

# **AN ANALYSIS OF POST DISASTER RESPONSE THROUGH GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

(A Case Study of Earthquake affected Area of Sindhupalchok District)

**A Dissertation**

**Submitted to Central Department of Sociology for the Partial Fulfillment of the  
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**Letter of Recommendation**

This is to certify that this thesis entitled “**AN ANALYSIS OF POST DISASTER REPOSE THROUGH GENDER PERSPECTIVE**)” (A Case Study of Earthquake Affected Area of Sindhupalchok District), submitted to Central Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to award the Masters’ Degree in Sociology (MA) is a record of independent research work carried by Ambika Kumari Paudel under my guidance and supervision. I therefore, recommended this thesis for the final approval and acceptance to the committee.

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**APPROVAL LETTER**

The thesis entitled “**AN ANALYSIS OF POST- DISASTER REPOSENSE THROUGH GENDER PERSPECTIVE** (A Case Study of Earthquake Affected Area of Sindhupalchok District)” submitted by Ambika Kamari Paudel, in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree (MA) in Sociology has been approved by evaluation committee.

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## **DECLARATION**

I, hereby declare that the Dissertation entitled entitled “**AN ANALYSIS OF POST- DISASTER REPONSE THROUGH GENDER PERSPECTIVE** (A Case Study of Earthquake affected area of Sindhupalchok District)” submitted to the Central Department of Sociology entirely my original effort, prepared the guidance and supervision of my Supervisor Asst. Prof. Keshav Silwal. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources to preparing the research. I assured that this thesis has not been presented and submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree.

Ambika K. Paudel

March 2019

## **Acknowledgements**

While staying in shelter after the major area earthquake in Nepal, I felt that disaster is not only a natural occurrence but also have social face which impacted more and less according to the social situation of a person. There were many People in the shelter but the most vulnerable were women. The men were dispersed at day time but for women, keeping fear in their mind, it's a kind of catastrophic situation to save their kids and manage livelihood as well at the same time.

Later, I decided to write my dissertation on the similar topic and found that women in the villages, who are poor and socially excluded, were the most victim of the earthquake. Thus, dissertation has been an important and unforgettable academic step for me. My thesis has come into being with the precious support, necessary guidance, and worth full inspirations of many people. I am much thankful to all earthquake survivors to whom I spent a week in an open shelter with fear.

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## **Abstract**

The literature on gender and disasters powerfully documents the importance of including gender considerations in disaster prevention, emergency response, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. As a consequence of the social context of gender relationships, men and women have different roles, responsibilities, capacities, resources, and experiences in virtually all societies.

The Impact of earthquake in different aspect of society has been portrayed with many dimension, however there is lack of study on the gender face of disaster and post disaster situation. Therefore, this study has been carried out to explore the gender face of earthquake in light with standpoint and Marxist theory. A research framework has been developed, field study was done and research around was carried out to explore; how women were affected and what was the vulnerability they faced being a subordinated person in the society.

It was found that women were more vulnerable than man with the disaster. The majority of recovery efforts to date still reflect traditional gender stereotypes that largely prioritize the needs and contributions of men. Male biased perspectives dominate policies and intervention processes, often excluding women from equitable compensation and assistance and subsequently placing them at even greater risk of future harm of hazards and disasters. Damage, needs, and vulnerability assessments too often fail to capture the different impacts of disasters and disaster response on men and women. Additionally, the immense contributions women make to recovery too often go unrecognized, while the marginalization of their skills and knowledge limits their opportunities to play a greater role in building back better.

The study suggests developing a gender sensitive disaster risk management framework to cope with the post disaster situation keeping in mind the women's socio-cultural position in the society. This needs to reform the policies, practices and social strata of women so that they would not much vulnerable and burdened during natural disaster and post management period.

## **Executive summary**

The roles men and women play are equally essential to the survival and growth of families, communities and societies. Similarities and differences between these roles vary greatly as notions of gender differ from place to place, yet within each gender role there exists specific knowledge, abilities, and responsibilities that contribute to the functioning of society. These roles, and the values and beliefs which form them, determine how men and women prepare for, react to, and recover from a disaster.

Different studies on the different aspect of disaster impact on women have been carried out by different researcher but the study regarding the linkage between women and contribution of women in post disaster recovery has been carried out by limited researchers. Therefore this study has been carried out with the general objective to trace the contribution of women in household recovery and community development after Nepal earthquake 2015. Altogether 40 households were taken as sample for this study in which only women respondents were involved in household information collection. The data of the study was analyzed using both qualitative and descriptive methods.

The study discovers that women's physical, economic and psychological contribution was very crucial in recovery process of the household after earthquake. In terms of physical contribution almost all the interviewed women were involve in doing all household work, agricultural work, debris clean up after the earthquake destroyed the house they were living, arranging materials, carry required materials and extend hands while making temporary shelter as well.

Around 42.5 per cent women were involve in small business like retail shop, hotel, cosmetic shop and poultry farming etc. and worked as labor on daily wages to earn money for the household recovery. Women even sold their jewelry and also took loans from the women saving and credit group in which they were members to build temporary shelter. Around 32.5 per cent of the women in the study area were found to be involved community development after the earthquake. The study discovered that motivational and hindering factors also affect the participation of women in post- disaster recovery process.

## **Abbreviations**

DCC	DISTRICT COORDINATION COMMITTEE
DFID	DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DRR	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
FGD	FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
HH	HOUSEHOLD
INGO	INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION
KII	KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW
NGO	NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION
NPC	NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
NRA	NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY
PDNA	POST DISASTER NEED ASSESSMENT
PRA	PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL
UNDP	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
VDC	VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WCO	WOMEN & CHILDREN OFFICE
WHO	WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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# Chapter I: Introduction

## 1.1 Background

A natural disaster is a major adverse event resulting from natural processes of the Earth; examples include floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other geologic processes. A natural disaster can cause loss of life or property damage, and typically leaves some economic damage in its wake, the severity of which depends on the affected population's resilience, or ability to recover. An adverse event will not rise to the level of a disaster if it occurs in an area without vulnerable population. In a vulnerable area, however, such as San Francisco, an earthquake can have disastrous consequences and leave lasting damage, requiring years to repair (Nelson A. Stephen, 2018).

Post-disaster Management is human initiatives to manage the impact of disaster where societal factors are dominating the results of recovery for affected population. Nepal is prone to various types of natural disasters due to the rugged and fragile geophysical structure, very high peaks, high angle of slopes, complex geology, variable climatic conditions, active tectonic processes, unplanned settlement, increasing population, weak economic condition and low literacy rate of people. (Poudel Chhetri, 2009)

On 25 April 2015, a massive 7.6 ml earthquake struck Nepal, having the epicenter near Barpak village of Gorkha district, which is northwest of Kathmandu. It was the worst quake to strike the country in more than 80 years. After 17 days on 12 May 2015, another 6.8 ml strong aftershock caused further damage and sufferings. These earthquakes took the lives of around 8,896 and more than 22,303 people were seriously injured. The earthquake severely affected 14 districts. The earthquake destroyed 6, 04, 930 houses completely and 2, 88, 856 houses partially. It is estimated that the total value of disaster effects (damages and losses) caused by the earthquakes is NPR 706 billion. (PDNA, NPC 2015)

The different needs, opportunities and risks facing women and men, are important elements when defining vulnerability and has implications for emergency response, recovery and long-term development of a given region or country. Gender issues refer to culturally based expectations of roles and behaviors of both males and females. By taking into account the

different impact of disasters on men and women, policies and interventions for sustainable recovery and reconstruction as well as for risk reduction, preparedness and mitigation programs can become more effective and targeted. Various researches powerfully document the importance of including gender considerations in disaster prevention, emergency response, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. As a consequence of the social context of gender relationships, men and women have different roles, responsibilities, capacities, resources, and experiences in virtually all societies. (Denise, 2008)

A Gender Perspective always taking into account gender-based differences when looking at any social phenomenon, policy or process. The gender perspective is not only about women's role in society but it analyze the power relation of men and women in society and examine their ability to access resources and opportunities, in their communities depending on their being a woman or a man. Therefore, when any type of survey or analysis of a society is undertaken, it is important to have data that reflects the situation of women in comparison to the situation of men and vice versa. (Denise, 2008)

Feminist Theorist agreed that the post disaster situation aroused with gendered face with more vulnerability to women and children than man. This is because of the social structure where men are having power and resources and women are bound for household work and left behind decision power. Thus, Post disaster situation is purely embedded in patriarchal values and the social production of gender within social structures, position women inferior to men. (Enarson and Morrow, 1998)

It is often argued that cross-culturally, gender power and privilege shape the division of labor in daily routines, including control over land and resources, housing conditions, access to education and training programs, the use of public spaces, health services and recreation, control over one's body, expressions of emotion and sexuality, and of course, religious, political, economic and military institutions (Connell 2005; Fordham, 1998).

As Anderson (1998:8) points out: "Gender analysis makes it clear that women are vulnerable not because it is their physical nature to be weak but because of the arrangements in societies that result in their poverty, political marginalization and dependence on men" (1998 cited in Enarson and Morrow, 1998:49). In this way, gendered roles that identify women as primary

family caregivers, as well as place them in social isolation or a lack of mobility within the public sphere contribute to their risk exposure and vulnerability (Bolin et al. 1998).

A series of case studies of grassroots women-led DRR and resilience building initiatives (Fordham and Gupta 2011) reveals the close community ties and (the socially constructed) altruistic behaviors which women display even at the most basic subsistence levels. Organized grassroots women from around the world have been engaged in rescuing, rebuilding, planning and recovery efforts; developing enterprises and strengthening social capital. Natural disasters can, ironically, offer "windows of opportunity" to reduce gender inequality by empowering women to be engaged as active agents of relief, recovery, and resilience building. In Turkey after the 1999 earthquake, a local NGO, KEDV, created public spaces for women and children to rebuild disrupted community networks and promote women's participation in the public sphere (Yonder et al. 2005).

The importance of women's participation during post-disaster rehabilitation was also underscored in the case of Mitch storm disaster in 1998 in Guatemala and Honduras. Women in these countries immediately built houses, saved water reserves and built shelters even as they faced sexual harassment after the storm. Aptly, an NGO ran a campaign that brought the message, "Violence to women is a disaster which men can prevent." The campaign was effective enough to make all social groups realize that reconstruction cannot run well without women's participation.

Women in developing countries, including disaster-affected women, have been called "the invisible earners" Women's productive work, particularly in child-rearing and other domestic work, as well as their enormous contribution to national food production requirements, is hidden in statistics (Chiu, 1982).

Stereotypically, women are viewed as being largely consumers rather than producers. Their contribution to the social and economic development of their societies is often dominantly visible in the so-called "informal sector". As such, it is not recognized adequately within the formal sector (i.e., calculated in the GNP). These results in the minimal absorption of their labor into the mainstream labor market (Lele, 1986; Leon, 1984; H. Zaman, 1992; Motsisi, 1994b).

## **1.2 Statement of Problem:**

As Gender dimension is one of the crucial phenomenon in disaster research, there is a strong need to review the Nepal's experience in line with gender perspective to analyze the impact and post disaster mitigation efforts. This also emphasizes to develop a theoretical approach that focuses on impact of socio-cultural practices and gendered values affect the post disaster management at community level. Those perpetuate gender inequalities in Nepal, making women more vulnerable to natural disasters. Through a feminist theory framework that argue the social production of gender is contributes to an increased vulnerability to natural hazards among women.

As described above, women are disproportionately affected by disasters but are rarely included in disaster planning. Disasters exacerbate pre-existing barriers and inequalities for women, exposing them to even greater risk in their multiple roles as food producers and providers, health guardians, economic actors and care-givers. Women tend to hold less negotiating power and control over resources than men, which feeds into the lack of access to decision-making processes and consistently renders them more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters. This must be analyzed to mitigate similar occurrence of disaster in Future.

Women play a critical, yet largely overlooked, role in disaster recovery. Although many women-led recovery initiatives have actively addressed the invisible needs of women, most have taken on larger inclusive efforts that benefit men, women, children and whole communities alike. Women are frequently found alongside men rebuilding houses (Hameed, 2001), repairing and building physical infrastructure such as roads (Krishnasawami et al, 2001), and reclaiming or replanting agricultural land.

Women have also taken on leadership and management positions, designing and implementing programs that draw on the skills, knowledge and contributions of both men and women. In addition to their increased reproductive responsibilities, women have played a dominant role in maintaining and rehabilitating community services such as education and child care (Yonder et al, 2005), health care, and emotional support (Enarson, 2001). Without the full participation and contribution of women in decision-making and leadership, real



community resilience to disasters cannot be achieved.

Internalizing the described fact, this thesis aims to contribute to the dialogue on the insistence of incorporating women's voices in disaster mitigation and management. It is often argued by vulnerability theorists that with the tragedy and devastation following a disaster, a window of opportunity for introducing new values is opened (Fothergill, 1998). Therefore, by incorporating an explicit gender component to all stages of disaster relief and rehabilitation operations, gender roles and relations that perpetuate the vulnerability of women can be addressed.

### **1.3. Research Question:**

Following questions were the set of research prepared for this study;

- a. What is the status of women in study area?
- b. How women manage their household needs?
- c. What is the contribution of women in post disaster recovery management?
- d. How gender related issues are interrelated to disaster and livelihood?
- e. How Gender inequality causes women's disaster vulnerability and impact to women?

### **1.4. Objectives of the Study:**

The main objective of this study is to analysis of Post Disaster Response through Gender Perspective. In order to achieve the general objective some specific objectives are identified. These are;

- To observe the situation of women after earthquake and role of women in household recovery and livelihood.
- An examination of the interrelationship between gender values and earthquake vulnerability to women.
- To explore motivational and hindering factors for women's contribution in post disaster management.

### **1.5. Rationale of the Study:**

Socially constructed vulnerability refers not only to the economic position of women, but

also has to do with wider cultural and legal position of women in a given society. In many Asian countries, women hold the traditional position as caretakers in charge of protecting children and elderly, and securing the household's assets.

