

# **DECISION MAKING OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT**

**(A Study of Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 Baraha Tole of  
Sunsari District.)**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Central Department of Sociology in Partial Fulfillment  
of The Requirements for The Degree of Master of  
Arts in Sociology**

**By**

**Laxmi Dhakal**

**Roll No. : 169**

**Symbol No.: 282440/ 2067/68**

**T.U. Regd No. 6-1-218-2001**

**Central Department of Sociology  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**2017**

# **DECISION MAKING OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT**

**(A Study of Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 Baraha Tole of Sunsari District.)**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Central Department of Sociology in Partial Fulfillment  
of The Requirements for The Degree of Master of  
Arts in Sociology**

**By**

**Laxmi Dhakal**

**Roll No. : 169**

**Symbol No.: 282440/ 2067/68**

**T.U. Regd No. 6-1-218-2001**

**Central Department of Sociology  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**2017**

## **DECLARATION**

To the best of my knowledge and belief I declare that the thesis entitled “Decision Making of Women in Household Management” is the result of my own research and contains no material previously published by any other person except where due acknowledgement has been made. This thesis contains no material, which has been accepted for the award of any other degree in any university.

.....

Laxmi Dhakal

Date: March, 2017

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,**  
**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

This is to certify that **Laxmi Dhakal** has worked under my supervision and guidance for the preparation of this dissertation entitled “**Decision Making of Women in Household Management: A Study of Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 of Sunsari District** ” submitted for the partial fulfillment of Master's Degree of Arts in Sociology. To the best of my knowledge, the study is original and carries out useful information. I therefore recommend it for the evaluation and approval to the dissertation committee.

Mr. Surendra Mishra

**Supervisor**

Central Department of Sociology

T.U. Kirtipur

Date :2073/12/11

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,**  
**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**LETTER OF APPROVAL**

The Evaluation Committee has approved the dissertation entitled **“Women In Decision Making of Household Management. “Decision Making of Women in Household Management: A Study of Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 of Sunsari District ”** submitted by **Laxmi Dhakal** for the fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's of Arts Degree in Sociology.

**Evaluation Committee**

Mr. Surendra Mishra.

.....

Supervisor

Dr. Meena Devi Uprety

.....

External Examiner

Prof. Dr. Tulsi Ram Pandey

.....

Head of the Department

Date: 2073/12/17

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am grateful to those who have supported and enabled me to accomplish this difficult task. This dissertation has been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of Tribhuwan University in partial fulfillment for the master degree in sociology.

I would like to express my special gratitude to Department Head of Sociology T.U, Central Department Campus, Kirtipur and supervisor. Bimala Jnawali , an honorable faculty member of the department of Sociology/ Anthropology, Central Department Campus, T.U. Kirtipur for his kind co-operation, proper guidance and valuable suggestions during my research work.

I would like to extend my special thanks to staff members of Library, Central Department Campus, T.U. Kirtipur for their help in collection of required materials.

Finally, I am very much grateful to my family members who helped a lot and awakening me whenever I was simply to write this dissertation by providing continuous effort and support during my work.

Laxmi Dhakal

## **CONTENTS**

**Page No.**

**RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

**APPROVAL LETTER**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CONTENTS**

**LIST OF TABLES**

**Abbreviations**

### **CHAPTER – I**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1.1.1. Background of Study	1
1.2 Statement of Problem	6
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Significance of the Study	7
1.5 Organization of the Study	9

### **CHAPTER – II**

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

2.1 Theoretical Literature	10
2.2 Empirical Literature	11
2.3 Conceptual Framework	20

### **CHAPTER – III**

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Rational of the Study Area	21
3.2 Research Design	21
3.3 Population of the Study	21
3.4 Nature and Source of Data	21

3.5.	Sampling Procedure	21
3.6	Tools and Techniques of Data Collection	21
3.7	Data Analysis and Presentation	22
1.8	Limitation of the Study	22
1.9	Definition of Terms Used	22

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **WOMEN'S ROLE IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING**

4.1	Location of the study Area	23
4.2	Socio-Demographic characteristic of study Area	23
4.3	Population	24
4.4	Caste/ethnic Composition	24
4.5	Family Type	26
4.6	Marital Status of the Household	28
4.7	Educational Status	30
4.8	Occupation and Source of Income	32
4.9	Working Hours among the Male and Female	33
4.10	Decision Making Role in HHs Related Expenditures	35
4.10.1	Decision Making in Livestock Household	35
4.10.2	Decision Making in Business Investment	38
4.10.3	Decision Making on Buying Household Items	39
4.10.4	Educational Management	40

