10	18.18
Newar	8	21.62	2	11.11	10	18.18
Magar	5	13.51	5	27.78	10	18.18
Gurung	6	16.22	4	22.22	10	18.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Above table 4.19 shows that 37 number of respondents are involved in group committee in own society whereas 18 are not involved. Maximum number of respondents i.e. 11 (29.73%) are involved from Brahmin community whereas least 5 (13.51%) from Magar community. Similarly not involvement in group committee are found highest from Magar community i.e. 5 (27.78%) whereas least from Newar community i.e. 2 (11.11%). This shows the high involvement in group committee in own society from Brahmin community.

## 4.4 Constraints and Opportunities in Household Decision Making Process

### 4.4.1 Obstacles for Getting Expected Education

Education is the most important in human being. It is one of the basic human needs. Without education we cannot imagine the development of society. The obstacles for getting expected education found in family culture, social. Women education plays vital role in decision making of households.

**Table 4.20: Distribution of Respondents in the Obstacles for Getting Expected Education in Caste/Ethnicity**

Caste/ Ethnicity	Obstacles for Getting Education						Total	
	Family		Culture		Social		No.	Percent
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent		
Brahmin	6	27.27	4	21.05	5	35.71	15	27.27
Chhetri	4	18.18	3	15.79	3	21.43	10	18.18
Newar	3	16.67	6	31.58	1	7.14	10	18.18
Magar	4	18.18	4	21.05	2	14.29	10	18.18
Gurung	5	27.78	2	10.53	3	21.43	10	18.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Table 4.20 shows maximum respondents i.e. 6 (27.27%) got obstacle from family are from Brahmin community and least from Newar i.e. 3 (16.67%) got obstacle from family for education. Similarly maximum respondents got obstacle from culture for education are found in Newar community i.e. 6 (31.58%) and least in Gurung i.e. 2 (10.53%). Likewise, maximum women got obstacle from social norms and values for education are 5 (35.71%) from Brahmin community and least from Newar community i.e. 1 (7.14%). From above data it can be concluded that Brahmin women are not free for education

from family. Similarly Newar are not free for education from culture and Brahmin respondents got obstacle for education from social point of view.

#### **4.4.2 Responsibility for Success or Failure in Households Works**

All types of households work is done by women in a house. Beside women's own duties she has to do households works. The success of failure of households work is depend on women duties such as cooking, cleaning, child caring, caring livestock and others households activities.

**Table 4.21: Distribution of the Respondents of the Responsibility Success or Failure in Household Works**

<b>Success or Failure HHs</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	14	25.46
Female	32	58.18
Other	9	16.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2011.*

Table 4.21 shows that out of 55 respondents in 14(25.46%) of males are involved in the responsibility of success or failure in household works. While 32 (58.18%) of female and 9(16.36%) of respondents are others participation in same responsibility for success or failure in households works. So, female participation is higher than male.

## **CHAPTER - V**

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

This chapter presents the summary of the study and its conclusion and recommendation may be assistance for the policy maker as well as for the future studies.

#### **5.1 Summary with Major Findings**

Inequalities between man and women exist in both developed as well as developing countries (UN, 2001). In case of Nepal a clear inequality is in every sector such educational health, economic, political participation etc. therefore, the proportion of men and women is very unequal in these sectors, while men are highly enjoying in such sectors and women are depriving.

Our entire analysis focuses upon the relative status of women in terms of their household decision making powers vice-versa their male counterparts. Household decision making is envisaged to be a strong indicator of the different power and positions held by the different members within the households.

Our study includes households from five different ethnic communities comprising of Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Magar and Gurung caste groups. However, our issue in question has been limited only within the households irrespective of caste and inter-class relationships.

Another interesting pattern which emerged from our derivations is that the other female members (Comprising of daughter, daughters-in-law etc) excluding the wives of female household heads) have a comparatively low power of decision making vice-versa their male counterparts. The underlying implications here is that, women holding the status of mother's or rather, the female household heads have a greater control over the powers of decision making. Therefore, once the daughters-in-law eventually replace their mother-

in-law as female household heads, they then become worthy of greater powers of decision making which was earlier enjoyed by their mother-in-law.

The following are the major findings of this study.