They tend to spend more time in their homes, which are often poorly constructed and highly vulnerable to natural hazards. Losses of family members, community support systems, shelter, assets, and infrastructure due to natural disasters all have differential impacts on men and women.

### **1.6. Limitations of the study:**

This study was conducted within limited time and cost as the part of academic degree. The study was focused on the situation they faced and their contribution during post- disaster recovery period. Therefore this a limited study that only covers one ward of Chautara Municipality (ward No. 6) in Sindhupalchok district where the people were affected by earthquake. The findings and recommendations can be applicable as a theoretical basis but cannot serve as bases for making a generalization of the true situation of women's vulnerability and contribution in post- disaster recovery in the entire country as the cultural and social construction of society is vary in Nepal according to place and demography.

### **1.7. Structure of the thesis:**

This thesis has been organized into five Chapters excluding preliminary sections and annex. The first part i.e. preliminary section includes Title page, letter of recommendation, approval page, acknowledgements, table of content, list of tables and figures, abstract and executive summary. The acronymic used in this thesis are also listed in abbreviation section. Chapter I has outlined the introductory remarks of gender and disaster and its effects on women with statement of problem and rationale of this thesis. In this chapter, research questions had defined with relating to objectives and aim as well as theme of the study. In chapter II various literatures and past researches have been reviewed to explain the concept of gender and disaster, effects of disaster on women, gender and post disaster recovery, factors affecting the resilience of men and women.

The research methodology chapter (Chapter III) explains how the research was conducted and what types of tools were used to collect information to address the research objectives. In this chapter, brief introduction of theoretical framework has been defined. The details of different secondary data collected from different sources had presented. The chapter also explains that how different participatory methods had used to collect social and disaster related information. This chapter also provides the full information about the study area along with information gathering and data analysis.

In the fourth chapter i.e. women in post disaster recovery section the researcher described the demographic characteristic, effects of earthquake on houses and human casualties, status of shelter, status of immediate aid support and coping strategy of the household, utilization of government aid in house building, workload situation, highest spending priority of the household after earthquake and public participation has been analyzed. Women's role in household recovery and community development was also analyzed in this section along with motivational and hindering factors for women's contribution in post disaster recovery. Fifth chapter has used for conclusion and recommendation drawn by the thesis. At the last part of the thesis ends with the references list and annexes.

## **Chapter II: Review of Literature**

In this chapter, a set of research and literature around the Gender and disaster has been analyzed and described. A theoretical approach has also been analyzed to better understand the research objectives. The review is categorized as feminist theory on gender role and disaster and some of Nepali literature on these issues.

### **2.1. Sociology of disaster and feminist theories on disasters and post disaster management:**

In recent years, sociology of disaster and feminist theories on post disaster response is one of the major issues for discourse in Disaster risk management. The social structure which is prone to vulnerability to women more than man is one of the factors that emphasize the gender as a major component of disaster management and emphasize it to be included in sociological studies. Yet, the scholars around sociology of disaster had not adequately discussed on Feminist outlook to disaster and post disaster response.

Feminist theory is a system of concepts, propositions and analysis that seeks to understand women's situations and experiences in order to improve them (Code, 2000). Feminist theory with its different perspective, has been constantly evolving to encompass a variety of disciplines including anthropology, sociology, economics, philosophy, history and development, and will presumably continue to change as it is redefined by different groups (ibid). Largely influenced by feminist perspective, the feminist movement (also known as the women's movement or women's liberation) is a series of campaigns aimed at breaking the silence on women's issues (Nelson and Robinson, 1999).

Feminist perspective insisted that their (women's) personal struggles stem from social, not individual problems, thereby popularizing the phrase 'the personal is political' which involves a re-definition of power and politics. In other words, this movement challenges the assumptions of political theory, which is itself seen as an instrument of male domination that justifies or conceals the reality of male power and its basis in 'private' life (Bhopal, 1997). Despite the myriad approaches within the feminist debate, the foundation of this theory holds that women are oppressed on the basis of their gender due to dominant patriarchal ideology (Steward, 2003).

Closely related to this term is Antonio Gramsci's concept of 'hegemony' which refers to the cultural dynamic by which a group claims and sustains a leading position in social life (Gramsci, cited in Connell, 2005:78). In relation to the ideological production of gender, hegemony relates to the dominance of one group, in this case men, and the subordination of the other group - women. Although Gramsci did not specifically refer to any gender issue, and in fact concentrated his discussion of women within domestic and sexual activity in relation to the economic realm, hegemony has become an important tool for feminist analyses of patriarchy (Code, 2003). This point is likewise related to Amartya Sen's contention that the question of power is central to gender inequality, "where the more powerful party, men, obtains a more favorable division of the family's overall benefits and chores and is also able to exercise power and control over others in the family" (Sen, 2005). In her application of Sen's concept of power to the household, feminist scholar Deniz Kandiyoti argues that;

One reason for continued inequality within the household is that is that the weaker party (women) often speaks and acts in support of this inequality... women may perceive that it is in their interests to maintain and support existing power relations, even though such belief and behavior are in reality harmful to them (1988:25).

Hence, it is critical to engage in feminist thought, as Nepali society is structured in a patriarchal manner. The unequal gender relations stemming from this patriarchal structure is a fundamental ingredient in the fabrication of vulnerability amongst women prior to natural disasters. In addition, in the aftermath of a disaster, this patriarchal system continues to reproduce women's vulnerability, often exacerbating her risk of exposure to the most extreme manifestation of inequality – violence.

According to Enarson, (Enarson, Elaine; 2000; "*Gender and Natural Disasters*" Employment Working Paper 1; ILO) "Women's work is heavily impacted by disasters, and their economic losses can be extensive. Domestic work increases enormously when support systems such as child care, schools, clinics, public transportation and family networks are disrupted or destroyed. Damaged living spaces are damaged working spaces for all women. For those whose income is based on homework, the loss of housing often means the loss of workspace, tools, equipment, inventory, supplies and markets. [In addition,] domestic violence appears to

increase when men's sense of control is diminished in disasters.”

Every disaster is different, and affects women and men differently according to the particular gender roles and relations within a specific community. Other aspects of identity make individual women's experience vary markedly from others. However, women have been estimated in one study to be seven times more likely than men to die in disasters, and to receive less aid (Bradshaw and Fordham 2013). In many countries of the world, women are more likely to be numbered amongst the poor, landless, and malnourished, and these existing vulnerabilities are enhanced when a disaster strikes. Many struggle in the aftermath of a disaster to maintain family life and reconstruct communities and cultures. They can be seen as 'victim-survivors' (Javadian 2007, 345), caring for and provisioning children and dependent relatives traumatized by disasters (Rees et al. 2005). Those women who have lost husbands in disasters will become sole providers for families.

In addition, gender inequality in social, economic and political spheres results in vast differences between men and women in emergency communication; household decisions about use of relief assets; voluntary relief and recovery work; access to evacuation shelter and relief goods; and employment in disaster planning, relief and recovery programs, among other areas of concern in disaster relief.

### **2.1.1. Sociology of Disaster**

Disasters are inherently social from how we define them, determine which risks taking or mitigating, place ourselves in danger, or determine how to respond and rebuild. Further, disasters are inherently sociological because inequality is at the heart of determining who and what is at most risk of property loss, injury, and death.

Sociology defines society as a unit of relationships with a structural values and role of these units. Sociologists define natural disasters as specific events that bring about hazards that threaten individuals or communities, either during the event or throughout the aftermath. Social Forces Shape the Causes, Courses, and Consequences of Every Disaster. As social scientists, our recognition of the importance of natural disasters is quickly tempered by the recognition that the causes, courses, and consequences of natural disasters always have a social dimension.

Thus, sociologists view the causes of disasters as: 1) the disaster agent itself—the hurricane, the flood, the dam; 2) the affected physical setting and related environmental features—whether the lower-than-sea-level bowl in which New Orleans sits or the hollow in which Buffalo Creek ran; 3) but, more importantly, the factors that affect people’s vulnerability: physical proximity, race, ethnicity, gender, age, knowledge, social and cultural capital, and government action (Schutt K Russel, 2010).

### **1.1.2. Gender and Disaster Management**

Gender issues in general have increasingly gained prominence and realization of importance (King and Mason 2001). It is acknowledge and address the gender issues regarding post disaster management is very much important to overcome the constraints. The idea that disaster has a feminine face is increasingly recognized among various stakeholders in the post disaster management. Nevertheless, women’s development and welfare are among the issues often given a lower priority by the governments. This particularly applies to times of crisis or disasters, where gender concerns are argued to be a luxury that can only be addressed subsequent to the more important matters (IFRC 2006).

Different studies on the different aspect of disaster impact on women have been carried out by different researcher but the study regarding the linkage between women and contribution of women in post disaster recovery has been carried out by limited researchers. Moreover, itis my keen interest to conduct this study since I am interested to examine the role and contribution of women in post disaster recovery at household and community level.

Reports from many disaster affected parts of Nepal reveal that even when women have had access to shelters, they have had to work harder than usual, and in defiance of their own safety imperatives, to gather fuel wood for cooking. Their special health needs, in fact especially those of pregnant and lactating women, are ignored. However, the relationship of women strengthening the groups most vulnerable to disasters is an essential part of building disaster-resilient communities. In addition, More women than men died due to earthquake as they were at home and often attempted to save their children over their lives implying greater vulnerability to women due to their gender roles. There were evident gaps observed in the availability of health services. There was also a gap in ANC after the earthquake which could

have adverse effects on women's reproductive health and childbirth (CBPS, 2016).

There are a number of causes which are primarily responsible for vulnerability of people and social structure as far as occurrence of a natural disaster is concerned (table 1)

**Table 1. The vulnerability of women and social structures**

<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Causes</b>
Material/economic vulnerability	Lack of Access to resources
Social vulnerability	Disintegration of social patterns
Ecological vulnerability	Degradation of the environment and inability to protect it
Organizational vulnerability	Lack of strong national and local institutional structures
Educational vulnerability	Lack of access to information and knowledge
Attitudinal and motivational vulnerability	Lack of public awareness
Political vulnerability	Limited access to political power and representation
Cultural vulnerability	Certain beliefs and customs
Physical vulnerability	Weak buildings or weak individuals

The increased vulnerability of women, though primarily due to biological reasons, is also associated with factors which are socially and culturally deeply rooted in the community. They have to face different situations at various stages of disaster. After the immediate post-disaster period when adequate relief did not pour in, they have been bartered for food. In the late post-disaster period, girls may be married off at a much younger age or wedded to older



persons, who may buy them under the guise of marrying them.

**Psychological Aspects** After a major disaster, it is seen that women are more prone to depression and other emotional disturbances. The psychological vulnerability of women predominantly arises from their inherent family instincts.

Thus, with trauma and stress added burden of duty and responsibility make the women more vulnerable to physical, mental and emotional stress. It is supposed that men, are stronger both physically and emotionally but it is evident that women are better capable of handling emotionally charged issues, physical pain, and stress.

Men think in the now, in present situation while women think more in the long term, big picture mode. When confronted with an emotional issue, women tend to look at how the resolution will affect those involved, while men usually look at the resolution itself as the end result. Men are more concrete thinkers, and women think on the emotional level due to differences in thought processes, women are better equipped psychologically to handle emotional situations than men.

Following a major disaster, women tend to lose the entire social support structure which they badly require. In the chaos and social breakdown that accompany natural disaster, women become exclusively vulnerable to sexual abuse, including rape and gang rape. Domestic violence also increases, with local authorities often failing to intervene in what may be perceived as a “personal matter.” Statistics on gender-based violence are always difficult to collect because many incidents are never reported, and that reality is magnified during disasters.

In addition, Women have to deal with the grief of having lost their spouse along with the burden of increased responsibility towards their surviving family with young children. In such a circumstance they have to take on new roles of bread earner and protector for which they might not be prepared both psychologically and physically (Gokhale, 2008). Various socio cultural consequences are graphically presented in the figure 1.

**Table 2: Socio-cultural Consequences**

Physical impact	Soreness, Sleep disturbance Eating disturbance Gynecological problems Injuries Miscarriages Aches and pains Physical impairments, Rape
Emotional impact	Anxiety, Fear, Humiliation Dreams and nightmares Degradation, Disbelief Listlessness Shame, Embarrassment Denial , Irritability, Anger
Socioeconomic impact	Dealing with new societal roles like being a widow, single parent, or head of house. Inability to work, Feeling isolated, Feeling stigmatized. Withdrawal from external life Loss of trust Disorganization and

## **2.2. Gender and post disaster recovery in Nepal**

The World Bank's definition of recovery refers to a process (decisions and actions) with the aim of returning to living conditions that were the same or better than before and also specifically includes the reduction of disaster risk in the definition:

[Recovery is defined as] decisions and actions taken after a disaster with a view to restoring or improving the pre-disaster living conditions of the stricken community, while encouraging and facilitating necessary adjustments to reduce disaster risk (The World Bank, 2006, p.x l ix).

In discussions of humanitarian relief, one issue that arises is whether the relief materials are benefitting both men and women equally. Dimitrijevic (2007) defined gender mainstreaming as a process of being conscious of the needs, concerns and abilities of all gender groups in all levels of planning and managing relief resources.

She identifies the need of integrating a gender perspective in every phase of disaster response. She asserts gender mainstreaming can be achieved by comparing the inclusion of a gender perspective per Maslow's hierarchy, that is to focus on gendered needs on each level of 15 needs theorized by Maslow. Parkinson (2011) identified the importance of society's perception of gender, for post-disaster response. Alam and Rahman (2014) found that gender

insensitive relief caused women various problems like lack of separate toilets, insufficient food supply, and unfair relief distribution. Ahmad (2012) asserts the importance of gender sensitivity in disaster preparation and response, and that this can save lives, help in proper distribution of aid and secure safety concerns arising in shelter areas.