4.10.5 Decision Making on the use health services (Traditional/Modern)	42
4.11 Decision Making Role in Other Household Activities	43
4.11.1 Control over Household Cash/ Expenditure/ Transactions	43
4.11.2 Control over Bazaar Purchase	43
4.11.3 Control over Family Expenditure (Small gift/ loan to friend/relative)	44
4.12 Decision Making Role in Social and Other Activities	46
4.12.1 Decision Making in the Choice of Bridegroom	46
4.12.2 Decision Making in Dowry System	47
4.12.3 Social/ Religious Ceremonies	48
4.12.4 Decision Making for the Use of Family Planning Measures	49
4.12.5 Decision Making in Sending Children to School	51
4.12.6 Decision Making for Women's Education	52
4.12.7 Community Activities	53
4.12.8 Women's Participation in political activities	54
4..5 Household Factors	55
4.5.1 Social Factors	56

## **CHAPTER V**

### **MAJOR FINDINGS, SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

5.1 Summary	58
5.1.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics	60
5.2 Major Findings	60
5.2.1 Women's Role in Household Decision Making	61
5.3 Conclusion	63

## **APPENDIX**

## **REFERENCE**

## LIST OF TABLES

### Page No.

#### Table No.

4.1 Total Population	24
4.2 Caste/Ethnic composition	25
4.3 Types of Family	27
4.4 Marital Status	30
4.5 Educational Status	31
4.6 Occupation and Source of Income	33
4.7 Working Hours among the Male and Female Groups	34
4.8 Livestock Purchase	36
4.9 Livestock Sale	37
4.10 Livestock Maintenance	38
4.11.4 Decision Making in Business Investment	39
4.12 Decision on Buying Household Things	40
4.13 Decision Making Role in Educational Management	41
4.14 Decision Making on the use of health services	42
4.15 Control over Household sale	43
4.16 Control over Bazaar Purchase	44
4.17 Control over Family Expenditure	45
4.18 Decision Making in the Choice of Bridegroom	47
4.19 Decision Making in the Dowry System	4
4.20 Religious Ceremonies	49
4.21 Decision Making for the use of Family Planning Measures	50
4.22 Type of Family planning Measures Used	51
4.23 Decision Making in Sending Children to School	52
4.24 Decision Making for Women's Education	53

## **Abbreviations**

CBS	= Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDA	= Central For Economic Development and Administration
GDP	= Gross Domestic Product
GNP	= Gross National Product
HDI	= Human Development Index
HHS	= House Hold Survey
IEC	= Information, Education and Communication
i e;	= That is
ILO	= International Labour Organization
INGO	= International Non Governmental Organization
NGO	= Non-Governmental Organization
PHD	= Doctor of Philosophy
SAARC	= South Asian Association for Regional Corporation
UK	= United Kingdom
UN	= United Nation
UNICEF	= United Nation International Children Education Fund
UNDP	= United Nation Development Program
US\$	= United State's currency
VDC	= Village Development Community
Vol	= Volume

# CHAPTER – I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Household are intermediate institutions between policies, programs and the targeted individuals. An understanding of household-making is essential for tracing the effects of the programs and for evaluating their policy impact. Studies that evaluate the impact of policies on households and ignore intra household decision-making in their analysis may lead to misleading conclusions. Adopting aggregate measures such as household income as a measure of welfare all household members may not be the way to evaluate the effects of development policy. It is more useful to look at the intra-household allocation of income and resources when examining the impact of policies on individual welfare. (Hunzai, 2010).

Household decision-making is exploitative, educating women or increasing the opportunity cost of their time may not alter any of the decisions made by the household as theoretically the husband can appropriate all the gains of his wife and dictated decision-making. If decision-making is altruistic, then educating the husband and or educating the wife should have a similar impact on decisions made. In a similar vein, a \$1 increase in the income of the husband should have the same effect on nutrition of family members or other family expenses as a \$1 increase in the income of the wife. In such cases general policies that target the family as a whole should suffice and special policies that increase the income and education of the women are not required (UNO, 2015).

In this way women are always both men and women engage in community activities, but there are distinct gender divisions of labor. Sometimes cultural and religious taboos do not allow women to participate in some social events, like funeral; don't know why women are excluded to take part in such events. Women are excluded to take part in political campaign and other gathering as well. Even if they are allowed, they have to finish their household chores first and only roaming around the within the household dichotomy that limits women to think outside world. This is simply because of male dominancy in household affairs (Acharya, 2011).

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedom without distinctions of any kind, such as race, color, sex,

language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth and other status. Everyone had right to life, liberty, and security of person, (Acharya, 2011)

This study focuses on the aspects of women in decision making from sociological perspective in It logical perspective in Itahari Sub-metropolitan City ward no.5 of Sunsari district. The study tries to explore access to participation in decision-making by women in household management in Nepal.

Nepal is rich in culture and natural diversity. Each cultural group has its district cultural norms and values. Almost all the cultural values of the ethnic groups are determined by the respective natural phenomena, which helps them to promote their adaptability with the natural resource. We can say that each cultural group developed different cultural norms and values to cope with the natural resources. Again, in each cultural group man and women have distinct role respective to their own cultural norms. (Sharma, 2000)

Most of women in different cultures are engaged in the household activities in which the role of women is associated with forest product. Women comprise more than half population of the world. Women usually have less access to resources and benefit due to various socio-cultural constraints. Nepal is not far from that situation. The current studies of household management activities have revealed that Nepalese women play vital role in the household activities (Dangi, 2003).

