

ROLE OF CO-OPERATIVES IN PROMOTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC
CONDITION IN DAKSHINKALI MUNICIPALITY

A Dissertation submitted to the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Management in partial
fulfilment of the requirements for the Master's Degree

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Certification of Authorship

I hereby corroborate that I have researched and submitted the final draft of dissertation entitled “Role of Co-operatives In Promoting Socio-economic Condition In Dakshinkali Municipality”. The work of this dissertation has not been submitted previously for the purpose of conferral of any degrees nor it has been proposed and presented as part of requirements for any other academic purposes.

The assistance and cooperation that I have received during this research work has been acknowledged. In addition, I declare that all information sources and literature used are cited in the reference section of the dissertation.

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Report of Research Committee

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ABBREVIATIONS

AM	Arithmetic Mean
BAFIA	Bank and Financial Institutions
C.V.	Coefficient of Variance
CY	Current Year
e.g.	Example
F.Y.	Fiscal Year
i.e.	That is
Ltd.	Limited
NRB	Nepal Rastra Bank
Pvt.	Private
PY	Previous Year
R	Correlation of Coefficient
Rs/NRs.	Nepalese rupees
S.D.	Standard Deviation
TU	Tribhuvan University

ABSTRACT

Financial inclusion is a critical component of socioeconomic development, particularly in regions facing poverty and income disparity challenges. In the context of Nepal, co-operatives have emerged as key players in fostering financial inclusion, poverty reduction, and income generation. This dissertation delves into the multifaceted role of co-operatives in promoting financial inclusion in Dakshinkali Municipality, Nepal, employing a descriptive and analytical methodology.

The objectives of this study encompass a comprehensive assessment of the role of co-operatives in elevating the socioeconomic conditions in Dakshinkali Municipality, with a particular focus on promoting socioeconomic condition. Additionally, the research seeks to identify and examine the primary challenges that co-operatives encounter in their mission to enhance socioeconomic conditions. Furthermore, the study delves into the cooperative business models and evaluates their effectiveness in advancing socioeconomic well-being within Dakshinkali Municipality.

The findings underscore the pivotal role of co-operatives in fostering sustainable socioeconomic development, as evidenced by the positive correlations between cooperative involvement, employment creation, financial literacy, environmental conservation, disaster preparedness, entrepreneurship development, and social recognition. These insights provide valuable guidance for cooperatives, regulatory bodies, cooperative members, and future researchers.

In conclusion, this dissertation illuminates the multifaceted contributions of co-operatives in promoting financial inclusion and socioeconomic advancement in Dakshinkali Municipality, Nepal. The implications drawn from this research emphasize the importance of fostering cooperative growth, enhancing financial literacy, embracing environmental stewardship, and actively engaging in community development initiatives to realize the full potential of co-operatives as agents of positive change and prosperity.

KeyWords: Co-operatives, Socioeconomic Condition, Dakshinkali Municipality, Poverty Reduction, Income Generation, Co-operative members, Social Recognition

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The role of co-operatives in promoting socio-economic condition cannot be understated. Co-operatives have been instrumental in empowering individuals, particularly those from marginalized communities, by providing them with a platform to collectively address their economic, social, and cultural needs. When individuals become members of a co-operative, they experience significant changes in various aspects of their lives, including self-income generation, health status, child education, social recognition, and property ownership.

Before involvement in a co-operative, many individuals face limited economic opportunities and struggle to generate a sustainable income. Without a sustainable income, families may struggle to afford proper medical care, medications, and health insurance. They might delay seeking medical attention or forego necessary treatments due to financial limitations. This can lead to worsened health conditions, increased vulnerability to illnesses, and a lower overall quality of life for family members. Similarly, insufficient income can hinder access to quality education for children in the family. Educational expenses, such as school fees, textbooks, uniforms, and transportation costs, may become unaffordable. Consequently, children may be deprived of educational opportunities or forced to drop out of school to contribute to the family's income. The lack of education can limit their future prospects and continue the cycle of poverty. Furthermore, where socio-economic status is often associated with social recognition, individuals and families facing financial instability may experience diminished social standing. They may encounter discrimination or be excluded from certain social networks and opportunities. The lack of financial resources can make it challenging for individuals to actively participate in social activities, community events, or cultural gatherings, further affecting their sense of belonging and recognition.

When by joining a co-operative, members may gain access to collective resources, such as capital for business, tools and equipment for business or markets for their products, which enhance their income-generation capabilities. Co-operatives enable

members to pool their resources and share risks, leading to increased productivity and profitability. This, in turn, improves the financial well-being of members and their families, providing them with a stable and secure source of income.

With a sustainable income, families can afford better healthcare services, including regular check-ups, medications, and health insurance. They can access necessary treatments without delay, improving their overall health outcomes. Adequate financial resources enable them to prioritize preventive care and address health concerns promptly, leading to better physical and mental well-being for family members. As well as, a sustainable income allows families to invest in their children's education. They can afford quality schools, educational materials, and extracurricular activities. Children have greater opportunities to stay in school, pursue higher education, and develop their skills and talents. Access to education equips them with the knowledge and capabilities needed for personal growth, better career prospects, and improved life outcomes. Having a sustainable income often enhances social recognition for individuals and their families. Financial stability allows them to participate actively in social activities, community events, and cultural gatherings. They can contribute to social causes, support local initiatives, and build stronger social networks. Economic empowerment leads to increased respect, influence, and recognition within their communities. Also, co-operatives can contribute to improving property ownership among their members. Through collective action, co-operatives facilitate access to land, housing, and other productive assets. By pooling resources and leveraging their collective strength, members can overcome barriers to property ownership that they may have faced as individuals.

Dakshinkali municipality is one of the well recognized municipality in Kathmandu district of Nepal. It is located in the southern part of Kathmandu district with around thirty thousands of diversified population. This municipality has a huge potential to grow itself economically with the optimum mobilization of the natural resources of this municipality. Despite its potential for economic development, this municipality faces numerous challenges, including high poverty rates, limited access to essential services, and income inequality. Co-operatives in this municipality have played a vital roles yo overcome the problems. In this municipality Shree Nityanath Saving and Credit Co-operative Ltd was the first co-operative established in 2055 Asar 15 BS and now there are 83 co-operatives currently providing services to the local people in this municipality.

In Dakshinkali Municipality, co-operatives have a transformative effect on the socio-economic conditions of their members. They provide opportunities for self-income generation, improve health status, enhance child education and school access, foster social recognition, and facilitate property ownership. By joining forces and working together, co-operative members can uplift themselves and their communities, leading to more inclusive and sustainable development.

1.2 Problem Statement

Nepal faces numerous socio-economic challenges, including high levels of poverty, income inequality, and limited access to basic services. In response to these challenges, co-operatives have emerged as important actors in promoting socio-economic condition improvement. Co-operatives in Nepal have demonstrated the potential to alleviate poverty, enhance livelihoods, and foster inclusive growth. However, despite their contributions, there is a need to comprehensively examine the role of co-operatives in promoting socio-economic condition improvement in Nepal and address the following key problems:

- i) **Impact Assessment:** There is a lack of comprehensive studies that assess the actual impact of co-operatives on socio-economic condition improvement in Dakshinkali Municipality. While anecdotal evidence suggests positive outcomes, a rigorous evaluation of the effectiveness and sustainability of co-operative initiatives is required to provide a clearer understanding of their contribution to poverty reduction, income generation, and overall socio-economic development.
- ii) **Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Co-operatives in Dakshinkali Municipality operate across various sectors, each with its unique challenges and opportunities. Identifying and documenting best practices and lessons learned from successful co-operative models can provide valuable insights for replication and scaling up. Additionally, understanding the factors that contribute to the success or failure of co-operative initiatives is crucial for designing effective strategies and policies to optimize their impact.
- iii) **Challenges and Bottlenecks:** Despite the positive contributions of co-operatives, there are challenges that hinder their full potential in promoting socio-economic condition improvement. Issues such as governance, financial sustainability, accountability, and market linkages pose obstacles to the growth and

effectiveness of co-operatives. Identifying these challenges and exploring potential solutions will help in strengthening the co-operative sector and maximizing its impact on socio-economic development.

- iv) Policy and Regulatory Framework: While the government of Nepal has undertaken initiatives to support the growth and development of co-operatives, there is a need to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the existing policy and regulatory framework. Evaluating the alignment between policies, regulations, and the actual needs and realities of co-operatives will help in identifying areas for improvement and ensuring an enabling environment for their sustainable development.

Addressing these problems through an in-depth study on the role of co-operatives in promoting socio-economic condition improvement in Dakshinkali Municipality will provide valuable insights and recommendations for policymakers, development practitioners, and co-operative stakeholders. By addressing these key issues, Nepal can harness the full potential of co-operatives to alleviate poverty, enhance livelihoods, and foster inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development in the country.

Research Questions:

- 1) How do co-operatives contribute to poverty reduction, income generation, and overall socio-economic development?
- 2) What are the key challenges faced by co-operatives in Dakshinkali Municipality in promoting socio-economic condition? How can these challenges be addressed to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of co-operative initiatives?
- 3) What is the impact of cooperative business models on the socio-economic condition of Dakshinkali Municipality?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study focuses on the role of co-operatives in promoting socio-economic conditions in Dakshinkali Municipality, with specific objectives related to poverty reduction, income generation, challenges faced by co-operatives, and the effectiveness of cooperative business models in Dakshinkali Municipality. Based on the research

questions, the following objectives can be outlined for the study:

- To assess the role of co-operatives on promoting socio-economic condition in Nepal, in poverty reduction and income generation.
- To investigate the key challenges faced by co-operatives in Nepal in promoting socio-economic condition.
- To explore the role of cooperatives in income level, property ownership and social recognition of women entrepreneurship in Dakshinkali Municipality.

By addressing these research questions and objectives, the study will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the role of co-operatives in promoting socio-economic condition in Dakshinkali Municipality and provide evidence-based insights and recommendations for stakeholders in the co-operative sector and policymakers to enhance their impact on sustainable socio-economic development.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

The rationale behind conducting a comprehensive study on the role of co-operatives in promoting socio-economic condition in Dakshinkali Municipality is important because Nepal is facing significant socio-economic problems, and co-operatives have the potential to tackle these issues effectively. Dakshinkali Municipality, despite its cultural richness and natural beauty, deals with high levels of poverty, income inequality, and limited access to basic services. These challenges require the exploration of effective approaches to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the population.

Co-operatives have emerged as key actors in socio-economic development globally, and their significance is particularly evident in developing nations. In the context of Dakshinkali Municipality, co-operatives have a long-standing history and have demonstrated their potential in contributing to poverty reduction, income generation, and overall socio-economic improvement. However, a comprehensive analysis of the role and impact of co-operatives in this municipality is lacking, which calls for comprehensive research to bridge this knowledge gap.

Understanding the role of co-operatives in promoting socio-economic condition in Dakshinkali Municipality holds huge practical significance. By exploring their impact, best practices, challenges, and potential areas of improvement, this study aims

to provide evidence-based insights for policymakers, development practitioners, and co-operative stakeholders. The findings of this research will guide the formulation of informed policies, strategies, and interventions to harness the full potential of co-operatives in Nepal.

Furthermore, conducting a comparative analysis of different co-operatives in Dakshinkali municipality will facilitate the identification and documentation of successful models, lessons learned, and best practices. These insights can be replicated and scaled up to maximize the impact of co-operatives on socio-economic condition. Additionally, by examining the challenges faced by co-operatives, such as governance, financial sustainability, accountability, and market linkages, this study aims to propose strategies and interventions to overcome these barriers and enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of co-operative initiatives.

