CONTRIBUTION OF RURAL WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN HEMJA VDC OF KASKI DISTRICT

A Thesis

Submitted to

The Central Department of Economics, TU

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Master's Degree of Arts

In Economics

By

SANGITA TRIPATHI

Roll No.:-53/2066

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

December, 2013

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that thesis entitled **Contribution of Rural Women in Household Income in Hemja VDC of Kaski District** has been prepared by Sangita Tripathi in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Economics under my supervision. I recommend this thesis for evaluation.

……...

Prof. Dr. Madhavi Singh Shah

Thesis Supervisor

Central Department of Economics

T.U, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Nepal

Date:.....

LETTER OF APPROVAL

The thesis entitled **Contribution of Rural Women in Household Income in Hemja VDC of Kaski District** submitted by Sangita tripathi to the Central Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Economics has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the aforementioned Degree.

Thesis Committee

…….

Dr. Ram Prasad Gyawaly

(Head of the Department)

……

Prof. Dr. Sohan Kumar Karna

(External Examiner)

…….

Prof. Dr. Madhavi Singh Shah

(Supervisor)

Date…….

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Madhavi Singh Shah. Tribhuban University of Kirtipur for providing me an opportunity to conduct this study under her guidance on the subject of my interest. I am very much thankful for her valuable suggestion, encouragement and guidance while supervising my research work.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the respected teachers and the staff of this department for their suggestion, help and co-operation. I am highly indebted to all the respondent of the study area for their kind assistance for providing valuable information during the field study.

I would like to be grateful to my father and mother for their support encouragement and affection since my childhood and made me possible for this accomplishment.
Lastly, I would like to thank all my friends and those individual who helped me during study period.

Sangita Tripathi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Recommendation Letter of Approval	Letter
Acknowledgements	
Table of Contents	
List of Tables	
List of Acronyms	
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	**1-9**
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	7
1.3 Objectives of the Study	8
1.4 Significance of the Study	9
1.5 Limitations of the Study	9
1.6 Organization of the Study	9
CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	**10-23**
2.1 Theoretical Literature	10
2.1.1 International Context	10
2.1.2 National Context	12
2.2 Empirical Literature	15
2.2.1 International Context	15
2.2.2 National Context	21
2.3 Deficit in the literature	23
CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	**24-27**
3.1 Research Design	24
3.2 Source of Data	24
3.2.1 Primary Data Collection	24
3.2.2 Secondary Data Collection	24

3.3 Study Site and Rational for Selections 25
3.3.1 Geographical and Demographical Feature 25
3.3.2 Study Site 25
3.3.3 Rationale for Selection 25
3.4 Sample Design 25
3.5 Method of Data Collection 26
3.5.1Questionnaire 26
3.5.2 Interview 26
3.5.3 Observation 26
3.6 Data Processing 27

CHAPTER IV: DATA ANALYSIS 28-50
4.1 Introduction of the Study Area 28
4.2 Age wise Distribution of Economically Active Population 29
4.3 Social Setting of Sample Household 30
4.4 Land Ownership 31
4.5 Occupation 31
4.6 Religion 33
4.7 Family 33
4.8 Social –Economic Status of Sampled Women 34
4.8.1 Social Aspect 34
4.8.2 Caste and Ethnicity of Respondent 34
4.8.3 Occupation 35
4.8.4 Ownership Pattern 36
4.8.5 Religious Aspect 37
4.8.6 Health Aspect 38
4.8.7 Age Distribution 39
4.8.8 Culture 40
4.8.9 Literacy 41
4.8.10 Contribution of Women in Household Income of Hemja VDC 42
4.8.11 Occupation and Time Spent for Out Door work 43
4.8.12 Wage Rate in Hemja VDC 45
4.9 Major Household Work Performed by Women 47
4.10 Participation in Decision Making 49

CHAPTER V: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS **51-56**

5.1 Summary 51

5.2 Conclusion 52

5.3 Recommendation 55

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page No.
4.1:	Total Population and Household of the VDC	29
4.2:	Age wise Distribution of Economically Active Population	30
4.3:	Caste and Ethnicity of the Sampled Household	30
4.4:	Percentage Distribution of Land Holdings Pattern of Sample Household	31
4.5:	Percentage Distribution of Occupation of Sample Household	32
4.6:	Percentage Distribution of Sample Household by Religion	33
4.7:	Percentage Distribution of Family Structure of the Sample Household	33
4.8.2:	Percentage of Respondent Women by Caste/ Ethnicity	34
4.8.3:	Percentage Distribution of Respondent Women by Occupational Involvement	36
4.8.4:	Percentage Distribution of Respondent Women by Land Ownership Pattern	37
4.8.5:	Percentage Distribution of Religion of the Respondents	38
4.8.6:	Percentage Distribution of Treatment Methods Used by the Respondents	39
4.8.7:	Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Age Group	40
4.8.8:	Percentage Distribution of Marital Status of Respondents	41
4.8.9:	Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education	42
4.8.10:	Annual Earning of Respondents Women	43
4.8.11:	Percentage Distribution of Respondents Women by Occupation and Time Spent for Out Door Work	44
4.8.12:	Wage Rate in Hemja VDC	45
4.8.13:	Estimation of Value Derived from Out Door Work	46
4.9:	Estimation of Value of Household Work by Their Activity of Respondent Women	48
4.10:	Final Decision Making Authority (Percentage of Sample Respondent)	50

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APP =	Agriculture Perspective Plan
CBS =	Central Bureau of Statistics
Dr. =	Doctor
GDP =	Gross Domestic Product
GON =	Government of Nepal
HSEB =	Higher Secondary Education Board
ILO =	International Labor Organization
NGOs =	Non Government Organizations
NSS =	National Sample Survey
OLS =	Ordinary Least Square
Prof. =	Professor
SES =	Socio- Economic Survey
SLC =	School Leaving Certificate
UN =	United Nation
UNDP =	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF =	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
VDCs =	Village Development Committee
WB =	World Bank

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Situated in the northern hemisphere, known as land of Mt. Everest and the birth place of Lord Buddha, Nepal is a tiny landlocked country. Though Nepal occupies only 0.03% and 0.3% of total land area of world and Asia respectively, the country has an extreme topography and climate. The altitude ranges from 60 meters to 8,848 meters and the climate varies from tropical to arctic depending upon altitude. The country stretches from east to west with mean length of 885 kilometer and widens from north to south with mean breadth of 193 kilometer (CBS, 2012).

Geographically, the country is divided into three East- West ecological Zones: the Northern Range – Mountain, the Mid Range – Hill and the Southern Range – Terai (flat land). In the northern range, the Himalayas form an unbroken mountain range which contains eight peaks higher than 8,000 meters, including Mt. Everest on the border with China. The middle range is captured by gorgeous mountains, high peaks, hills, valleys and lakes. The Kathmandu valley lies in this region. The southern range with almost 16 km to 32 km. North – South consist of dense forest areas, national parks, wildlife reserves and conservation areas and fertile lands (CBS, 2012).

At present, the country is divided into five administrative development zones. The country is further divided into 75 administrative districts. Moreover the districts are further divided into smaller units, called Village Development Committees (VDCs- total 3915) and Municipalities (58). The VDCs are rural areas, whereas municipalities are urban areas of the country (CBS, 2012).

According to the National population census 2011, the annual growth rate of population is 1.35 percent and the total population of the country in 2011has reached about 26.5 millions with sex ratio 94.2.

The preliminary estimate of per capita GDP at current prices stands at NRs.57,726 (US $ 735) for the year 2011/12. The economic growth of the country measured by GDP is 4.63

percent per year in the year 2011/12. About one fourth of the population (25.16%) lives below poverty line as per the Nepal Living Standards Survey 2010/11 and the Gini-Coefficient; which indicates inequality in income distribution, is 0.328 (CBS, 2012).

Nepal is one of the poorest countries of the world. Major reason behind this is the political instability and undemocratic rule for long. Other crucial factors for country's poverty lack of awareness and access to quality education. As a result, people have superstitious beliefs and there is gender discrimination and political leaders have decresesed political vision. In Nepal, there is lack of physical facilities like proper transportation and communication. There is valuation in climate, religious, language, race and ethnic groups which have created further difficulties in implementing the programs of the government. Socio-culturally, Nepal is a multilingual, multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country. Nepali is constitutionally recognized as the official language. Hindu (81.3 percent) and Buddhist (9.0 percent) are the two predominant religious groups, followed by Muslims, Joins and Christians (CBS, 2011).

In the third world, women's participation to the household economy is from firewood gathering, water fetching to child caring and also income generating activities such as food processing, agricultural products, trading and handicraft production. However, their work in not viewed from an economic perspective.

Similarly, the discrimination on education between men and women serves as an important role to limit the participation of women in income related activities. Education encourages productivity and hence labor demands educated and trained men than uneducated and untrained women. It is obvious that men have high demand labor market. However, the Act 1992 has clearly stated the same wage and opportivy to both men and women.

Some economically active women are involved in small scale and cottage industries in rural areas and are also engaged in other part time activities outside agro producing especially in weaving and handicrafts such as cloth and carpet weaving and basket making knitting etc. These activities generate supplementary and irregular income to women. In general, family based labor in the agro- processing sector has earning prospects. Employment outside the home in the garment and woolen carpet industries more remunerative. These sectors provide maximum employment opportunities for women in the off farm sector.

The importance of women participation in economics activities is evident from the fact that, there is a positive relationship between women production work and the level of development achieved. Women are nearby half of the total population and their participation has critical importance in determining the rate of saving investment and production.

The status of Nepalese women-and rural women in particular lags far behind that of men. The strong bias in favor of son's in the country means that daughters are discriminated against from birth and do not have equal opportunities. The situation for women in characterized by low levels of access to education, health care, economic, social and political opportunities. Despite the increasement in efforts from the governmental, nongovernmental and international development agencies to empower women in Nepal, there has been considerable improvement in the socio- economic status of women at the grass roots level.

Development in Nepal remains impossible unless women achieve equal footing with men in the development process. Gender based equalities in access to healthcare, education, ownership of assets and economic and socio mobility are still profound.

In Nepal, women literacy rate is 57.4%, which is lower in comparison to 75.1% of the men. In the context of rural areas of far-western region, people are very narrow- minded about girl as a useless luxury. Even though girls can perform well in schools, their parents and guardians are reluctant to send the girls to the schools regularly. They usually want them to stay in home and conduct household chores (CBS, 2012). Economically, women are weak and subjected to low paying and unskilled job.

Although the women can play a vital role for the developmental activities, in male dominated country like ours, female are considered of the low standard and less valued. But in the recent years, people have started realizing the importance of women's participation in the economic as well as social sector. The socio- economic standard of women greatly enhances the progressive development of the nation.

Men and women have now started mutual participation known 'equal footing' in the developmental activities in many developed countries having faith and relationship as that of "muscles with the nail of the finger." This mutual understanding between male and female can bring drastic improvement in the socio- economic status of nations.

Women in Nepal, as throughout South Asia are forced to endure economic discrimination which in turn reinforces other type of discrimination. The economic invisibility of women is one of the fundamental causes of continuing inequality and marginalization of women. As a result, women have been demanding changes to the common practice of undervaluing and neglecting the economic contributions which they render to society.