In Anthropology participation in decision-making is viewed more as a socio-cultural process which involves households and social institution. Broadly speaking their factions at the family level is a process that follows the four interrelated steps in participation, planning, decision-making, implementation and evolution.

The ICPD (1994) in its fourth principle has clearly affirmed “advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women and elimination of all kind of violence against women and ensuring women’s ability to control their own fertility are cornerstones of population and development related programs”. The document has further expressed serious concerns about the full participation of women in civil, culture, economic, political and social life.

Women are involved in most activities and decision-making related household and other activities. As women don’t have the land title and lack other sources of income

they are depended upon their husbands. Thus when it comes to using access to land resources the women have the accessibility. But when it comes to control of benefits of the resources it is the males who still exercise the control because our society is male dominated society where major decision are taken by male household headed. If there is surplus of agricultural productions, then it is taken by the males to the market to be sold. The earned income is taken by the males and has hold upon the sources of cash even though the females had equal share in its up keeping. Unequal rank and power in decision-making and benefits are legitimizing by traditional societal norms. (Mazumdar, 2009)

No doubt, women's participation in bureaucracy and politics has increase in the past few years. However, only a few of them have reached the decision-making position. Although the percentage of women bureaucrats increased to eight percent from five percent some years ago, their percentage in the higher level has declined now. The constitutional provision for the allocation of the five percent of the candidacy for women in parliamentary election by each political party has opened the door of political for stipulating of women. What is more, the liberal provision for stipulating a minimum quota in local government bodies to be field by women has opened up possibilities of altering the positions of decision making institution. (Pandey, 2005)

Nepalese women are underprivileged and disadvantageous in terms of their socio-economic standing compared to their male counterparts. However, the universal declaration of Human Rights has crossed a half century along with the global call for Gender Equity. Nepalese women, who constitute even more than half of the population, are still confined within the four walls of their houses. Likewise the estimated literacy rate of men is 65.1 percent but that of women is only 42.23 percent (CBS, 2014). Most literate women are situated in urban areas while majority of women are situated in urban areas while majority of them live in rural areas where choice of livelihood is limited to agricultural work in the fields which are mostly owned by their father, husbands, brothers or landlords.

ICIMOD (2010) revealed that gender disaggregated data are necessary for governments and other public and private institutions to plan adequate services for the overall population which address the different needs of women and men and help to bridge the inequality gaps. They help to understand how socio-economic changes affect women and men differently, and how they cope with new realities. In general,

gender inequalities affect women's access to education, health care services, and financial resources, and constrain their participation in decision-making. There are unable to use their capacity to seize new opportunities and to cope with economic stresses.

Even where gender gaps in human capital and physical asset are narrowed, differences in gender outcomes could emerge because girls and boys, and later women and men, have unequal capacity to exercise agency. By agency we mean an individual's ability to make effective choice and to transform those choices into the desired outcomes. Agency can be understood as the process through which women and men use their endowments and take advantages of economic opportunities to achieve desired outcomes. Thus, agency is key to understanding how gender outcomes emerge and why they are equal or unequal. Across all countries women and men differ in their ability to make effective choice in a range of spheres with women typically at disadvantages. (Jackson, 1998)

These outcomes are related and often compound each other, as a result, a women's ability to choose and act at any point in time partly reflects foundations laid earlier in her life, often starting in childhood. These outcomes, or expression of agency, are Control over resources, Ability to move freely, Freedom from the risk of violence and Ability to have a voice in society and influence policy. In the above four core findings, First economic growth can improve the material conditions for exercising agency –through higher incomes, greater access to services, and expanded infrastructure. But the impact of higher aggregate incomes on women's agency partly hinges on women's ability to earn their own income: that ability increase their bargaining power within the household and their ability to accumulate autonomous assets. Economic growth alone will not eliminate gender differences in agency. Second expanding women's rights can foster agency in some realms. But the expansion of rights for family formation and control over household resources has been limited. And effectiveness of expanding rights in bringing about change depends on their applicability often linked to multiple legal systems and their enforcement. (Thapa, 2014)

Third social norms shape women's agency. Among with markets and institutions, they determine the endowments and opportunities that women have and whether they can exercise the choice to use them. Norms can constrain women's agency when they

prevent laws, services and income from benefiting women and man equally. Social norms are particularly binding when increases in women's agency would directly shift power balances in the household and in society. Reforms in markets and institution, such as service delivery improvements, information provision, and certain of networks, can reduce the bind of social norms by affecting the cost and benefits of compliance. Fourth, women collective agency can transform society. Women's collective agency both depends on and determines their individual agency women's ability to influence their environment goes beyond formal political channels, which can be limited by social norms and beliefs regarding gender roles and institutional structures. Women can influence their environments through their participation in informal associations and through collective action, but their success depends in part on their individual ability to make effective choices, (World Development Report, 2012).