Ayşe Yönder, Sengül Akçar and Prema Gopalan, in their paper “*Women’s Participation in Disaster Relief and Recovery*” write, “Disasters increase women’s household and care-giving work dramatically for an extended period of time as housing and social infrastructure once destroyed is slowly replaced. They require women to manage displaced households and restore family livelihoods. Yet post-disaster aid efforts generally ignore this reality and target male-headed households as the primary claimants for government and other support. Not only does this approach to aid ignore women’s joint claim on family assets, it also ignores the needs of women living apart from male-headed households and is largely indifferent to the income-generating roles that women do and must play. These biases substantially undermine prospects for household and community recovery. Gender-sensitive programming is essential during emergency relief. The central aim of disaster relief is to support and rebuild communities; what women do to keep their families and communities together in the critical moments after disaster occurs often is taken for granted. Protocols must be developed that value women’s priorities and contributions appropriately.”

A research study on *the impact of Nepal’s earthquake on women’s livelihood, housing, land and property rights and citizenship rights* by NDRI/UN Women explored that women face livelihood crisis after the disaster. a range of strategies were used to cope with the impact of the earthquake and maintain livelihoods. Borrowing money was the most prevalent strategy to maintain livelihood, adopted by majority of women in affected districts. The study further stated that the earthquake has affected more women, as they are more vulnerable and struggle to cope with and bounce back from the effects of the earthquake. Their high dependence on agriculture and lesser access to other livelihood opportunities, coupled with poor social, financial and physical capital, has led many women to a vulnerable state. In addition, their lower education on levels, limited decision-making powers and poor access to and control over property has made recovering from the earthquake challenging even for women from women headed households.

National Planning Commission also conducted a study on the *post disaster need assessment assessing the situation of vulnerability and response to earthquake*. The assessment in 2015 detailed the impact of disaster in diverse strata of society and state. The report explored that The disadvantaged social groups in the poorer districts have suffered the largest damage and loss. The majority of the agricultural and informal sector workers are female due to the low capital entry requirement of the informal sector and lack of livelihood options. The widespread loss of food stocks, potential loss in crop productivity and loss of livestock as well as small scale enterprises will likely cause a severe income shock for women who rely on this sector. A narrow asset base, burden of domestic work, limited access to economic resources combined with the lack of alternate livelihoods also mean that recovery for women may take longer than for men who have more livelihood options. The housing sector, which is the hardest hit, has a bearing on gender equality and social inclusion. Women, Dalits and some ethnic groups have limited ownership of land, which could hinder their participation in the housing recovery programme and the benefits accruing from them. Senior citizens, female-headed households and people living with disabilities (PLWDs) have also been heavily affected as many do not have the means to reconstruct their houses. The destruction of water supply and sanitation facilities will have a direct negative impact on women and girls as they will now have to fetch water from greater distance. The work burden on women, and the disproportionate cost borne by them in the household economy, not only limits the time they can spend in economic activities but restricts them spatially and culturally to activities that are compatible with their domestic obligations...(NPC, GON 2015).

Another study by Sangita Thebe Limbu, London school of economics (2016) about *Women in disaster: Gendered vulnerabilities and intersecting identities in the wake of the Nepali earthquakes* supported the feminist perspective of social vulnerabilities. She summarized the concept of the disaster sociologist Elaine Enarson's argument that gendered vulnerability is derived from intersecting identities and social relationships. This focus on intersectionality (which refers to how experiences of oppressions are shaped through interactions of different power relationships) is important and in the post-disaster reconstruction phase, it should be a key in identifying 'the most vulnerable groups' and how resources can be allocated not only to meet their immediate needs but also to address their systemic exclusion. There is no doubt the earthquakes have affected all social groups; however, the impacts of the earthquakes

remain particularly severe for communities who remain historically underrepresented in political, social and economic sphere (Limbu, 2016). Vulnerability is ‘a result of the entrenched inequalities of class, caste, and region that have benefited a small section of our society.’ I would add gender to the equation and argue that intersectional identities and differential experiences of vulnerabilities need to be taken into account to make post-disaster reconstruction process inclusive and transformative.

### **2.3. Political and Historical Roots to disaster**

Many sociologists and scholars discuss oppose the Idea of disaster as only a natural phenomenon. Beyond the set phenomenon, many of them emphasized to analyze the impact of disaster in the light of historical process of state and society building. One of them is Paul Farmer, whose popular book "Haiti after Earthquake, 2010" shed on the light on new discourse on this issue.

Dr. Paul Farmer discusses the massive earthquake that destroyed much of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in January 2010, killing hundreds of thousands of people. In *Haiti After the Earthquake*, Farmer describes the suffering and resilience he encountered while treating the injured in Haiti. He explores the social problems that made Haiti so vulnerable to the earthquake-the issues he says make it an "unnatural disaster."

Describing the situation and post recovery initiation in Haiti after dreadful earthquake, medical anthropologist and Dr. Paul Farmer insisted to relate disaster impact and coping strategy with the existing social structure which has long roots of development. He argued that;

In the years before it, we saw that Haiti had become a veritable "Republic of NGOs," home to a proliferation of goodwill that did little or nothing to strengthen the public sector. Thus did clinics sprout up without much aid to the health system; thus did schools arise by the hundreds even as the Ministry of Education faltered; thus did water projects appear even as water security (like food security) was enfeebled (Paul,2010).

With this, Paul Farmer accused the existing development process an Aid mechanism that has been working in Haiti as a major responsible factor to the vast loss of people and materials. Taking account the Haiti's history and politics and mixed it into the details about the earthquake and some of the aftermath, Paul farmer critically examine the effectiveness of AID in Haiti which could not make any account when the deadly earthquake hits all the sphere of Haiti.

However, Paul's examine of post disaster recovery process got criticism as it minimize the role of government emphasizing that Non-Governmental actors should be the prime actor for disaster recovery and support. His argument Relief and reconstruction funds cannot go to government agencies or to rebuild government infrastructure; instead, they must be funneled into NGOs cannot be acceptable for many who critically taken the role of NGOs in humanitarian work.

In addition, Since Paul's profession is associated with public and clinical health the book more focused on the Haitian political system and Aid and Health service distribution rather taking account the gender mainstreaming in relief work.

The political, social, and economic frameworks within which different groups of people exist determine how they interact with their environment and environmental risk. Some may, due to financial circumstances, be forced to inhabit regions of high-susceptibility to disaster, while others may have to accept a physically dangerous job without health care compensation to enhance family incomes (Nicole, 2017). In these instances, the risks involved in people's daily lives are directly influenced by the political, social, and economic constraints placed upon them through historic processes of exclusion and exploitation.

Nicole Southard (2017) in a research book "The socio-political and economic cause of Disaster" further stated that by comprehending how power and agency may shape a community struck by disaster, one acquires a deeper appreciation for the socio-political root causes of people's vulnerability to disaster. Colonialism is one of the greatest examples of such processes. Vulnerability is thus centuries in the making.

The 1975 earthquake in Guatemala City is just one illustration of this insight. Here, colonial practices of indigenous exclusion and persecution forced the native populations into a state of

abject poverty. Severe discrimination and marginalization against the indigenous lasted far beyond the colonial era, however, and this caused a majority of indigenous Guatemalans to settle into shantytown hamlets along eroded, dangerous terrain. Naturally, it was this region that suffered the worst damages from the quake. Such histories illustrate why disaster analysis must acknowledge how vulnerability is structured through people's mundane daily existence. Systematic interactions between social, environmental, political, economic, and institutional actors play an integral part in defining the allocation and distribution of resources across society through a diverse chain of temporal and geographic spheres (Suman, O'Keefe, Wisner)..

## **2.4. Conclusion**

The literature review suggests that earthquake is a natural process but its impact depends upon the existing social structure. With this, the literature shows that marginalized and socially excluded or having less power and control over resources and decision-making processes are most affected by disaster. Literature explores ways women are vulnerable to disasters. These reasons include their physical difference with men, gendered roles in the household, and patriarchal culture where women depend on husbands for major decision-making processes.

The literature explores ways gendered needs like needs during pregnancy, lactation, family planning, needs of the elderly population are not considered in the planning of disaster response. These might occur due to various reasons such as the lack of women's participation in the planning of disaster and distribution of the services. Also, during post-disaster situations, the roles of men and women might change, which might change social conditions where women can make major family decisions.

These decision-making processes might not have been the case in a normal scenario. It is also important to acknowledge that the impact of various groups of people differs from place to place, and there is a very limited study conducted on the disaster impacts on women and that of women in Nepal. The literature also suggests the need for more sociological comprehensive research on the impact of a disaster on women through a gender perspective. This study is to provide a gendered lens to exploring women's experiences after the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal.

## **Chapter III: Research Methodology**

### **3.1 Theoretical Framework**

The research follows some of the sociological theories that emphasized on the construction of gender in the society and perspective needs to change. Among the many sociological perspectives, the following two theories will guide the research study.

#### **3.1.1 Feminist Standpoint theory**

Feminist standpoint theorists make three principal claims: (1) Knowledge is socially situated. (2) Marginalized groups are socially situated in ways that make it more possible for them to be aware of things and ask questions than it is for the non-marginalized. (3) Research particularly that focused on power relations should begin with the lives of the marginalized. Feminist standpoint theory, then, makes a contribution to epistemology, to methodological debates in the social and natural sciences, to philosophy of science, and to political activism. It has been one of the most influential and debated theories to emerge from second-wave feminist thinking. Feminist standpoint theories place relations between political and social power and knowledge center-stage. These theories are both descriptive and normative, describing and analyzing the causal effects of power structures on knowledge while also advocating a specific route for enquiry, a route that begins from standpoints emerging from shared political struggle within marginalized lives.

Feminist standpoint theories emerged in the 1970s, in the first instance from Marxist feminist and feminist critical theoretical approaches within a range of social scientific disciplines. They thereby offer epistemological and methodological approaches that are specific to a variety of disciplinary frameworks, but share a commitment to acknowledging, analyzing and drawing on power/knowledge relationships, and on bringing about change which results in more just societies.

Feminist standpoint theorists such as sociologists Dorothy Smith and Patricia Hill Collins, political philosophers Nancy Hartsock and Alison Jaggar, sociologist of science Hilary Rose, and philosopher of science Sandra Harding extended and reframed the idea of the standpoint of the proletariat to mark out the logical space for a feminist standpoint.



These theorists have advocated taking women's lived experiences, particularly experiences of (caring) work, as the beginning of scientific enquiry. Central to all these standpoint theories are feminist analyses and critiques of relations between material experience, power, and epistemology, and of the effects of power relations on the production of knowledge.

Standpoint theory as Sandra Harding (2004) argues brings a new perspective in understanding difficult problems and creating new knowledge. It helps to collect the experience of women in a scientific way following research disciplines. It is a way of vesting power on marginalized groups, acknowledging their unique experiences (Collins, 2002). According to Harding, because women occupy a marginalized position in the society, their experiences are limited to understanding by those on the top of the social hierarchy. In contrast, if the power relation is studied from the women's perspective, it will provide a better understanding of the way social power functions.

As Harding further explains, if knowledge is considered situated socially, then situating the knowledge based on a dominant or dominated group will help understand the situation of either group. That is if we are considering the domination of the dominated group, and situate knowledge on the dominated group, it will help identify the scope of oppression, which can be further used in an advantage of the dominated group. Based on standpoint theory, this research attempts to situate knowledge from the women who experienced the impact of the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal. According to Harding, (1992) stressing on the experience of women, as a marginalized group is conducive to discussing their lived experience and will help develop new knowledge.

### **3.1.2 Marxists Feminism**

Among the feminist perspective, Marxist-feminism, as a body of knowledge and practice, provides insight on the complex interconnectedness of patriarchy and socio-economic formations. Marxist Feminism theory believes that women's oppression is a symptom of a more fundamental form of oppression. The theory stated that root cause of woman's oppression should be look deeper in the historical development of society through materialistic perspective. The class divisions to be the main cause of woman oppression rather than sexism. Meanwhile, in the book entitle Feminist thought, Tong (96) argues that

Marxist Feminism theory believe that the oppression over women is actually a product of political, social, and economic constructs existed in the society.

Engels's book 'The Origin of Family, Private Property and the State', written in 1884, was the first systematic attempt to analyse women's subjugation in a comprehensive manner and to look for its 'determinants' in history and linkages to the material causal factors. On the whole, Engels has influenced many feminist theoreticians, attempting to construct the theory of origin of women's subjugation. Marxist feminists believe that men's control of economic resources develops with settled society and the development of separate spheres of life for the two sexes. In capitalist societies, women become segregated into the domestic sphere and men into the outer world of paid work. Economic and social inequality between the sexes increased and womens' subordination in marriage, the family and in society in general intensified becoming a classic case of Marxist Feminism.

Thus, Marxists feminist theory could be a powerful analytical and political tool for understanding and changing patriarchal relations of domination which has direct significant impact on earthquake response and impact of disaster in society. Further it will also helpful to understand the women's position in post disaster decision making process, livelihood and ownership over the post-earthquake settlement where male are more dominant in all aspect of recovery process.

### **3.2 Description of Study Area:**

Sindhupalchok is one of the worst-affected districts as a result of the earthquake that took place on the 25th April. The initial epicenter of the earthquake was in Gorkha district, the highest magnitude (6.7) aftershock took place in Sindupolchok district 17km south of Kadari (USGS 2015). As of 7 May, 3057 people were dead and 860 are injured. 3000 people remain unaccounted for. According to district authorities 63,885 houses are severely and 2,751 houses are moderately damaged. Based on government reporting on damaged houses as of 6th May an estimated 109,000 people (Ministry of Home Affairs 7th May) are affected (40% of district population as per the 2011 Census).

Around 90,000 people have been identified as in need of assistance based on reporting at the

VDC level. This figure is however unconfirmed and represents merely a preliminary estimate based on a combination of reports from a range of sources providing information on needs at the VDC.