In Nepal, as worldwide women's work has remained largely unrecognized and undervalued. Long hours of women's work which is mainly confined to household activates ranging from cooking, cleaning, washing, child rearing, work in the fields and care of livestock to community work, are not considered as economically significant. Thus men are spoken of as the breadwinners and women as dependents.

The researches conducted in several countries have demonstrated women's proportionally larger household contributions compared to their male counterparts. A review of seven Afican and Asian countries, including Nepal and Bangladesh, found that women's to household work ranged from 2.5 to 14 times more than men. Such non- recognition and neglect of the immense value of women's work have badly affected women's overall status in the society, their self confidence and their entitlements to wealth, income and other benefits such as access to bank loans and participation in decision- making bodies (Human Development Report, 2000).

Until national accounting systems are not revised to include the value of women's unpaid activities women's labor will not be fully recognized, nor will development strategies accurately account for women's work or their role. For this reason, women have long advocated for the use of gender- disaggregated statistics and the inclusion of traditionally women's work in national accounting systems to obtain true picture of their economic contribution.

The enhancement in valuation of women's work is likely to help women in becoming established as an important player in the economic scence and would likely have further multiplier effects in improving their overall contribution and participation in economic as well as other activities.(Human Development Report in South Asia, 2000).

There should be developed societies with culture and tradition where role and participation of male and females are considered to be equal. Their role should be equal both at home and

outside. The improvement of the condition of women in political, social and economical field is the need for the development. For the improvement of women's status there should be decision- making power with women too. If decision making power is equally divided to men and women then the family can run very easily in a better way.

In rural areas, women have traditionally played a significant role in agriculture and the local economy. Although in the development world where modern machinery is now capable of doing much the work formerly done by a large labor force, this is no longer so evident, but in developing countries, where agriculture continues to be largely centered around small holder farming a large labor force is still very important.

Women's productive work and level of development are positively related. The participation of women has critical importance in determining the rates of saving investment and production. Empirical evidences suggest that women are the most advantageous creature in society. The provision of sufficient opportunities to female workers is associated to improve their productivity and wellbeing of their children (Bano, 2012).

International recognition of the vital role of rural women was first recognized during the 4th UN world conference on women in Beijing 1995, when several international organizations launched world Rural Women's Day.

Women labor force participation in Nepal was 42.5 percent, India, 32.4 percent, Myanmar, 36.8 percent, Bangladesh 42.4 percent in 2003. According to revised data collection of a women is involved doing work such as harvesting, sawing, seeds, cotton- picking, maize and rice husking, livestock and poultry breeding, agricultural farming activities, construction work, collection of fire wood and cotton sticks fetching water. Making clothes, sewing, knitting, marking and preparation of goods and material, she will be included in labor force. It explained that informally employed women have increased the labor force participation rate of women up to 50 percent. How much these women are contributing in their households incomes and GDP is still unexplored along with determinants of their contribution.

Informal sector employment is generally a large source of employment for women than for men in the developing world. In the developing countries 60 percent or more women workers are informally employed (outside agriculture) in Asia [ILO (2002)].

In Nepal 80 percent, Bangladesh 83 percent, India 41 percent, and Sirlank 9 percent of working women are engaged in the informal sector. Generally, economic literature has stressed on working women irrespective of the situation that they are working in formal sector or the informal sector. However significant part of the literature has analyzed the informally employed women. Many areas of these women are still to be explored, that is, the typology of their work which differs from region to region, skill requirement by these women credit constraints faced by them, exploitation by employers/contractors/sub-contractors their health status and working environment, their living conditions and status in the household marketing problem if they are producers, role of NGOs or semi- government institutions for their welfare, and even the banded labor in same professions etc.

Women are more ignorant in Asian and African countries. A large number of women in south Asian countries are affected by social evils, conservatives, traditions and blind folded cultures. In these countries the birth of a son is celebrated with a great joy but a girl brings a great disappointment and frustration in the family.

Realizing the fact that the need of meaningful promotional participation of people of all caste, creed, sex, class, region and culture for the sustainable institutional development of democracy. The norms have been reflected in present interim constitution and national policies.

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.* This issue has also been addressed in the present 3- year strategies of the government interim plan, (Interim plan, 2064/2065-2066/2067).

In conclusion women in Nepal are social- culturally dominated, economically deprived and psychologically traumatized. They are living just supportive role of men in any circumstances. Thus, it is the need of time to mainstream the women by providing an equivalent role for the decision making in household and economic activities.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Rural women in Nepal have a lower socio economic status and very limited access to income generating activities due to a number of social cultural and religious barriers. Consequently,

they have less opportunity to contribute to their family income. Rural women are economically dependent and vulnerable and socially discriminated.

At present, Nepal is facing many challenges particularly in the field of women's advancement, where illiteracy, ignorance and civil aspect of the patriachal system are deeply rooted in the peasant's farm household. The decision – making power and women's representative is very poor in the whole of South Asia especially in countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan (Pradhan, 1989).

Women are in the subsidiary position since time immemorial and so are in the case of Nepalese women today. Their talent and ability has been confined to the four walls of their house. The time they provide to the work exceeds the time their male counterpart provide in the house. Despite they work a lot their work doesn't fall under the economic activities. However, if their labor is converted into the economic activity, it obviously clarified hard responsible women are. Thus the study attempts to justify the activities of women as economic activity that has long been neglected.

Women have to work relatively harder than the men. Production in the absence of women's participation is beyond the imagination. In the traditional farm, women have to do all manual work until the plantation starts. Women reserve the grain, tend to the livestock, grow the vegetables in the kitchen, garden, transplant the saplings at the start of the cropping season and then again reap, thresh and clean harvest. Such activities are not restricted to the village economy alone, women are also equally involved in their development work of their community.

The study has assumed the following problem.

i. What is the situation of the women in the study area?
ii. What are the factors responsible for enhancy women contribution in household income?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Women remain a disadvantaged group in a large part of the Nepalese society, more so in the rural areas as compared to the urban areas. The present socio- economic status of women in particular portrays the heavy dependence of women in agriculture for income generation and

employment while at the same time they are undertaking the burden of household activities. In this regard it is necessary to assess the importance of women's socio- economic status. Keeping all these facts in view, this present study will help to try to identify the activities that are to be recognized as economic activity while completing the national census.

The study attempts to include a small area and exclusively focus on the women's participation in the economic activities living in the study area i.e. ward no 4, 7 and 8 of Hemja VDC in kaski District. The following are the specific objectives of the study:

i. To evaluate socio economic status of women in the study area.
ii. To find out rural women's contribution in economic activities.
iii. To assess the women's participation in the decision making process in the family.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study would be helpful to understand the women's situation and their economic activities. Furthermore, the study has helped to reveal certain factors responsible for enhancing women contribution in household income.

The study has also helped governmental and non- governmental organizations and agencies that are seeking first hand information on women's situation and their economic activities by providing insights to a small but representative section of the population. In addition, this study is hoped to be very useful for teachers, students, researchers, policy makers, economists, sociologists etc.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

This study has some limitation as stated by flowing points.

i) This study concentrates only on Ward No. 4, 7 and 8 of Hemja VDC in Kaski District.
ii) This study has focused on the rural women's contribution in economic activities and how they contribute to the household economy.
iii) This study has covered only economically active women of 15 to59 years.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study organizes in five different chapters. The first chapter of the study includes introduction, Statement of the problem, objective, significance and limitation of the study. In second chapter literature review is presented. The third chapter includes methodology, where research design, nature and sources of data techniques of data collection, selection of the study area, sample size and method of data analysis are given. In the fourth chapter the detail description of the socio economic status of respondent women in the study area and their economic activities are given. The tabulation of data and its interpretation are found in this chapter. The fifth or the final chapter consists of the conclusion derived from our entire study and also be suggestions, recommendations and drawbacks as revealed in the conclusions. Finally, the references pertaining to our study is attached.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter deals with the review of available literature on the status of women in Nepal. There are lots of researchers which have been published by different organizations and scholars in this field. This study tries to attempt reviewing literature. Which are recent ones. The review has been done with regard to with background, world scenario and Nepalese context.

2.1 Theoretical Literature

2.1.1 International Context

A study of women at the household level reveals that expect ploughing, women perform almost all the agriculture activities and their daily input in Nine hours against five hours by men. But the degree of involvement various consider ability across ethnic groups and social classes. In fact women are for more involved in farming activities than man. They also have to perform the domestic tasks of the household (World Bank 1983).

According to neo classical economist's education of women is the key determinant of her labor force participation decision. We may connect it with her contribution in the household. A woman with higher level of education is more likely to enter labor market [see Becker (1980)]. On the other hand structuralism school argues that there are many other factors besides education which compel women to enter labor market [see Benham (1980)]. The major one of them is household income. Woman is more likely to enter labor market, if she belongs to a household of lower income group. A long with this an understanding of the inspiration and motivation of women to enter labor market and contribute in household budget is important for analyzing her share of contribution. Aspiration is determined by socio-cultural and economic factors like cultural influences, education, religion and norms adopted by the community (the value, position and role of women accepted by the community) unemployment level in the region and general standard of living most of all, a women has aspiration for financial welfare of the household. In this way household income determines the motivations of women to work and contribute in household budget.

Jiggins (1989) in the article “How Poor Women Earn Income in Sub Shara Africa and What Works Against Them” has highlighted on the condition of women who are involved mostly in household based agricultural activities about 30% of women were supporting the household works and about 80% of agricultural labor was mainly as unpaid labor. They produce 60% of the food consumed by rural households and contribute over one third of all household income via small business, trading and casual labor. But despite their major input to household food and social structures deny women’s real property rights in land. Limit women’s access to control over the process of their decision making roles. Their activities were under stress and they have got government incentivies, provisions for services and market support. They have less access to credit and social support. As such unequal household responsibilities have worsened their position. He has suggested strengthening women’s position in labor process as independent wage earners within the households.

UNICEF (2008) the economic contribution of women was substantial, but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. When employed, their wages normally were 25 percent less than those paid to men. In most rural areas, their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding, and harvesting. In urban areas, they were employed in domestic and tradition jobs, as well as in the government sector, mostly in low- level positions.

Joshi (2008) stated the household work without leisure done by women is not regarded on men, hence if women are to be made economically self – reliant gainful employment for women essential to attain equality of rights participation in development activities is required for the overall sectors of development of the country.

Women play a great role in over all development and progress of the nation. But their participation in different fields either directly or indirectly is still behind in many aspects. In most cases, women are considered inferior to men and their life is restricted within the four walls of the houses, for taking any decision, less power is given to women as they have a right to take decisions regarding various items, as that of the men. So, in order to make women aware about their influences on society, nation and for attaining their respectable status within the family, the present study was undertaken. Rights should be given to women, to make decision regarding various aspects in the family and society. Thus, the present study

is undertaken to highlight the areas were women lag behind in their decision making power (Home Science, University of Kashmir 2008).