The existing policy and regulatory framework for co-operatives in Nepal will also be evaluated to determine its effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. Recommendations for policy reforms and enhancements will be provided to create an enabling environment that supports the growth and development of co-operatives, ensuring their long-term sustainability and socio-economic impact.

Moreover, exploring the role of co-operatives in promoting inclusive growth and empowering marginalized and vulnerable populations is crucial for achieving equitable development in Nepal. Understanding the specific mechanisms and approaches employed by co-operatives to address the needs and challenges faced by these groups will provide valuable insights for promoting social inclusion and empowerment.

By addressing the research questions and objectives outlined in this study, a comprehensive understanding of the role of co-operatives in promoting socio-economic condition in Dakshinkali Municipality will be achieved. The findings and recommendations will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on co-operatives, while serving as a practical guide for policymakers, development practitioners, and co-operative stakeholders in leveraging the potential of co-operatives to alleviate poverty, enhance livelihoods, and foster sustainable socio-economic development in Dakshinkali Municipality.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

Main purpose of accomplishment of this dissertation is for the partial fulfillment of required for the Master's degree of Business Studies. Therefore, there are various

limitations faced during the research work. Some major limitations faced are listed out as below:

- Among 83 cooperatives only 15 institutions are taken as sample for the dissertation study.
- Usually, co-operatives doesn't have their own website. It made complex to gather the data and other information.
- This study is conducted using primary and secondary data. So, the results from this research depends upon the reliability on responses of the respondents. As well as, the annual reports of the concerned cooperatives.
- The reliability of tools, lack of research experiences and lack of data are the other limitation of this study.
- This study had to be completed within the limited timeframe. Due to the time constraint, the study does not deals the comprehensive study of the selected commercial banks.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Creating a strong theoretical framework is essential for this study, Role of Cooperatives in Promoting the Socioeconomic Condition. The theoretical framework will provide the foundation for this research by outlining the key concepts, theories, and models that will guide this study. This chapter provides conceptual and theoretical framework of the study and deals with related to the role of cooperatives in promoting socio-economic condition in Dakshinkali municipality, review of empirical studies related with cooperatives and, behavior of cooperatives and its members specifically, the role of cooperatives in promoting socio-economic condition. It is an integral and mandatory process in research works that consist of reviewing studies and other relevant proposition in the related area of the study so that all kind of information, and conclusion and further study can be conducted. Basically, the following subject matters will be studied in detailed in this chapter;

- i. Conceptual review
- ii. Review of previous work
 - Review of articles in the journal
 - Review of previous dissertation
- iii. Research gap

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Definition and Concept of Cooperative

Cooperatives, in the context of Nepal, refer to autonomous, member-owned organizations formed by individuals who come together voluntarily to achieve common economic, social, and cultural objectives. These cooperative enterprises are founded on the principles of self-help, mutual assistance, democratic control, and equitable distribution of benefits among their members. The primary aim of cooperatives in Nepal is to improve the socioeconomic condition of their members and the communities they serve.

2.1.1.2 Concept of Cooperatives

In the Nepalese context, cooperatives play a crucial role in promoting socioeconomic development by fostering inclusive growth and empowering marginalized populations. These cooperative organizations operate across various sectors, including agriculture, finance, tourism, and handicrafts, among others. The core concept of cooperatives in Nepal revolves around the following key aspects:

i. Member Ownership and Participation

Cooperatives are owned and controlled by their members, who actively participate in decision-making processes. Each member has an equal say in the affairs of the cooperative, regardless of their financial contribution, ensuring democratic governance.

ii. Mutual Cooperation and Assistance

The cooperative principles emphasize mutual cooperation and assistance among members. By pooling their resources and skills, members collectively address challenges and capitalize on opportunities to improve their socioeconomic well-being.

iii. Poverty Reduction and Income Generation

Cooperatives in Nepal aim to uplift the living standards of their members, particularly those from disadvantaged communities. They create income-generating opportunities, facilitate access to credit, and provide training and technical support to enhance productivity.

iv. Social Inclusion and Empowerment

Cooperatives actively promote social inclusion and empowerment by ensuring the representation and participation of women, ethnic minorities, and marginalized groups. They work towards reducing economic disparities and fostering social cohesion.

v. Sustainable Development

Cooperatives in Nepal often adopt sustainable practices that promote environmental conservation and responsible resource management. They strive for balanced development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

vi. Local Community Development

Beyond individual member benefits, cooperatives also contribute to the overall development of local communities. They engage in community projects, support

education, health, and infrastructure initiatives, and contribute to the overall socioeconomic progress of the region.

The concept of cooperatives in Nepal aligns with the broader cooperative principles set by international cooperative bodies such as the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). These principles emphasize values like voluntary and open membership, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information sharing, as well as cooperation among cooperatives for mutual benefit. By embracing these principles and the unique cultural context of Nepal, cooperatives play a significant role in promoting socioeconomic advancement and sustainable development in the country.

2.2 Cooperative Legal Framework in Nepal

The cooperative legal framework in Nepal provides the legal basis for the establishment, operation, and regulation of cooperative organizations in the country. The primary law governing cooperatives in Nepal is the "Cooperatives Act, 2074" (2017 AD), which replaced the previous Cooperative Act, 2048 (1992 AD). The Act sets out the legal provisions and guidelines for cooperative formation, membership, governance, functioning, and dissolution. Here are the key aspects of the cooperative legal framework in Nepal;

i. Formation and Registration

The Cooperatives Act allows individuals with a common economic, social, or cultural interest to form a cooperative society. To establish a cooperative, interested parties must submit the necessary documents to the concerned authority for registration. The Act specifies the requirements for registration and the procedures to be followed.

ii. Cooperative Societies and Unions

The Act recognizes two main types of cooperatives: primary cooperative societies and central-level cooperative unions. Primary cooperatives are formed at the local level and represent the grassroots level members. Central-level cooperative unions are formed by the federation of primary cooperatives to coordinate and support their activities.

iii. Membership and Rights

Any individual or legal entity can become a member of a cooperative society by acquiring shares or contributing capital. Members have specific rights, including voting rights, participation in decision-making, and access to information about the cooperative's affairs.

iv. Democratic Governance

The cooperative legal framework emphasizes democratic governance, following the "one member, one vote" principle. Members elect representatives to the cooperative's governing body, such as the Board of Directors, through a democratic election process.

v. Objectives and Activities

Cooperatives in Nepal must have clear objectives stated in their bylaws, which should align with the principles and goals of cooperative development. They can engage in a wide range of activities, including agriculture, finance, housing, consumer goods, tourism, and more.

vi. Financial Provisions

The Act outlines financial requirements, including minimum capital contribution, reserve funds, and financial reporting standards. It also provides guidelines on how cooperatives can raise funds and distribute profits.

vii. Audit and Inspection

The cooperative legal framework mandates regular financial audits and inspections of cooperative societies to ensure transparency and compliance with the law.

viii. Dispute Resolution

The Act establishes mechanisms for dispute resolution within cooperatives and outlines the procedures for handling internal conflicts or disputes.

ix. Amalgamation and Dissolution

The Act allows for the amalgamation of two or more cooperatives and provides procedures for cooperative dissolution if necessary.

It is essential to note that the cooperative legal framework in Nepal is subject to updates and amendments to address emerging challenges and promote the sustainable development of cooperatives in the country. Cooperative authorities, such as the Department of Cooperatives under the Ministry of land management, cooperatives and poverty alleviation, are responsible for overseeing the implementation and regulation of cooperative activities in Nepal.

Source: website of Department of Co-operatives, (Nepal Government)

2.3 Cooperatives in Dakshinkali Municipality

This topic explores the presence and role of co-operatives in the in Dakshinkali municipality. Dakshinkali municipality, situated at the southern part of Kathmandu, Nepal, with a population of more than 25,000 as per the 2021 census, is a significant area for examining the impact of co-operatives on the socioeconomic condition of its residents. Within Dakshinkali Municipality, there are a total of 83 co-operatives, distributed across various types. These include 33 saving and credit co-operatives, 24 multipurpose co-operatives, 23 agriculture co-operatives, and 3 other types. These co-operatives play a crucial role in providing financial services, supporting diverse activities, and promoting agricultural practices in the region. The municipality consists of 9 wards, each with a varying number of co-operatives. Ward 1 has 9 co-operatives, Ward 2 has 3, Ward 3 has 3, Ward 4 has 4, Ward 5 has 24, Ward 6 has 22, Ward 7 has 5, Ward 8 has 8, and Ward 9 has 5 co-operatives. This breakdown allows for a detailed analysis of the distribution and effectiveness of co-operatives in different areas. Didi Bahini Saving and Credit Co-operative, was the firstly established co-operatives in Dakshinkali Municipality, it was established on Asar 15, 2055 B.S. This cooperative holds historical significance as the first co-operative in the area and has likely served as a model for others.

The Department of Co-operatives within Dakshinkali Municipality governs and protects these co-operatives under the supervision of the government. This body

plays a vital role in ensuring the proper functioning, accountability, and sustainability of co-operatives in the region.

2.4 Empirical Review

In this section various research studies from various articles, journals and unpublished research works will be taken and reviewed. Its significance lies in its ability to identify research gaps, provide a theoretical framework, and guide research design and methodology. It helps avoid duplicating efforts and supports the formulation of hypotheses and research questions. By examining previous studies, it identifies key variables and indicators and enhances the credibility and validity of the research. The literature review also assists in identifying methodological pitfalls, developing a comprehensive bibliography, and formulating implications and recommendations for the study.

Table 1 : Meta Table for Empirical Review

Writer	Topic	Objectives	Methodology	Findings
Kharel (2022)	Assessing the Nepalese Economy Through the Vision of Cooperative Resources	To evaluate collaboration strategy and principles during development plan periods and investigate cooperative resource mobilization.	Secondary data and descriptive statistics	Debt investment positively impacts employment. Every additional unit of debt investment results in a 1.12 percent increase in employment.
Dhakal D., Brien D and Mueser P (2021)	Government Policy and Performance of Agricultural Cooperatives	To investigate agricultural cooperatives as producer-owned organizations aimed at improving farmers' livelihoods by addressing market failure in.	Descriptive and analytical	Cooperative membership may significantly impact family net crop income, but its overall effect on total family income is modest.

Dhakal (2021)	Role Of Agricultural Cooperatives In Poverty Reduction In Nepal	To understand the role played by these cooperatives in uplifting rural communities and improving the socioeconomic conditions of smallholder farmers.	Quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques	Agricultural cooperatives play a significant role in poverty reduction among smallholder farmers in Nepal.
Poudel K. (2021)	Role of Cooperative on Women Empowerment	Descriptive research design	To analyze the impact of cooperatives on female members' socioeconomic empowerment	Cooperative membership has led to significant improvements in the socioeconomic conditions of female members, resulting in increased confidence and active participation in family matters.
Sharma (2020)	Role of Cooperatives in Poverty Alleviation of Small Holding Rural Farmers	to understand how cooperatives contribute to poverty alleviation	quantitative and qualitative	Cooperatives play a significant role in reducing poverty among smallholding rural farmers in LDCs like Nepal

	of LDCs: A Case of Nepal			
Ojha (2019)	Agricultural Cooperatives in the United States and Nepal	To understand the similarities and differences in the organizational structure, operations, and effectiveness of cooperatives in the two countries.	Comparative approach, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data.	In the United States, cooperatives play a significant role in enhancing the competitiveness of farmers in the market and providing them with access to resources, such as credit and technology
Mhembwe (2017)	The role of cooperatives in sustaining the livelihoods of rural communities	To identify reasons for rural cooperative establishment, assess their role in improving rural livelihoods	Descriptive survey design with questionnaires, interviews, and observations	The study's findings are expected to benefit policymakers, academia, and local communities in their efforts to foster sustainable livelihoods.
Tiwari (2017)	Financial Sustainability of Small Farmer Cooperative (SFC)	To assess the financial viability and long-term sustainability of these cooperatives in the region	Quantitative and qualitative	While some SFCs demonstrate strong financial sustainability, many others face significant challenges in maintaining their financial viability.