At the time of writing aid has arrived in areas in the south east which have unobstructed access from Kathmandu. Buildings in these areas are less damaged than in other parts of the district. In the belt to the north of this well accessible area including Chautara, the district capital, damages are greater. In these areas there is higher population density and major landslides have blocked roads. Chautara municipality experienced a great amount of destruction, while much of its surrounding settlements have reportedly been flattened (ACTED 30/04/2015).

The disaster had adverse impact on every sector of society. However, women are more affected than any other strata of the society as of their socio-cultural dominant position in the society. Women are especially hard-hit by the social impacts of environmental disasters. Existing inequalities are the root cause of women's disaster vulnerability. Global forces and social changes placing more people at greater risk of disaster also disproportionately impact women.

Sindhupalchok is one of the 77 districts in Nepal located in the north part of Nepal bordering China. It has an area of 2,542 sq. km and total population of 66,688 HH or 287,798 people (2011 census). According to the new federal boundaries of Nepal it belongs to the province no. 3. There are three municipalities Chautara Sangachowkgadi Municipality (10 VDCs), Melamchi Municipality (10 VDCs) and Barabise Municipality (7 VDCs) along with nine Gaupalika (Rural Municipality), IndrawotiGaupalika(7 VDCs), JyugalGaupalika (6 VDCs), PachhpokhariThangpalGaupalika (8 VDCs), BalephiGaupalika (4 VDCs), BhoteKoshiGaupalika (4 VDCs), LisankhupakharGaupalika (6 VDCs), SunkoshiGaupalika (6 VDCs), HelambuGaupalika (5 VDCs) and Tripura SundariGaupalika (6 VDCs).

On 25 April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal causing massive destruction and severe loss of lives. Two weeks later, another earthquake of 7.3 magnitude shook the country.

The earthquakes caused around 8,896 deaths, destroyed more than 600,000 houses and

another 290,000 houses were damaged. Out of Nepal's 77 districts, 14 districts which were home to 5.4 million Nepalese people were severely affected. Sindhupalchok district was one of the most severely affected districts in Nepal with total number 3,557 deaths (40 per cent of the total in Nepal) recorded. The earthquakes have heightened pre-existing vulnerabilities and are expected to significantly stunt the development progress of the district. Chautara Sangachowkgadi is a municipality in Sindhupalchok District in the Bagmati Zone of central Nepal. The municipality was established on 18 May 2014 by merging Pipaldanda, Chautara, Kubhinde, and Sanusiruwari Village Development Committees as Chautara Municipality. Later on 2017 it was expanded again merging Sangachok, Thulosirubari, Kadambas, Irkhu, Batase and Syaule VDC to form Chautara Sangachowkgadi Municipality. It is now divided to 14 wards. This is the district headquarters of the Sindhupalchok District.

The municipality stands at the elevation of approximately 1,600 m above sea level. Religious and cultural festivities form a major part of the lives of people residing in Chautara. There are people of various religious beliefs, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity as well, giving Chautara a cosmopolitan culture. Nepali is the most commonly spoken and Newari and Tamang also spoken in the settlement in population. The largest ethnic groups are Tamang, Sherpa, Newar, Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung, Magars, etc.

### **3.3. Data collection:**

Both, the primary as well as secondary data were collected through various approaches.

#### ***3.3.1 Primary data collection***

**Household survey:** The basic objective of the HH survey was to collect the information on Caste/gender of HH; main income source; agricultural realities; household head; decision making at household level. Altogether 40 households in one ward were selected purposely and female member from each household were chose purposely for face to face interview. The purpose of HH survey also served to understand the perception of empowerment of women members in the family. A set of questionnaire of both qualitative and quantitative nature for HH survey was prepared. This included the sections of demographic data, agricultural realities,

migration, financial resources of the household, involvement in community groups, earthquake effect in the household, household expenses, women's role in household recovery and community development after earthquake.

**Case study:** Case study allows systematic investigation and most suitable strategy for these types of study because the issue was 'women's participation in Post- Disaster Recovery' and the experiences of women were presented as cases. Therefore this research has been presented as a case study to analyze the women's role in post disaster recovery.

**Observation:** During the field visit of research sites, observation and field notes were done for the general information of geographical area, social structure overview of village culture, lifestyle of people, agriculture, gender roles, and norms after the earthquake in research sites.

The guidelines for observation included family's physical setup including their environment, food pattern, language and belongings. Also the level of interaction among the villagers, support systems among the villagers were considered. This helped to gain the insight beyond what the people said or reported.

**Focus Group Discussion:** Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were carried out to explore the overall effect of earthquake and the role of women in post disaster recovery in study area. To ensure the adequate responses related to earthquake effect and women's involvement in post disaster recovery two FGDs with women and men group separately will conducted in the research area.

### **3.3.2 Secondary data collection**

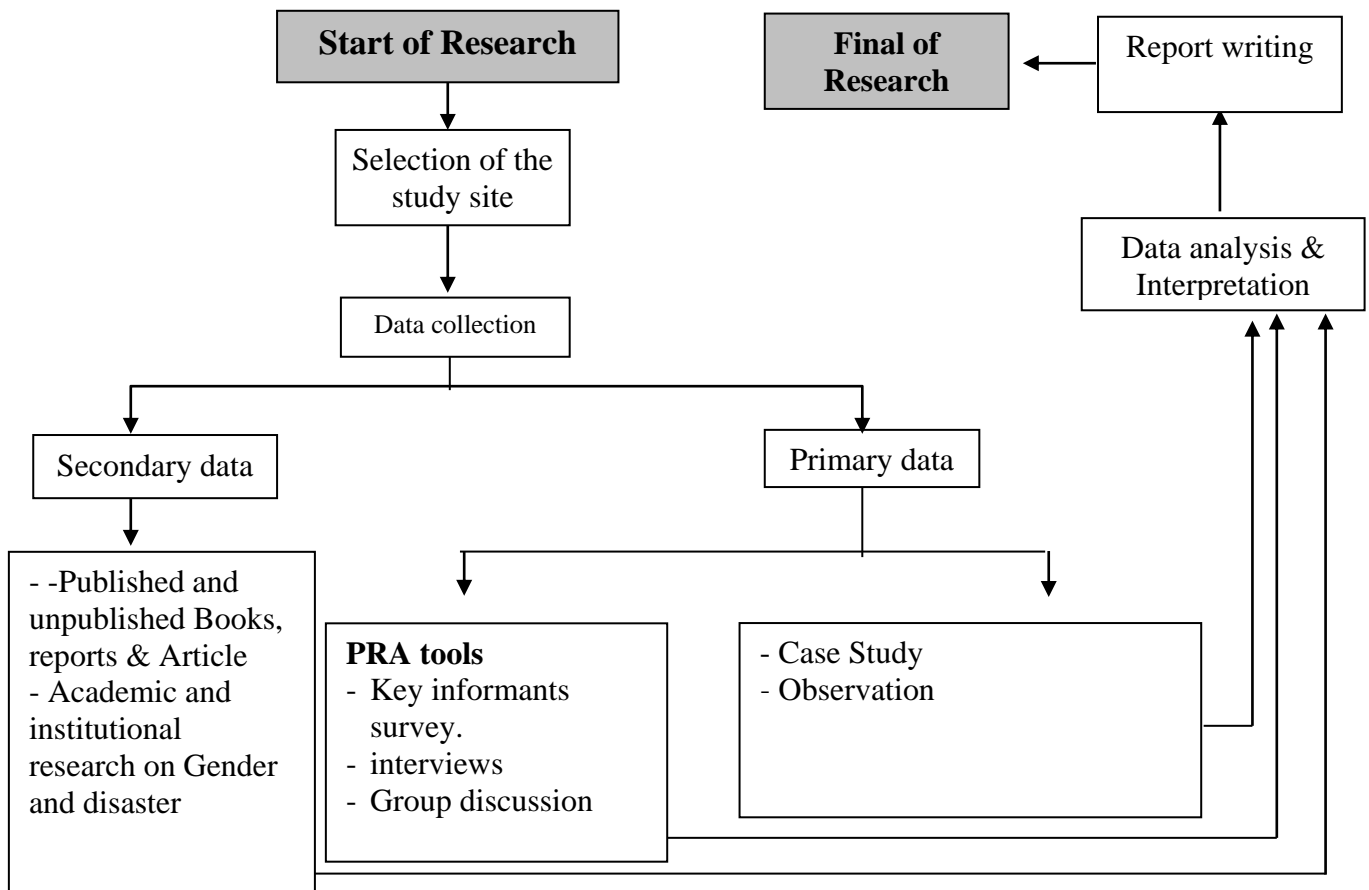
Secondary data were collected from published and unpublished report of various institution and relevant as well as other published and unpublished relevant literature related to disaster, and web sites linkages gender and disaster.

## **3.4 Outline of Data Analysis:**

The data used in this thesis is both qualitative and quantitative. The quantitative data has

been analyzed by using descriptive statistical tools i.e. percentage and presentation that is carried out through table, chart etc. Computer based program MS EXCEL has been used to analyze quantitative data.

The broad outline of the methodology is presented below:



## Chapter IV: Data Analysis

### 4.1. Women in post-disaster Response

In this Chapter, an analysis of data obtained from the field surveyed is described according to the nature of the information. The findings are based on the study conducted in ward no. 6 of Chautara Sangachowkgadi Municipality taking 40 household as a sample for the interview. The interview was taken with female member of the household to get the overall information about the status of women and women's contribution in household recovery and community development after earthquake.

### 4.2. Demographic characteristics

A brief overview of the social and demographic characteristics of the respondents is provided under this topic. These characteristics are explained in terms of their age, caste/ ethnicity, marital status, educational status, family income, household head and decision making. All the analysis was carried out based on the 40 households.

#### 4.2.1. Caste/ Ethnicity:

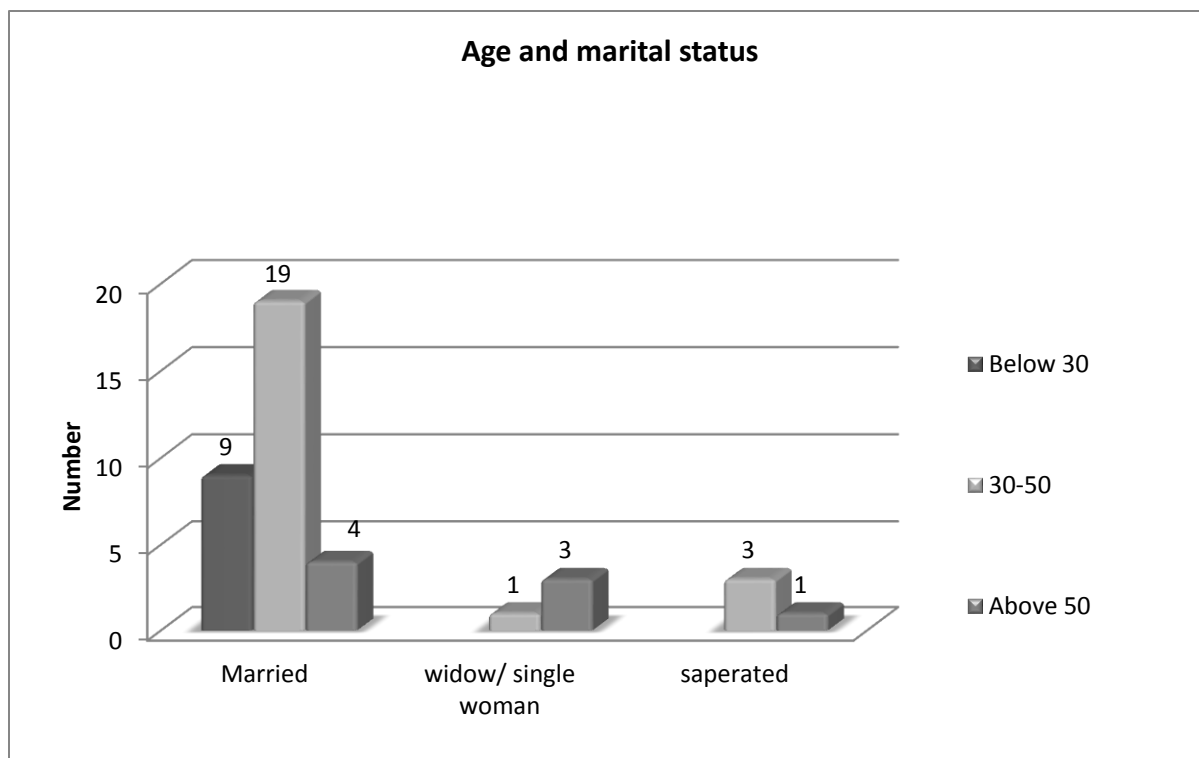
The caste/ ethnicity of the respondents were organized into four different categories (Brahmin, Chhetri, Janajati and Dalit). The highest numbers of respondents were Chhetri (45 per cent) and the lowest numbers of respondents were Brahmin (7 per cent). Similarly, 30 per cent of the respondents were from Janajati community and 18 per cent respondents belong to Dalit community.

<b>Janajati</b>	<b>Dalit</b>	<b>Brahmin</b>	<b>Chherti</b>
12 %	7%	3%	18%

*Table 3: Caste and Ethnicity/Field survey, 2028*

#### 4.2.2. Age and marital status:

The age and marital status of the respondents of the study area are given in the figure. The age of the respondents ranges from 20 year to 70 year in which the highest numbers of the



**Figure 2: Caste and Ethnicity/Field survey, 2028**

respondents were from economically active age group i.e. 30 to 50 age group. The Figure shows that 80 percent of the respondents were married. In which the number of respondent between 30 to 50 age groups is high.

Similarly, the number of single women is 10 percent and 10 percent of the respondents are separated from their husband mostly due to second marriage of their husband. The figure also shows that the age group of the widow/single women and separated women belongs to above 30 age groups.

**4.2.3. Educational Status:**

The literacy status of the respondents is organized into five categories that are illustrated in below table. About 20 per cent of total respondents were illiterate, among which the number of Janajati is high. The illiterate respondent’s age is 30 and above. According to District Coordination Committee’s Information Officer, Sindhupalchok district has been declared as full literate district but the study shows that more study and efforts is needed for the education of the people.