Equality in society cannot be achieved either through slogans, demands conflicts or through wishes and blessing along. Experience has also shown that laws and regulation are not adequate. What is indeed required is a climate of public opinion where feeling of equality emanates from the hearts of all. Women are bonded by socio cultural norms. Even parents discriminate against the girl child. This is because of lack of knowledge, awareness and education. The movement for women's status all over world has emphasizes the role of education. So, if the nation wants to gain something from women, their first duty should be to give equal opportunity of education, health empowerment etc. Then after drastic change will come in the nation automatically in status of women and women's decision making power. But the decision making power of women is very low. That is to say, women are still incapable in decision making process and taking leadership.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Women are under the decision of father in her childhood, under the decision of husband in her adulthood and under the decision of son in her old age of life. The decision making power of female is very low in Nepal. The women educational status is very low in Nepal due to the employment status so economic factor is the fundamental element for decision making. If women would have equipped with well economy then her decision power was higher.

Women in Nepal hold the triple work responsibility of reproduction, house holding and employment for these all work they do not have power to decide independently. The employment status is very low for females, which plays significant role for decision making. Most of the domestic burdens and responsibilities should be solved by women. The last and critical decisions are strongly handled by males It is believed that the female dominated family is considered to have so called loose commanded. The women are deprived from this power respecting so called cultural and traditional values.

This study aims to fill the partially gap by identifying the status of female household decision making of Itahari Sub-metropolitan City ward no.5 of Sunsari district.. Therefore a fair understanding of how female played decision making role in household. Men have major role of decision-making and men ask women only formally. But women' decision-making power in household activities is negligible. Decision making is important part, which measures the relative status of the household members. Any research works have not been done in Itahari Sub-metropolitan City ward no.5 of Sunsari district.. This study shows the current situation of married women in household decision-making according to their age group, caste/ethnicity and educational status in the study area which further pays way outs and provides guidelines to other researcher to conduct research on this issue and contribute in improving women's status in decision-making process. The Research questions of this study are:

- ) What is the role of women in decision making in Itahari-5 area?
- ) How the decision making role of women can be improved ?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study:

- a. To analyze the role of women in decision making in Itahari-5

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study helped to find out role of women in household decision making process as well as socio-economic status of them. It supported to direct our focus on the issues of women that will be helpful to empower them socially and economically. This study gave the importance to find out the actual condition of women in study area in terms of socio-economic, demographic status and their participation in household decision

making process. This study would be useful for those individuals and institutions, who are interested to know the role of women's in decision making. It was also useful even for planners, further researchers, managers, scholars students, NGOs/INGOs and other organizations to formulate and implement appropriate policies plans and programs focusing the issue of women mainly in decision making sector.

### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

The study was divided into six chapters. The first chapter provided introduction or role of women in various sectors and civil society, statement of the problems, objectives, limitations, significance of the study, definition of key concept and conceptual framework.. The second chapter dealt with the literature review and theoretical framework from the previous studies/publications books, Theories and research reports on the concept the regarding status of women, role of women in decision making, women's rights and legislation regarding women's rights. The third chapter comprised of research methodology used during field study for data generation. Here I touched upon the descriptive of our study area and provided a detailed explanation of the research design and procedure, the data was generated and the statistical tools used during the process. The fourth chapters was devoted to data analysis and concentrates on topic in question. This chapter contained the essence or finding of the study in table formats, generated from the data analysis. The fifth chapter would be the factors affecting women in decision making process. The six chapters would the summary, conclusion and derived from the whole study on the light of the analysis and findings.

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter discusses about review of literature and conceptual framework. It consists of three sections as theoretical literature review, empirical review and conceptual framework.

#### **2.1 Theoretical Literature**

##### **a. Radical Feminism**

The radical feminist sex/gender system prevailing in the society was the fundamental cause of women's oppression. Radical feminism has two specific beliefs (a) women have positive values as women (b) women are violently oppressed everywhere by the system of patriarchy. Millett (1970) in her book 'Sexual politics' argued that political relationships between men and women exist in all aspects of everyday life and such relationships are organized on the basis of patriarchy, a system of male dominated over female. According to her "patriarchy is the most pervasive ideology of our culture with its most fundamental concept of power". It is more rigorous than class stratification, more uniform and enduring." (Millett, 1970).

##### **b. Marxist Feminism**

Marxist concept of material forces, the production and reproduction of social life is much stressed by the Marxian feminists. In general, the Marxist feminists believe social existence determines consciousness, so the belief system that women have is the product of her role in the family and at the workplace which have kept them in a subordinate position.