Puri (2016)	Good Governance in Cooperatives of Nepal Relationship between Participation and Performance of Cooperatives	To analyze the good governance in cooperatives of Nepal, in the light of the participation and its impact on performance of cooperatives in terms of deposit, volume of transactions, share capital, employment generation, loan investment, consultancy service, amount of reserve fund etc	Quantitative and qualitative	There is positive relationship between participation and performance of cooperatives
Singh (2016)	Role of Cooperative in Income Generating Activities for Rural Development	To assess the role of cooperative societies in income generation through various assisted activities	Descriptive design with a quantitative research approach	Majority of the members were involved in the business sector, and about 70 percent had a bachelor's level of education

2.4.1 Review of Articles and Journals

Kharel (2022) examined the cooperative development strategies and resource mobilization to analyze Nepal's cooperative development on the research article entitled "Assessing the Nepalese Economy Through the Vision of Cooperative Resources. In the research, analytic approaches were used to explore the design and regulations of the coop in new developments, and resource mobilization was

investigated using simple statistical tools. The study's primary purpose is to evaluate collaboration strategy and principles during development plan periods and investigate cooperative resource mobilization. Secondary data and descriptive statistics are used to analyze tables, pie charts, and line graphs. A simple regression model considers employment and debt investment as two variables. Regression analysis reveals that debt investment positively impacts employment during the study period. Every additional unit of debt investment results in a 1.12 percent increase in employment. The results imply that debt investment and employment significantly impact during the study period.

Dhakal D., Brien D and Mueser P (2021) conducted a research entitled Government Policy and Performance of Agricultural Cooperatives: A Case Study in Chitwan District, Nepal. The article investigated agricultural cooperatives as producer-owned organizations aimed at improving farmers' livelihoods by addressing market failure in. The Nepalese government prioritizes cooperatives as a poverty reduction strategy and invests economic resources in the sector. The research assesses poor farmers' access to agricultural cooperatives and the impact of membership on farm and total household income. The study identifies key determinants, including ethnicity, land size, distance to cooperatives and markets, and motorable road accessibility, influencing cooperative membership. The analysis suggests that cooperative membership may significantly impact family net crop income, but its overall effect on total family income is modest. Agricultural cooperatives primarily focus on financial services, like savings and credit activities, with limited emphasis on agricultural production and minimal engagement in marketing activities.

Sharma (2020) conducted a study titled "Role of Cooperatives in Poverty Alleviation of Small Holding Rural Farmers of LDCs: A Case of Nepal", aimed to investigate the impact of cooperatives on poverty reduction among smallholding rural farmers in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), with Nepal as the specific case. The primary objective is to understand how cooperatives contribute to poverty alleviation in such contexts.

The study adopts a mixed-method approach, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data. The findings of the study reveal that cooperatives play a significant role in reducing poverty among smallholding rural farmers in LDCs like Nepal.

Through collective efforts and access to resources, cooperatives empower farmers by improving their access to credit, markets, and technical knowledge. This, in turn, enhances agricultural productivity and income levels. The study highlights the importance of cooperatives in building social capital and fostering community development, which contributes to poverty alleviation.

Mhembwe (2017) focused on analyzing the role of cooperatives in sustaining rural livelihoods in Shurugwi District, Zimbabwe in the study *The role of cooperatives in sustaining the livelihoods of rural communities: The case of rural cooperatives in Shurugwi District, Zimbabwe*. The study aimed to identify reasons for rural cooperative establishment, assess their role in improving rural livelihoods, and analyze challenges faced by these cooperatives in addressing socio-economic issues in rural households. A mixed-method approach was used, incorporating a descriptive survey design with questionnaires, interviews, and observations. Cooperatives were found to be instrumental in generating employment, enhancing food production, empowering marginalized groups, and promoting social cohesion in rural communities. The study's findings are expected to benefit policymakers, academia, and local communities in their efforts to foster sustainable livelihoods.

Tiwari (2017) conducted a study on *Financial Sustainability of Small Farmer Cooperative (SFC) in Mid Western Region of Nepal* and published it in *Journal of Advanced Academic Research*. The primary objective of the study is to assess the financial viability and long-term sustainability of these cooperatives in the region. The research adopts a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. The findings reveal that while some SFCs demonstrate strong financial sustainability, many others face significant challenges in maintaining their financial viability. Factors influencing the financial sustainability of SFCs include the cooperative's age, size, access to financial resources, and governance practices. Cooperatives with efficient resource mobilization, well-established governance structures, and strong market linkages tend to exhibit higher financial sustainability. However, the study also identifies common challenges faced by SFCs, such as limited access to credit, inadequate training and capacity-building programs, and difficulties in managing external factors like market fluctuations and climate change.

Puri (2016) published an article entitled “Good Governance in Cooperatives of Nepal Relationship between Participation and Performance of Cooperatives” in the journal of Education and Vocational Research. The article has examined the relationship between member’s participation and performance of cooperatives of Nepal. The study aimed to analyze the good governance in cooperatives of Nepal, in the light of the participation and its impact on performance of cooperatives in terms of deposit, volume of transactions, share capital, employment generation, loan investment, consultancy service, amount of reserve fund etc. Member’s participation is selected as independent variable whereas performance of cooperatives is considered as dependent variable in the study. Data are collected from the secondary source from the department of cooperatives of Nepal, Ministry of cooperative and poverty alleviation. Study of 16 types of cooperatives consisting of 5 years of observations from the fiscal year 2010 to 2015 AD has been included in the study. A number of tables, bar diagrams, lines and charts have been used to clarify the data. After all, the study reveals that there is positive relationship between participation and performance of cooperatives. The study also concludes that good governance in cooperatives is the single most important panacea to achieve the vision, mission, objectives and goals of the cooperatives assuring happiness, rights and liberty of their members through economic, social, cultural and technological changes in their practical lives.

2.4.2 Review of Unpublished Dissertations

Dhakal (2021) conducted a research on topic entitled “Role Of Agricultural Cooperatives In Poverty Reduction In Nepal”. The primary objective is to understand the role played by these cooperatives in uplifting rural communities and improving the socioeconomic conditions of smallholder farmers. The research employs a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. A survey questionnaire is utilized to gather quantitative data from members of agricultural cooperatives, focusing on their income levels and access to resources. Additionally, key informant interviews and focus group discussions are conducted to gain qualitative insights into the cooperative's impact on poverty reduction and community development. The findings of the study reveal that agricultural cooperatives play a significant role in poverty reduction among smallholder farmers in Nepal. Through

collective efforts and access to resources, these cooperatives empower farmers by providing them with improved access to credit, markets, and technical knowledge. This leads to increased agricultural productivity and enhanced income levels for the farmers, ultimately contributing to poverty reduction.

Poudel K. (2021) examined the socioeconomic status of women engaged in cooperatives in a rural area in the study *Role of Cooperative on Women Empowerment*. The study employs a descriptive research design to fulfill its objectives, focusing on members of Sarbeshwor SACCOS, which has a total of 1001 share members, with 480 being female and 521 male. The research aimed to analyze the impact of cooperatives on female members' socioeconomic empowerment and their roles in the process of women's empowerment. The findings indicate that cooperative membership has led to significant improvements in the socioeconomic conditions of female members, resulting in increased confidence and active participation in family matters. Further, before joining the cooperative, 56.25 percent of respondents had weak economic conditions, which reduced to only 6.25 percent after joining, emphasizing the importance of cooperatives in improving the socioeconomic conditions of their target population.

Ojha (2019) on the thesis entitled, "Agricultural Cooperatives in the United States and Nepal. It aimed to compare and analyze the functioning and impact of agricultural cooperatives in the United States and Nepal. The primary objectives are to understand the similarities and differences in the organizational structure, operations, and effectiveness of cooperatives in the two countries. The research adopts a comparative approach, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data. Data is collected through a combination of literature reviews, case studies, and surveys. In the United States, data is gathered from existing studies and reports on agricultural cooperatives, while in Nepal, primary data is obtained through interviews and surveys of cooperative members and managers. The findings of the study reveal interesting insights into the functioning of agricultural cooperatives in both countries. In the United States, cooperatives play a significant role in enhancing the competitiveness of farmers in the market and providing them with access to resources, such as credit and technology. On the

other hand, in Nepal, cooperatives primarily serve as a means to address the challenges faced by smallholder farmers, including access to markets and credit facilities.

Singh (2016) Conducted a study titled "Role of Cooperative in Income Generating Activities for Rural Development" focused on Janata Bachat's contribution to local employment generation and the impact of its credit services on income generation in Bhimdatta - 8, Kanchanpur district. The research employed a descriptive design with a quantitative research approach and selected 100 respondents through simple random sampling. The study aimed to assess the role of cooperative societies in income generation through various assisted activities. Findings revealed that a majority of the members were involved in the business sector, and about 70 percent had a bachelor's level of education. Electronic media was the primary source of information for around 80 percent of the respondents. Approximately 50 percent of the members were employed by the cooperative, and 25 percent received loans for starting their businesses. Further, it is found that, after joining the cooperative, around 50 percent of respondents experienced a change in their attitude.

2.5 Research Gap

While there is a significant amount of research in the banking, microfinance institutions, and finance companies sectors, there is a limited number of studies focused on cooperatives, especially regarding their role in promoting socio-economic conditions. Previous studies have explored the impact of cooperatives on socioeconomic conditions in various contexts. This study particularly deals with the topic in a specific (municipality level) area. There have not been conducted any studies about the role of cooperatives in promoting socioeconomic condition in this municipality. Likewise, there have been conducted only few research studies regarding co-operatives obtaining a specific local area. This research will fulfil those gaps. Existing research often provides general insights into the role of cooperatives but lacks a comprehensive analysis of the contextual factors and localized approaches that contribute to their success in Nepal or in any particular local level. Therefore, there is a need for in-depth research that examines the unique cooperative models, governance

structures, and community engagement strategies that enable cooperatives to address the specific socio-economic challenges faced by the local community. This research gap calls for a focused investigation into the contributions of cooperatives in poverty reduction, income generation, and social inclusion, while considering the cultural, economic, and geographical diversities. By filling this gap, the study can provide valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and cooperative stakeholders, ultimately enhancing the understanding and effectiveness of cooperatives in promoting the socioeconomic condition in Nepal. This research may significantly contribute to the nation.

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a way that systematically solve the research problem. It is the basic framework and blue print of overall study. The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the research. It is necessary to determine and describe the research methodology before analyzing and interpreting of the data. Several data analysis tools is employed to address the research problem and explained the rationale behind any discrepancies or omissions encountered in this chapter. It is aimed to explain the process of conducting research and the process includes research design, research method used, target population, sampling procedure, data collection, statistical tools used for analytical purpose. It is also defined as part of the body of the report that explains the research design, sampling procedure, and other technical procedures used for collecting data. Research methodology helps to find out the accuracy, validity and suitability of the study.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is an essential component of a dissertation, as it provides a roadmap for conducting the study and addressing the research questions or hypotheses. It serves as a blueprint for the entire research process, outlining the strategies and methods that will be employed to gather and analyze data.

