

**A STUDY ON THE ENERGIZING SOCIAL MOBILIZATION OF
WOMEN THROUGH AAMA SAMUHA: Mothers' Group: A Case Study of Jante
VDC, Morang District, Nepal**

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Submitted by

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Recommendation Letter

The thesis entitled **Energizing Social Mobilization of Women through *Aama Samuha*** has been prepared by **Babita Pokhrel** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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The thesis entitled **Energizing Social Mobilization of Women through Aama Samuha** submitted by **Babita Pokhrel** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Energizing Social Mobilization of Women through *Aama Samuh*** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, is my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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Date: April 2, 2017

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Abstract

Mothers' Group (MG), initiated by Gurung women as a self-help organization in the past, has become a popular women organization all over the country for women development. Mothers' Groups are recognized as a non-political group which has played a significant role for the empowerment and mobilization of women at grassroots. The study has made an effort to assess the role of such groups for social mobilization of women for their empowerment and mobilization. The study includes three MGs of Jante VDC of Morang district. The data were collected from the executive members of the MGs, and other 15 males and 20 females of the community. The study shows that MGs have prioritized the social awareness raising of local mothers on child care, primary health care, nutrition, sanitation and cleaning-up programs, and family planning. All MGs were led by Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs).

The MGs have focused on collecting utensils, cleaning trails, financial support to School etc. instead of sorting out the ways to empower themselves to enhance their capability. Induced MGs were facing various problems because of lack of creative and innovative programs, confinement within health-related matters only, and incompatibility to later introduced women organizations with reference to socio-economic uplift of the members.

Further, low level of education, lack of organizational skills, management skills, creative thought on mothers, proper guidance from the social leaders, support from other organizations, group consensus among members and limited sources of fund as well as internal disputes among MG members etc. have been found as the main challenges of MGs.

The study on roles of MGs in women's empowerment and mobilization in grassroots needs further study with wider coverage of sample size with reference to larger number of informants and MGs from different areas of Nepal to find out the actual role of it. Comparative research on various methods of social mobilization would also contribute to further understand the contribution of social mobilization to social inclusion in Nepal.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	ii
Recommendation Letter	iii
Letter of Approval	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Abstract	vi
Table of Contents	vii
List of Tables	x
List of Acronyms	xi

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION 1-7

1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of Problem	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	3
1. 4 Defining Key Term	3
1. 5 Rationale/Signification of the study	4
1.6 Assumption and Limitation	5
1.7 Organization of the study	6

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW 8-17

2. 1 Theoretical Framework	8
2.2 Status of Women in Nepal	10
2.3 Efforts to mainstream women in development processes	11
2.4 Summary of the review	13
2.4.1 Origin of Mothers' Groups	13
2.4.2 Characteristics of Mothers' Groups	14
2.4.3 Major contributions of Mothers' Groups in the community development	15

CHAPTER – III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 18-21

3.1 Research Design	18
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3.2 Rational of the Selection Study Area	18
3.3 Nature and Source of Data	19
3.4 Population of study area	19
3.5 Data collection Tools and Techniques	19
3.5.1 Interview schedule	19
3.5.2 Observation	19
3.5.3 Key Informant Interview	20
3.5.4 Household Survey	20
3.5.5 Focused Group Discussion (FGD)	20
3.6 Process of data collection	20
3.7 Data processing and analysis	21
3.8 Reliability and validity of the data	21

CHAPTER – IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

22-59

4.1. General Information of the Study Area	22
4.1.1 Physical Facilities in Jante VDC	23
4.1.2 Population composition in Jante VDC	23
4.2 Mothers' Groups of Jante	23
4.3 Selected MGs: A Glimpse	23
4.4 Some common characteristics of the MGs operating in Jante	27
4.4.1 Formation of the MGs	27
4.4.2 Resource generation	27
4.4.3 Resource mobilization	27
4.4.4 Caste/ethnic composition in the executive members	28
4.4.5 Frequency of meeting	28
4.4.6 Organizational structure of MGs	28
4.4.7 Group leadership	28
4.4.8 Self-reliance	28
4.5 Background of the executive members of MGs	29
4.5.1 Age composition	29
4.5.2 Family background	30
4.5.3 Educational background	30
4.5.4 Caste and ethnic composition	31

4.5.5 Occupation	31
4.6 Mothers' Groups and Social Mobilization of Women	32
4.6.1 Activities/Impact of MGs in social mobilization of women	32
4.6.2 Participation in other women related organizations	37
4.6.3 Problems of mothers' groups/Attitude towards MGs	39
4.7 Problems faced by MG members	45
4.8 Attitude of males towards MG	47
4.9 Attitude of non-member mothers towards MG	51
4.9.1. Brief introduction to the interviewed non-member mothers	51
4.9.2. Satisfaction from the social activities carried out by the MGs	52
4.9.3 Decision – Making capabilities between MG members and non-member mothers	55
4.10 Effectiveness and necessity of MG in comparison to other women related organizations	56

CHAPTER- V

SUMMARY, FINDING AND CONCLUSION

60-66

5.1 Summary	60
5.1.1 Role of MGs in social mobilization of women and social development	60
5.2 Some limitations	60
5.3 Findings on problems faced by MG members	61
5.3.1 Attitude towards MGs	62
5.4 Recommendations	62
5.3.1 Perspective of the informants (MG members, males and non-member mothers)	62
5.4.2 Perspective of the researcher	63
5.5 Conclusion	64
5.5.1 The Impact of MGs	64
5.5.2 The Limitations of MGs	65
5.5.3. The Future of MGs	65
5.5. 4. Areas for further research	66

REFERENCE

Appendix – I

Questionnaire

Executive Committee Members of the MG of Jante-1

Executive Committee Members of the MG of Jante-2

Executive Committee Members of the MG of Jante-9

List of Tables

	Page No.
Table no.4.1 Age compositionof the executive members of MGs	29
Table no. 4.2.Family background of the executive members of MGs	30
Table no. 4.3.Educational background of the executive members of MGs	30
Table no. 4.4.Caste and ethnic composition in executive committee of MGs	31
Table no. 4.5. Occupation of the executive members of MGs	32
Table no 4.6. Satisfaction from the social activities carried out by MGs	52
Table no. 4.7. Effectiveness and necessity of MG from the perspective of non-member mothers	57
Table no. 4.8. Effectiveness and importance of MG from the perspective of MG member	58

List of Acronyms

COs	:	Community Organizations
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DPHO	:	District Public Health Office
FCHV	:	Female Community Health Volunteer
GDI	:	Gender-related Development Index
HDI	:	Human Development Index
INGO	:	International non-governmental organization
LDF	:	Local Development Fund
LSG	:	Local Self Government
LSGA	:	Local Self Governance Act
MCPW	:	Micro Credit Project for Women
MG	:	Mothers' Group
MRMG	:	Mountain Resource Management Group
MWCSW	:	Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare
NGO	:	Non-governmental organization
PCRW	:	Production Credit for Rural Women
UNDP	:	United Nation's Development Program
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WID	:	Women in Development