2.1.2 National Context

Acharya (1979) finds that despite low levels of skills and cultural inhibitions with respect to women working outside the household, an increasing number of women are joining the ranks of industrial workers. Driven primarily by economic necessity, women are congregating in low paid, unskilled employment as irregular workers on piece rate salaries. And while access to independent sources of income may confer women increased status within the household, the impact of patriarchal values, says Acharya, under which physical work outside the household is viewed as degrading to the family status, also needs to be accounted for. Nevertheless, Acharya assumes that women working outside of the household will have "some" control over income earned (p.83). In view of the earlier cited findings of *Shtrii Shakti* with regard to women's economic decision making authority within the household vis-a-vis that of their husbands, it is clear that the degree of this control is likely to vary across Nepal, and, cannot, in fact, be taken for granted.

Bennett (1980) 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 properly 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 martial behavior.

Acharya (1981) nepalese women bear great burden in household chores and agriculture activities. A study of rural women's work burden reveals that women contribute 74 percent of the labor input to subsistence economic activities and 86 percent of input to social and domestic work. Statistics show that rural women's total work burden is extremely high that at an average of 11.44 hours per day in contrast to 8.34 hours per day for men.

Acharya (1995) has given a picture of rural women of Nepal in Asia pacific journal of rural development. In the journal she states about the economic participation and economic empowerment of rural women. It has been established by various surveys and studies that women make substantial contributions to Nepal's economy, particularly in rural areas of the

country. The status of women study completed in 1980 established that women and girls together contributed more than 53%of the household income in the rural household of Nepal.

Livestock particularly daily production was a major source of income for women (APP, 1995) and sale of livestock and livestock products accounts for nearly 55% of total farm family income. Trading in livestock especially sheep and goat and wool and woolen products was the major livelihood strategy of hill and mountain people in Nepal as food gram production in these regions is in adequate. From the early days weaving has been a part of daily life in the hills and mountains. People in these regions still produce their own version of rugs know as radii pakhi and clothing material know as lukuni (shrestha, 1990) women have a central role in such production. Women are also extensively involved in informal trade selling food, vegetables and snacks in roadside stalls and local market. Production credit for rural women has supported women's handicrafts as income generating activities such as rice straw paper making, agro- products and handicrafts.

Economically, women have no rights 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 labor in carpet and garment factories and get low paid to illiteracy (Luitel 2000).

Acharya (2001) women's lives have been dramatically changed in recent years. There is tremendous improvement in their conditions as more and more women are getting education, entering in to the labor market, and have access to health care facilities. However, gender inequality still persists; women's subordination is deep and wide spread.

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's economic dependence on men mainly stemming from the fact that men earn cash incomes, contributes so their social status. The few women who earn a salary are often held in higher esteem than women who do not. (Gurung, 1999).

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.

Mahat (2003) has already realized the need to be involved in the economic sphere as a means to supplement the household income and gain a certain level of independence. However, these women are mainly relegated to low-skill, repetitive jobs in the industrial sector. This is because of a lack of education and training opportunities, employer, biases, and limited mobility due to family responsibilities. According to the Nepalese constitution, women should enjoy equal rights to employment and equal pay for similar jobs, but this is rate in practice.

Pradhan (2008) found decision- making role within household system as an indication of the status of women. The high status of women is expected to reduce fertility rate, while opposite for those of lower status of women. They found that in communities, which encourage women to participate in gainful employment, women would have a higher status as compared to where those activities are restricted. They also found decision- making role as solely confined to household head. This is because of the cultural norms and low level of income.

2.2 Empirical Literature

2.2.1 International Context

Bell (1974) estimated the contribution of working women in family income. The study found that median income of the families who held some employment had income 23 percent higher than in families with non- working wives. Employed women contributed only 16 percent of total family. The study concluded that professional and managerial workers contributed more than the service sector workers.

The female participation in economic activities has declined as depicted in a variety of data sources Chaudhery and Khan (1987). The most common among them are population censuses, labor force surveys and special purpose surveys. Female participation in economic activities is expected to depend upon four major factors, customs, need for and limitations to work , the level of education and the social status of the household. In practice there is a social division of labor with in a household. The study concluded that household income is inversely related to female activity rate. The female of poor landless households make every effort to earn wages with view of raising the meager income of the household. Education is also found negatively related with women decision to enter the labor market. The effect may be in two ways. Higher the educational attainment of a woman, greater the time the spends in educational, institutions and less the time available for productive activities. Higher the educational level of a female, lower the social barriers, she has to cross and higher the prospect of securing well-paid productive work. The study further can clouded that the phenomenon of green revolution has increased mechanization of agriculture, which has increased the number of girl students in school and reduced the female participation rate.

Concerning the wife contribution in household income, cancian (1991a) have focused on changes in the level and distribution of earning of men and women and their impacts on the distribution of family income among married couples and among all households. The study concluded that husbands earnings rose very little and wives earnings increased substantially between 1968-1988. The rose in married women's increased weekly earning for working wives. As an impact of wife's earning on household income ,it is estimated that without wives earnings 9.2 percent of families would have been below the poverty line, and 26.4 percent would have had income between one and two times the poverty line. Over the period the increased mean earnings of wives were only able to offset a small part of the decline in

the growth of their husband's earnings. Borooah and McKee (1996) have analyzed the role of wife's income in income inequality in United Kingdom one of the causes of rise in income inequality was found as growing polarization between dual –earners and no-earner families. For us Cancian (1991b) found that wives earnings reduced inequality by about 20 percent. For Britain a same type of study by Machine and Wald fogel (1994) measured the impact of wives earnings reduced inequality by about 27 percent. The study further concluded that a substantial contribution was made by the husbands and a relatively minor contribution by the wives towards income inequality.

Omorogbe and Agbonifo (1994) estimated that African women make force. They account for 70 percent of the agricultural workers, 80 percent of food producers and undertake 60.9 percent of the marketing. So rural women produce the dynamic force on which the entire concept of development depends. But it is highly undesirable that their work is not recognized, who are so indispensable to the larger society. They have to face lot of barriers in their attempt to contribution to national development and to go ahead as agents of development. The top of these problems is difficulty of rural women in gaining access to credit faculties. Rural women have no ownership rights because the pattern of inheritance is usually not through women. Gender bias in terms of project funding lack of training, problems of illiteracy works as an obstacle in the way of their access to finances. So there is a need to stress on the agro-based organizations and banks to target the rural people especially women.

A study by UNDP (1994) estimated the increase in labor force participation, education and health of women. Women comprise about two third of the world's illiterates and are still paid half as much as men for work for equal value. In no society, women are sheltered or treated equally. Endorsement of gender issues has been perceived as a win/loss scenario, as women's gains have been seen as men losses. In future, message should be communicated as a win/win scenario changing gender roles and relations is good not simply for women, it also benefits men, families, communities and would create significant intergenerational benefits.

Delayed marriages reflect economic and social progress that eventually affects women's status and reduces the gender gap in many indicators.

Abadian (1996) concluded that high female age is stated to be associated with female autonomy. Women are not reported as heads of the family, even where women are the sole

source of economic support. Women are usually counted as heads of household where they are living alone or have no adult male in the household.

Doss (1996) has analyzed the bargaining power of women in household economic decisions in Ghana. The conclusions of the research are based on the assumption that men and women have different preferences. There is evidence that income controlled by women is spent differently as compared with income controlled by men. If preferences differ between men and women then the effects of men and women bargaining power is an important determinant of household economic decisions can be realized. Women bargaining power is an important determinant of household economic decision. Bargaining power has been measured by education, labor income and the assets held by the women. The assets used in this paper include land, savings and business. The results demonstrated that the share of assets owned by women and the women's control of assets have significant impact on household decisions of expenditure patterns. Women's control of assets is positively associated with expenditures on human capital, including food, education and medical care. It is negatively associated with expenditure on non- essential items including alcohol, recreation and tobacco. For urban household one percent increase in land owned by women results into 5.7 percent increase in the budget share on food.

For rural household a similar increase in women's land ownership results in to 2.6 percent increase in the budget share on food. It is interesting to note that for both urban and rural households the bargaining power of women increase the expenditures on education. This may reflect that women use their bargaining power to encourage men to increase expenditures on education.

The study by Mammem and Paxson (2000) described that how women's status changes with economic development cross country and individual level data both indicate that women's participation in labor market first declines and then rises with development women move from work in family enterprises to work as employees. The gender gap in education reduces and fertility declines, as income rises with development. These studies have further indicated that education of women improves with development and have U-shaped pattern of female labor force. Goldin (1995) in poorest and richest countries the female participation rates exceed 50 percent. The lowest participation rate around 35 percent is for the countries with income around 2500$ per capita. These countries come under middle income countries

classified by the word sloping part of the curve tend to be African followed by south Asian countries.

To support the cross country evidence on women's work and economic development evidence from Thailand and India has been taken which have diverse socio economic characteristics. In Thailand and labor force participation rates for women have historically been high and it is not unusual for women to inherit, own and manage land or other capital assets while in India social norms prevent. Indian women from having ownership and control of land. Date for Thailand has been taken from socio-Economic Surveys (SES) which is a comprehensive household survey. The India's date has been taken from National Sample Survey (NSS). By applying OLS Model (linear probability model) the regression results of indicators of married women labor force participation on measures of their own education and their husband's education has been obtained.

In India women with secondary schooling are slightly more likely to be in the labor force than women with less than secondary schooling. In Thailand secondary schooling has no effect upon participation. Women with post secondary schooling are 23 percent (for India) and 25 percent (for Thailand) more likely to be in the labor force than women with less than secondary schooling. Higher spousal education is negatively associated with women l participation. Rural women are more likely to be in the labor force in both countries. More education women are likely to work as employees rather than self employed. In India, husband higher education is negatively related with work as an employee, perhaps there is more social stigma attached to women working outside the home in India, while the opposite is true in Thailand. But in both countries high spousal education is positively related with white color jobs of women. Women of scheduled caste or tribe are related with greater participation.

The determinants of participation of married women in five countries, Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, having different income levels, stages of development and cultural characteristics are analyzed by Cameron (2001). The data has been taken from World Fertility Survey conducted by the International Statistical Institute. The analysis is restricted to married women of 15-49 years. Information regarding family size, labor market activity, education and spouse's characteristics has been taken from the survey. Quantitative results have been obtained by implying probit model based on binary choice, i.e. whether the wife

participation in labor market or not. The family structure has been represented by total number of children and the number of children born in the last five years. Other explanatory variables are the age of the woman, age of the husband, urban and rural locality of the household as dummy, education of wife and husband at tertiary, secondary, intermediate, and primary level. The empirical results indicated that the determinants woman labor force participation rates in Asia vary across countries. Woman's education is positively related to the probability of working for cash income. In Philippines women are 25 percent more likely to participate in market-oriented activities, in Sri Lanka 17 percent, in Indonesia 16 percent, and in Korea 3 percent, but the earned income of women as percentage of men is the highest in Korea. This indicated that the low participation of women in Korea is not due to low-wage offered to women. It is evidenced in support of the theory that household bargaining power is important in determining women' labor force participation in Asian countries. In countries where gender roles are more traditional defined like Korea and Sri Lanka, increase in women' education is less likely to reinforce women labor force participation, but countries having less rigidly defined gender role like Thailand and Philippines, there is a strong relationship between women' education and labor force participation.