When developing the research design for a dissertation, it need to be considered various factors, such as the research questions, objectives, and theoretical framework. This research is based mainly on quantitative method.

Data & information are collected from various sources of ten fiscal years using survey approach. Necessary & important data have been taken for the study and arranged them in useful manner. Then the data are analyzed with appropriate financial & statistical tools. Mainly quantitative analysis of data and primary questionnaires is incorporated in this study. Descriptive & quantitative approaches are used as per requirement.

3.2 Population and Sample and, sampling design

The term “Population” refers to the industry of similar type of service provider or product seller and the meaning of “Sample” is the few representative firms from the industry or population. Sampling designs are methods used to select a subset (sample) from a larger population for research purposes. There are several common sampling designs used in research. In this study, simple random sampling is used. In this design, every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected for the

sample. It is often conducted using random number generators or lottery-style methods.

As this study is being conducted on the Role of Co-operatives in promoting Socio-economic Condition in Dakshinkali Municipality, all 83 co-operatives of this municipality are the population and the out of them 15 co-operatives are sample for the study. Samples are taken from different wards. Result or conclusion from this study is assumed to be the result of the population. Result from the samples indicates the overall result of co-operatives of this municipality.

3.2.1 List of Sample Co-operatives

S.N.	Name of Co-operative	Ward No.
1	Diyo Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	1
2	Swabalamban Mahila Agriculture Cooperative Ltd.	2
3	Setidevi Mahila Sanjal Saving Cooperative Ltd.	3
4	Satmul Mahila Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	4
5	Hari Shankar Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	5
6	Nava Gramin Bikas Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd.	5
7	Pharping Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	6
8	Pharping Bhimsen Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	6
9	Gopaleshwor Samudayik Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	6
10	Aam Sarokar Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd.	6
11	New Shikharapur Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	7
12	Didi Bahini Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	8
13	Chhaimale Sana Kishan Agriculture Cooperative Ltd.	8
14	Indrayani Mahila Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd.	9
15	Kriyasil Sana Kisan Agriculture Cooperative Ltd.	9

Table 2 : List of Sample Co-operatives

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data, and the Instrument of Data Collection

This study mainly based on primary data, these data are collected directly from original sources (questionnaires). Among various methods of collecting primary data, survey is mainly used to gather the fact by using questionnaires or interviews from respondents. Primary data collection requires careful planning, ethical considerations, and appropriate data collection tools to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information gathered. As well as the secondary information are also gathered to

examine the impact of co-operative membership, lending and savings on socio-economic condition

3.4 Methods of Analysis

The dissertation utilizes statistical tools, as well as MS Word, SPSS, and MS Excel, to analyze the data and draw research conclusions. The data for the study spans ten years, from 2012/13 to 2021/22, and will be presented in organized tables for comparison and interpretation. Various statistical methods will be employed to analyze the collected data effectively and derive meaningful insights for the study.

3.4.1 Mean

Mean is a fundamental statistical measure used to describe the central tendency of a dataset. It represents the average value of a set of numerical data points and is denoted by the symbol “ \bar{x} ” for the sample mean.

The mean is calculated by summing all the data points in the dataset and then dividing the total by the number of data points. It provides the research with a single value that represents the typical or average value of the dataset. As a measure of central tendency. In this topic of research the mean is particularly useful when dealing with as income levels, total savings, totals lending etc. As well as the mean also can be utilized to analyze average income or average response to a survey question.

Mean is calculated using the below formula;

$$\text{Mean } (\bar{X}) = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

x = Value of responses of each independent or dependent variable

N = Number of observations

\sum = Sum of value of all items

3.4.2 Standard Deviation

The standard deviation is a significant statistical measure used to describe data variability. It represents the average amount by which individual observations deviate from the mean, indicating the spread of the data. In this study, standard deviation is calculated for all the required variables. The formula for standard deviation involves the positive square root of the mean squared deviation from the arithmetic mean. A higher standard deviation indicates more significant variability in the data. The standard deviation helps researchers understand the distribution and characteristics of the variables, providing valuable insights for analysis and interpretation. Standard deviation is obtained by using the below formula;

$$\text{Standard Deviation (SD)} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (X - \bar{X})^2}{N}}$$

Where,

S = Standard Deviation of a sample

Σ = Sum of

X = each value in the data set

\bar{X} = mean of all values in the data set

N = Number of values in the data set

3.4.3 Coefficient of Variation

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) represents the relationship between the standard deviation and the mean. It is a relative measure of dispersion based on the standard deviation and is expressed as a percentage. To calculate the CV, the coefficient of dispersion based on the standard deviation is multiplied by 100. This allows for a comparison of the variability between two distributions.

In this study, the coefficient of variation is computed for the variables that is used for the study. The formula for the coefficient of variation is as follows:

$$C.V. = \frac{\text{Standard Deviation}}{\text{Mean}}$$

The CV is a valuable tool for understanding the relative variability of the selected variables. By expressing the measure as a percentage, it allows for easy comparison and interpretation of the dispersion across different distributions.

3.4.4 Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis is a powerful and essential methodology used in various fields to analyze data, draw meaningful insights, and make informed decisions. It involves the application of statistical techniques to data sets, allowing researchers, analysts, and decision-makers to uncover patterns, relationships, and trends within the data. This methodology plays a crucial role in this research.

3.4.5 Correlation

Correlation is a statistical tool used to measure the level of association between two or more variables. When changes in one variable influence changes in another variable, they are considered to be correlated. If the purpose is to measure the relationship between two variables, it is referred to as simple correlation. The coefficient of correlation is used to measure the extent of the relationship between two sets of data. In this study, Karl Pearson's method (using SPSS) is applied to calculate the coefficient of correlation, which helps determine the degree of relationship between independent and dependent variables for all samples. The coefficient of correlation is expressed as:

$$r = \frac{N\Sigma XY - (\Sigma X)(\Sigma Y)}{\sqrt{[N\Sigma X^2 - (\Sigma X)^2]} \sqrt{[N\Sigma Y^2 - (\Sigma Y)^2]}}$$

Where,

N = Numbers of pairs in observation

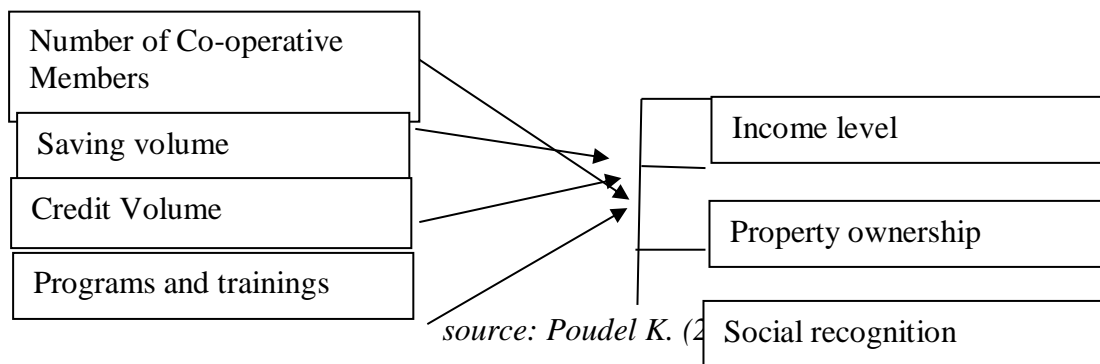
X = Product of the first variable

Y = Product of the second variable

3.5 Research Framework and Definition of Variables

The research framework is established to facilitate the research process. The second chapter's review of theories and empirical studies has influenced the development of this framework. The variables under consideration include the number of cooperative members, savings, credits, cooperative programs, and training, as well as their income levels and property ownership. The objective is to analyze and establish the interrelationship between these variables in the context of the research topic.

Co-operative Activities



The variables can be defined as follows:

Independent variables

- Number of Co-operative Members
- Saving Volume
- Credit Volume
- Programs and trainings

Dependent variables

- Income Level
- Property Ownership
- Social Recognition

a. Number of membership in co-operative

This research focuses on the "number of cooperative members" as the independent variable. This variable is manipulated to observe its influence on various outcomes, such as income level, property ownership and social recognition. The study aims to understand how the number of memberships impacts its effectiveness, economic improvement and overall socioeconomic improvements. By analyzing this variable along with other factors, the research aims to provide valuable insights for cooperative management and policymaking.

b. Saving

The research considers "saving" as an independent variable, examining its impact on "income level, property ownership, and social recognition," which serve as dependent variables. Saving refers to the amount of money or resources set aside by cooperative members for future use or investment. The study aims to understand how different levels of saving within the cooperative relate to various socioeconomic outcomes. Higher saving levels may lead to increased individual income, property ownership, and social recognition within the community. By exploring this relationship, the research seeks to highlight the significance of saving as a financial strategy within cooperatives and its implications for members' overall socioeconomic well-being.

c. Credit

The research considers "credit" as another independent variable, alongside "saving," and examines their impact on "income level, property ownership, and social recognition," which are the dependent variables. Credit refers to the financial assistance provided to cooperative members in the form of loans or credit facilities, empowering them to invest, grow their businesses, and improve their financial status. The study explores how the availability of credit within the cooperative relates to income levels, property ownership, and social recognition. Access to credit may lead to increased income, property acquisition, and enhanced social recognition within the community. The research aims to highlight the significance of credit in promoting socioeconomic conditions in cooperatives, guiding strategies for improved credit accessibility and economic empowerment.

d. Programs and Trainings

"Programs and Training" is also independent variable. The study examines their impact on "income level, property ownership, and social recognition," the dependent variables. Programs and training refer to initiatives and educational opportunities provided by the cooperative to its members, such as skill development workshops and financial management sessions. The research aims to understand how the availability and effectiveness of these programs relate to the dependent variables. Participation in programs and training may lead to improved income levels, better property ownership decisions, and enhanced social recognition for members. The findings will highlight the importance of education and capacity-building within cooperatives, guiding strategies to promote economic empowerment and social development among members.

e. Income Level

The research considers "income level" as the dependent variable, while "number of membership, saving, credit, and programs and training" are independent variables. Income level refers to the earnings or financial resources available to cooperative members. The study aims to explore how variations in membership, saving habits, access to credit, and participation in programs and training impact members' income levels. Higher income levels may be associated with larger memberships, effective saving practices, access to credit, and active participation in cooperative initiatives. The research seeks to provide insights into the factors that contribute to higher income among cooperative members, guiding strategies for promoting economic growth and

financial well-being.

f. Property Ownership

The research examines "property ownership" as the dependent variable, while "number of membership, saving, credit, and programs and training" are the independent variables. Property ownership refers to the possession of tangible assets by cooperative members, such as land and houses. The study aims to investigate how the independent variables influence property ownership among members. Factors like cooperative membership size, saving, credit accessibility, and participation in programs and training can impact members' ability to own property. By analyzing this relationship, the research seeks to identify key factors that contribute to property ownership within cooperatives. The findings will provide valuable insights for cooperative management to enhance property ownership opportunities and promote economic empowerment among members.

g. Social Recognition

In this research, "social recognition" is the dependent variable, while "number of membership, saving, credit, and programs and training" are the independent variables. Social recognition refers to the acknowledgment and esteem cooperative members receive from their community for their active involvement and contributions. The study explores how the independent variables impact social recognition. Higher membership numbers and active participation in programs and training may enhance social recognition among members. The research aims to identify factors that contribute to higher social recognition within cooperatives, providing insights for cooperative management to foster a sense of community and appreciation among members.

