

**ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING IN  
THARU COMMUNITY  
BARAHATHAWA MUNICIPALITY-15 (PIPARA BHITA)**

**A Dissertation**

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Master's Degree of Arts in Rural Development**

**By**

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## **Letter of Recommendation**

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled "**Role of Women in Household Decision Making in Tharu Community Barahathawa Municipality-15 Pipara Bhita**" is prepared by Lecturer Prajwal Man Pradhan 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 Rural Development. I recommend this dissertation for final evaluation and acceptance.

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled "**Role of Women in Household Decision Making in Tharu Community Barahathawa Municipality-15 Pipara Bhita**" submitted to Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. The result of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for any purpose. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published before.

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## ABSTRACT

Women in Nepal, as elsewhere, hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction, house holding and farm work. However, reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by government system. They are also suffering from the discriminatory practices in opportunity for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision making.

*Tharus* are one of the indigenous people of Nepal living in Terai. They are mostly concentrated in Seti, Bheri, Lumbani, Narayani, Koshi and Janakpur zones or, in the western, mid-western and far western of Terai. They have scattered in the northern parts of Uttar Pradesh state in India along the Terai of Nepal. They usually live very close to heavily forested regions. They have their own dialect customs behavior pattern, life style and socio-culture of socio-economic life. Their dressing pattern is different from other ethnic groups of Nepal. A great majority of the *Tharus* are very hard working tenant cultivators. They are always engaged in agriculture. Most of them have been greatly exploited by ruthless *zamindar* and rich landlords. Their agricultural activities keep them isolated from outside world in their own localities.

In the *Tharus* society, women play important role in decision making. Although the senior male members of a household have the final authority in matters concerning family, property and major household expenditure, they do not dare to impose their on the other household member. Rather all adult members of the household moreover, on certain occasion the senior males of a household, who are supposed to give the final decision just endorse the decision of their females.

It can also conclude that females have low socio-economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision making. So it is essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate major the decision making process. This study shows that female have to work more in household having less decision making. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it. If there is any difficulty to complete the work, they cannot decide at that moment, they have to ask for it. The *Tharus* women are basically followed their traditional rules and regulations. Even now, there is little change in the status in *Tharus* society of Pipara Bhitia.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER - I: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	5
1.4 Importance of the Study	5
1.5 Organization of the Study	6
<b>CHAPTER - II: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 General Overview	7
2.2 National and International Context	8
2.3 Conceptual Framework	15
<b>CHAPTER - III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>17</b>
3.1 Rationale for the Selection of Study Area	17
3.2 Research Design	17
3.3 Source and Nature of Data	17
3.4 Universe and Sampling	18
3.5 Method's of Data Collection	18
3.5.1 Semi-structured Interview	18
3.5.2 Observation	18
3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretations	18
3.7 Limitation of the Study	19
<b>CHAPTER - IV: THE PEOPLE AND STUDY AREA</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1 Saralahi District: An Overview	20
4.2 Barahathawa Municipality-15 : A Brief Introduction	20
4.3 The Tharus of Barahathawa Municipality-15	22
4.3.1 History	22
4.3.2 Language	24
4.3.3 Family	24
4.3.4 Dress	24
4.3.5 Ornaments	25
4.3.6 Feeding	25
4.3.7 Occupation	25
4.3.8 Religion and Festivals	25
4.3.9 Lifecycle Rites	27

<b>CHAPTER - V: SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION AND DECISION MAKING</b>	<b>29</b>
5.1	Socio-economic status of Tharu women 29
5.2	Role of decision making 29
5.2.1	Marital Status 29
5.2.2	Educational Status 30
5.2.3	Education of Respondent's Husbands 31
5.2.4	Occupation of respondents 32
5.2.5	Occupation of respondents' husbands 33
5.2.6	Family Structure 34
5.2.7	Age and Sex composition of Sample Household 34
5.3	Social Characteristics 36
5.4	Economic Characteristic 38
5.4.1	Landholding situation 38
5.4.2	Sufficiency of Food Production 41
5.5	Health Characteristics 47
5.6	Educational Characteristics 49
5.7	Information about Women's Training 52
5.8	Political Characteristics 53
<b>CHAPTER - VI: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION</b>	<b>56</b>
6.1	Summary 56
6.2	Conclusion 58

**References**

**Appendix**

## LIST OF TABLES

Table No. 1	The distribution of ward wise population by household and sex	21
Table No. 2	Population Distribution by Caste/Ethnicity	22
Table No. 3	Marital Status of the Respondents	30
Table No. 4	Distribution of Respondents by literacy status	31
Table No. 5	Distribution of Respondent's Husband by Literacy Status	32
Table No. 6	Distribution of Respondents by their occupation	33
Table No. 7	Distribution of Respondents' Husband's by their occupation	33
Table No. 8	Distribution of Sample Household by Type of Family	34
Table No. 9	Distribution of Population of Sample Household by Age and Sex	35
Table No. 10	Decision on Marriage of Children	36
Table No. 11	A. Membership Pattern and Type of Membership	37
	B. Type of Membership	37
	C. Pattern of Membership	37
Table No. 12	A. Distribution of Sample Household by Landholding Pattern	39
	B. Distribution of Sample Household of <i>Jamindar's</i> Cultivable Land in <i>'andhiya'</i>	39
Table No. 13	Working Hours Among Male and Female in Khet / Bari	40
Table No. 14	Decision Makers for the Cropping Patterns	40
Table No. 15	Distribution of Households by Food Production	41
Table No. 16	Distribution of Households by Coping Deficit Food Production	42
Table No. 17	Distribution of Households by Decision on Selling Surplus Agricultural Products	42
Table No. 18	Distribution of Households by Decision on Buying Deficit Agricultural Products	43
Table No. 19	Decision on Livestock Purchase	44
Table No. 20	Decision on Personal Income from any Economic Activities	44
	A. Annual Income of the Respondents	44
	B. Decision on Personal Income of the Respondents	44
Table No. 21	Saving Pattern of the Respondents	45
Table No. 22	Decision on Spending From Their Income in Different Sectors	46
	A. Spending Sectors	46
	B. Decision on Spending	46

Table No. 23	A. Place of Getting Treatment	47
	B. Decision Making on Getting Treatment	47
Table No. 24	A. Distribution of Respondents by use of Family Planning Measures	48
	B. Decision Making for the use of Family Planning Measures	48
Table No. 25	A. Occur the Delivery	49
	B. Decision Making on the Delivery	49
Table No. 26	Decision making in Children's Education	50
	A. Enrolment of Children in Schools	50
	B. Decision Making in Sending Children to School	50
Table No. 27	Women's Education	51
	A. Women Participation in Adult Literacy Classes	51
	B. Decision Making for Women's Education	51
Table No. 28	Decision on Educational Materials Providing to the Children	51
Table No. 29	Training and Decision Making	52
	A. Women Received any Kind of Training	52
	B. Types of Training	53
	C. Decision on Training	53
Table No. 30	Participation and Decision Making on Political Aspect	53
	A. Participation on Political Programme	53
	B. Decision Making of Participation on Political Programme	54
Table No. 31	A. Participate in Voting	54
	B. Decision Making on Participation in Voting	54

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BPFA	:	Beijing Platform for Action
BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDRD	:	Central Department of Rural Development
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