

**ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING IN
THARU COMMUNITY**

A Dissertation

Submitted to Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology

for Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Master's Degree of Arts in Sociology

By

Rishi Raj Subedi

T.U. Regd. No.: 27446-93

Exam Symbol No.: 280223

Central Department of Sociology /Anthropology

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

April, 2014

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled "**Role of Women in Household Decision Making in Tharu Community**" is prepared by Rishi Raj Subedi under my supervision. He has collected the primary data for this purpose in Tharu communities and completed successfully the requirement for dissertation in Master of Arts in Sociology. I recommend this dissertation for final evaluation and acceptance.

Madhusudan Subedi
Dissertation Supervisor
Date : 02 | 04 | 2014 |

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Approval Sheet

This dissertation entitled "**Role of Women in Household Decision Making in Tharu Community**" submitted by Rishi Raj Subedi in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Sociology has been evaluated and accepted by the dissertation committee comprised of:

.....
Prof. Om Gurung, Ph.D.
Department Head

.....
Dr Shyamu Thapa
External Examiner

.....
(Mr. Madhusudan Subedi)
Dissertation Supervisor
Date: 10 | 04 | 2014 |

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to my respectable research advisor Mr. Madhusudan Subedi, Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology, T.U. Kirtipur, who shared his limited time to provide constructive comments and guidance to carry out this research work.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Om Gurung, Professor and Head of the Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology (CDSA), T.U. for his guidance and logistic supports. I am also grateful to all my respected teachers in the CDSA and library staffs for their suggestions and providing the necessary materials. I would like to appreciate to different organization, institution and individuals who helped me in this matter.

I would like to thank with deep and respect to my parents for their warm affection, inspiration and encouragement. I am grateful to VDC Chairperson and all respondents and informants of the study area for their kind co-operation.

Rishi Raj Subedi

April, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER - I: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	5
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Importance of the Study	7
1.5 Organization of the study	7
CHAPTER - II: LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.1 General Overview	9
2.2 National and International Context	10
2.3 Conceptual Framework	23
CHAPTER - III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	25
3.1 Rationale for the Selection of Study Area	25
3.2 Research Design	25
3.3 Source and Nature of Data	25
3.4 Universe and Sampling	25
3.5 Method's of Data Collection	26
3.5.1 Semi-structured Interview	26
3.5.2 Observation	26
3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretations	26
3.7 Limitation of the Study	27
CHAPTER - IV: THE PEOPLE AND STUDY AREA	28
4.1 Dang District: An Overview	28
4.2 Laxmipur VDC : A Brief Introduction	29
4.3 The Tharus of Laxmipur VDC	30
4.3.1 History	30
4.3.2 Language	32
4.3.3 Family	32
4.3.4 Dress	33
4.3.5 Ornaments	33
4.3.6 Feeding	33
4.3.7 Occupation	33
4.3.8 Religion and Festivals	34
4.3.9 Lifecycle Rites	35

CHAPTER - V: SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION AND DECISION MAKING	38
5.1 Socio-economic status of Tharu women	38
5.2 Role of decision making	38
5.2.1 Marital Status	38
5.2.2 Educational Status	39
5.2.3 Education of Respondent's Husbands	40
5.2.4 Occupation of respondents	41
5.2.5 Occupation of respondents' husbands	42
5.2.6 Family Structure	43
5.2.7 Age and Sex composition of Sample Household	43
5.3 Social Characteristics	45
5.4 Economic Characteristic	47
5.4.1 Landholding situation	47
5.4.2 Sufficiency of Food Production	50
5.5 Health Characteristics	56
5.6 Educational Characteristics	58
5.7 Information about Women's Training	61
5.8 Political Characteristics	62
CHAPTER - VI: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	65
6.1 Summary	65
6.2 Conclusion	67

References

Appendix

LIST OF TABLES

Table No. 1	The distribution of ward wise population by household and sex	29
Table No. 2	Population Distribution by Caste/Ethnicity	30
Table No. 3	Marital Status of the Respondents	39
Table No. 4	Distribution of Respondents by literacy status	40
Table No. 5	Distribution of Respondent's Husband by Literacy Status	41
Table No. 6	Distribution of Respondents by their occupation	42
Table No. 7	Distribution of Respondents' Husband's by their occupation	42
Table No. 8	Distribution of Sample Household by Type of Family	43
Table No. 9	Distribution of Population of Sample Household by Age and Sex	44
Table No. 10	Decision on Marriage of Children	45
Table No. 11	A. Membership Pattern and Type of Membership	46
	B. Type of Membership	46
	C. Pattern of Membership	46
Table No. 12	A. Distribution of Sample Household by Landholding Pattern	48
	B. Distribution of Sample Household of <i>Jamindar's</i> Cultivable Land in <i>'andhiya'</i>	48
Table No. 13	Working Hours Among Male and Female in Khet / Bari	49
Table No. 14	Decision Makers for the Cropping Patterns	49
Table No. 15	Distribution of Households by Food Production	50
Table No. 16	Distribution of Households by Coping Deficit Food Production	51
Table No. 17	Distribution of Households by Decision on Selling Surplus Agricultural Products	51
Table No. 18	Distribution of Households by Decision on Buying Deficit Agricultural Products	52
Table No. 19	Decision on Livestock Purchase	53
Table No. 20	Decision on Personal Income from any Economic Activities	53
	A. Annual Income of the Respondents	53
	B. Decision on Personal Income of the Respondents	53
Table No. 21	Saving Pattern of the Respondents	54
Table No. 22	Decision on Spending From Their Income in Different Sectors	55
	A. Spending Sectors	55
	B. Decision on Spending	55

Table No. 23	A. Place of Getting Treatment	56
	B. Decision Making on Getting Treatment	56
Table No. 24	A. Distribution of Respondents by use of Family Planning Measures	57
	B. Decision Making for the use of Family Planning Measures	57
Table No. 25	A. Occur the Delivery	58
	B. Decision Making on the Delivery	58
Table No. 26	Decision making in Children's Education	59
	A. Enrolment of Children in Schools	59
	B. Decision Making in Sending Children to School	59
Table No. 27	Women's Education	60
	A. Women Participation in Adult Literacy Classes	60
	B. Decision Making for Women's Education	60
Table No. 28	Decision on Educational Materials Providing to the Children	60
Table No. 29	Training and Decision Making	61
	A. Women Received any Kind of Training	61
	B. Types of Training	62
	C. Decision on Training	62
Table No. 30	Participation and Decision Making on Political Aspect	62
	A. Participation on Political Programme	62
	B. Decision Making of Participation on Political Programme	63
Table No. 31	A. Participate in Voting	63
	B. Decision Making on Participation in Voting	63

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BPFA	:	Beijing Platform for Action
BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDSA	:	Central Department of Sociology / Anthropology
CEDA	:	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
CEDAW	:	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
DDC	:	District Development Committee
GAD	:	Gender and Development
GoN	:	Government of Nepal
INGOs	:	International Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organization
STD	:	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	:	United Nation's Children Fund
USA	:	United States of America
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WAD	:	Women and Development