<b>Literate</b>	<b>Primary Education</b>	<b>Illiterate</b>
37.5%	17.5%	30%

**Table 4: Age and marital status/Field Survey, 2018**

The table shows that 37.5 per cent of the respondents were literate but most of them have not attended formal education as most of them can write their names only.

The data explored the fact that About 17.5 per cent respondents have obtained primary education while 10 per cent of the respondents from Chhetri and Janajati community have obtained secondary level education. 15 per cent of the respondents have obtained higher secondary level education i.e. up to twelve classes though the respondents from Dalit community have only obtained up to primary level education. The detail of educational status according to caste/ ethnicity is given in below table.

**Table 5: Educational status of the respondents according to caste/ethnicity**

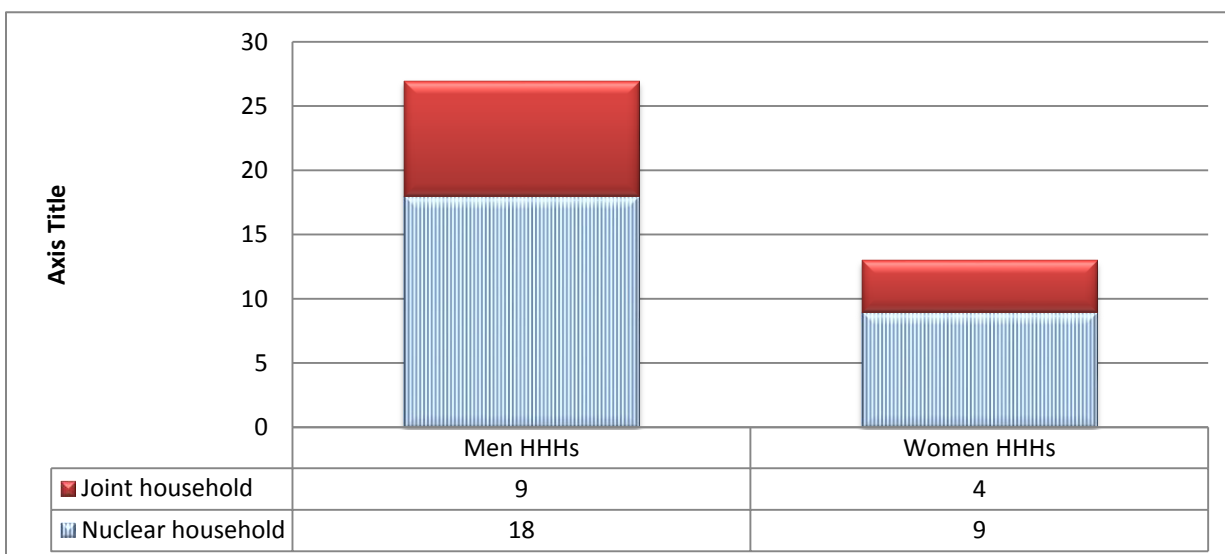
<b>Caste/ Ethnicity</b>		<b>Illiterate</b>	<b>Literate</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Higher Secondary</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Brahmin</b>	N	1	1			1	3
	%	33.3	33.3			33.3	
<b>Chhetri</b>	N	2	7	3	2	4	18
	%	11.1	38.8	16.6	11.1	22.2	100
<b>Janajati</b>	N	3	5	1	2	1	12
	%	25	41.6	8.3	16.6	8.3	100
<b>Dalit</b>	N	2	2	3			7
	%	28.5	28.5	42.8			100
<b>Total</b>	N	8	15	7	4	6	40
	%	20	37.5	17.5	10	15	100

**Source: Field Survey 2018**

#### 4.2.4. Family type and size:

Most of the family types (67.5 per cent) were found to be nuclear and rest (32.5 per cent) households were joint family types. About 45 per cent of nuclear families and 22.5 per cent joint families were found to be headed by men where 22.2 per cent nuclear families and 10 per cent joint families were headed by women.

The highest number of households having a nuclear family type was Chhetri community (27.5 per cent) followed by the Janajati (17.5 per cent) and Dalit (17.5 per cent) community. The highest households having joint family types belong to Chhetri (17.5 per cent), Janajati (12.5 per cent) and Brahmin (2.5 per cent).

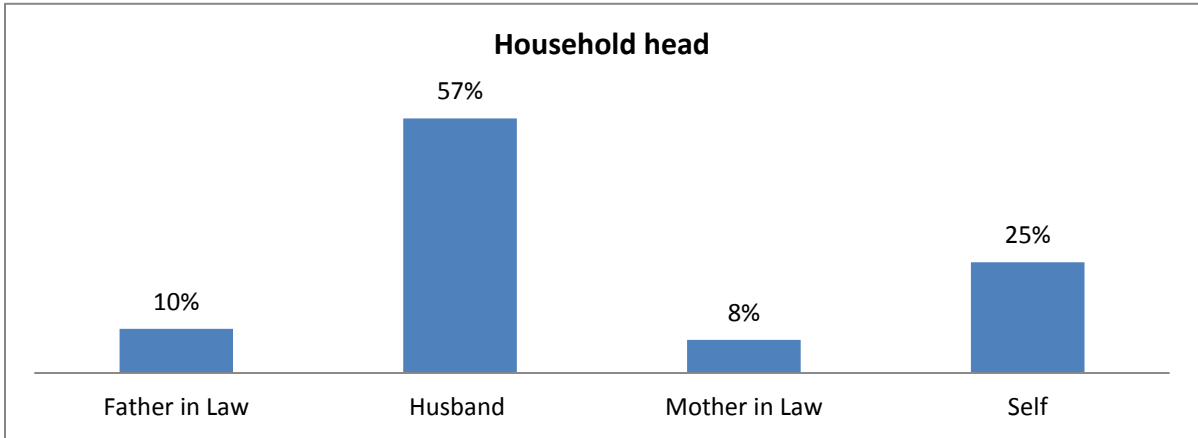


**Figure 1: household heads according to family types/ Field Survey 2018**

The number of nuclear families was observed to increase after the earthquake due to splits in family members to enable them to obtain relief funds separately for their respective families. The average household size was found to be five.

The maximum household size was 10 and the minimum was one. According to the CBS census of 2011, the highest family size is four whereas this study shows the highest family size to be five which is slightly higher than the national average (CBS, 2011)

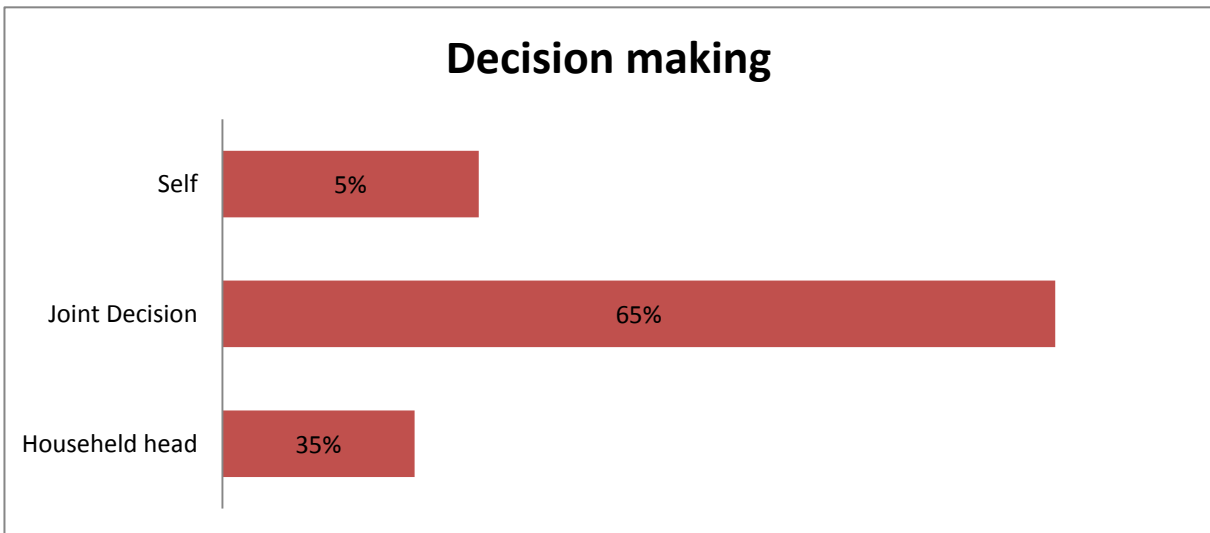
#### 4.2.5. Household head and decision making Process:



*Figure 2: household heads/ Field Survey 2018*

Among the total households 67 percent households were men headed in which 57 percent are husband and 10 percent father- in –law. Likewise, 33 per cent households were headed by women where 25 per cent households are headed by the respondents of the study and 8 per cent by the mother- in- law.

The study found out that in decision making 65 per cent households have joint decisions in



*Figure 3: Decision making in the household/ Field Survey 2018*

presence of all the eligible members of the house. Similarly, in 35 per cent households the household head have the sole role in decision making of the household where 20 per cent are

the respondents of the study and 15 per cent are the men household head. Some of the respondents also said that they are the decision makers in the household although not being the household head as their husbands have gone out for employment opportunity.

#### 4.2.6. Family income sources

Annual income of the respondent family ranges from six thousand to six lakh in which the family having up to one lakh annual income is 40 per cent, 35 per cent have between above one lakh and three lakh annual income and 25 per cent family have above three lakhs annual income. The annual household income is also determined by the family members who earn for the family. The study discovers that 62.5 per cent of the households have only one earning member in the family, 30 per cent have two earning members, 5 per cent have three earning members and 2.5 per cent household have four earning members in the family.

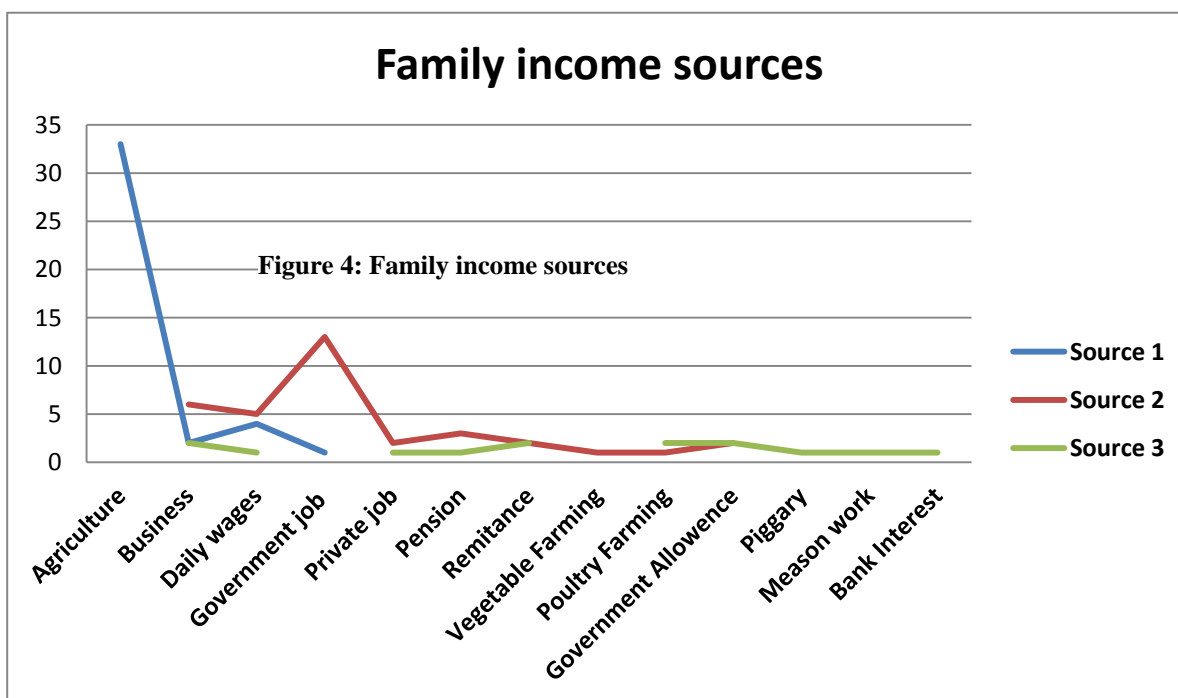


Figure 7: Status of Family Income sources/Field Survey 2018

The study discovers that 12.5 per cent of the households headed by women depend on daily wages as the only one source of income. Around 52.5 per cent household have two income sources. The number of household having three income sources is 35 per cent. The study shows that maximum number i.e. 82.5 per cent of the household's main income source is agriculture which is also the first income source while rest 17.5 per cent households have

business like retail shop, cosmetic shop, hotel etc., daily wages and government job as first income source. The second highest income source of the respondent's household is government job because it is a regular income source. The details of the sources of income are illustrated in the table given below as well.

<b>Family Income Sources</b>			
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Source 1</b>	<b>Source 2</b>	<b>Source 3</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	33		
<b>Business</b>	2	6	2
<b>Daily wages</b>	4	5	1
<b>Government job</b>	1	13	
<b>Private job</b>		2	1
<b>Pension</b>		3	1
<b>Remittance</b>		2	2
<b>Vegetable Farming</b>		1	
<b>Poultry Farming</b>		1	2
<b>Government Allowances</b>		2	2
<b>Piggery</b>			1
<b>Mason work</b>			1
<b>Bank Interest</b>			1
<b>Total</b>	40	35	14

*Table 6: Family income sources/Field survey 2018*

### **4.3. Situation after earthquake**

#### **4.3.1. Effect of earthquake on houses and human casualties:**

Among the total sampled household 82.5 per cent of the houses were completely destroyed and 17.5 per cent houses were partially destroyed in the earthquake. Majority of the houses that is completely destroyed in the study area due to earthquake was made with stone and mud. Although the devastating earthquake destroyed the concrete houses as well.