- ) There is highest proportion of the respondents in age group 30-45 years 43.64 percent.
- ) The age group 15-30 years 30.91 percent in comparison of age group 30-45 years has less proportion of decision making power. Out of 55 households, 43.64 percent households have nuclear family whereas 56.36 percent have joint family.
- ) 81.82 percent respondents are found literate and remaining 22.22 percent are found illiterate.
- ) Majority i.e. 40% of the respondents are found in household work. Only 12.72 percent respondents were found in service sector. Similarly 25.45 percent respondents were adopted their occupation as agriculture and 21.82 percent respondents are involved in business sector.
- ) Out of total 55 respondents, 42 (76.36%) respondents are married and 13 (23.64%) are unmarried. Out of unmarried respondents 8 (34.78%) are male and remaining 5 (15.63%) are female. Similarly 15 (65.22%) male are married and 27 (84.37%) are female married.
- ) Designation of respondents out of total 55 respondents, 9 (16.4%) of respondents are sister among them 5(9.1%) of respondents are daughter-in-law and 41 (74.5%) of respondents are mother.
- ) Out of 55 households 4(7.3%) household are landless. 29 (52.7%) households have 0-1 ropani land, 13(23.6%) households have 1-3 ropanies and 9(16.4%) households have more than 3 ropanies.

- ) Majority of the respondents were involved in shop i.e. 49.09 percent and least in weaving i.e. 23.64 percent. Similarly the respondents involved in poultry farm are found 27.25 percent.
- ) Among caste/ethnicity groups 26 of women's role was prominent in economic sectors in family While 29 of men's role was prominent in economic sector in family on the group of occupation, higher percent of men's role was prominent.
- ) Out of 55 respondents 25 of women have got opportunity in economic sectors whereas 30 have not got opportunity. Gurung women are found more in getting economic opportunity whereas Chhetri women are least in getting economic opportunity.
- ) Percentage distribution respondents are not involved to decide in specific economic issue in family is high i.e. 34 out of 55. But only 21 women are involved in decision in specific economic issues in family.
- ) Caste groups of females 29.73 percent of Brahmin, 21.62 percent Chhetri, 18.92 percent Newar, 16.22 percent Magar and 13.51 percent Gurung respondents said there was necessary of parents property to women and 22.22 percent Brahmin, 11.11 percent Chhetri, 16.67 percent Newar, 22.22 percent Magar and 27.78 percent Gurung respondents said there was no necessary to parent property to women.
- ) Majority of the respondents out of 55 respondents, 6(10.96%) of respondents have prominent role in households work, while women lies daughter-in-law, mother and both 17(30.9%) of respondents are mother and 32(58.2%) of respondents are in both.
- ) Out of 55 respondents 38(69.09%) of females are engaged in household works while 11(20.91%) of males are engaged 6(10.91%) of other in household works.

- ) Out of 55 respondents 28(50.9%) of father, 11(20%) of mother, 4(7.3%) of girl/herself, 7(12.7%) of boy/himself and 5(9.1%) of all members of the decision making in marriage respectively.
- ) Out of 55 respondents of all caste/ ethnic groups 11(31.4%) of Brhamin, 8(22.8%) of Chhetri, 10(28.6%) of Newar, 6(17.2%) of Magar are agreed with dowry system.
- ) Maximum number of respondents i.e. 11 (29.73%) are involved from Brahmin community whereas least 5 (13.51%) from Magar community.
- ) Maximum respondents i.e. 6 (27.27%) got obstacle from family are from Brahmin community and least from Newar i.e. 3 (16.67%) got obstacle from family for education.
- ) Out of 55 respondents in 14(25.46%) of males are involved in the responsibility of success or failure in household works. While 32 (58.18%) of female and 9(16.36%) of respondents are others participation in same responsibility for success or failure in households works.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

As this study is concentrated to analyze the decision making power of women in terms of social as well as household activities, it can be conclude that females have lower decision making power and they have subordinate role in family and in society.

They are deprived from their right and responsibilities. They have lower decision making power that their male counterparts. In majority household activities men played a dominant role in decision making. The females who have higher educational background and employed, have higher decision making power than merely illiterate households.

All rules and responsibilities as our society is male dominated, male have superior status in most of the cases and females have to follow to them. Even they can not decide for child birth and treatment of illness.

It can also be concluded that females have low socio-economic status and they lag behind men in household decision making, so, it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate major the decision making process. Unless females are brought into the main stream of development process, it is impossible to develop society as well as the nation. For this education and empowerment plays a vital role. This study shows that females have to work more in household having less decision making power. They have to report their male partners' decision in most of the cases. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it. If there is any difficulty to complete the work they cannot decide at that moment, they have to ask for it.