Hoffmann and Leone (2004) estimated the women's contribution in household income and its impact on inequality in household per –capita income for Brazil for the year 1981-2002. The decomposition of the Gini index by income shares has shown a decrease in the contribution of men's earnings and pensions in the inequality of the per capita household income. The increase in the contribution of women's earning to inequality is mostly due to significant increase in the share of their earnings in the household income. Shaw (2005) suggested that women have made both direct and indirect contribution to increase intend productivity in Europe. The direct contribution has come from their role as workers in paid economy. They have contributed indirect to increases productivity and long-run economic growth through unpaid work, both at home raising children and in their communities.

The education of the women has shown a positive impact on income contribution, so the female literacy is an important policy option for enhancing household income. There exists a positive relation between age of the women, ownership of assets, and her contribution in household income. The poor health status of the women decreases their contribution in household income. The social security benefits to the informal sector workers as policy matter require attention of the policy makers. (Kausar, 2005)

Khan and khan (2007) highlighted the characteristics of informally employed women and their contribution in household budget. The results showed that woman's education, women as head of household, ownership of assets by woman had positive effect on their contribution. The study concluded that in the informal employment, married women contributed more towards family budget. The age of the woman had a non- linear effect on their contribution.

Bano, (2012) has conducted a research entitled "Rural women's contribution in Family Budget: A case study of District Layyah, Pakistan" the main findings of the study suggest that age of the woman has shown a nonlinear effect on the contribution of women in her family budget. She has found that outside work permission, women's monthly wage rate, education of women, burden of poverty are positively influencing the contribution of rural women in their family budget. Family size, number of children total monthly income of the women and women's monthly expenditure has negative effect on the contribution of woman. Poorer the household, greater will be the contribution of women in household budget. The permission to woman to work outside the home greatly affects the contribution of women in her family budget. The important variables in this analysis are education of the women, age of the women, poverty status, outside work permission, women' monthly wage rate, total monthly income of the family, women's monthly expenditures, restrictions to achieve education, and work experience of the women.

2.2.2 National Context

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

UNICEF (1992) occupation is one of the major indicators of the social status of women. Women's contribution to be heavily focused on farm and domestic activities 86% of all domestic work and 57% subsistence agricultural activities. However, because Nepal's main economy over whelming subsistence agriculture and because women are predominate in this sector their total contribution to the household income remains at 50% as opposed to only 44% for males and 6% for children between ages of 10 to 14.

The predominant section of the Nepalese people is employed in the agriculture sector. If we take into account labor input, women's contribution is relatively higher than men. In rural areas, those who are engaged in outside employment for wage or salary in addition to farming, own fields, 68.2 percent are men and only 31.8 percent are women (shtri shakti,1995).

Ghale (2010) has conducted a research entitled "Household Management by Economically Active and In –Active Women in Nepal: A Case Study of Chouketar Dahachok VDC, Kathmandu." His main objective was to find out the household management of economically active and in-active women living in Chouketar Dahachok village development committee. To fulfill the objectives of the research he had selected 77 women aged group 15 to 59 years of age. He has concluded household works that have been termed as having non- economic benefit are mostly handled by economically in-active women and these work indirectly create lots of saving for the household. Both the economically active and in-active women share a lot of energy, time and money managing their household. Both of them share the dual burden of work in domestic and subsistence economy. However women's social and economic status remains both less recognized and more inferior to their male counterparts.

Thapaliya (2010) aims to explore the socio economic profile of rural women educational status and their involvement in decision making, economic support to family economic activities, and finally to suggest measure for uplifting their status in study. This study is based on the both primary and secondary data. The data is collected using simple random sampling and for interpretation of data, descriptive method mainly percentage is used. This study concludes that the most of the unemployed women is busy in the production of crops and livestock. Due to lack of the training and irrigation problems, the quantity of production is very low on the other side, the women are satisfactory role in participation in users groups

(water, forest and women) and decision making. But they can't decide themselves in women ceremony selling and purchasing land and houses.

Kamala Gautam (2013) has described that Nepalese women are increasingly well educated and nearly 50 per cent are participating in formal economic activities. Yet household work still falls almost exclusively to them. Some young couples are moving from a multigenerational to nuclear household to escape traditional gender roles.

Increased education levels for women and structural changes in the economy reducing dependency on agriculture have increased economic opportunities for women in Nepal, according to the 2011 Nepal population Report by the Ministry of Health and Population. Women's participation in formal economic activities increased from 35 per cent in 1971 to 83 percent in 2004, becoming on far with that of men.

Conclusion, review of the literature depicts that researchers have made varying conclusions regarding the characteristics and role of women. This characterizes and role may be different due to the economic status and income level. The contribution of women in family income, their role on decision making and their socio- economic status is varying according to their religion, origin and family status. The findings may be different due to different methodological tools, varying in data, nations status and time period. Although, researches find the different characterizes of women that are major determinants of women on family income, they have made the same conclusion that the share of women in family income is lower than men; their role on decision making is negligible with lower socio- economic status.

2.3 Deficit in the Literature

From the above literature review most of the studies in Nepal are concerned with the study of certain VDCs. There are not any studies covering over all national study regarding this topic. Also, the international studies do not cover Nepal in their study characterizes of women differ from one VDC to another and also one nation to another. There is not any study of Hemja VDC. So, this study is concerned with the study of Hemja VDC of Kaski Districts.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology is an important component of a study. It involves decision about the research design, sources of data and information, sampling design if primary data is to be collected and survey tools for data collection.

3.1 Research Design

This study attempts to throw the light on the women's economic participation of economically active women aged between the years of 15 to 59, in terms of their household income aiming to obtain some remarkable finding related to their social life.

The research design followed with study is descriptive research design. Some statistical tools and its interpretation have also been used to make research more empirical. In other words information and data have been collected and systematized following both tabulated as well as descriptive research designs. . It uses both quantitative and qualitative data.

3.2 Source of Data

3.2.1 Primary Data Collection

The interview was taken from the selected households members of sampled household with structured questionnaire and relevant information is collected through the medium of questionnaire. The questionnaire includes both open and closed types. The researcher took personal interview and fill up the questionnaire. Cross check, editing and indirect question were also put some time to check the validity and relevancy of questionnaire.

3.2.2 Secondary Data Collection

Beside primary data, secondary data also needed to fulfill the research objectives. So, the sources of available data are taken form official and non- official sources. The relevant data taken from publication of National Planning Commission, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Budget speech of GON, Economic Survey, Annual publication of Nepal Rasta Bank, Books,

Reports, Magazines, Seminar papers, Reports of Research center's data and information from donor agencies like WB, UNDP etc.

3.3 Study Site and rational for Selection

3.3.1 Geographical and Demographical Feature

The present study has carried out in Hemja VDC of Kaski district, which is located in the Western Development Region in Gandaki Zone. According to the VDC profile of 2o65, the total population it is 10,992. Among them 5,519 of total population are female and 5,473 are male. There is a total of 2138 household out of nine wards. The family size is 5.04; there is the mixed population of Brahmin, Chettri, Janajati, Dalits and other in Hemja VDC.

3.3.2 Study Site

Out of 9 wards in Hemja VDC, only 63 households out of 627 from three wards i.e. ward no. 4, 7 and 8 were purposively selected. The site of this research is ward no. 4, 7 and 8 of Hemja VDC. The list of the household of the study area was provided by the VDC office.

3.3.3 Rationale for Selection

It would be very difficult to study whole VDC due to the problems of time, economic, selection of households, collection of total information and so on. So, researcher only selected the three wards i.e.4, 7 and 8 which has rural characteristics.

3.4 Sample Design

The study has focused on the rural women's contribution in economic activities in the study areas. For this research study , ward no 4,7,and 8 has rural characteristics. The sampled households of selected wards were interviewed using structured questionnaire. Out of 206 households in ward no 4, 10 percent households i.e. 21 questionnaire. Similarly, out of 172 households in ward no 7, 10 percent households i.e. 17 questionnaire. And, out of 249 households in ward no 8, 10 percent households i.e. 25 households were interviewed and the total sample size was 63 households of 3 selected wards of Hemja VDC.

3.5 Method of data collection

3.5.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaire mentioned in the Appendix I was set and then used to the respondents in order to obtain detailed information. The questionnaire was prepared in such a way that it provided both the quantitative and qualitative information. In fact, the questionnaire has helped to make the study more reliable, factual and impressive.

3.5.2 Interview

The primary data has been collected with the help of the key informants. Key informants are also considered for the informal discussion and accidental interview. Basically the key informants are the local teacher, elder person, social workers, local politicians etc, of the study area. This study has taken information from the key informants by asking question about women's education, social, economic, political situation and family background of the study area.

3.5.3 Observation

Direct observation has been also used to collected relevant information regarding the study area. Observation in the field has provided more information which is not actually obtained through the questionnaire. Observation has been done whether the respondents were really capable to perform different activities related to this study or not.

In order to collect secondary data, either quantitative or qualitative the bulletins, Magazine or reports related to the topic were consulted in different libraries, institutions and internet.

3.6 Data Processing

After completing the fieldwork, all information of the filled up questionnaires is presented in the master table which are identified by the respondent number and the variable. After that the collected data will be processed using scientific calculator and EXCEL software. Based on the software, the collected data were analyzed and statically interpreted by using methods such as graph, tabulation, percentage.

CHAPTER- IV

DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction of the Study Area

Hemja is one of the VDCs of Kaski district. The village has good transportation facility because it is on the way to Pokhara to Baglung highway. The VDC covers an area of 19.71 square k.m(1971 hectors) and is at average of 840 meters above the sea level. The total population of Hemja is 10,992 which 5,519 (50.3%) are women and 5,473 (49.7%) are men. The boundaries of the VDC end east in Lamachaur and Puranchaur VDC and west in Dhikure Pokhari VDC, North in Dhital and Lahachok VDC and south in Kaskikot, sarangkotVDC and Pokhara sub-Municipality. The inhabitants of the VDC are continued to different ethnic groups, Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar, Gurung, Dalit and other some migrated as well as occupation groups. The population depends mostly on subsistence agriculture but due to the ownership of duel and small marginal land which is mostly un-irrigated.

The majority of them are not been able to produce enough to meet their annual requirement of food. The deficits of food stuff are purchased from the market which is paid from, the cash they earn as labor or by selling limited quantity of agriculture as well as non agriculture products produced at their small forms.

The condition of women is even worse as most of them are illiterate and over burdened with less productive responsibilities and more household activities such as cooking, cleaning, looking after children and taking care of household chores. The VDC comprise 9 wards. There are altogether 13 schools. Including primary, lower secondary and secondary and 2 campus under HSEB. There is one government health post.

The population of VDC, total household and the male and female population are given in Table No.1.