The basis of women's subordination lies in the family which is a system of dominant and subordinate roles, which is mostly patrilineal and patriarchal with monogamous marriage and fully male dominated arrangements. In such institution especially in middle-class family where women is confined in the household, and without economic independence, she is just the chattel or possession of her husband. Society legitimizes this family system and describes as an ideal family type in most of the societies which is not true in the pre-historic analysis. There existed mostly matriarchal societies when there was no established family and private property when hunting and gathering was the primary occupation of people. This type of society existed in collective and cooperative communal living arrangements, commodity

use, child rearing and decision making and free choice of love and sexual partners by both men and women. The change in the primitive family system by the ownership of property, man emerged as the first familia, a master and his slave-servants, wife-servants and children-servants. In this unit the master fiercely defended his claim to sole sexual access to his wives and passed on to his heirs, the sons. (Barrett, 1985).

### **c. Socialist Feminism**

Socialist feminism emerged as a result of dissatisfaction with the gender blind nature of Marxist's thought. Marxian believed that what women suffer at the hands of men is small compared to what proletariats suffer from bourgeoisie. Social feminist agree with Marxist feminist that women's liberation depends on the overthrow of capitalism, they claim that capitalism cannot be abolished unless patriarchy is abolished. The economic and material relation cannot be changed unless the ideology is changed. Women need to fight two wars simultaneously to be liberated from the sources of oppression from both patriarchy and capitalism. For the socialist feminist women's position and condition is not explained merely by explaining the capitalistic relation as a part of productive workforce as her role is multiply determined by her role as productive, reproductive, socialization of children and sexuality. Mitchell believed that patriarchal ideology that views women as lovers, wives, and mothers rather than workers is as responsible for women's position in society as the capitalist economy of the state. She also rejects the claim of liberal feminist that social reforms like educational and occupational opportunities can make women equal to men (Barrett, 1985).

## **2.2 Empirical Literature**

Some earlier studies related to this study can be referred in the following way.

In their study (Acharya and Bennet, 2011) 'Women and Subsistence Section Economic Participation and Household Decision Making in Nepal', they were related to the condition of rural women of Nepal. The study highlights the time allocation pattern of women and women at household activities. Women's performance almost all kind of agricultural activities except ploughing and they spend 9 hours, however, men spent only 5 hours. The degree of involvement varies considerably across ethnic groups and social classes. The study concludes that women's involvement is more than men in farming and they perform almost all domestic task of household. The

study does not highlight the situation of women living in urban and non-agriculture sectors.

In a study done by (Acharya and Bennet, 2011) developed a model of the status of women in Nepal. The findings of that model were the first sphere women's participation in farming and domestic activities. The model reveals that women participation in farming and domestic activities constitutes 86 percent of their total work. Their contribution in household income was 50 percent; however men's and children's contribution was 44 percent and 6 percent respectively. There is different degree of female participation in market economy in different communities and this subsequently relates to their decision-making power in the household.

They also found that women from Hindu society largely participate in domestic and subsistence production but they have less important role in major household decisions, however, in the case of Tibet-Brahman communities, women's participation is found more in the market economy (buying and selling in terms of money) and have more power in household decision-making. The study further reveals that dowry has much more influence in decision-making, small number of children has higher economic participation and greater decision-making power.

Ahooja (2005) in the journal 'Another Development with Women : Development Dialogue, focuses on the women's participation on development. He presents the statistics about the women's contribution in various sectors. The women constitute the largest number of food producers (i.e. approximately 50 percent) in Africa, 30-40 percent in Asia, then in Latin America. The least qualified jobs are filled by women. Women get low wages in comparison to the men counterparts About. One billion women in the third world's countries cannot read. Education is one of the major factors of determining the decision-making. This study focuses on the contribution of women in various sectors but does not analyze their role in decision-making in these sectors.

Mazumdar (2009) in the journal 'Another Development with Women : A view from Asia : Development Dialogue, delineates that the Asian women who have been subjected to acute social, economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and, which continues even to this day. There are three components to balance the inequality i.e. economic, political power and knowledge. Women's works in Asia are considered as unproductive. It is closely associated with their inferior social status and

also the loss of personal freedom. Mazumdar concludes that family constraints, illiteracy, traditional barriers, attitude and women's ability are the major determinants of decision-making.

National planning commission of Nepal (2012) has summarized that there are two major quantitative indicators of women status used the relative input into two areas of decision-making viz. farm management, and involvement in local market economy and domestic activities. The commission has also analyzed that Hindu society is largely confined to non-market i.e. domestic and subsistence production, displaying a less significant role in decision-making. Women's participation in the market economy has improved their status and this is more conspicuous among Tibet-Brahman communities. Including economic factor, socio-cultural, political, educational and legal factors are also important part in the decision-making process.

A country report of Nepal describes that women are responsible for a very large share of home, farm, agricultural production but have disproportionate access to all inputs and resources. The high rate of illiteracy, economic dependence, lack of access to property, heavy work-burden and patriarchal norms and values imply the extent of female poverty. Women's actual labor force participation is under reported or estimated because much in the work women do in the subsistence farming category is not classified as economically active.