CHAPTER IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This is the major chapter of this research work. In this section, the gathered data are presented, analyzed and resulted. Thus this is one of the major chapters of this study because it includes detail analysis and interpretation of data from which concrete result can be obtained. This chapter consists of various calculation made for the analysis of profitability position of the sample banks. To make our study effective, precise and easily understandable, this chapter is categorized in three parts; presentation, analysis and interpretation or the major findings. The analysis is fully based on secondary data, presentation section, is for presenting the analyzed data in terms of table and charts. The presented data are then analyzed using different statistical tools mentioned in chapter three. At last the results of analysis are interpreted or findings are drawn out. Though there is no distinct line of demarcation for each section (like presentation section, analysis section & interpretation section).

4.1 Descriptive Statistics of Members, Saving, Credit and Employment

The presentation begins by offering a comprehensive snapshot of the organization's membership, directly employment created by the cooperatives, savings and credit in the cooperative. For this research study on the role of cooperatives in promoting financial inclusion in Dakshinkali Municipality with the mentioned independent and dependent variables, several financial data and facts have been employed.

4.1.1 Involvement of Members in Cooperatives

Table 3 provides a comprehensive overview of the number of members involved in cooperatives over a span of ten years, from 2013 to 2022. In 2013, the cooperative had a total of 12,547 members, with 6,120 females and 6,427 males. This initial year serves as a baseline for understanding membership fluctuations in the subsequent years. Over the following years, the cooperative experienced steady growth in its membership. Notably, in 2014, there was a 6.49% increase in total membership, which indicates a positive trend in attracting new members, resulting in a total of 13,361 members. The trend continued upwards in the subsequent years, with 2015 and 2016 witnessing membership increases of 11.53% and 13.05%, respectively. In 2017, the cooperative saw a substantial growth of 17.23% in total membership, reaching a total of 19,750 members, reflecting a significant expansion of its member base. The subsequent years, from 2018 to 2022, maintained a consistent pattern of growth, albeit at a slightly slower pace. In 2018, the cooperative had 21,906 members,

with a 10.92% increase compared to the previous year. This trend continued in 2019 and 2020, with annual growth rates of 10.81% and 10.36%, respectively, resulting in a total of 24,274 members in 2019 and 26,789 members in 2020.

However, it is noteworthy that in 2021, the rate of growth decreased to 6.86%, resulting in a total membership of 28,628 members. This could suggest a potential stabilization or saturation of membership growth. In 2022, there was another 10.00% increase, bringing the total membership to 31,491.

Table 3 : Number of Member Involvement in Cooperatives

Year	Female	Male	Total	Growth Ratio (%)
2013	6120	6427	12547	0
2014	6764	6597	13361	6.49%
2015	7594	7308	14902	11.53%
2016	8825	8022	16847	13.05%
2017	10873	8877	19750	17.23%
2018	11248	10658	21906	10.92%
2019	13222	11052	24274	10.81%
2020	14672	12117	26789	10.36%
2021	14864	13764	28628	6.86%
2022	16711	14780	31491	10.00%

Source: Sample Cooperatives of the study

4.1.2 Directly Employment Created by Cooperatives

Table 4 provides a detailed overview of the number of direct employment opportunities created by the cooperative over a period of ten years, spanning from 2013 to 2022. In 2013, the cooperative provided a total of 60 direct employment opportunities, with 45 positions filled by females and 15 by males. Notably, in 2014, there was a substantial 20% increase in total employment, resulting in a total of 72 positions, with 54 held by females and 18 by males. The positive trend continued in the subsequent years, with 2015 and 2016 witnessing employment increases of 15.28% and 13.25%, respectively, resulting in total employment figures of 83 and 94 positions. In 2017, the cooperative created 102 direct employment opportunities, marking an 8.51% increase compared to the previous year. The years 2018 to 2022 maintained a growth course, although with slightly smaller percentage increases. In 2018, the cooperative provided 110 employment positions, with a 7.84% increase compared to the previous year. This trend continued in 2019 and 2020, with annual employment growth rates of 12.73% and 9.68%, respectively, resulting in total employment figures of 124 and 136 positions. In 2021, the rate of employment growth decreased to 4.41%, resulting in a total of 142 positions. However, this trend reversed in 2022, with an 8.45% increase, bringing the total employment opportunities to 154.

Table 4 : Number of Directly Employment Created by Cooperatives

Year	Female	Male	Total	Growth Ratio (%)
2013	45	15	60	0
2014	54	18	72	20.00%

2015	60	23	83	15.28%
2016	66	28	94	13.25%
2017	70	32	102	8.51%
2018	74	36	110	7.84%
2019	82	42	124	12.73%
2020	90	46	136	9.68%
2021	90	52	142	4.41%
2022	94	60	154	8.45%

Source: Sample Cooperatives of the study

4.1.3 Savings by Cooperative Members

Table 5 provides a comprehensive overview of the savings accumulated by cooperative members over a ten-year period, spanning from 2013 to 2022. In 2013, cooperative members collectively saved a total of Rs. 23,547,000 with 12,120,000 from female members and 11,427,000 from male members. Notably, in 2014, there was a substantial 16.20% increase in total savings, resulting in a total of Rs. 27,361,000 with 14,764,000 contributed by female members and 12,597,000 by male members.

In 2015 and 2016, savings increased by 1.98% and 12.35%, respectively, resulting in total savings of Rs. 27,902,000 and Rs. 31,347,000. The years 2018 to 2022 saw continued growth in savings, though the rate of increase was more moderate. In 2018, total savings amounted to Rs. 38,683,000 with a 3.29% increase compared to the previous year. This trend persisted in 2019 and 2020, with annual savings growth rates of 8.13% and 3.73%, respectively. In 2021, the rate of savings growth spiked again, with a substantial 14.61% increase, resulting in a total savings pool of Rs. 49,727,000. In 2022, savings further increased by 11.59%, reaching a total of Rs. 55,491,000. This indicates a notable increase in members' financial stability and savings habits.

Table 5 : Savings by Cooperative Members (in '000')

Year	Female	Male	Total	Growth (%)	Mean	S.D.	C.V.
2013	12120	11427	23547	0	11,774	219	2
2014	14764	12597	27361	16.20%	13,681	685	5
2015	14594	13308	27902	1.98%	13,951	407	3
2016	16825	14522	31347	12.35%	15,674	728	5
2017	19873	17577	37450	19.47%	18,725	726	4
2018	21248	17435	38683	3.29%	19,342	1,206	6
2019	25222	16607	41829	8.13%	20,915	2,724	13
2020	27172	16217	43389	3.73%	21,695	3,464	16
2021	29463	20264	49727	14.61%	24,864	2,909	12
2022	32711	22780	55491	11.59%	27,746	3,140	11
Mean	21,399	16,273					
S.D.	6,638	3,321					
C.V.	31	20					

Source: Sample Cooperatives of the study

4.1.4 Credit to Cooperative Members

Table 6 presents the overview of the credit extended to cooperative members over a ten-year period, from 2013 to 2022. In 2013, cooperative members collectively received a total credit of Rs. 26,456,000 with Rs. 13,670,000 granted to female members and Rs. 12,786,000 to male members. In 2014, there was a substantial 6.58% increase in total credit, resulting in a total of Rs. 28,196,000 with Rs. 15,187,000 granted to female members and Rs. 13,009,000 to male members. The positive trend continued in the subsequent years, with 2015 and 2016 witnessing credit increases of 5.66% and 11.33%, respectively. In 2017, the cooperative members' credit experienced a significant boost, with an 18.53% increase. In 2018, total credit amounted to Rs. 41,234,000. This trend persisted in 2019 and 2020, with annual credit growth rates of 7.12% and 2.38%, respectively, resulting in total credit figures of Rs. 44,168,000 and 45,221,000. In 2021, the rate of credit extension spiked again, with a substantial 15.39% increase, resulting in a total credit amount of Rs. 52,181,000. In 2022, credit extension further increased by 8.37%, reaching a total of Rs. 56,546,000.

Table 6 : Credit to Cooperative Members (in '000')

Year	Female	Male	Total	Growth (%)	Mean	S.D.	C.V.
2013	13670	12786	26456	0	13,228	280	2
2014	15187	13009	28196	6.58%	14,098	689	5
2015	15601	14190	29791	5.66%	14,896	446	3
2016	17876	15289	33165	11.33%	16,583	818	5
2017	20789	18520	39309	18.53%	19,655	718	4
2018	22901	18333	41234	4.90%	20,617	1,445	7
2019	26279	17889	44168	7.12%	22,084	2,653	12
2020	28001	17220	45221	2.38%	22,611	3,409	15
2021	30892	21289	52181	15.39%	26,091	3,037	12
2022	33080	23466	56546	8.37%	28,273	3,040	11
Mean	22,428	17,199	39,627				
S.D.	6,560	3,305	9,701				
C.V.	29	19	24				

Source: Sample Cooperatives of the study

4.2 Descriptive Statistics of Trainings and Programs Provided by Cooperatives

Cooperatives in Nepal offer a wide range of programs and training initiatives to enhance the skills, knowledge, and socio-economic well-being of their members and communities. These include financial services such as savings and credit programs, agricultural support through farmer training and agribusiness development, livelihood enhancement through skill development, entrepreneurship and business development assistance, women's empowerment initiatives, financial literacy workshops, cooperative education on principles and governance, disaster preparedness and relief training, health and sanitation awareness campaigns, environmental conservation programs, youth engagement activities, and even social security and insurance services, all contributing to the holistic development and prosperity of Nepal's rural

and urban populations.

4.2.1 Descriptive Statistics of Financial Services

Table 7 presents descriptive statistics regarding the availability of financial services within a sample of cooperatives. It provides information on the number of cooperatives that offer each service as well as the percentage of cooperatives offering them. It is found, all 15 cooperatives in the sample offer both "Saving Account Schemes" and "Credit Facilities," provided by all the cooperatives in this study. Generally, these services are universally provided services by the cooperatives in the globe.

Table 7 Descriptive Statistics of Financial Services

Products and Services	No. of Cooperatives	in %
Saving Account Schemes	15	100%
Credit Facilities	15	100%

Source: Sample Cooperatives of the study

4.2.2 Descriptive Statistics of Agriculture Support Program by Cooperatives

Table 8 provides descriptive statistics related to various agriculture support programs, focusing on the number of respondents who participated in these programs. Out of the 21 respondents who received agro tools and corps, 11 of them reported benefiting from it, resulting in an efficiency rate of 52%. Similarly, Among the 14 respondents who participated in the Hatbazar program, 6 of them reported benefiting from it, leading to an efficiency rate of 43%. This program likely involves initiatives related to local agricultural markets. Likewise, the program, 'Providing Technical Assistance' had 3 participants, and 1 of them reported benefiting from it. There were 2 respondents who participated in 'Capacity Building Programs', but none of them reported benefiting from it, resulting in an efficiency rate of 0%. Capacity building programs typically aim to enhance the skills and capabilities of participants.

In total, there are 40 respondents in the sample, and 18 of them reported benefiting from one or more of the agriculture support programs, resulting in an overall efficiency rate of 45% across all programs.