Table 4.1: Total Population and Household of the VDC

Ward No	T.Household	Male	Female	total
1	418	1036	1025	2061
2	209	579	540	1119
3	135	326	380	706
4	206	538	568	1106
5	98	235	235	470
6	359	943	942	1885
7	172	469	476	945
8	249	648	616	1264
9	292	699	737	1436
Total	2138	5473	5519	10992

VDC profile, 2009

Table 4.1 depicts the ward wise distribution of total population of Hemja VDC. Out of total 10,992 populations, there found the 5,473 male populations and 5,519 female populations. The female population is greater than male population by 64. In ward no.1 there found the maximum population i.e. 18.75 in the comparison of other ward numbers.

4.2 Age Wise Distribution of Economically Active Population

Among them female population of age between 15 to 59 years is taken as the economically active population because below age 14 are consider as children and above age 59 as old people that are less active.

Table 4.2: Age Wise Distribution of Economically Active population

S.N	Age group	Male	Female	Total
1.	15-24	1009	972	1981
2.	25-45	1813	1678	3491
3.	46-59	617	660	1277
	Total	3439	3310	6749

VDC Profile, 2009

Table 4.2 shows the age wise distribution of economically active population where women constitute slightly less than men. Age group between 15-24, there are 1009 male and 972 female. Majority of the population are lies between 25-45, there are 1813 male and 1678 are female.

4.3 Social Setting of Sample Household

In the study area there is diversity in the ethnic composition of the total population. According to random sampling the study is represented, which fallows all caste and ethnicity such as Brahmin, Chhetri, Janajati, Dalit etc. The sampled household is 63 which is the approximately 10 percent of total household of Ward No 4,7 and 8 of Hemja VDC.

Table 4.3: Caste and Ethnicity of the Sampled Household

S.N	Caste	No. of Household	Percentage
1.	Brahmin	28	44.44
2.	Chhetri	17	26.98
3.	Janajati	8	12.69
4.	Dalit	10	15.87
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013.

The table shows that out of the total respondent household, the major percentage of the sample households are form Brahmin ethnicity (44.44%) followed by Chhetri (26.98%) Dalit

(15.87%) and Janajati (12.69%). Janajati community remains last in terms of caste and ethnicity distribution for the study.

4.4 Land Ownership

The major source of living and income to almost all the sampled household was from agriculture fallowed by the service. There was found no significant inclination toward industry but small scale business and entre premierships are being adopted steadily, observation reveals the upper caste Brahmin, Chhetri are seemed the most economically better off in term of land holding and livestock that is shown in the following table.

Table 4.4: Percentage Distribution of Land Holdings Pattern of sampled Households

S.N	Land Size	No. of Households	Percentage
1.	Landless	6	9.52
2.	Up to 1 Ropani	8	12.69
3.	1 Ropani to 5 Ropani	24	38.09
4.	6 Ropani to 10 Ropani	13	20.63
5.	11 Ropani to above	12	19.04
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013.

From the table 4.4 we find that the households having 1 Ropani to 5 Ropani land seemed maximum 38.09 percent followed by the household holding 6 Ropani to 10 Ropani land, accounted 20.63 percent. Likewise 9.52 percent of household are landless. Similarly land holdings 11 Ropani to above figured 19.04 percent.

4.5 Occupation

The nature and the degree to occupational segregation among the communities vary significantly according to economic, social and demographic circumstances.

The main occupation in Hemja VDC can be categories as follows:-

- Agriculture
- Services occupation
- Business
- Cottage industry
- Overseas employment
- Teacher
- Tailor
- Wage labors

The local industries consist of leather shoe making units, furniture making units and other small cottage industries, industries making baskets, (doko) mats (sukull). These industries are utilized in the local manpower to some extent. Agriculture still remains the most common and important activity of great economic importance in Hemja VDC.

Table 4.5: Percentage Distribution of Occupation of Sample Household

S.N	Occupation	No. of Household	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	16	25.39
2.	Agriculture plus Wage labor	4	6.34
3.	Business	11	17.46
4.	Agriculture plus Service	25	39.68
5.	Other	7	11.11
	Total	63	100.00

Field survey, 2013.

We see from the table 4.5 that 39.68 percent of total household are engaged both in agriculture and service. The data show 25.39 percent of household engaged in agriculture. Likewise 17.46 percent household are found engaged in business but it observed very small percent i.e. 6.34 percent engaged both in agriculture and labor and the rest 11.11 percent in other occupation. It indicates that the main occupation of the study area is agriculture and service.

4.6 Religion

Though Nepal is predominantly a Hindu society, there equally exists other religion in practice. The table shows the religious detail of the sample household.

Table 4.6: Percentage Distribution of Sample Household by Religion

S.N	Religion	No. of Household	Percentage
1.	Hindu	40	63.49
2.	Buddhist	10	15.87
3.	Christian	7	11.11
4.	Other	6	9.52
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013.

Table 4.6 shows the highest sample households is found the Hindu follower i.e, 63.49 percent followers by Buddhist 15.87 percent. Christian constitutes 11.11 percent and other religion follower is also counted during the research which contains 9.52 percent.

4.7 Family

Along with the wave of modernization and urbanization, the traditional family system have been changing its shape traditional joint family system is gradually fading away replacing by the nuclear family system. Less of the household is found living jointly.

Table 4.7: Percentage Distribution of Family Structure of the Sample Household

S.N	Family Structure	No. of Household	Percentage
1.	Nuclear	43	68.25
2.	Joint	20	31.74
	Total	63	100.00

Field survey, 2013.

Table 4.7 shows the percentage distribution of family structure of the sample household is found i.e. 68.25 percent of nuclear family and joint family structure found i.e. 31.74 percent.

4.8 Socio- Economic Status of Sampled Women

4.8.1 Social Aspect

While studying the social aspect of the society, a number of factors should be accounted for, in order to understand their socio- economic condition as well as their relative status- cultural factor, for instance, has highly influenced the way of life, his/her economic mobility, the individual status etc. This identifies the level of their recognition over the family and the society. This study tries to incorporate all these social aspects and variables to make the study more complete.

To explain the socio- economic characteristic of the respondents in the study area where different variables have been used and they are described as follow.

4.8.2 Caste and Ethnicity of Respondent

The area in which this study was under taken reveals a marked diversity in the caste and ethnicity composition among its population. During the time of field survey only women of between the ages of 15 to 59 years were interviewed ignoring their marital pattern i.e. both married/ unmarried and widow/ separate are taken account. Table no. 4.8.2 shows the caste/ ethnicity characteristic of the sample respondent women of the study area.

Table 4.8.2: Percentage of Respondent Women by Caste/ Ethnicity

S.N	Caste/Ethnicity	No. of Household	Percentage
1.	Brahmin	28	44.44
2.	Chhetri	17	26.98
3.	Janajati	8	12.69
4.	Dalit	10	15.87
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

Table 4.8.2 shows that the number of Brahmin 44.44 percent is the largest in distribution as this is the largest settlement in this area. Then comes no of Chhetri which constitutes 26.98 percent out of the total sample households followed by Dalit i.e. 15.87 percent. Similarly Janajati constitute 12.69 percent.

The study found that the ethnic group reveled a tendency to stay clustered among their own communities. However people from different groups were also found to be living together in certain areas of settlement. This concentration of ethnicity in the certain area is found to help them. Follow the age-long traditional cultural practices which still are keeping them a separate identify.

4.8.3 Occupation

The tendency for women to be concentrated in particular occupation and in particular sector of the economy is universal. But the nature and the degree of occupational segregation among the communities varies significantly according to economy mainly falls on traditional household subsistence activities but their emergence is being stressed recently also to their involvement to bring them out from very household subsistence sector.

The study shows that most of them are looking after small children at home food processing, house maintenance water fetching and the most importance is their labor in agriculture sector. Because of the modernization effect, the women's involvement from the observation, women's income derived from the small business such as vegetable production and selling brewing beer and sale and from wage labor accounts a significant fraction out of their total household income. Women now become an equal co- partner to men in terms of cash earning though their most important and time consuming household chores often goes unreported. Therefore the duel participation of women in their household income is the main focus of this study, on average human spend nearly 15 hours per day in productive activities.

Since only the respondent women were interviewed though individual questionnaire, the respective status to their male counterparts was not analyzed.

Table 4.8.3: Percentage Distribution of Respondent Women by Occupational Involvement

S.N	Occupation	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	22	34.92
2.	Wage labor	3	4.76
3.	Business	5	7.93
4.	Cottage industry	2	3.17

5.	Services	13	20.63
6.	Agriculture plus wage labor	7	11.11
7.	Household work	8	12.69
8.	Other	3	4.76
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

There seems from the table no 4.8.3 that 34.92 percent out of 63 respondents are found to be involved in agriculture follower by 20.63 percent in services, 12.69 percent of the respondent women are found to be engaged in household work. The table shows the 11.11 percentage of sampled women involved in agriculture and wage labor, which indicated the dual character of occupation among the population. The table also shows that 7.93 percentages of respondent's women are found to be engaged in business and only 3.17 percent of women work in cottage industry.

4.8.4 Ownership Pattern

Most of the people according to the study, who are holding the lands, are found tenants, very small fraction of land they have as their own. The study reveals that the female ownership of land remains in significant. But the interesting matters that ownership over the land increases as the age of women increase. The following table clears the land holding of the sample women.

Table 4.8.4: Percentage Distribution of Respondent Women by land Ownership Pattern

S.N	Landholding of own and as a tenant	No of Household	Percentage
1.	Landless	40	63.49
2.	Up to 1 Aana	9	14.28
3.	Up to 1 Ropani	10	15.87
4.	Up to 5 Ropani	4	6.34
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

From the table no 4.8.4 it is found that most of the sampled women about 63.49 percent in this study have no land under their ownership. Land having up to 1 Aana is constitutes 14.28 percent. Likewise the percentage of the women having land up to 1 Ropani are found 15.87 percent. Only 6.34 percent women have about up to 5 Ropani land.

4.8.5 Religious Aspect

Religion has a great impact on life, and Hindu religion has profound influence in our society, Hindu myth states that the creation of women resulted from the left organ of the creator, Brahma. The social and religious has greatly influenced the life of women basically Hindu, Budhism and Christian are the main religious of the study area. Mostly Brahmins, Chhetri, some of the Janajati and some lower caste untouchables follow Hinduism where as Tamang, Gurung, Magar etc believed in Buddhism. Beside these religious followers of their religions are very small in numbers. Most of the people believe in Hindu religion. The following is the religion wise distribution of the respondent women of this study.

Table 4.8.5: Percentage Distribution of Religion of the Respondents

S.N	Religion	No. of Households	Percentage
1.	Hindu	47	74.60
2.	Buddhist	8	12.69
3.	Christian	6	9.52
4.	Other	2	3.17
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

According to the data shown on the table no 4.8.5 Hindu constitute most of the sampled population i.e. 74.60 percent. Buddhism is second position composing 12.69 percent out of the total respondent women. Similarly, Christian religion shows 9.52 percent of follower and 3.17 percent respondent did not show a firm belief upon any religion.

4.8.6 Health Aspect

With an objective to gather information about the health condition of women of the study area attempts were made to answer the various aspects of health problems which suffer they is their day to day life. In fact, these women have to work from dawn to dusk sometimes. They even to work the whole night but the quality and quantity of food they take is always less than required. High fertility rate lack of education, superstitious believes has definitely adverse impact upon their health.