According to the respondents those houses which are not destroyed in the first day of the earthquake were completely destroyed in second day killing even more people than first day. Due to the earthquake 15 per cent of the household lost the family member among which

83.3 per cent is women member and rest is men member. Majority of the family member who lost their life in earthquake are senior citizens who need others help to move from one place to another and couldn't move fast to save themselves like other members of the family. Similarly women and one is teenage girl who are doing household chores also lost their life.

#### 4.3.2. Status of shelter:

After the earthquake majority of the households (67.5 per cent) were living in a self-made

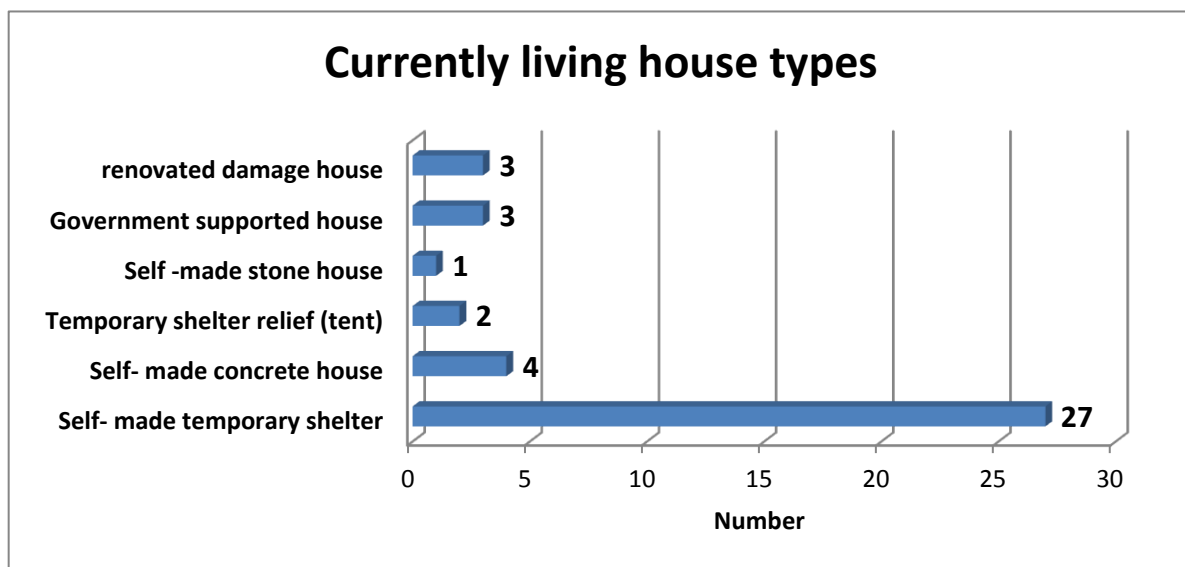


Figure 5: Currently living house types/field survey, 2018

temporary shelter made of wood with tin roof while 5 per cent of the households are still living in the temporary shelter (tent) provided as relief. Similarly, 10 per cent living in self-made concrete house, 7.5 per cent have built their house using the government supported money, 7.5 per cent family are living in the renovated damaged house and 2.5 per cent of the family are living in the self-made stone house.

#### 4.3.3. Post Disaster coping strategy of the household

After the devastating earthquake almost all the interviewed households except one got aid either as food items, shelter materials or cash as well. The respondent family which did not get the support told that her family was not in situ at the time of earthquake. She has gone to live with her husband in Kathmandu where he was doing his job.

The study discovers that although the households received some aid there is variation in the received aid. Those families having more access to information about relief distribution got more aid than families with less access to the information. All the interviewed households received food items as relief immediately after earthquake. About 67.5 per cent respondents said that their family received food item, tent, zinc sheet and 7500/- cash in relief after the earthquake among which 18 households received the cash for only one time while 7 households received the cash for six months and one household for four months.

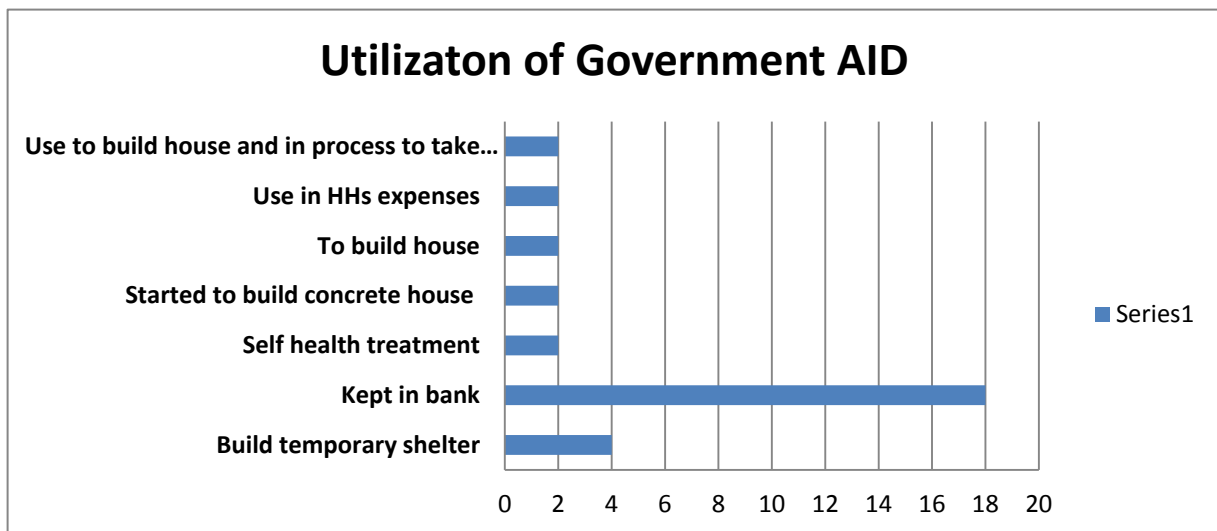
The reasons behind the difference in cash distribution are related with poverty and vulnerability of the benefited households. About 58.9 per cent of the respondents mostly living in the joint family said that the provided relief was not sufficient for the family and 41 per cent of the family mostly who received cash for six months said that the received relief was sufficient for their family. 7.5 percent women headed households have nothing to sell due to poverty whereas one respondent said that she sold her 2 *tola* gold jewelry to build the house.

Similarly, one household have sold the land, one household kept land in bank as collateral to take loan and one household sold their livestock to build the shelter. Foreign employment also helped some of the households to cope with earthquake. Family members from around 12.5 per cent households have gone for foreign employment before earthquake from two households and after earthquake from three households. The remittance those households have received after earthquake was from twenty thousand up to five lakhs. The respondents from those households said that income from foreign employment very much helped to fulfill the needs of the family after earthquake.

#### **4.3.4. Status and utilization of government aid in house building:**

About 80 per cent of the household have received first installment of Rs. 50000/- from the government support till 10 June, 2017 while 20 per cent haven't received due to various reason like having another house, women who live separately from their husband couldn't claim that money as the destroyed house is not in their name and family who are living in joint family and separated after earthquake also couldn't claim the money and some migrated

family also having problem to claim the money because their documents shows that their permanent address is elsewhere but they have nothing left in their previous address. Among the households that received first installment of government aid majority (56.25 per cent) of the households have kept the received amount in bank saying that it is not enough and they are trying to save enough amount to start house building.



*Figure 6: Utilization of government aid/ field survey, 2018*

Similarly, 12.5 per cent family have built temporary shelter using that money, 12.5 per cent family have built house using the money in which two family was in process of taking remaining installment from the government and 6.25 per cent of the family have just started to build concrete house till 10 June, 2017. Although the government has provided this aid just to build house during the study it was discovered that that money was used for other purpose as well. About 6.25 per cent family has utilized the received amount for household use and 6.25 per cent of the respondent said that they used the received amount in their health treatment.

#### **4.3.5. Women, Livelihood and Workload situation**

During the study about 52.5 per cent respondents said that their workload have increased after earthquake. This is much burdened to women than men. The reasons behind their increased workload are to clean up debris and to build house, takes more time in house cleaning and increased agricultural work as some of the family have burrowed land from



others or doing *adhiya* farming, doing small business, poultry farming for economic support of the family. 42.5 per cent said that there is no difference and the work is same as before earthquake and 5 per cent said that their workload has decreased because before earthquake they have many livestock and agricultural work but after earthquake they lost all their livestock and they are not doing their agricultural work as well.

#### 4.3.6. Highest spending priority of the HHs after earthquake

The study shows that the earthquake has huge impact in all the households as they lost their house, family members, livestock, and property. It's been already three years when this study

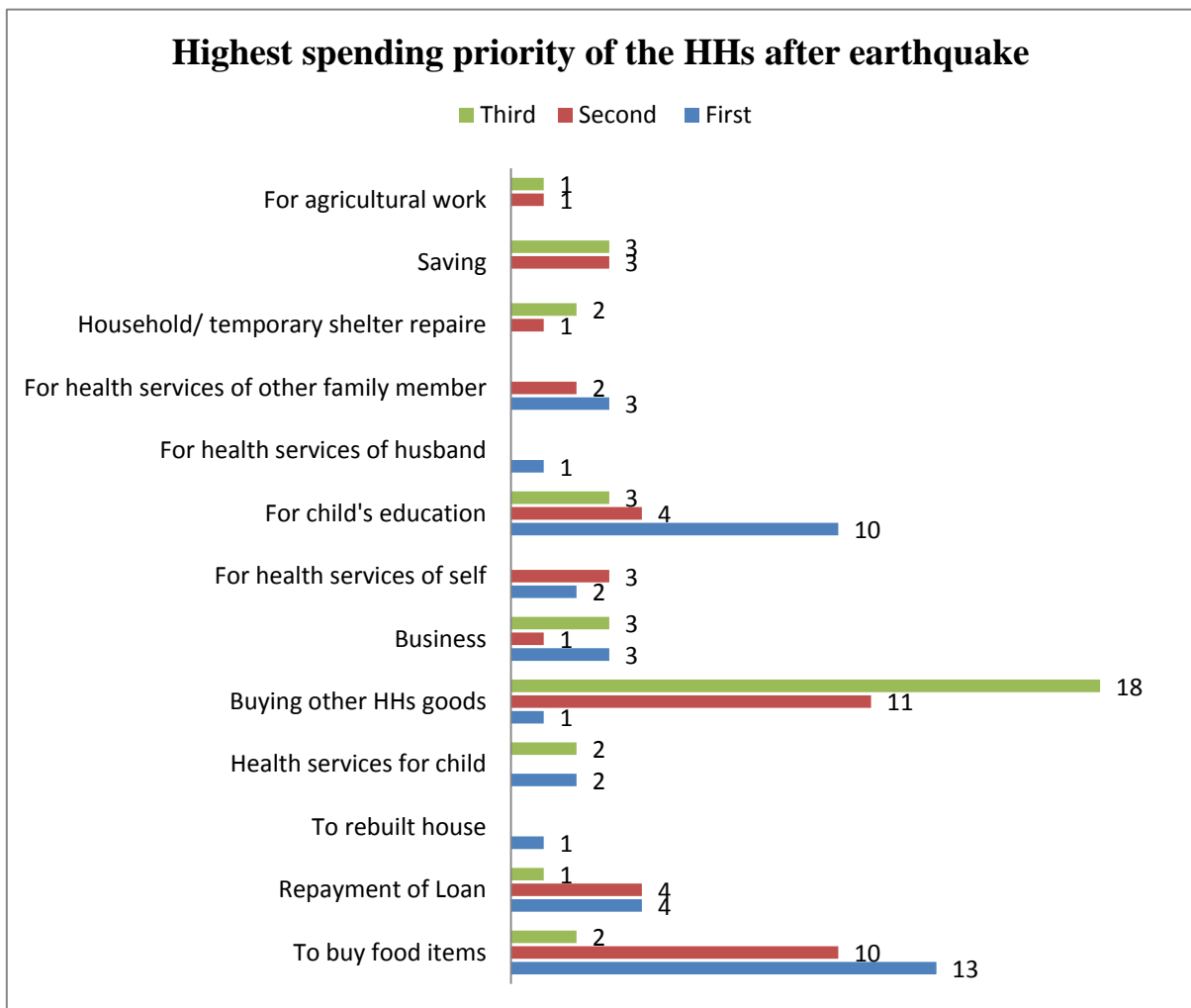


Figure 7: Highest spending priority of the HHs after earthquake/ field survey, 2018

was conducted and people are still struggling to return in the previous state. 77.5 per cent respondents said that their household has somewhat recovered after the earthquake.

Similarly, 17.5 per cent respondents said that their household has mostly recovered and they are living a normal life while 5 per cent of the household headed by women are still not recovered as they have to depend on daily wages to fulfill the basic needs of the family. The given figure illustrates the household's expenses in terms of priority of the family. It shows that majority (32.5 per cent) of the household's first expenses priority is to buy food items for the family and 25 per cent of the family's first expenses priority is for their child education. During the study it is discovered that all the family have sent their eligible child to school including girl child and girl child are not deprived of education after earthquake which shows the awareness among the parents about the importance of education. Therefore, they have given first priority to their child's education.

The household's expenses priority was determined by their family needs as well. Therefore the household's first priority was given to buy food items, education of children, health services of the family members, husband and self, repayment of loan, to build house and even for business as well. Mostly second and third expenses priority was given to buy HHs goods like cloths and other necessary things in the family other than food items.

#### **4.3.7. Public participation:**

The study revealed that out of the total number of households, women's participation in public entities like saving and credit group, cooperatives, women group, user's group etc. was around 65 per cent. There were numbers of women groups, cooperatives like Manushi women group, Clean village women group, Mahila bachat group, Dakchinkali mahila bachat samuha, Laghu udhyam bachat samahu, Ujalo sahakari, Vagwati mahila samuha, swabalamba bachat samuha, agriculture cooperative, Mahila jagaran samuha, Disable group, ex-army/police bachat samuha etc. The public participation of women was found to be increase after the earthquake although 35 per cent respondents were not involved in such groups.