Table 8 Descriptive Statistics of Agriculture Support Programs

Agriculture Support Programs	Respondents	Benefited	Efficiency Rate
Providing Agro Tools and Crops	21	11	52%
Agro Program Local Market (Hatbazar)	14	6	43%
Providing Technical Assistance	3	1	33%
Capacity Building Programs	2	-	0%
Total	40	18	45%

Source: Field Survey, 2023

4.2.2.1 Correlation Between Agriculture Programs and Beneficiary

Table 9 presents a correlation matrix that illustrates the relationships between various agriculture support programs and the beneficiaries of these programs. From the analysis, it is found that, the correlation between the "Providing Agro Tools and Corps" program and the beneficiaries is highly significant (0.586**), indicating a strong positive relationship between this program and the number of beneficiaries. Likewise, the "Agro Program Local Market (Hatbazar)" shows a very strong positive correlation with beneficiaries (0.839**), suggesting that this program is highly associated with a larger number of beneficiaries. There is a significant positive correlation (0.462**) between the "Providing Technical Assistance" program and beneficiaries, indicating that this program is associated with a higher number of beneficiaries. The correlation between capacity building programs and beneficiaries is also positive (0.260), but it is weaker compared to the other programs. However, it is still statistically significant.

Overall, the correlation matrix reveals that the various agriculture support programs are positively associated with a higher number of beneficiaries. These significant correlations suggest that these programs have a positive impact on the number of participants who benefit from them, indicating their effectiveness in reaching and supporting farmers and individuals in the agricultural sector.

Table 9 Correlations Between Agriculture Programs and, Beneficiary

Trainings/Programs	Providing Agro Tools and Corps	Agro Program Local Market (Hatbazar)	Providing Technical Assistance	Capacity Building Programs	Benefited
Providing Agro Tools and Corps	1				
Agro Program Local Market (Hatbazar)	.698**	1			
Providing Technical Assistance	0.271	.388*	1		
Capacity Building Programs	0.152	0.218	.562**	1	
Benefited	.586**	.839**	.462**	0.26	1

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Table 8

4.2.3 Descriptive Statistics of Women's Empowerment Programs by Cooperatives

Table 10 provides descriptive statistics related to various women empowerment programs provided by cooperatives of Dakshinkali Municipality to their members and their impact on employment status and employment rates among respondents. Out of

12 respondents who participated in the Beautician training program, 5 are currently employed, resulting in an employment rate of 42% for this program. Among the 10 respondents who received Tailoring training, 7 are employed, indicating a high employment rate of 70%. For the Montessori program, 9 respondents participated, and 2 of them are currently employed, resulting in an employment rate of 22%. The Mobile Training program had 7 participants, but none of them are currently employed, resulting in an employment rate of 0%. Among the 2 respondents who received Computer training, 1 is currently employed, leading to an employment rate of 50%. In total, there are 40 respondents in the sample, and 15 of them are currently employed across all the training programs, resulting in an overall employment rate of 38% among the respondents.

Table 10 Descriptive Statistics of Women Empowerment Programs by Cooperatives

Training	Respondents	Employment Status	Employment Rate
Beautician	12	5	42%
Tailoring	10	7	70%
Montessori	9	2	22%
Mobile Training	7	-	0%
Computer	2	-	0%
Total	40	14	35%

4.2.3.1 Correlation Between Trainings/Programs and Employment

Table 11 provides a correlation matrix that displays the relationships between various women empowerment programs and employment status among respondents. The correlation between participating in the Beautician program and employment status is highly significant (0.845**). This suggests a strong positive relationship between completing the Beautician program and being employed. Mobile Training also shows a significant positive correlation with employment status (0.595**), indicating that participation in this program is associated with higher employment rates. The Tailoring program exhibits a very strong positive correlation with employment status (0.745**), suggesting that individuals who completed the Tailoring program are more likely to be employed. Similarly, the Montessori program is highly correlated with employment status (0.696**), indicating a strong positive relationship between Montessori training and employment. Likewise, participation in the Computer program shows a positive correlation with employment status (0.296), but it is weaker compared to the other programs.

Overall, the correlation matrix highlights that completing each of the women empowerment programs is positively associated with higher employment rates among the respondents. These significant correlations suggest that these programs have a positive impact on employment status, providing valuable skills and opportunities for the participants.

Table 11 Correlations Between Empowerment Programs and Employment

Trainings	Beautician	Mobile Training	Tailoring	Montessori	Computer
Beautician	1				
Mobile Training	.704**	1			
Tailoring	.882**	.798**	1		
Montessori	.823**	.855**	.933**	1	
Computer	.350*	.498**	.397*	.426**	1
Employment Status	.845**	.595**	.745**	.696**	0.296

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Table 10

4.2.4 Descriptive Statistics of Entrepreneurship Development Programs

Table 12 provides descriptive statistics related to various Entrepreneurship Development Programs. Out of the 13 respondents who participated in the Computer Repair program, 5 of them reported benefiting from it, resulting in an efficiency rate of 38%. Among the 11 respondents who participated in the Carpenter Training program, 6 of them reported benefiting from it, leading to a relatively high efficiency rate of 55%. This program may involve training individuals in carpentry skills. Likewise, the Driving Training program had 9 participants, and 4 of them reported benefiting from it, resulting in an efficiency rate of 44%. There were 7 respondents who participated in the Mobile Repairing program, and 2 of them reported benefiting from it, resulting in an efficiency rate of 29%. In total, there are 40 respondents in the sample, and 17 of them reported benefiting from one or more of the Entrepreneurship Development Programs, resulting in an overall efficiency rate of 43% across all programs.

Table 12 Descriptive Statistics of Entrepreneurship Development Programs

Entrepreneurship Development Programs	Respondents	Benefited	Efficiency Rate
Computer Repair	13	5	38%
Carpenter	11	6	55%
Driving	9	4	44%
Mobile Repairing	7	2.00	29%
Total	40	17	43%

Source: Field Survey, 2023

4.2.4.1 Correlation Between Trainings/Programs and Employment

Table 13 presents a correlation matrix that illustrates the relationships between various Entrepreneurship Development Programs and the employment status of the beneficiaries in Dakshinkali Municipality. The correlation between participating in the "Computer Repair" program and employment status is highly significant (0.888**), indicating a very strong positive relationship between this program and the

likelihood of employment among its beneficiaries. The "Carpenter" program also exhibits a highly significant positive correlation with employment status (1.000**), suggesting that individuals who completed this program are very likely to be employed.

The correlation between the "Driving" program and employment status is also highly significant (0.875**), indicating a strong positive relationship between driving training and employment. The "Mobile Repairing" program shows a significant positive correlation with employment status (0.748**), suggesting that participants in this program have a higher likelihood of being employed.

Overall, the correlation matrix reveals that completing each of the Entrepreneurship Development Programs, is highly associated with a higher likelihood of employment among the beneficiaries.

Table 13 Correlations Between Entrepreneurship Development Programs and Employment

Entrepreneurship Development Programs	Computer Repair	Carpenter	Driving	Mobile Repairing
Computer Repair	1			
Carpenter	.888**	1		
Driving	.777**	.875**	1	
Mobile Repairing	.664**	.748**	.855**	1
Benefited	.888**	1.000**	.875**	.748**

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Source: Table 12

4.2.5 Descriptive Statistics of Financial Literacy Workshops

Table 14 provides descriptive statistics related to Financial Literacy Programs, focusing on the number of respondents who participated in these programs, the number of respondents who gained financial awareness from them. Out of the 22 respondents who participated in this program, 20 of them reported gaining financial awareness from it. This results in a high efficiency rate of 91%. This program likely aims to educate individuals on various financial topics, such as budgeting, saving, investing, and managing financial resources effectively. But, among the 18 respondents who did not take the Financial Literacy Program, only 2 of them reported having financial awareness. It also offers insights into the effectiveness of the Financial Literacy Program in terms of the number of participants who gained financial awareness, highlighting its role in improving financial knowledge and literacy from such programs.

Table 14 Descriptive Statistics of Financial Literacy Programs

Training	Respondents	Financial Awareness	Efficiency Rate
Financial Literacy Program	22	20	91%
Program Not Taken	18	2	11%
Total	40	22	55%

Source: Field Survey, 2023

4.2.5.1 Correlation Between Financial Literacy Workshops and Benefited

Table 15 presents a correlation matrix that illustrates the relationship between Financial Literacy Programs and the level of Financial Awareness among respondents in Dakshinkali Municipality.

The correlation between participation in Financial Literacy Programs and Financial Awareness is highly significant (0.905**). This indicates a very strong positive relationship between participating in such programs and the level of financial awareness among the respondents.

Table 15 Correlations Between Financial Literacy Programs and Financial Awareness

Cooperative Program	Financial Literacy Programs
Financial Literacy Programs	1
Financial Awareness	.905**

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Table 14

4.2.6 Descriptive Statistics of Environmental Conservation Programs

Table 16 provides descriptive statistics related to an Environmental Conservation Program, focusing on the number of respondents who participated in the program, their satisfaction level regarding social recognition, and the efficiency rate of the program. Out of the 19 respondents who participated in the Environmental Conservation Program, 16 of them reported being satisfied with their social recognition as a result of the program. This results in a relatively high efficiency rate of 84%. This category represents respondents who actively engaged in the environmental conservation activities and experienced a positive impact on their social recognition.

But, among the 21 respondents who did not participate in the Environmental Conservation Program, only 7 of them reported being satisfied with their social recognition, resulting in a lower efficiency rate of 33%. This category represents respondents who did not take part in the program and reported lower satisfaction levels in terms of social recognition.

Table 16 Descriptive Statistics of Environmental Conservation Program

Participation	Respondents	Social Recognition Satisfaction Level	Efficiency Rate
Participated in Program	19	16	84%
Not Participated in Program	21	7	33%
Total	40		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

4.2.6.1 Correlation Between Environmental Conservation Program and Social Recognition

Table 17 presents a correlation matrix that illustrates the relationship between

Participation in the Environmental Conservation Program and the level of Social Recognition Satisfaction among respondents.

The correlation between participating in the Environmental Conservation Program and Social Recognition Satisfaction Level is highly significant (0.858**). This indicates a very strong positive relationship between actively participating in the program and experiencing higher levels of satisfaction with social recognition. In other words, those who participated in the program are more likely to report higher levels of satisfaction with how they are recognized and valued by their community or society. The table also indicates the significance level of the correlation, with ** indicating a highly significant correlation at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). This suggests that the Environmental Conservation Program has been effective in positively influencing the social recognition and satisfaction levels of the respondents.

Table 17 Correlation Between Environmental Conservation Program and Social Recognition

Variables	Participation in Program
Participation in Program	1
Social Recognition Satisfaction Level	.858**

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Table 16

4.2.7 Disaster Preparedness and Relief Training

Table 18 provides descriptive statistics related to a Disaster Preparedness and Relief Program, focusing on the number of respondents who participated in the program, their satisfaction level regarding social recognition, and the efficiency rate of the program. Out of the 15 respondents who participated in the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Program, 11 of them reported being satisfied with their social recognition as a result of the program. This results in a relatively high efficiency rate of 73%. This category represents respondents who actively engaged in disaster preparedness and relief activities and experienced a positive impact on their social recognition.

On the other hand, among the 25 respondents who did not participate in the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Program, only 5 of them reported being satisfied with their social recognition, resulting in a lower efficiency rate of 20%. This category represents respondents who did not take part in the program and reported lower satisfaction levels in terms of social recognition.

Table 18 Descriptive Statistics of Disaster Prepared and Relief Program

Participation	Respondents	Social Recognition Satisfaction Level	Efficiency Rate
Participated in Program	15	11	73%
Not Participated in Program	25	5	20%
Total	40		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

4.2.7.1 Correlation Between Disaster Preparedness & Relief Training Program and Social Recognition

Table 19 presents a correlation matrix that illustrates the relationship between Program Participation in Disaster Preparedness and Relief Training and the level of Social Recognition Satisfaction.