Most of the older women are found smoker which has an adverse affect on their health and so it was found for their male counterparts from the observation apply some sort of healing medicine to the some local healers like shamans and herbalist. Study made in order to get information as to what they do? And where they go? And whom they believe most? When they fall sick, precise mix responses.

Table 4.8.6: Percentage Distribution of Treatment Methods Used by the Respondents

S.N	Preferred place for treatment number of respondents	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Doctors	42	66.66
2.	Herbalists	10	15.87
3.	Shamans/ Healers	4	6.34
4.	Believe on all	7	11.11
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

The above table 4.8.6 indicates that the large proportion of the women 66.66 percent is found to believe in doctors for treatment. On the other hand, the number of women who believe on herbalist amounted 15.87 percent. Believe on Shaman and a healer has constituted 6.34 percent, 11.11 percent of them are found to believe in all. It can concluded from the above analysis that even in this modern time there are quite a large number of people in this village believe in superstitious practices like shamanism and witchcraft. They tend to prefer local healers and shaman for treating their diseases more than modern medication.

4.8.7 Age Distribution

Age is one of the important factors for determining the economic activity of the people. The age wise distribution of the women of age 15 to 59 living in this area is shown in table 4.8.7.

Table 4.8.7: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Age Group

S.N	Age Group	No. of Respondents Women	Percentage
1.	15 to 19	3	4.76
2.	20 to 24	5	7.93
3.	25 to 29	11	17.46
4.	30 to 34	8	12.69
5.	35 to 39	13	20.63
6.	40 to 44	9	14.28
7.	45 to 49	10	15.87
8.	50 to 54	2	3.17
9.	55 to 59	2	3.17
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

In the table 4.8.7, the women of age group 35 to 39 are highest in number and comprise of 20.63 percent of the total respondents. Likewise women of age groups 25 to 29 and 45 to 49 represent 17.46 and 15. 87 percentages respectively. Similarly, a respondent in age group 40 to 44 is found 14.28 and the age group 20 to 24 is found to be 7.93 percent.

4.8.8 Culture

Marriage in our society is considered to be an indispensable phenomenon and conjugal life is normally associated with happiness. This study also presents the marital status of the respondents women.

Table 4.8.8: Percentage Distribution of Marital status of Respondents

S.N	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Married	53	84.12
2.	Unmarried	6	9.52
3.	Separated	1	1.58
4.	Widow	3	4.76
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

It can be observed from table no 4.8.8 that a majority of the economically active women are married (84.12 percent). The unmarried women represent 9.52 percent of the total which is logical considering, the lower age limit of economically active population. Separated women still account for very less (1.58 percentage) which accurately reflects the marital condition existing not only in Hemja VDC but also in our country as a whole.

The female work burden whether within the household or outside varies depending on the individual's marital status in the family member especially in a joint family. The married women in the joint families have to bear grater household work compared to the unmarried women. But the obvious truth is that the greater the number of women in the family less will be the total work burden.

4.8.9 Literacy

Once constitution offers women equal educational opportunities, many social, economic and cultural factors contributed to lower enrolment and higher dropout rates for girls. Illiteracy imposed the graters hindrance to enhancing equal opportunity and status for women.

Illiteracy here considers the respondent's inability to both read and write. Women who are capable to write and read and those who have completed primary level education are rate as literate. Different education levels of the respondents in ward no 4,7and 8 of Hemja VDC and their number in each category are illustrated in table 4.9.7.

Table 4.8.9: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by level of Education.

S.N	Level of Education	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Illiteracy	19	30.15
2.	Primary (up to class 5)	7	11.11
3.	Secondary (up to class 10)	13	20.63
4.	SLC and above	24	38.09
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

In the study area 30.15 percent of the total respondent women are illiteracy. Only about 38.09 percent of the total respondents have passed SLC and above, which can be considered to be relatively low.

4.8.10 Contribution of Women in Household Income of Hemja VDC

From the previous discussion, it is evident that most of the wage laborers in Hemja VDC are busy during the month of Ashar, Shrawan, Kartik and Mangsheir in agriculture works. Another month when the demand for wage labours is less, people (especially women) spends most of their item doing other household works.

Field survey in Hemja VDC indicates that women's income derived from small business such as fruit and vegetable production and selling. Small tea and basic commodity shops and weaving also accounts for a fraction of their total household income in agriculture, women do all the works from planting rice to storing it the store room (Bhakari).

However women's involvement in higher economic returned activities is limited. Their earnings however small, gives a significant boost to their total household income still the interesting fact is that these sort of cash earning activities are performed by women along with the completion of their household and subsistence duties.

Table 4.8.10 shows the percentage distribution of respondent's women in Hemja VDC categories by their annual earning.

Table 4.8.10: Annual Earnings of Respondents Women

S.N	Annual Earning (Rs.)	No. of Respondents Women	Percentage
1.	Unpaid family worker	8	12.69
2.	Up to 5000	11	17.46
3.	5001 - 10000	18	28.57
4.	10001 -15000	11	17.46
5.	15001- 25000	10	15.87
6.	Above 25000	5	7.93
	Total	63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

Table 4.8.10 indicates that more than 80 percent of women are found to be involved in earning activities along with their domestic respondents. The highest percentage of respondents women revealed they earned Rs. 5001 – 10,000 annually followed by women up to annual income 15,000. Only 7.93 percent women earned an amount greater than 25,000 annually.

4.8.11 Occupation and Time Spent for Out Door Work

One of the most reliable indicators on measuring women's economic contribution can be the "working hour" unit. In a country like ours where all market and economic activities are not properly expressed in economic terms and barter system still exists the attempt to estimate women's contribution in contester units is rather impossible. In this light "working hour" method is used for the purpose of obtaining information on net economic contribution.

Table 4.8.11 Percentage Distribution of Respondents Women by Occupation and Time Spent for Out Door Work

S.N	Occupation	No. of Respondents Women	Time spent for outdoor work (Hours/ Day)	Total time spend from outdoor work (Hours/Day)
1.	Agriculture	22	4	88
2.	Wage Labor	3	2	6
3.	Business	5	3	15
4.	Cottage industry	2	3	6
5.	Services	13	2	26
6.	Agriculture plus Wage Labor	7	3	21
7.	Household work	8	10	80
8.	Other	3	5	15
	Total	63	32	257

Field Survey, 2013

In addition, women are involved in household activities from day to dawn. They work more than 10 hours a day but still their work with in the household is the household is never counted as economic activity.

So it can be said that mainly women doing seasonal agriculture work and household work are the one that send the most time performing households works that go unnoticed. The seasonal agriculture works that the women perform comprise mainly of works such as collecting, protection and choosing of seeds, weeding and grinding of cries and sowing seeds and transplanting samplings. Similarly household works, are such as cooking for family members, feeding family members and cleaning dishes, taking care of children and old member of the family, taking of sick family members, cleaning house hand compound, carrying water and washing clothes and there (growing kitchen vegetables, raising domesticated animals, etc.).The table 4.8.11 shows the time spent by respondent women, for outdoor work i.e. income generating work, which show in agriculture they spent 4 hours, in business 3 hours in wage labor 2 hours, cottage industry 3 hours similarly in service, they spend 2 hours in agriculture plus wage labor 3 hours in household works 10 hours and in other work 5 hours

per day. Here, we take a average time spent, it is because, the time spent by respondent women for outdoor work is varying with no. of women. So, we take a time in average.

Here, we calculate the total time spent for, income generating work by respondent women, which is 257 hours/day. For calculating this first, we calculate the total time spent by respondent to different kind of work by multiplying no. of respective respondent and average time spent for respective work.

Field survey also reveals that significant portion of respondent in Hemja VDC engage in household activities.

Table 4.8.11 shows that women (about 2 percent) spend their total time doing their own household work throughout the year. Other women on the other spend household work in addition to performing the above duties. The number of hours that women perform household work varies slightly by occupation but is similar for working women from all walks of life under normal circumstances, so all the respondent women are performing their household duties with their occupational works.

4.8.12 Wage Rate in Hemja VDC

The wage rate for common activities in ward No. 4, 7 and 8 of Hemja VDC is shown in the following table.

Table 4.8.12: Wage Rate in Hemja VDC

S.N	Activity	Men's wage in Rs/day	Women's wage Rs/ day
1.	Plaughing fields	200	NA
2.	Planting rice	200	150
3.	Cutting rice	200	150
4.	Carpenter Jyami	250	NA
5.	Mason	250	150

Field Survey, 2013 Note: NA denotes are not applicable.

Since the main crops in Hemja VDC are paddy, wheat, and maize, the major agriculture activities concern with planting and processing these crops. Vegetables that are grown in

Hemja are potatoes, cauliflower, garlic, radish, peas, etc. The fruits that are grown are orange, cucumber, papaya etc.

The demand for agriculture labors in Hemja VDC has following pattern over the year. High demand during the rice planting months of Ashar and Sharawan and during rice cutting months of Kartik and Mangsir low demand in the rest of the months.

For determining the opportunity cost, the following approach has been adopted. The prevalent age rate for women, in Hemja for performing labor intensive economic activities is Rs 150 per day (as listed in table4.8.12). For calculating the opportunity cost for the outdoor talks listed above, half of the prevalent wage rate. (i.e. Rs 75) is considered as the daily wage, it is because no of women give full day for this work so we take only half of the prevalent wage rate. The total opportunity cost for the sample population can therefore be deduced as:

Table 4.8.13: Estimation of Value Derived from Out Door Work

S.N	Total numbers hours of work perform by 63 respondent women per day	257 hours (Approximately 11 days)
1.	Average wage rate determined appropriate for household work (based on response from respondents on Hemja)	Rs. 75 per day
2.	Total value of work performed per day	Rs. 825
3.	Total value of work performed per month	Rs. 24,750
4.	Total value of work performed per year	Rs. 2,97,000

Field Survey, 2013

The table shows the total number of hours spent in outdoor work in 257 hours (i.e. 11days) as calculated in table 4.8.11 and Rs. 75 is an average wage rate taken for calculation. For calculating total values of outdoor work dividing 257 hours (outdoor work performs per day) we convert hours into day we get approximately 11 days. Thus we can calculate total work performed by 63 respondents per day by multiplying 11days and average wage rate i.e. Rs 75 we get 825. Similarly we calculate the total work performed per month by multiplying per day work performed and 30 days and value of work performed per year by multiplying per month work perform 12 month we get total value 24,750 and 2,97,000 respectively. Thus

total values of Rs 2, 97,000 can be attributes to outdoor work performed by the 63 sample respondent in Hemja VDC per year.

This value gives the figure of income earning pattern of respondent women of Hemja VDC only. This value is also approximated; it is because we take only a half of wage rate to calculate this value. This value represents a small part of the Hemja VDC population, but this plays a significance role in context of the whole population of the Nepal.

4.9 Major Household Work Performed by Women

It can be said that woman from all the occupation listed in Table 4.8.12 spend at least some time doing the following listed household work, which unfortunately till today or regarded as non- economic.