Acharya (2011) in 'Gender Equality And Empowerment of Women' states that conservative social custom is one of the major reason obstructing women from full participation in economic development, which results low decision-making power in women's hand. Higher the women's participation in economic development, higher will be the decision-making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception is that only women are responsible for the reproduction conception delivery and upbringing of child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to men is very low.

Culturally, women's public life is restricted and it is related to the patriarchal social system, which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape and culture world view and governed in dividend self fact is largely

evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision-making position. Gender aspect is also important in decision-making in our society.

Sharma (2000) in his Ph. D. dissertation entitled “Women Participation in Local Development Planning: A Case Study of Five Districts in the Western Development Region”, describes that people participation is the involvement of people in the process of decision-making, which directly or indirectly influences their lives. Participation makes people feel belongingness which in turn brings a sense of ownership and it imports knowledge, idea and skill along with its involved experience. There is inter-relationship between local development and people participation. It cannot be achieved and rationalized without putting the people first. People are the end and means of development. He emphasized on the local people’s participation in local level development planning. For it, local people should be empowered and aware of the local development and their participatory role in it. The involvement of people in the decision-making process depends basically upon the socio-economic and political milieu of the institutions. Finally, he concludes that until and unless the development of rural economy and socio-economic enhancement of the grass root people are not accomplished, the national development cannot be achieved. This study focuses on the people participation at local level but it does not highlight the women’s role in the local level development planning.

Pandey (2005) ‘A Report of Enabling State Program states that Nepalese Women’s Participation in Decision-Making’ level remains negligible, however, despite constitutional assurance and the flowery words of the leaders. After the election of 1999, only 5.8 percent parliament members and 2.4 percent of high level bureaucracy post as special class in Nepal were women who state minister of the cabinet. Less than 10 percent women are in the working committee of the political parties. Only 8 percent of the civil servants are women and most of them are in lower and middle level of jobs. Therefore, women’s participation is very negligible in national level of decision-making.

Pandit’s (2002) thesis entitled ‘Women’s Participation in Decision-Making: A Case Study of RCIW Program in Doti District,’ based on primary data, analyzes the women’s participation in decision-making activities at the local level with special focus on their involvement in the Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW)

program. Women's participation at local level, especially village level in development activities as well as decision-making process has increased, though it not satisfactory. It is effective where they are directly involved (e.g. in Livestock, borrowing loan, keep to earning etc.) The male dominated society does not allow women to involve in decision-making, exposure visit, and representation in meeting. He concludes that women's participation in the decision-making activities has been less effective due to social structure and cultural norms.

Dangi (2013) in his study entitled "Women's Participation to Household Management: A Case Study of Chuhandanda VDC, Terhathum District, concludes that Nepalese women still remains underprivileged as compared to their male counterparts. The study states that, in rural context, they work 17 percent extra hours than those of men in domestic and subsistence economy, however their socio-economic status remain both less recognized and more inferior in comparison to their male counterparts. The study concludes that women play greater role in household and domestic management process but they need final approval of their household head in this process.