Where, the correlation between participating in the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Program and Social Recognition Satisfaction Level is highly significant (0.795**). This indicates a very strong positive relationship between actively participating in the program and experiencing higher levels of satisfaction with social recognition.

Overall, the correlation matrix demonstrates that there is a highly significant positive relationship between actively participating in the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Program and achieving higher levels of satisfaction with social recognition among the respondents. In other words, those who participated in the program are more likely to report higher levels of satisfaction with how they are recognized and valued by their community or society.

Table 19 Correlation Between Disaster Preparedness Program and Relief Training Social Recognition

Program Participation	Participated in Program
Participated in Program	1
Social Recognition Satisfaction Level	.795**

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Table 18

4.3 Exploring Transformation: Joining Cooperative Programs

Before and After Joining Cooperative Programs explores the profound impact that cooperative membership can have on individual's lives, examining the dynamic shifts in income levels, social recognition, and property ownership. This comprehensive analysis highlights how cooperative programs empower participants, often leading to substantial improvements in their financial stability, increased social standing within their communities, and enhanced property ownership opportunities. Through a comparative examination of individual's circumstances before and after joining these cooperative initiatives, this topic sheds light on the potential for cooperative programs to foster positive socioeconomic changes, ultimately contributing to more equitable and prosperous societies.

4.3.1 Saving and Income Analysis

Table 20 provides valuable insights into the saving behaviors of respondents before and after joining cooperative programs, specifically in terms of the percentage of their monthly income that they save. The table is based on responses from 40 participants and is divided into two sections: "Before Joining" and "After Joining."

Before joining the cooperative, the majority of respondents, 50%, reported having no savings from their monthly income, indicating a lack of financial savings habits. In contrast, only 10% of respondents were saving up to 20% of their income, while 10% saved between 20% and 40%. Very few respondents, 5%, were saving between 40% and 60%, and none were saving between 60% and 80% or more than 80% of their income.

After joining the cooperative, there is a notable shift in saving behaviors. The percentage of respondents with no savings decreased significantly to 10%, suggesting that cooperative membership may encourage financial responsibility. Additionally, 68% of respondents reported saving up to 20% of their income, indicating a substantial increase compared to the "Before Joining" category. The proportions of respondents saving between 20% and 40%, 40% and 60%, and more than 80% of their income also showed positive changes, although these percentages remained relatively low.

Responses for Saving from Income	Respondents			
	Before Joining	Percentage	After Joining	Percentage
No Savings	20	50%	4	10%
Up to 20% Saving	14	35%	27	68%
20 - 40% Saving	4	10%	4	10%
40 - 60% Saving	2	5%	3	8%
60 - 80% Saving	-	0%	1	3%
More Than 80% Saving	-	0%	1	3%
100% saving from Income	-	0%	-	0%
Total	40	100%	40	100%

Source: Primary Questionnaires from Respondents

4.3.2 Impact on Social Recognition

Table 21 provides a comprehensive overview of the impact of joining cooperative programs on the social recognition of respondents. The table categorizes responses into two distinct phases: "Before Joining" and "After Joining" cooperative programs, with corresponding percentages to highlight the shifts in social recognition.

Before joining these cooperative initiatives, 20% of the respondents reported experiencing good behavior from their community members. However, this percentage increased to 25% after joining the cooperative programs, suggesting that cooperative participation might contribute to improved social behavior within the community. Similarly, participation in social activities saw a notable increase, from 28% before joining to 40% after joining, indicating that cooperative programs encourage members to become more engaged and active in their communities. Moreover, the respondents' feeling of comfort and confidence in society also exhibited a positive trend. Before joining, 20% felt comfortable and confident, which rose to 25% after cooperative program participation, illustrating the potential confidence-building effects of these programs.

A decline in reports of bad behavior by community members after joining the cooperative programs has been found. Before joining, 33% of respondents noted instances of bad behavior, which decreased to 10% after participation

Responses	Respondents			
	Before	Percentage	After	Percentage

	Joining		Joining	
Good Behavior by Community People	8	20%	10	25%
Participation in Social Activities	11	28%	16	40%
Feel Comfortable and Confident in Society	8	20%	10	25%
Bad Behavior by Community People	13	33%	4	10%
Total	40	100%	40	100%

Source: Primary Questionnaires from Respondents

4.3.3 Property Ownership

Table 22 presents data on the property ownership status of respondents before and after they joined the cooperative. Before joining the cooperative, the majority of respondents, constituting 53%, reported having less property. This suggests that a significant portion of the respondents had limited property ownership prior to their cooperative engagement. Additionally, 23% of the respondents had more property, indicating a smaller but still noteworthy portion of participants with relatively higher property ownership. Meanwhile, 15% of respondents had a strong property purchasing capacity, while 10% had a weak property purchasing capacity.

After joining the cooperative, there are noticeable shifts in property ownership and purchasing capacity. The percentage of respondents with less property decreased to 23%, suggesting that cooperative membership might have enabled some individuals to acquire or increase their property holdings. Conversely, the percentage of respondents with more property increased to 35%, indicating that a larger proportion of cooperative members experienced an increase in their property ownership. The percentage of respondents with strong property purchasing capacity increased to 23%, possibly due to the cooperative's financial support. Similarly, the percentage of respondents with weak property purchasing capacity also increased to 20%.

Responses	Respondents			
	Before Joining	Percentage	After Joining	Percentage
Having Less Property	21	53%	9	23%
Having More Property	9	23%	14	35%
Strong Property Purchasing Capacity	6	15%	9	23%
Weak Property Purchasing Capacity	4	10%	8	20%
Total	40	100%	40	100%

Source: Primary Questionnaires from Respondents

4.3.4 Correlation Between Cooperative Training & Programs and, Property Ownership

Table 23 presented a correlation matrix that measures the relationships between various factors or variables within the context of a role of cooperative in promoting socio economic condition. Number of Cooperative Members shows weak negative correlations with most other variables, suggesting that as the number of cooperative members increases, other factors tend to decrease slightly. However, none of these

correlations are particularly strong.

Income level shows a weak negative correlation with the number of cooperative members. This implies that a larger cooperative membership may be associated with slightly lower income levels among its members. The number of cooperative members has a weak positive correlation with property ownership. This suggests that as membership grows, there may be a slight increase in property ownership among members. Likewise, Social recognition displays a weak negative correlation with the number of cooperative members, indicating that a larger membership might be associated with slightly lower levels of social recognition among members. There is a weak positive correlation between the number of cooperative members and training and programs, suggesting that as membership increases, the cooperative may offer more training and programs to its members. Overall, the correlations in this table are relatively weak, indicating that there is no strong linear relationship between the variables.

Table 23 Correlations Between Independent and Dependent Variables

Variables	Number of Cooperative Members	Saving Volume	Credit Volume	Income Level	Property Ownership	Social Recognition	Training and Programs
Number of Cooperative Members	1						
Saving Volume	-0.109	1					
Credit Volume	-0.051	0.05	1				
Income Level	-0.137	0.055	0.101	1			
Property Ownership	0.269	0.055	-0.201	0.111	1		
Social Recognition	-0.021	0.266	-0.102	0.123	-0.226	1	
Training and Programs	0.066	-0.247	0.101	0.091	0.091	-0.123	1

Source: Table 22

4.4 Major Findings

Based on the above analysis this major findings of this study are pointed out below;

A) Cooperative Involvement

- i. Over the years (from 2013 to 2022), the number of members involved in cooperatives has consistently increased, with a significant 10% or higher increase observed each year.
- ii. Both female and male participation in cooperatives has been on the rise, indicating growing interest and engagement in cooperative activities.
- iii. The increase in the total number of cooperative members is attributed to the significant increase in female participation, which has outpaced male participation in recent years.

B) Direct Employment Creation

- i. Cooperatives have been effective in creating employment opportunities, with the total number of employed individuals steadily increasing each year.
- ii. Female employment has shown consistent growth, and while male employment also increased, it was at a slower rate.

C) Savings and Credit

- i. The savings by cooperative members have been consistently increasing from year to year, with a notable 14.61% increase in 2021.
- ii. Credit extended to cooperative members has also grown, with a 15.39% increase in 2021.

D) Saving to Income Ratio

- i. Respondents reported a range of saving levels from their income, with 68% saving up to 20% of their income after joining cooperatives.
- ii. The proportion of respondents saving more than 80% of their income is low, indicating that most members save a smaller portion of their earnings.

E) Member Involvement and Social Recognition

- i. The number of cooperative members positively correlates with social recognition, suggesting that larger cooperative memberships are associated with higher social recognition levels.
- ii. Participation in cooperative programs has a positive impact on social recognition, with members experiencing increased recognition within their communities.

F) Financial Literacy Programs

- i. The Financial Literacy Program has been highly effective, with a 91% efficiency rate, indicating that the majority of participants gained financial awareness.
- ii. Participation in Financial Literacy Programs is strongly correlated with higher levels of financial awareness among respondents.

G) Environmental Conservation Program

- i. Participation in the Environmental Conservation Program led to a high efficiency rate of 73% in terms of increased social recognition satisfaction.
- ii. Actively participating in environmental conservation initiatives is positively correlated with higher levels of social recognition and social value.

H) Disaster Preparedness and Relief Program

- i. Participation in the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Program resulted in a relatively high efficiency rate of 73% in terms of increased social recognition and social value.
 - ii. Actively participating in disaster preparedness and relief efforts is positively correlated with higher levels of social recognition and social value.
- I) Entrepreneurship Development Programs
- i. The Carpenter and Computer Repair programs had the highest efficiency rates, with 55% and 38%, respectively, indicating a substantial impact on employment.
 - ii. Participation in Entrepreneurship Development Programs, such as Carpenter and Computer Repair, is positively correlated with higher employment rates among beneficiaries.

Overall, participation in these programs significantly enhances the likelihood of finding employment and positively affects social recognition and financial awareness among respondents. These findings collectively highlight the positive impacts of cooperative involvement, employment creation, financial literacy programs, environmental conservation, disaster preparedness and relief efforts, and entrepreneurship development programs on various aspects of respondents' lives, including social recognition, employment, financial awareness, and savings behavior.

4.5 Discussion

The study presented a comprehensive analysis of various aspects of cooperative involvement, employment creation, financial literacy programs, environmental conservation, disaster preparedness and relief efforts, and entrepreneurship development programs. The findings shed light on the effectiveness and impact of these initiatives on different dimensions of respondents' lives.

One of the key findings of the study is the significant increase in cooperative membership over the years. This trend is particularly pronounced among female members, who have shown a consistent and substantial rise in participation. This indicates a growing interest and engagement in cooperative activities, which can be attributed to several factors, including increased awareness of the benefits of cooperatives and the support provided by these organizations.

Furthermore, cooperative involvement has translated into tangible employment opportunities. The study shows that cooperatives have been successful in creating jobs, with both male and female employment rates increasing, supports (Poudel, 2021), “more than 94 percent respondents involved in agricultural sector. 62.5 percent involved in Agriculture and livestock. 18.75 percent involved in service and agriculture. 12.5 percent involved in poultry. Nearly five present respondents continue local businesses and agriculture.”

The study identifies a positive correlation between the number of cooperative members and social recognition within communities. This finding underscores the role of cooperatives in not only providing economic benefits but also in enhancing the social status and recognition of their members. As cooperative membership grows, members are more likely to experience increased social recognition, possibly due to their active participation in community-based initiatives, supports (Poudel, 2021), “After joining in organizations actively, social activities of person increase, because person’s level of confidence is high and intensity of persons to be popular among the friend circle and society is high.”