So, we can say:

- ❖ Women have lower decision making power than men.
- ❖ Rights and resources are not provided adequately.
- ❖ Education and empowerment is needed
- ❖ Countries rules and regulations must be friendly for women.

### **5.3 Recommendation**

This study indicates the women's participation in decision making process. This study has been carried out to analyze the women's situation in decision making in household as well as other activities. Though women's decision making power has been increased in recent days but it is not satisfactory. Lots of governmental and non-governmental organizations are involving to empower the females socially as well as economically but result it not as desired. So, the governmental NGO/ INGOs have to work to empower and increase the

potentialities of females. It is essential to implement the existing policies and programs properly and new appropriate policies and programs to enhance the capability of females.

On this basis of the findings of the study the following recommendation can be suggested to improve the status of females and to increase their participations in decision making process.

- ❖ Government should give priority to increasing their literacy rate of female with the help of proper education policies and programmes.
- ❖ Increase the access of females to vocational training, science and technology and continuous these programmes by government, NGOs/INGOs.
- ❖ Rights and resources should be provided to women.
- ❖ Eliminate all types of health related discrimination conduct health related awareness programmes.
- ❖ Increase the access of females to modern health facilities and contraceptives.
- ❖ Encourage females to participate in political and other related activities.
- ❖ Eliminate traditional value and customs which are against the development of females.
- ❖ Respect their voices in society.
- ❖ Government should equally treat men and women in socio-economic and cultural aspect.
- ❖ Make aware them for their rights and responsibilities.
- ❖ Women's role in decision making should be increased.

- ❖ Males have to participate for household chores.
- ❖ Encourage them to be social and give them chance for social activities.
- ❖ Don't harass them for their mistakes.
- ❖ Share the ideas of females in development activities.
- ❖ Their decision should be respected for the social welfare.
- ❖ Women's decision making power should be increased and established in their house and community.

#### Special Recommendations to Study Area

According to the findings of the study, women are spending more time in household activities, but they have less decision making power. The following recommendation should be followed to increase women's decision making process.

- ❖ Change the traditional values, norms and customs gradually.
- ❖ Increase educational status of both male and female.
- ❖ Create awareness to the people about women's rights.
- ❖ Provide opportunity to female in decision making.
- ❖ Involve them in social and economical activities.
- ❖ Increase their economical status.

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# APPENDIX - I

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### A. General information

Name of Respondents:

Sex:

Age:

Religion:

Family size:

Occupation:

1. What is your marital status?

- a) Married                      b) Unmarried

2. What is your designation?

- a) Mother                      b) Sister                      c) Daughter-in-law

3. Whose role is prominent of household workers in your family?

- a) You                      b) Household head                      c) Others

### B. Economic Status

1. Do you have independent source of income?

- a) Poultry                      b) Shop                      c) Weaving

2. How much land do you have on yours family's ownership?

- a) Landless                      b) 0-1 Ropani  
c) 1-3 Ropani                      d) More than 3 Ropani

3. Do you have authority to spend as you like?

- a) Yes                      b) No

4. Do you have authority to save income?

- a) Yes                      b) No

If yes, for which purpose?

5. What can you do if you have got good opportunities in household works?

a) I would reform economic condition better than present.

b) I would guide family members in proper way.

6. Who does the main decision in economic work in your family?

a) You

b) Husband

7. Have you involved in decision of the following?

i) Credit and Payment

a) Yes

b) No

ii) Selection of Seed in agriculture production?

a) Yes

b) No

iii) Social Welfare activities

a) Yes

b) No

iv) Labour allocations mobility income

a) Yes

b) No

8. In your opinion, is there necessary to have parents property to women?

a) Yes

b) No

9. Do you have your own Property?

a) Yes

b) No

10. In your opinion what should be done to be equally treated women as men in all aspects in your family?

.....

### **C. Decision Making Role**

1. Who is the responsible for success or failure in household works?

a) You

b) Husband

c) Others

2. Who decides for the marriage of family members?

- a) Father                      b) Mother                      c) Girl/herself  
d) Boy/himself              e) All members              f) Others

3. Did you give or take dowry in marriage?

- a) Yes                                              b) No

4. Do you know about means of family planning?

- a) Yes                                              b) No

5. If yes, what kinds of means

- a) Permanent                                      b) Temporary

6. Do you have any group committee in own society?

- a) Yes                                              b) No

7. What are the obstacles for getting expected education?

- a) Family                      b) Culture                      c) Social

**Thanks for your help!**