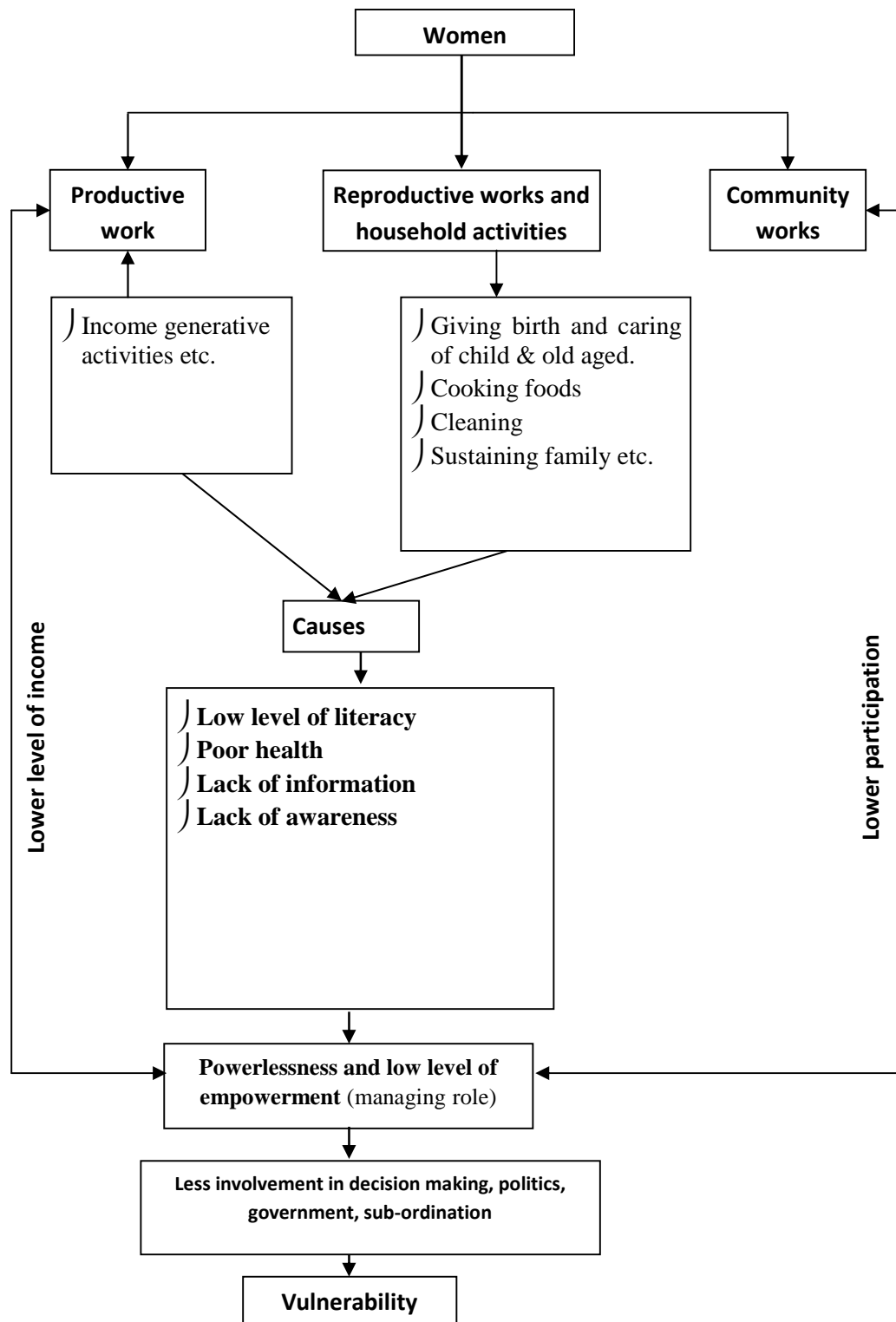
A study done by Thapa (2014) entitled Women on Households Design Making : A case study of Luyata VDC of Bajhang Nepal". is focused to analyze the decision-making power of women in terms of social as well as household activities. The study concludes that women have lower decision-making power than their men counterparts. They have sub-ordinate role in family and in society. They have deprived from their right and responsibilities. In the major household activities, men play dominant role in decision-making. The women, who have higher educational qualification and employed have higher decision-making power than merely illiterate as well as economically dependent women. The women's decision-making power is positively related to the socio-economic status.

Pandey (2005) in her thesis Role of Women in 'Household Decision Making : A study of Arbeni VDC, Gulmi', shows that 58.3 percent male and 25 percent female, and 16.6 percent of both made decision in selling agricultural products. Women were found to be actively participating in buying agricultural products but male dominated females in selling decisions. Only 46.1 percent women were decided to take job by themselves and 30.7 percent jobholder women had joined job in the decision made by their husbands. The study further shows that most of the women from higher family

found literate and well educated than others but they are found weaker in decision-making power than lower caste women. Magar women are found more decisive role than others. The study concludes that the reason of male dominating culture but it is not only one cause because education, economic condition, opportunity can play significant role in their decision-making role inside as well as outside the households.

Shakti, (2013) states that Women's public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape the cultures worldview and governed individual self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision making position.

## 2.3 Conceptual Framework



## **CHAPTER – III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Research methodology is a systematic way to solve the research problems. In other words, research methodology deals with the methodology adopted in the study. It contains the research design, population of the study, nature and sources of data, method of data collection, sample size, processing and data analysis.

#### **3.1 Study Area**

The presented study would be conducted in Itahari Sub-metropolitan city ward no.5 Baraha Tole of Sunsari district. The study focused on women's decision making role in household management.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The study was done by descriptive and explorative research design to study "Women participation in Household decision making process in Itahari Sub-metropolitan City ward no.5 of Sunsari district. The following methodological procedures would be applied in this study.

#### **3.3 Population of the Study**

The total population of in Itahari Sub-metropolitan City ward no.5 Baraha Tole of Sunsari district. is 4260 in 5004 households. The total populations of female are 2073 in the study area (CBS 2011). The survey had been conducted in women in the study area.

#### **3.4 Nature and Source of Data**

To fulfill the above-mentioned objective of this study both quantitative and qualitative data would be collected and analyzed. Primary data i.e., first hand qualitative as well as quantitative data obtained from the fieldwork-using interview questionnaire. The secondary data would be collected to get the authentic and reliable information about economic, social as well as influencing factor about women's decision making role in household management. However, the secondary data would be obtained from the various reports, books, published and unpublished research paper, national and international articles, VDC profile, magazine, and other related journal.

### **3.5 Sampling Procedure**

In order to identify the respondents, stratified sampling procedure would be applied. The total population of women, after that the 60 households (20 percent household) would be selected for the study.