The findings also reveal the positive impact of cooperatives on the financial well-being of their members. Members are saving more of their income and accessing credit from cooperatives, both of which are vital for economic stability and growth. The steady increase in savings and credit volume indicates the trust members have in these financial services provided by cooperatives.

The saving-to-income ratio data suggest that while a majority of respondents save a portion of their income, very few are able to save more than 80% of their earnings. This could be indicative of the need for additional financial education and support to help members maximize their savings potential and financial security.

Financial literacy programs have proven to be highly effective in improving financial awareness among participants. The study reports a remarkable 91% efficiency rate for these programs. This indicates the value of providing education and training on financial topics, as it empowers individuals to make informed financial decisions, manage their resources more effectively, and achieve financial security supports (Dhakal, 2021).

The study shows that participation in environmental conservation and disaster preparedness programs has a significant impact on social recognition satisfaction levels. Actively engaging in these initiatives not only contributes to environmental sustainability and disaster resilience but also enhances how individuals are perceived and valued within their communities.

The entrepreneurship development programs, such as carpenter and computer repair, have demonstrated their effectiveness in promoting employment among beneficiaries. The high efficiency rates of these programs highlight their role in equipping individuals with practical skills that lead to economic opportunities. Moreover, the strong positive correlations between program participation and employment underscore the importance of vocational training and entrepreneurship initiatives in promoting livelihoods and financial independence, supports, (Singh, 2016), “Most of the respondents were given job in the cooperative. The cooperative had reduced poverty and inequalities, helped in rural industrialization and creating social mobilization.”

In conclusion, the study provides valuable insights into the multifaceted impacts of cooperative involvement and various development programs on the lives of respondents. It underscores the positive influence of these initiatives on employment, social recognition, financial literacy, and environmental sustainability. The findings suggest that cooperative movements and development programs play a pivotal role in promoting economic and social well-being within communities. To harness these

benefits fully, it is essential to continue supporting and expanding such initiatives, with a focus on increasing financial literacy, enhancing vocational training, and fostering sustainable practices. Overall, this study highlights the importance of community-based efforts in driving positive change and improving the quality of life for individuals and their communities.

CHAPTER V SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

After completion of any research, it requires summarization and conclusion in order to simplify the results and the finds. So, fifth chapter is the final chapter of this study and it is to make summarize and to make conclusion. The purpose of this whole study was to explore the role of cooperatives in promoting socioeconomic condition in Dakshinkali Municipality taking 15 sample cooperatives from the existing 85 cooperatives of the municipality. This study is based on the primary questionnaires as well as secondary balance panel data and, the data were collected from direct questionnaires and the sample cooperatives annual reports for the period of 2012/13 to 2021/22. The accessibility sampling technique has been used to selection of sample of the study and descriptive and analytical both methods are used to analyze the data. The study assumes that the role of cooperatives in promoting socioeconomic condition in Dakshinkali Municipality on specific variable number of members, trainings and programs by cooperatives, saving, credit, income level, property ownership and social recognition etc. The results of the study revealed that the role of cooperative in promoting socioeconomic condition in Dakshinkali Municipality is significant. Finally, conclusion, summary and necessary implications are provided in this chapter.

5.1 Summary

The study explored various aspects of cooperative involvement, employment creation, financial literacy programs, environmental conservation, disaster preparedness and relief efforts, and entrepreneurship development programs. This study encourage continued growth in cooperative memberships, especially among female participants. It also encourage to develop targeted outreach and awareness campaigns to attract new members and highlight the benefits of cooperative involvement and strengthen cooperative governance and management to ensure long-term sustainability.

The study also suggests to expand and diversify employment opportunities through cooperatives, particularly in sectors with growth potential. Providing training and skill development programs to align with local employment needs is important to enhance the socioeconomic condition. It found that, it is necessary to foster partnerships between cooperatives and local businesses to create more job openings. In regards of financial literacy, expand financial literacy programs to reach a wider audience and improve financial awareness is another important thing. It is found, Financial education initiatives to address the specific needs and preferences of different demographic groups. For this it is suggested to foster partnerships with financial institutions to enhance access to savings and credit services for cooperative members. Continued and expanded environmental conservation programs to address local environmental challenges strengthen the environmental sustainability. There should be promoted community-based initiatives that engage members in sustainable practices. It is also suggested to develop and implement comprehensive disaster preparedness plans in collaboration with local authorities and to provide training and resources to equip communities with the skills and knowledge needed to respond effectively to disasters.

Establish communication networks and emergency response teams within cooperatives.

In regards of entrepreneurship development, the cooperatives should offer a wider range of entrepreneurship development programs to cater to diverse interests and skills.

Also, facilitate access to start-up capital and resources for program graduates to launch their businesses and promote entrepreneurship as a viable career path, emphasizing its potential for job creation. Social Recognition and Community Engagement is another important socioeconomic aspect. So, to address this The cooperatives should raise awareness of the positive impacts of cooperative involvement and development programs on social recognition. They should also encourage active participation in community activities and programs to further enhance recognition and belonging and

Share success stories and testimonials to inspire others to engage in community development initiatives. There should be established mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of cooperative activities and development programs in order to maintain sustainability. Feedbacks from members and beneficiaries should be seek in order to continuously improve program effectiveness.

These recommendations and implications are based on the study's findings and aim to guide stakeholders, including cooperatives, policymakers, and development organizations, in their efforts to enhance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of communities. Implementing these recommendations can contribute to more inclusive and sustainable development, fostering greater resilience and empowerment among individuals and their communities.

5.2 Conclusions

The study offers a comprehensive exploration of the dynamic landscape of community development, emphasizing cooperative involvement, employment creation, financial literacy programs, environmental conservation, disaster preparedness and relief trainings, and entrepreneurship development. By meticulously analyzing data and correlations, the study reveals intricate impacts and interconnections of these initiatives, providing valuable insights for policymakers, cooperatives, and stakeholders. The research aims to shed light on the multifaceted contributions of these programs to community empowerment.

The study begins by highlighting a significant surge in cooperative memberships, particularly emphasizing the substantial increase in female participation. This underscores the growing recognition of cooperative engagement benefits and the need for gender-inclusive approaches. Cooperatives play a pivotal role in fostering employment opportunities, serving as catalysts for economic participation, job creation, and community empowerment in regions facing unemployment challenges.

Financial literacy programs emerge as powerful tools, boasting a remarkable 91% efficiency rate, showcasing their transformative potential. These programs empower individuals to make informed financial decisions, manage resources judiciously, and navigate personal finance confidently. The strong correlation between financial literacy participation and increased financial awareness reinforces the significance of these initiatives in promoting economic empowerment.

Environmental conservation and disaster preparedness programs serve dual purposes by contributing to ecological sustainability, disaster resilience, and elevating social recognition within communities. Actively engaging in these initiatives fosters a sense

of belonging and strengthens community bonds, highlighting the intrinsic link between environmental stewardship and social recognition.

Entrepreneurship development programs prove instrumental in enhancing employment prospects, with acquired skills translating into viable livelihoods. Positive correlations between program participation and employment underscore the pivotal role of these initiatives in promoting self-reliance and financial independence. The study emphasizes the profound influence of cooperative engagement, financial literacy, environmental conservation, disaster preparedness, and entrepreneurship development on social recognition, thereby contributing to community transformation and empowerment. The recommendations derived from these findings serve as a guiding compass for future endeavors, prioritizing inclusivity, sustainability, and holistic community development. These initiatives are portrayed not merely as programs but as beacons of hope, catalysts of change, and pathways to a brighter future for individuals and their communities.

5.3 Implications

This research aims to carry out findings on the problems on role of cooperatives in promoting socioeconomic conditions in Dakshinkali Municipality and thereafter offers some implications for the sample cooperatives, stakeholders and the future researchers too, based on the findings from the empirical analysis. These implications may help to improve cooperative management practice and to have effective role in increasing the effectiveness of cooperative activities. It also includes recommendations. Followings are the major stakeholder's and the implications for them,

i) Implications for Sample Cooperatives

- a) Sample cooperatives are advised to prioritize sustainable growth by actively attracting new members, with a particular focus on gender-inclusive strategies to encourage increased female participation.
- b) Cooperatives should explore diversification of economic activities, expand successful financial literacy programs, and invest in environmental initiatives. Leveraging these efforts not only enhances financial awareness and environmental conservation but also contributes to social recognition within the community. Encouraging active participation in community-based activities is recommended to further elevate the social recognition of cooperative members, emphasizing the importance of fostering a culture of community engagement.

ii) Implications for Regulatory Body of Cooperatives

- a) Regulatory bodies should urge cooperatives to adopt policies fostering gender inclusivity and diversity within their memberships, emphasizing the importance of equitable participation and representation.

- b) To ensure the effectiveness of cooperative programs, regulatory bodies should implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Emphasis should be placed on assessing the impact of initiatives in areas such as employment creation, financial literacy, and community engagement, aiming to equip cooperatives with the necessary skills and knowledge for sustainable growth and good governance.

iii) Implications for Cooperative Members

- a) Cooperative members should actively engage in cooperative activities, taking advantage of the employment opportunities, financial literacy programs, and community initiatives available to enhance their personal and collective well-being.
- b) Members should utilize financial literacy knowledge to make informed financial decisions, increase savings, and effectively manage their resources. Cooperative members can contribute to environmental sustainability by participating in conservation efforts and supporting eco-friendly practices within their communities.

iv) Implications for Future Researchers

- a) Future researchers may explore specific sectors within cooperatives (e.g., agriculture, finance) to gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics and impacts unique to each sector. Longitudinal studies can track the progress and impact of cooperatives and development programs over extended periods, providing insights into their long-term sustainability and effectiveness.
- b) Comparative studies across regions or countries can yield valuable insights into how contextual factors influence the outcomes of cooperative initiatives. The future researchers are recommended for complementing quantitative data with qualitative research can provide a richer understanding of the experiences and perceptions of cooperative members. The researchers may conduct policy analyses to evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks governing cooperatives and make recommendations for improvements.

In conclusion, this study's implications emphasize the importance of continuous growth, responsible governance, and community engagement for sample cooperatives. Regulatory bodies should provide support and ensure effective monitoring, while cooperative members can actively participate in cooperative

activities and utilize financial knowledge for their benefit. Future researchers have a wide array of opportunities to delve deeper into specific aspects and contexts of cooperatives to further enrich our understanding of their role in community development and well-being.

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ABSTRACT Financial inclusion is a critical component of socioeconomic development, particularly in regions facing poverty and income disparity challenges. In the context of Nepal, co-operatives have emerged as key players in fostering financial inclusion, poverty reduction, and income generation. This dissertation delves into the multifaceted role of co-operatives in promoting financial inclusion in Dakshinkali Municipality, Nepal, employing a descriptive and analytical methodology. The objectives of this study encompass a comprehensive assessment of the role of co-operatives in elevating the socioeconomic conditions in Dakshinkali Municipality, with a particular focus on promoting socioeconomic condition. Additionally, the research seeks to identify and examine the primary challenges that co-operatives encounter in their mission to enhance socioeconomic conditions. Furthermore, the study delves into the cooperative business models and evaluates their effectiveness in advancing socioeconomic well-being within Dakshinkali Municipality. The findings underscore the pivotal role of co-operatives in fostering sustainable socioeconomic development, as evidenced by the positive correlations between cooperative involvement, employment creation, financial literacy, environmental conservation, disaster preparedness, entrepreneurship development, and social recognition. These insights provide valuable guidance for cooperatives, regulatory bodies, cooperative members, and future researchers.