Among them two respondents were unable to participate because they don't have citizenship and their husbands are reluctant to make citizenship of their wife. One respondent has just returned back after earthquake and one was unable to take participate due to illness. Public

participation of the respondents from men headed households was observed to be 47.5 per cent and 17.5 per cent from women headed households.

The study also observes women's participation in more than one group as well. The highest (30 per cent) number of the respondents was involved in one group, 17.5 per cent involved in two groups while 12.5 per cent were involved in three groups, one was involved in four groups and one was involved in five groups as well. The study also discovers that majority (i.e. 92.5 per cent) of the respondents are unaware when asked about the knowledge of disaster management committee. Only 7.5 per cent respondents were aware about the disaster management committee but they are not the member and one respondent has worked as social. More women were found to be actively participating in different groups like women groups, saving and credit groups, cooperatives, mother groups, users group.

#### **4.4. Women's role in household recovery and response**

Women plays vital role in household recovery. Key informant interviews and focus group discussion findings indicate that women have played very important role in household recovery. Immediately after earthquake they were actively involved in arranging food and shelter to the family members especially taking care of children, elderly and sick members of the household without thinking about themselves. Women headed households, single women and women whose husbands were gone out for employment struggle very much for the recovery of the households because they have to arrange everything by themselves.

*Geeta Baniya, 36 years old earthquake survivor of Jhigati tole lived in a self-made temporary shelter. She lost her grandmother-in-law in the earthquake. Her husband is in government job (police) so she mostly lived alone with her children who are below fifteen years old. She was alone with her children at the time of earthquake also. Her husband could not come to home immediately after earthquake because of his duty so she was responsible to take care of herself and her children. She handled all the works by herself as her husband came home only after 4 months. She herself arranged all the required materials to build temporary shelter and also helped to build as well because it was difficult to get manpower to build house at that time. She takes care of all household work, agriculture work and other works as well. Her husband used to help her when he came in vacation sometime. She was in process of arranging materials to build permanent house using government support in absence of her husband. Source: Field Survey, 2018*

There is full participation of women since the husbands have gone for foreign employment women are fully leading in taking relief materials, subsidy and making house. Women were especially involved in own house construction. Those women who received mason training were actively involved while building their own house and used to provide advices consciously to the workers about house building according to government rules.

Women role in household recovery was also determined by the support after earthquake she gets from the family members. Mostly women are responsible to take care of the family members after disaster and women themselves are in the least priority to be taken care of by the family. Therefore the study tried to find out support given to women by family members after earthquake from three aspects i.e. physical, economic and psychological.

The table illustrates the supports respondent gets from family members especially husband and men members of the family after earthquake. The study discovers that about 67.5 per cent of the respondents got all support from the family members immediately after earthquake but 15 per cent of the respondents mostly single women does not get any kind of support because three respondents are living alone and in case of rest one respondent's husband has gone for foreign employment and others have little children who themselves need care and protection. Likewise, in the case of remaining respondents they get either only one support or two supports. Among them one gets physical support, two of them gets economic support, one gets physical and economic support, one gets physical and psychological support and two of the respondents gets economic and psychological support only.

<b>Support from family members after earthquake</b>						
<b>Physical</b>	<b>Economic</b>	<b>All support</b>	<b>Physical &amp; economic</b>	<b>Physical &amp; psychological</b>	<b>Economic &amp; psychological</b>	<b>No support</b>
1	2	27	1	1	2	6
2.5 %	5 %	67.5 %	2.5 %	2.5 %	5 %	15 %

*Table 7: Support from family members after earthquake/Field Survey, 2018*

It is true that women have share in productive activities but this does not mean that they can escape from household activities. Women keep on doing work from the early morning to late evening. The reproductive activities like cooking, cleaning, washing, household maintenance, child caring, etc. all belong to women. Women manage their time to perform all the activities are productive, reproductive, social or agriculture related. The study discovers that almost all of the respondents supported in doing household work for the recovery of the household except one respondent who could not support her family in any way due to illness. Many women have taken economic burden for the household recovery. About 40 per cent of the respondents supported their family by doing household works and agricultural work.

According to the respondents it is very difficult to get workers to do agricultural work so they have to do all the work by themselves and some of them perform this task by doing *parma* work as well. one respondent have no one in the family to support her in agricultural work therefore she sold all the land and kept that money in bank and now she was fulfilling her household needs from the interest of the deposited money. Six respondents were doing labor work on daily wages for the family; five respondents are involved in small business like retail shop, cosmetic shop, hotel to financially support their family besides doing household work and agricultural work. Likewise three respondents have started poultry farming to fulfill the household needs, two of them are doing government job as teacher in the government school and one is working as peon in school which helped them very much in the household recovery.

The study discovers that women's physical, economic and psychological contribution was very crucial in recovery process of the household after earthquake. The respondents carefully take care of all family members' especially elderly people and children providing psychological support to them. This mental and psychological support of women to the family members not only helped to cope with disaster of earthquake but also encourage building strong connection among family members to overcome the disaster.

In terms of physical contribution these women were involve in doing all household work, agricultural work, debris clean up after the earthquake destroyed the house they were living, arranging materials, carry required materials and extend hands while making temporary

shelter as well. Almost all the respondents except one who is sick were involved in debris cleanup of the earthquake destroyed house, make space for the temporary shelter, doing all household works like cooking, washing, cleaning, doing agricultural works, carry stone and other materials to build shelter etc. About 50 per cent of the respondents have provided full physical contribution for the recovery of the household after earthquake.

Besides psychological contribution they have economic contribution for the recovery of the household. Around 42.5 per cent of the respondents provided both physical and economic contribution for their household recovery. One respondent sold her gold jewelry to fulfill household need and build shelter. Some of them took loans from the women saving and credit group in which they were members to build temporary shelter. Some of them are involve in small business like retail shop, hotel, cosmetic shop and poultry farming etc. to earn money. Some of them worked as labor on daily wages. Two of the respondents are the teachers and they expend all of their income for the household expenses. The effort of economic contribution of women for the household recovery will be cleared through the case given below as well.

*Anita Tamang, twenty eight years old women lived with her family in a self -made temporary shelter made with zinc after her house was completely destroyed in earthquake. She lives with her husband and son. She has full responsibility of the household because her husband has resigned from his job to seek carrier in politics. After her husband involved in politics she has to take care of not only household and child but also earn to run the household. Therefore she worked as social mobilizer under disaster management committee after earthquake for six months. Now, she runs a cosmetic shop to manage household expenses and expenses for her husband's political campaigns as well.*

*Source: Field Survey, 2018*

#### **4.5. Women's role in post-earthquake management.**

The findings of focus group discussion and key informant interview discover that there is praiseworthy participation of women after earthquake in case of Sindhupalchok district. The study shows that immediately after earthquake women participated to take relief materials because they were told that every member of the family should be present at that time. Later on women understand that to get some knowledge they have to participate by themselves in

meetings so they willingly make sure of their participation. Most of the men have gone for foreign employment therefore women's involvement in disaster related works has increased and the thought of unity in disaster among women has increased. Women are self-motivated and have participated in mason training making separate women group or in mixed group as well. Women show their keen interest to participate in the training but only few of them were involved as professional worker after the training.

In present situation as local structure has changed women participation is also increasing. Due to mandatory provision in policy 2-3 women in ward level and 8-10 women in municipality level have participated that is why women participation in policy level also increased. There is around 30% women participation in planning process. Women's involvement in meeting is increasing as most of the male members of the house are absent. Now in every sector there is an obligatory provision that Chairperson or Secretary must be women. The participation of women have increased in number than before. Effective and meaningful participation of women is also improving.

There are many groups led and effectively run by women mobilizing community. In case of Sindhupalchok women's active participation seems more though patriarchal society still doesn't let women to involve actively in society work. Women are given priority from community level, local level by the state in comparison to previous practice. Women have participated in ward citizen forum as coordinator. Increased women leadership in cooperative organizations can be seen and women are saving certain amount in women group or mother's group as well.

Women group organized cleaning campaign. Women were involved in community building construction after earthquake. Women's skills were used and women participation in reconstruction related trainings has increased. The participants of key informant interview said that there is 30 to 40% women are directly or indirectly involved in reconstruction process. They have participated in emergency phase and in reconstruction and recovery as well. .

The involvement of women in community development after the earthquake in the study area according to the respondents is mainly in debris clean up from road, temple, school and construction of school building, community building, and temple building etc. The respondents provided various answers about the involvement of women in community development after destruction of earthquake in the study area. About 15 per cent of the respondents said that they don't know about women's involvement in community development whereas 7.5 per cent respondents said they haven't seen women's involvement in community development after earthquake. About 22.5 per cent respondents said that women were involved in debris clean up from road, school and temple whereas 50 per cent respondents said that women were not only involved in debris clean up from road, school and temple but also involved in road construction, construction of community building, school, temple as well. 5 per cent of the respondents said that women were not allowed to work in community development by the society.

The study also tried to find out the respondent's personal contribution in community development after earthquake in the study area in which 40 percent of the respondents said that there was no contribution from their side as fourteen respondents said that their first priority is family and they were very much busy in their household work likewise one respondent's family does not allowed her to work for community development and one respondents have an infant child at home so she could not contribute in community development. About 20 per cent of the respondents were involved in debris cleanup in which two respondents were involve in debris clean up from rood, three of the respondents were involve in debris cleanup of school, one involve in debris cleanup from temple.

Around 17.5 per cent of the respondents involved in debris cleanup and road construction while 7.5 per cent were involved in temple reconstruction, two respondents were involve in debris cleanup and school building construction, one respondent involved in public awareness and road cleaning. Likewise one respondent being a Female Community Health Volunteer was involved in awareness rising to look after pregnant women and infant child, one respondent help to build neighbor house turn by turn. Meanwhile one respondent said that she could do nothing because society does not allow her to work in community development work after earthquake.



The study discovers that the people who were involved debris cleanup of school and temple were provided some incentives and they also get money while constructing school buildings and temple by the NGOs that work immediately after earthquake. These women were mostly involved in removing debris like stone, mud from the site to arrange place to build the temporary buildings for schools. They were also involved in carrying required materials to construct school buildings, temple etc. They also cleared all the debris from road so that everyone can have access to the earthquake affected place for relief distribution and other works as well.

The one of the main objective of the study was to find out the contribution of women in community development after earthquake therefore the researcher also asked about the willingness of the respondent's to help in community development after earthquake and the findings said that around 42.5 per cent respondents are very much interested to work for community development; one respondent said that she is interested to work but didn't get any information. Similarly one respondent said that she is interested and ready to work for community development if got information. One respondent said she will manage time whenever possible for the community development.

Around 22.5 percent respondents said that they are interested to work for community but could not manage time due to household work while 10 per cent of the respondents are interested to work only if they get some wages to cover their living expenses as they are the sole earner of the family. Despite their wiliness two respondents could not work due to their health problems and one respondent's age does not allow her to work. Two of the respondents said that though they are interested to work for the community development society does not allow them to work.

#### **4.6. Motivational and hindering factors for women's contribution in post-disaster management.**

Women's contribution in post disaster recovery cannot be ignored because women's involvement in post disaster recovery is very important. Women are very sincere in their work and they also have skills and knowledge to contribute in community development.

Therefore the study has identified some motivational and hindering factors from focus group discussion and participants of key informant interview which affect the participation of women in post disaster recovery.

#### ***4.6.1. Motivational Factors***

##### **Economic opportunity**

One of the important motivational factors for women's involvement in post disaster recovery is economic opportunity. Huge amount have been invested by many organizations in reconstruction and for the livelihood of women after earthquake as well. The study discovers that women who are involved in debris cleanup and construction got some wages which helped their family in need. Women can also have opportunity to find work in construction sites in daily wages. There are many programs which provide mason training including women. Therefore, women have opportunity to earn money while in training and can make same profession in future as well for self- dependence.

##### **Women empowerment**

Women can build self- confidence by participating in the training and meetings. After earthquake, different organizations have called meetings and gatherings where people take part and partly women were also involved in such meetings. Due to lack of skilled manpower in house making mostly women are involved in mason work. Educated women are also involved in it. Some organization has provided training to women only whereas some have in mixed group. Not significantly but some women have come forward saying that they also can work like men. Such meetings and trainings help in women empowerment as well.

##### **Skill enhancement**

There is opportunity for women to participate in the training and gain some knowledge and skills. Different organizations have organized skill enhancement training to women for the better economic opportunity and livelihood improvement after earthquake. They have conducted mason training, tailoring training to the women. But after completing the training women are not motivated to work for income. Therefore many women who have taken

mason training lives passively. Very few have involved in work after training but most of the women have not taken it seriously as their responsibility after the training.

### **Increased knowledge**

Women's involvement in meetings and trainings can increased their knowledge about the reconstruction process. Women can apply their knowledge and skills while building their and neighbor house after receiving mason training. They can also get information about government rules and regulation to make earthquake proof house. Women can be aware of their rights after participating in meetings. They can also get information about safety measures in disasters, leadership skills etc.

#### ***4.6.2. Hindering Factors***

##### **Social structure**

Due to conservative social structure and thought about women the society still does not trust that women can work as skilled mason. Women were involved in mason work actively after earthquake therefore society consider women have less skill than men. Most of the people want to hire skilled men to build their house because it will be costly as women have to be encouraged to receive training first which will take more time for them to be perfectly learn mason work and start it professionally. The challenge is that women have to take permission from home either from husband or in laws to participate in meetings or do some work. Even educated women can't make decision by themselves. If we asked women to take part then they usually say that they can take part if they get permission from their home.

These kinds of the situation in the society have made fewer women participation. Due to different concept about women in the society, women participants are emphasized to do labor work by men participants in the training. After completing training women work as skilled labor rather than skilled mason. Women were paid less than men although women worked as skilled mason in the community they are paid only 600/700 per day which is the cost equivalent to labor work and less than men mason who gets 800/900 per day from their work.