I. Cooking for family Members.
II. Feeding family Members and clearing dishes.
III. Talking care of children and old Members of the family.
IV. Taking care of sick family Members.
V. Tutoring children in the household.
VI. Cleaning house and compound.
VII. Washing clothes and caring water.
VIII. Other (growing vegetable, raising domestic animal etc).

Similarly in the agriculture sector, work like

I. Collecting, Protecting and choosing of seeds.
II. Wedding, harvesting and grinding of crops.
III. Sowing seeds and transplanting samplings.

The above mentioned tasks are carried out without pay at the household level. But since these tasks too require a considerable amount of time and effort there is an opportunity cost of these task.

It is obvious as shown in table 4.8.1 that people sitting at home spend the most number of hours for households work. This category represents approximately 13 percent of the women respondents in Hemja VDC. Thus, taking only this class into considerations and estimation,

the average working hours spent in each of the household work. We can make a fairy reasonable estimate of their efforts in economic terms.

Table 4.9: Estimation of Value of Household Work by Their Activity of Respondent Women

S.N	Activity	Average working hour per day	Average earning Rs. Per day	Average earning Rs. Per month	Average earning Rs. Per year
1.	Cooking for family member	2	20	600	7200
2.	Feeding family member and cleaning dishes	1	10	300	3600
3.	Taking care of children and old member of the family	1	10	300	3600
4.	Cleaning house and compound	2	20	600	7200
5.	Washing clothes	1	10	300	3600
6.	Other (Growing vegetable raising domestic animals etc.)	1	10	300	3600
	Total	8	80	2400	25,200

Field Survey, 2013

The estimation is derived based on the average wage rate determines for household work i.e. Rs. 80 per day as shown in Table 4.9.1. The hourly wage rate for one hour working day thus is Rs.10. Based on this wage rate the annual earning that a person involved in household work can make is estimated in table 4.9.1.

To derive annual earning of respondent women firstly, we derive average earning Rs.80 per day by multiplying average working hour per day and hourly wage rate i.e. Rs. 10. After getting average earning per day, we get average earning per month by multiplying average

earning per days and 30 days, similarly we get average earning per year, multiplying average monthly earning by 12 month. In this way we make estimated the annual earning which is shown in above table.

Two of the activities namely, taking care of sick family member and tutoring children in the household are not the table above since these work are only done as per need due to high ill rate.

Thus, the above table clearly shows the average economic worth of household activities for women in Hemja. In short, it can be said that household activities listed above have an annual economic worth Rs. 25,200. So it is really a necessary task to recognize household activities in national accounting system.

4.10 Participation in Decision Making

While development is the main focus of national and international discussion, equal participation of both sexes, male and female of the total mankind need to be engrossed in making the ultimate decision when heading either the household or the nation, not only equity point of view but also indispensable need for national progress. But the studies show, in Nepal a tragic and uneven situation of women in terms of decision making. They have lagged far behind to men although some indigenous cultural and economic variables are of work. It is found form the study of Hemja VDC that trend of women's participation in the market economy increase their household decision making power while confinement to non-market subsistence production and domestic work reduces it. But, the field observation reveals, beside the structure of female economic participation, there seems a host of other social and demographic factors which also influence women's role is household decision making both directly and indirectly through their effect women's economic participation.

Table 4.10: Final Decision Making Authority (Percentage of Sample Respondent)

S.N	Activities	Final Deciding Authority Percentage of Sample Respondents			Total %
		Male %	Female %	Jointly by all member	

1.	In family expenditure	40.01	50.71	9.28	100.00
2.	Bazaar purchase	27.91	43.24	28.85	100.00
3.	Clothing	43.00	52.35	4.65	100.00
4.	Medical treatment	31.08	57.12	11.85	100.00
5.	Investment	59.05	31.20	9.75	100.00
6.	Non- agricultural wage labor	68.70	22.20	9.10	100.00
7.	Disposal of wealth	58.15	30.38	11.47	100.00
8.	Borrowing/ Lending loan	55.24	32.13	12.63	100.00

Field Survey, 2013

The table no 4.10.1 clears some fundamental characteristics of decision making practice within the household of the study area. The final decision making share seems grater in women especially in the category of household affairs while in the questions of resource allocation and interpretation the disposable wealth and capital, men have excessively reserved the ultimate decision.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

Nepalese women constitute slightly more than half percent i.e. 51.40 percent of total population. The national census 2011 has estimated the population as 2, 64, 94,504 of which 1, 36, 45,463 are women. The main objective of the present study is directed towards analyzing women's participation and recognition activities.

This proposed study focused on the economic, contribution of the economically active women living in Hemja VDC, Kaski district. The women of Hemja VDC of Kaski District, like those living elsewhere in the rural areas of Nepal are housewives, agriculture farmers and labors. They are loaded with greater household responsibilities then men.

This study will help governmental and non- governmental organizations and agencies that are seeking first hand information an economic contribution of Nepalese women in their household by providing insights to a small but representative section of the population. This study concentrates only on Hemja VDC Kaski , the economic contribution of women in household activities. However, in other areas of the country can the situation be assumed to be the same. The total population of the study area is 10,992 of which 5,473 male and 5,519 are women. There are total 2,138 families with an average of 5.04 family members in per family. The population comprises of mainly Brahmin, Chhetries, Janajatis, and Dalit etc.

Survey in Hemja VDC indicates that nearly 90 percent of women were found to be involved in earning activities also with their domestic responsibilities. The highest percentage of respondent women revealed they earned Rs 5,001 – 10,000 annually followed by women up to annual income 5000, only 7.93 percent women earned an amount greater than 25,000, annually.

Survey also shows that women spent their maximum time doing their own household work throughout the year. The number of hours that women perform household work varies slightly by occupation but is similar for working women from all walks of life under normal circumstances.

Nepalese women constitute slightly more than half of the total population but their relative actuality ratio in term of economic accounting is limited to only around 40 percent. This society totally ignores the economic contribution made by women in their households. Woman's contribution in other than household activities like working in farms, food processing, and firewood gathering water fetching is quite large but is still shadowed from an economic perspective.

Research methodology is descriptive type. This study includes only economically active women of age 15 to 59 years, Since it is the only women group whose socio economic activities is highlighted in this study. The respondent for the studies have been selected by random sampling study and has been conducted through interview, structure questionnaires in order to obtain information about the respondent's economic and social conditions.

Information for this study was gathered from primary and secondary sources. The researcher collected the primary data where as secondary data derived from published and unpublished report, books, articles etc. likewise, the economic aspect is analyzed taking into account the occupational details and involvement in productive activities.

5.2 Conclusion

Agriculture and household works are the main occupation of the women. Agriculture is the main source of family income. So, women spend most of their time in agriculture. Livestock is also an additional source of income. Almost all households keep livestock. Due to lack of reliable source of income, male members of many families go to aboard to earn money and to run their family. It sometimes brings miserable condition in to the family in the absence of the males on whom women totally depend. For instance they face a lot of difficulties when they become sick or when they have to work alone in the season of farming.

Beside the household works, women of the village equally participate in agriculture works. The working hours range from 5 to 18 hours per day. Cooking, cleaning, fetching water, collecting firewood, caring children and livestock harvesting, processing and storing food grains are done by women themselves. Besides, they also bear an occasional work load, such as painting the house at Dashain and Tihar and in many festivals.

Only a few women are working to earn some extra income which helps them to run their family smoothly. The women do not have freedom to go out of their house and earn money.

The study has shown that women in Nepal's rural areas work more hours than male in domestic and subsistence economy. However, their social and economic status remains both less recognized and more inferior to their male counterparts. Conventional discrimination against women tradition, down looking, deprivation of opportunities, perennially considered as weaker sex, and democratic- recognition of their potential have forced women to remain as a narrow socio- economic spectrum.

The following are the finding of the study:

i. The area where this study is under taken is found composed mainly by these castes and ethnicity's viz. Brahmin (45%), Chhetries (27%), Janajati (13%), and Dalit (16%).
ii. Among the 63 respondents, 35% respondents depends on agriculture, and other source of income are services (21%), Business (8%), wage labor (5%), cottage industry (4%), and 13% respondents are engaged in household work.
iii. 32% respondents represent the joint family and 68% respondents represent the nuclear family.
iv. Women are found relatively backward both in terms of involving remunerative economic opportunities and social standing category than their male counterparts.
v. Women have nominal share in property ownership and its disposal and allocation process subsequently lessens their sphere. The more, the property ownership pattern of women is found increased.
vi. Of the total, 64% respondents are believed Hindu religion, 16 % are Buddhist,11% are Christian and 10% are believed other religion.
vii. Most of the respondents believe in medical treatment for sickness. (i.e, 82%)
viii. In the study area, in 35 % households, there is women's ownership on land. Maximum women (6%) have no personal property.
ix. Majority of the respondents are of age 26- 40 years age covering 65% the total respondents.
x. 84 percent respondents are found married, 10 % are unmarried, 2% are separated and 5% are widow.

xi. 30 % respondents are illiterate, 11 % respondents get primary, 20 % secondary and 38% respondents are passed S.L.C and above.

xii. 80 % respondents are found to be involved in earning activities, 29% respondents are earned Rs 5,001- 10,000 annually. And only 8% women earned an amount greater than 25,000 annually.

xiii. Rural women are bearing a overwhelming role in economic as well as domestic sector work and hence their participation to the family's household income is also significant. Total working hour per day for women fairly exceeds to that of men.

xiv. Male decision has dominant roles in borrowing and lending money (i.e, 56%) compares to women (i.e, 32%) and jointly by all member (13%).

xv. Females have higher decision making power for purchasing household goods (i.e, 43%) and family expenditure (i.e, 50%).

xvi. Decision for business investment has great influence of male (60%) compared to females (31%).

xvii. The more participation of women in market economy and employment, the more will be the decision making power within the household and vice versa.

xviii. The backwardness of educational meant is found to have a long range effect which have been independent the women's expected potential to uplift their socio-economic condition.

xix. There seems to be greater approach of women in household and domestic management process and hence they enjoy the greater decision making role but it is found that they need final approval of their male, head of the household. In this regard, women seem the manager rather than the controller over this process.

xx. Decision making role increase as the age of the women increases.

xxi. Cultural pattern remains to be a variable which differs the role of women in economic participation and decision making over the family and society.

5.3 Recommendations

In every society, men and women are to be considered equal in regards of their capacity and need. In Nepal, especially in rural areas, it is found that women are far behind in all sectors of society in comparison with men. This is despite the fact that women play an important role in the society especially for the social as well as economic well being of the whole family. Thus, it can be said that the women's contribution in the development of their own family's income

is large. There is therefore an urgent need to recognize the contribution of women's efforts especially the effort put in activities for household income. Only then will the woman's effort be "countable" in their own households, society and the country at large.

The following recommendations can be put forward that are bigger issues which influence the status and recognition of women's contribution in household income:

i. There should be more emphasis at the national level for increasing the productivity of economic activities especially agriculture. As productivity increases, people will start to manage their time better and accomplish more by spending fewer resources. As time becomes more valuable there will be an natural pressure to evaluate all activities including household works and enlist them in the recognized activities category.
ii. The overall literacy rate should be increased with special emphasis on promoting higher literacy rate among women. With the help of education, women can participate in economic activities and will not have to resort to works with low wage rate.
iii. Vocational training centre should be established throughout the country mainly to provide skill to unemployed/ underemployed youth. By gaining the skill that are in demand men and women from all levels of the society can employ themselves or be entrepreneurs. This will enable them to earn more for their family, more than what they can earn from jobs.
iv. The increase in women's rights like equal opportunity will increases their economic condition and the condition of their families. Educated women will come out more from their house and become employed. Although there are lot of organizations involved in promoting women's rights there are few that reach and influence the rural mass. There also is a need to create employment opportunities for women with skill. The achievement in this area would also contribute in increasing the participation of women in different areas of the economy.
v. Cooperation from male counterparts will also increase the time for women to be spending more productively. If men help women even a little bit in their household work, women can get relief from their backbreaking household activities and can get some rest, which will make them more alert and productive in other works.

REFERENCES

A Report of (2008). Home Science University of Kashmir.

Acharya, M. (1995). Women's Status and Role in Society. *Asia Pacific Journal of Rural Developments*, vol. v, (Internetsite:www.nepanet.org.np/socio/women star.nun).

Acharya, M. (1997). Statistical profile of Nepalese women. CEDA. Tribhuvan University.

Acharya, M. (2001), Women and the Economy. The Key issues Gender and Democracy in Nepal, L.K. Mananadhar and K.B. Bhattchan (eds.), Kathmandu: Tribhuvan University.

Acharya, M. and Bennet Lynn (1981). The Rural Women in Nepal. *An Aggregate Analysis-summary of Eight Village Studies: The Status of Women in Nepal". Field Studies, vol. II, part 9*:127-143 CEDA, T.U. Nepal.

American Journal of Applied Sciences 8 (3): 238-245, (2011). Contribution of Rural Women to Family Income through Participation in Microcredit: An Empirical Analysis. *A Publication of Bangi, Selangor D.E, Malaysia.*

Bano, Shakila, (2012). Rural Women's Contribution in Family Budget: A Case Study of District Layyah, Pakistan. *vol. 3, Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*. (www.iiste.org)

Becker, G (1980). The Theory of the Allocation of Time. *In Aliech Amsden(ed). The Economics of women and work, England: penguin Books*.

Bell, C.H (1974). Working women's Contribution to Family Income. *Eastern economic journal, 17,* 185-201.

Benham, L (1980). Benefits of women education with in Marriage. *Journal of political Economy. 82.2,* part II

Bhatt, N, Shrestha. L, Thomas-Slayter. B and Koirala. L.(1994). Managing Resources in Nepalese Village. *Changing Dynamics of Gender, Caste and Ethnicity clark University, Massachusetts*.

Borooah and Mckee (1996). How much did Working Wives contribute to change in income inequality between couples in the U.K. *Fiscal studies 17:1,* 59-78.

Cameron, L.A, J.M Dowling and C. Worswick (2001). Education and Labor Market Participation of women in Asia: Evidence from Five Countries. *Economic Development and cultural change, 49(3):*459-477.

Cancian, M.S Danziger and Gottschalk (1991b). Working wives and the Distribution of family Income: In S. Danziger and P. Gottschalk (eds). Increasing Income inequality: what Matters and what Does not. *New York: Russel Sage Foundation.*

Cancian, M.S Danzoger and Gottschalk. (1991a). The changing contribution of Men and Women to the level and Distribution of Family income, 1968-1988. *Working paper No.62, Jerome levy Economics Institute of Bard College.*

Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). [2012]. *Population Census, Kathmandu: CBS.*

Chaudhery, M.G. and Z. Khan (1987). Female labor force participation Rates in Rural Pakistan*: Some Fundamental Explanations and policy Implications. The Pakistan Development Review, 24(4):* 687-698.

Doss, C. R. (1996). Women's Bargaining Power in Household Economic Decisions: Evidence from Ghana. *Staff paper series, Department of Applied Economics, College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, University of Minnesota.*

Gautam. K. (2013). Nepali women seek to balance economic participation. *Published: Jan 8, 2013. (www.ifcmarkets.com).*

Ghale, Arun (2010). Household Management by Economically Active and In-Active Women in Nepal: A Case Study of Chouketar Dahachok VDC, Kathmandu. *An Unpublished Dissertation Submitted to Central Department of Economics, T.U, Kirtipur.*

Gurung, J. (1999). Searching for Women's Voice in the Hindu Kush Himalayan: *ICIMODE, Nepal*.

Hoffmann, R. and E.T Leone (2004). The Effect of women's labor Force Participation on Household Income inequality in Brazil. 1981-2000. *Nova Economic 14: 2,* 35-58. Shaw, k. (2005) women's contribution to productivity Regional Review 1, 45-48.

Human Development Report in South Asia. (2000).

ILO. (2000). Women and Men in the Informal Economic: A Statistical Picture, *International Labor office, Geneva.*

Jiggans, J.T (1989). How poor women in sub- Saharan. Africa and what work against them*: World Development, [illegible], Great Britain*, 953-963.)

Joshi, A. (2008). Women in Rural Development (A case study Mittal). New Delhi: AIIT.

Kausar, Tasnim. (2005). Women's Contribution to the Family Budget: Informal Labor Market in Pakistan. *A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Economics, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.*

Khan, R. E. A. and Khan, T. (2007*).* Informally Employed Women: Their characteristics and Contribution in Household Budget. *Journal of Applied Sciences, 7 (14),* 1901-1907.

Machin and waldfogel. (1994). The decline of the Male Bread winner London school of Economics. *(Percussion paper No, 10).*

Mahat, Ishara. (2003). Women's Development in Nepal*:* The Myth of Empowerment. *vol. XVIII. The Fletcher Journal of International Development.*

Mammen. K and C.Paxson. (2000). women's work and Economic Development *Journal of Economic perspectives, 14(40)*:141-164.

Menaka Rajbhandari shrestha. (2008). A study on the economic valuation of women's unpaid work in Kathmandu valley. *Resource Center for Primary Health care and Health Bridge.*

Nepal Kitab Khana. (2064). *Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2063.*

Pradhan, B. (1989). Women's Status and Reproductive Behaviors. An Analysis of Gender and Regional Difference. *South Asia Study on Population Policies and Programmers, Kathmandu*, UNFPA.

Pyakurel, Jyotsna. (2001). Economic Contribution of Women in Household Management: A Case Study of Lamatar VDC, Lalitpur. *An Unpublished Dissertation Submitted to The Department of Economics, Patan Multiple Campus.*

Shtri, shakiti. (1995). Women Development Democracy, *Kathmandu.*

The Fletcher Journal of International Development. (2013).

UNDP. (1994) .Human development Rep[illegible] *York.*

UNICEF Report, (1987). Gender Equ[illegible] owerment of Women in Nepal, A Status Report Submitted to UNFPA: Ka[illegible]

UNICEF, (2008). Children and women of Nepal: A situation Analysis UNICEF, *Kathmandu.*

UNICEF. (1992). Children and women of Nepal: situation Analysis UNICEF, *Kathmandu.*

Contribution of Rural Women in Household Income in Hemja VDC, Kaski District

Family information

Household No :
Ward No :
Name of Respondent :
Size of Family :

1. Family detail

S.N	Name	Relation	Gender	Age	Caste/ Ethnicity	Religion	Education	Marital Status
1.								

Codes :

Code	Relation	Gender	Education	Occupation	Material Status
1.	Mother, Father, Step- father, Step- mother	Male	Illiterate	Agriculture	Unmarried
2.	Husband / wife	Female	Just literate	Business	Married
3.	Brother		Primary school	Wage labour	Separated
4.	Sister		Secondary school	Cottage industry	Widow
5.	Son/ daughter		SLC pass	Service	
6.	Daugther- in- law		Intermediate	Agriculture +wage labour	
7.	Mother /father -in-law		Bachelors	Household work	
8.	Nephew/niece		Master	Student	
9.				Other	

2. social and Economic Condition :

2.1 Head of household
Name ……age……male /female.

2.2 How much land does your family have ?
……Aana……Ropani

2.3 Have you earned other's land?

a. Yes b. No

2.4 Have you given your land to other?

a. Yes b. No

2.5 Where do you live?

a. Own house b. Rented house c. Relative's house

2.6 What type of farming do you do?

a. Vegetable farming b. Cereal farming c . cash farming

2.7 How do you do your farming?

a. Self b. Taking other support

2.8 What types of livestock does your family have?

a. Hen/Duck b. Goat c. Cow/Buffaloes d. Other

2.9 From where do you use the drinking water ?

a. Tap b. Well c. Stream d. Other

2.10 Have you used the natural water or supplied by others?

a. Natural resources b. Government supplies c. Private supplies

2.11 From where do you take the health treatment?

a. Private clinic b. Government hospital c. Health post

2.12 Do you have the transportation facility in your community?
a. Yes b. No

3. Income pattern of sampled households (in the last year)

Income headings	Annual income amount (NRs. '000)
Agriculture	
Service	
Foreign employment	
Private service	
Business	
Other	

4. Expenditure pattern of sampled household (in 2012)

Expenditure headings	Annual expenditure amount(NRs. ' 000)
Household management	
Education	
Health	
Food	
Agriculture	
Festival	

5. What is your annual saving ?
   Rs …….
6. Individual information of working women
   1. Name ……..Age
      ……..Education ……year…
   2. Marital status
      a. Single b. Married c. Widow d. Separated
   3. Kind of employment
      a. Household enterprise b. Private employee c. Government employee
      d. agriculture e. Labor
   4. How much long you have been working ……year.
   5. Income ……Rs/ per Month.
   6. Mode of payment
      a. cash b. Kind c. Cash and kind
   7. Ownership of assets
      a. Yes b. No
      if Yes, what are the assets …….
   8. Daily working hours
      You start work at ……..and end ……
   9. Where do you spend your earning?

a. Household management b. Personal necessities

c. Children education d. Family necessities

10. Who does the economic decision in your family?

a. Yourself b. Head of household c. Both

11. What is your position in your family ?

a. daughter –in –low b. mother-in –low

c. daughter d. mother

12. Health Status

Are you suffering from any of the following symptoms?

a. Weak eyesight b. Cough and fever c. Joint pain

d. limbs and back pain e. Skin Problem f. Respiratory problem

g. Any other …….

13. Who is the decision making person of your family.

a. Yourselves b. Husband c. Son d. Daughter

14. Where do you live?

a. Own house b. Rented house c. Relative house

15. Fertility behavior

No if children …….male ……female

No of infants ……..

No of school age children ……male ……..female

16. Husband Name……Age……

17. Education ……..year

18. Working Status

a. Yes b. No

18a. If no why

a. Without any reason b. Illness c. no proper job

d. addiction

If yes, kind of employment

a. Private b. Government c. Agriculturist

d. Laborer

19. Income ……Rs/ Month

20. Which is your main source of Income?

a. Agriculture b. Services

c. Business d. Other

21. How can the role of women be made more effective?

…….....

Thank you!