Still there is no equality between men and women which affects the process of reconstruction but we cannot say that there is no women participation because women participate in every activity. Nothing can be complete without women's participation. Women participation is there but the question is whether there is justice to women or not. Participation is not a big deal the question lies in whether women have been provided justice by family or society or not. Woman can do work more than man.

Most of the work cannot be complete without women's participation. Women don't have economic power/ control. If they don't have control over economy then they cannot make any decision. So, they have to wait their son or husband to make decision. If they have full economic control they do not have to wait their husband/ son/ other male members in decision making. The male members who have gone for foreign employment also do not believe/ trust their wife with their money and decision making in their absence. The society also made women to realize that she alone cannot do make decision and do such work. These kinds of gender problem exist in our society. In those places where women are allowed to make decision they are doing all the decisions for the household.

### **Household responsibilities**

It is very difficult for the women to come out of their household responsibility. If a woman have to come outside then she have to complete all her work before living the house. They have to take responsibility of all household and agricultural works. Women have to spend hours to in cooking, cleaning, washing and collecting water because the water pipes have been destroyed by the earthquake. After the earthquake their workload increased because they have to clear all the debris, arrange and carry materials to build house.

### **Lack of information**

Women who are only involved in their household activities mostly do not get information about meetings and trainings. There is a trend of providing some money to the participants as travel or daily service allowance by the organization in meeting and seminars. Due to such trend they do not realize that information should be provided to all so, the person who repeatedly took part in such meetings have become forward though they cannot utilize all the learned things in their life. Therefore, there is no effective participation of women. Women participation is in improving trend but not enough yet due to lack of information.

## **Chapter V. Findings and Recommendations:**

### **5.1. Findings**

From the literature review we can conclude that women's involvement is very essential in post disaster recovery process. Women played a central role within the family, securing relief from emergency authorities, meeting the immediate survival needs of family members and managing temporary relocation. The community required women to manage displaced households and restore family livelihoods after disaster. Women's knowledge and skills should not be overlooked and undermined in recovery process.

Through this study, the researcher tried to explore the overall contribution of women in household recovery and community development in Chautara Sangachowkgadi Municipality ward no. 6 after Nepal earthquake 2015. Altogether 40 households were purposely selected for this study. Among the total respondents, the highest numbers of respondents were Chhetri (45 per cent), 30 per cent from Janajati community, 18 per cent respondents belong to Dalit community and 7 per cent of the respondents were Brahmin. Likewise the age of the respondents' ranges from 20 years to 70 years, in which 80 per cent of the respondents were married, 10 per cent of the respondents were widow/ single women and 10 per cent of the respondents are separated from their husband mostly due to second marriage of their husband.

The study shows that 37.5 per cent of the respondents were literate but most of them have not attended formal education as most of them can write their names only. About 17.5 per cent respondents have obtained primary education while 10 per cent of the respondents from Chhetri and Janajati community have obtained secondary level education. 15 per cent of the respondents have obtained higher secondary level education i.e. up to twelve classes though the respondents from Dalit community have only obtained up to primary level education.

Among the total households 67 per cent households were men headed and 33 per cent households were headed by women. The study found out that in decision making 65 per cent households have joint decisions in presence of all the eligible members of the house and 35

per cent households the household head have the sole role in decision making of the household. The study discovers that 12.5 per cent of the households headed by women depend on daily wages as the only one source of income. Around 52.5 per cent household have two income sources. The number of household having three income sources is 35 per cent.

Among the total sampled household 82.5 per cent of the houses were completely destroyed and 17.5 per cent houses were partially destroyed in the earthquake. Majority of the houses that is completely destroyed in the study area due to earthquake was made with stone and mud. Due to the earthquake 15 per cent of the household lost the family member among which 83.3 per cent is women member and rest is men member. After earthquake majority (32.5 per cent) of the household's first expenses priority is to buy food items for the family and 25 per cent of the family's first expenses priority is for their child education.

The public participation of women was found to be increase after the earthquake although 35 per cent respondents were not involved in such groups due to lack of citizenship and health problem. Public participation of the respondents from men headed households was observed to be 47.5 per cent and 17.5 per cent from women headed households. The study also observes women's participation in more than one group as well. The highest (30 per cent) number of the respondents was involved in one group, 17.5 per cent involved in two groups while 12.5 per cent were involved in three groups, one was involved in four groups and one was involved in five groups as well.

The study discovers that almost all of the respondents supported in doing household work for the recovery of the household except one respondent who could not support her family in any way due to illness. Many women have taken economic burden for the household recovery. Around 42.5 per cent of the respondents provided both physical and economic contribution for their household recovery. One respondent sold her gold jewelry to fulfill household need and build shelter.

Around 17.5 per cent of the respondents were involved in debris cleanup and road construction while 7.5 per cent were involved in temple reconstruction, two respondents were

involve in debris cleanup and school building construction, one respondent involved in public awareness and road cleaning. Likewise one respondent being a Female Community Health Volunteer was involved in awareness rising to look after pregnant women and infant child.

Based on the observation and findings of the study women's role in household recovery was found to be very important because women have taken all the household responsibilities including cooking, cleaning, washing, taking care of the family members, agricultural works and even building the shelter so that the men members have time to go outside for work. Women's involvement in small business like retail shop, hotel, cosmetic shop, poultry farming, piggery and wage labor in the study area became a good source of economic contribution for the household recovery after earthquake. Although single women have to struggle more for the livelihood of the family as they have no other members in the family to help them and they have taken entire household and economic burden by themselves.

Women face restrictions in their lives both before and after a disaster strike – which are matters of rights, justice, and empowerment. The study shows that in spite of the social restrictions on women and girls, after a disaster women were required to take on additional roles in recovery of family life as well as reconstruction of their homes and community.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

Although women's social, economic and political position in society makes them more vulnerable to natural hazards, they are not helpless victims. Women are important agents for change and need to be further strengthened as such. Recognizing and mobilizing their skills and capacities as social force and channeling it to enhance efforts to protect their safety and that of their communities and dependents are a major task in any disaster reduction strategy. Indian women are the backbone of the rural subsistence economy. Their respective role in family which is of productive nature to a large extent makes the family and society sustainable but it is not acknowledged by and large. Women's work in agriculture is often seen as an extension of their domestic responsibilities, rather than a separate economic activity. In rural areas which are more vulnerable to natural hazards since rural population

depend more on the natural resource base for all aspects of life. Securing food, water and fuel are key community concerns, which are predominantly taken care of by women. There are many examples of women's informal community involvement in disaster reduction, but women are still largely excluded from formal planning and decision-making and need to be empowered to do so effectively. This is essential to ensure effective disaster reduction policies. If some decision-making is shifted Emergency relief and aid processes particularly disadvantage women who must organize food provision, shelter, and child and family care according to chaotic aid-delivery systems and entitlement procedures that rarely take their work or opinions into account. Although women commonly organize themselves to distribute supplies, establish shelter, and pool labor and resources to create community support services to meet basic family needs in the emergency period, their efforts are often invisible or go unacknowledged.

Based on the analysis of primary and secondary facts, this can be summarized as below as necessary recommendation for policy maker and community level.

- Gender powerfully shapes human responses to disaster, both directly and indirectly. Women are especially hard-hit by the social impacts of environmental disasters. While natural disasters often impact human communities very broadly, residents are not equally at risk of loss and harm nor equally able to recover. Poor households are well-known to be especially vulnerable but gender-specific effects are also suggested. Therefore, Generate and analyze additional data on gender and disasters, and, where possible, conduct additional research where all data are disaggregated by sex. Pilot projects on reconstruction and gender should be considered.
- A wide range of gender differences have been documented regarding emergency communication; household disaster decisions about preparedness, evacuation, mitigation, and use of relief assets; voluntary relief and recovery work (e.g. search and rescue, emotional and material care of survivors); access to evacuation shelter and relief goods; employment in disaster planning, relief and recovery programs; and other areas relevant to disaster practitioners. During emergency and post disaster planning these shall be take into account.



- Gender inequality is a significant contributing factor in the social construction of risk. Women's subordination is a root cause of disaster vulnerability. *Women's economic insecurity* (e.g. high poverty rates, contingent labor, homework, lack of credit and savings) increases their need for post disaster financial assistance. *Male dominance* in disaster decision- making undermines women's greater willingness to mitigate the effects of known hazards.
- Women are not universally or identically impacted by disasters. Highly vulnerable women have specific needs and interests before, during, and after disasters. Highly vulnerable girls and women may not be socially visible or included in disaster plans but they have urgent needs, for example for: safe and accessible evacuation space and temporary housing; equitable access to food, clothing, and other relief goods; transportation assistance, Health facility mostly the reproductive health services and emergency communication in community languages.
- Women's civic participation needs to be complemented by targeted income-generating activities such as group-saving or gender-sensitive cash-for-work programs, as this helps them gain confidence and empowers them to demand equal rights to men.
- Local knowledge and action can bring transformative shifts in development and disaster risk reduction practice. Therefore women should be specifically targeted in the innovative design of trainings and awareness rising activities, and women membership with active involvement in community disaster risk reduction committees should be encouraged.
- Women should be empowered to come forward from the sidelines to become active participants in designing and implementing disaster preparedness.
- The increased level of women's active participation will be a real mark of success, in a culture and society where women are often not allowed to participate in household and community decision-making.

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## APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE for PARTICIPANTS

<b>A. Demographic Information</b>		
1	District: Sindhupalchok	2.VDC/ Municipality/Ward No.
3	Name:	4.Village/ Tole
3	5. Age:	6. Caste/ Ethnicity
4	7. Education:	
8	Marital Status:	Married.....1 unmarried.....2 Widow..... 3 Divorced.....4 Separated.....5 Remarried....6
9	How many members are there in your family?	Male Female  Above 60 From (18- 59) Below 18
10	Who is the household head in your family?	Self.....1 Husband.....2 Son.....3 Mother .....4 Father.....5 Other, specify .....

11	Who makes decisions on how to spend your family income?	Myself.....1 Household head.....2 Joint decision.....3 Other men .....4 Other women .....5 All household members .....6
12	Property in the name of women? If yes then, What kind of?	
13	What is your family occupation?	Agriculture.....1 Business .....2 14Government job.....3 Private job.....4 Dally wage .....5 None.....6 Other.....
14	How many income-earning members are there in your household?	
15	What is your family expected annual income?	In thousand.....

**B. Impact of Earthquake**

16	Was your household affected by the earthquake in April 26, 2015 and aftershocks in any way?	Yes 1 No..... 2
17	Was there loss of life in your household due to the earthquake? If, yes then whom?	Yes 1 No..... 2
18	Did your house/Property damaged due to the earthquake?	Yes 1 No..... 2
19	If yes to “damage to house”, what is the extent of the damage?	Partial..... 1 Complete.....2
20	Where are you living now?	1. In the damaged house 2. In a temporary shelter/tent (self-made). 3. Newly constructed house with support of government 4. Other shelter, specify_____

21	Did your household receive any aid/ support after earthquake?	Yes 1 No 2
22	If yes then what kind of and from where?	
23	If yes then is it sufficient for your household?	Yes 1 No 2
24	Have you received any instalment of the housing compensation money from the government? If yes then how much?	Yes 1 No 2
25	If yes then how did you spend that money?	
<b>C. Gender and Post Disaster Response</b>		
26	Since the earthquake, how has your household livelihood recovered?	Fully Recovered Mostly Recovered Somewhat Recovered Not Recovered
27	What are the highest spending priorities for your household after earthquake?	To buy food items For child's education For health services for child For health services for other members To buy clothes for child To buy clothes for other members For investment/productive activities Other household goods Household or temporary shelter repair Other, (specify)...
28	Did any adult household member leave the household to seek employment outside Nepal after earthquake?	Yes..... 1 No..... 2
29	If yes, then why?	
30	What kind of work you do in your house?	



31	Did your daily routine/ activities changes after earthquake?	
32	Labor distribution in the household who does what?	
33	What are you doing to run/support your household now?	
34	What is your contribution for the recovery of your household after earthquake?	
35	Did you get any support from family members after earthquake?	Physical support Economic support Psychological support
36	Are there any children/ adolescents in your family who have been deprived of going to school after earthquake? If yes then why?	Yes.....1 No.....2
37	Are there any Disaster management Committee in your community?	Yes.....1 No.....2 Don't know.....3
38	If yes then are you the member of that committee?	
39	What kinds of work have been conducted by women in your society after earthquake?	
40	What kinds of recovery programme were conducted in your society after earthquake? Who conducted and why?	
41	Are there any women focused programme conducted after earthquake in your community for women empowerment?	Yes.....1 No.....2
42	If yes then who conducted and what kind of?	
43	Are you benefited from that programme?	

44	Women Involvement in recovery / community development works after earthquake?	
45	What is your contribution for the recovery of your community after earthquake?	

### **Key Informant Interview (KII) checklists:**

- What is the status of women in after earthquake in this area?
- What is the status of access of women in help/ aid provided after earthquake?
- Any changes in lifestyle of women after earthquake?
- How the local bodies addressing the specific need of women in after post earthquake?
- What is the contribution of women in post disaster reconstruction and recovery?
- How gender related issues are interrelated to disaster and livelihood?
- What kinds of activities are implemented in this place for earthquake affected women?
- What are the motivating and hindering factors in women's involvement/ participation in post -earthquake recovery / social development?

### **Focus Group Discussion (FGD) checklists**

- What is the status of women in after earthquake in this area?
- What are the changes in women role after earthquake?
- What is the status of access of women in help/ aid provided after earthquake? What is the role of male family members in decision making process?
- What kinds of activities are implemented in this place for earthquake affected women?
- What are the motivating and hindering factors in women's involvement/ participation in post -earthquake recovery / social development?
- Is there any change in Gendered role after earthquake?
- Is there the increase of violence against women after earthquake, if so, what kinds of violence you or your family member faced
- Does the local bodies addressed the special need of women, do they call you in various decision making process to respond the earthquake
- Do you feel any difficulty to access the government support program including money and materials as being women?