### **3.6 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection**

To collect the data, the researcher used following techniques:

#### **3.6.1 Observation**

Observation is one of the important techniques of data collection in which information's are gathered in a direct way. It has the advantage of putting researcher into first hand contact with "reality". Observation is carried out to verify the collected information and relevant features in the study area. A great deal of data was collected through direct observation. (Kerlinger 2009:483-486)

In this study, the researcher will observe women to understand and know about their living styles, behaviours, and activities, get up, socio-economic situation, health, the relation with their friends and their livelihood strategies that consist of their day-to-day activities. The observation of this fieldwork is mostly consisted of listen and converse with women in free and natural atmosphere as possible.

#### **3.6.2 Interview Schedule**

The interview is perhaps the ubiquitous method of obtaining information from people. It is a face-to- face `interpersonal role in which one person, the interviewer asks a person

being interviewed, questions designed to obtain answer pertinent to the research problem. (Kerlinger2009:483-486)

In this study, semi-structured schedule questionnaire will be prepared for the interview to know the women's role in household decision making.

#### **3.6.3 Key Informant Schedule**

The interview technique has some rationality to be used when the researcher started to make a respondent to speak on some pre-defined set of questions as key informant

interview. The comments and opposition of the other listener on speak of particular respondents made the idea of key informant interview transformed into the group discussion. It was good technique for the researcher to grasp with the women's view on different matters related to study.

### **3.7 Data Analysis and Presentation**

All the raw data will be collected through observation and interview using questionnaire, which have been thoroughly checked and manually processed. They will be classified and tabulated in the required format under the different headings. In this study both qualitative and quantitative analyses will be done. Qualitative analysis will be done to study socio-economic condition of women where as quantitative analysis has been presented in table and calculated in percentage.

These above methods are used in this study by researcher. The field visit was conducted informally. For the required data, the respondents were made to speak, free as much as possible and data were collected whenever women met in the selected area. Altogether 60 households were used to generate the information. They were from different background of caste/ethnicity, age and sex groups.

### **3.8 Limitation of the Study**

The issue of women's participation in household decision making process is a very vague issue that is difficult to study at once. This study is concentrated so as to analyze the situation of women in decision making process especially in household. But, the study will be only based on decision making in household. This study covered only the selected area of 60 households Itahari Sub-metropolitan City ward no.5 of Sunsari district.

### **3.9 Definition of Terms Used**

#### **Decision making**

The process of deciding about something important especially in a group of people or in a organization.

#### **Participation**

Participation means the involvement in all decision related activities. The primary purpose of participation is to encourage community self-determination and thus faster sustainable development.

#### **Household**

Household refers to a single person living alone or a group of person, who may not or may not be usually living in a particular housing unit and sharing meal with common resources.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **WOMEN'S ROLE IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING**

#### **4.1 Location of the Itahari Sub-metropolitan**

This chapter presents a brief introduction to the study area. In this chapter, an attempt has been made to describe the geographical, cultural, socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the people covered by the present study. As mentioned above Sunsari District was selected as a present study. Obviously, the findings of this study were very much characterized by the setting of the study area and the people taken as sample. In view of this, a brief introduction of the area and the description of the sample characteristics have been presented in different sections of this chapter. The first section presents an overview of Kathmandu district. The second section is about Sunsari district in general and the third section describes the socio-economic characteristics of the sample households.

#### **4.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristic Itahari-5 Area**

A part of Koshi zone, Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 lies in Sunsari District of Nepal. The district, known as Koshi, with Koshi river as its place 13 km far and has a population (2011) of 2200 Km squarer and density. The total population of Itahari Sub-metropolitan city is 60,247 among 30226 male and 30021 are female. The populations of the Itahari Sub-metropolitan city constrict of different caste/ethnic groups. The include Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Tamang, Magar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu, Sherpa and others. The ethnic groups have their own culture, traditional and languages. By religion people of the district are Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Kirat and Christian.

#### **Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 of Sunsari District: A Brief Introduction**

Study Area is situated in Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 of Sunsari District and Koshi Zone of eastern Nepal. The topographical features of this area are Terrain. It is situated between 27° 23' to 27° 30' north latitude and 86° 09' to 86° 14' east longitude ranged 2400 to 615 meter of height from the sea level. In the 7 ward which constitutes 1504 household .Out of these 13 ward, in this ward there are total 1504 household and total population is 6260. Out of the total population are females 2073

and male population 2187 are males. This area is located in the north east side. The area is bounded on the west by Inaruwa, East by Morang, on the south by Biratnagar and north by Dharan.

### 4.3 Population

The female population as compared to the male is slightly low. The density of population is only 2200 per square kilometer whereas; there are 14340 household in the selected area.

**Table 4.1**

#### **Total Population Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5**

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	3187	50.91
Female	3073	49.08
Total	6260	100

Source: Municipality Record, 2073

The table .4.1 helps to observe the total population of the Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 of Sunsari District is 6260. In which 3073 (49.08) are female and 3187 (50.91) are male. The major portion of the population comprises of male population is lower than female population because female birth rate is higher than male birth rate.

### 4.4 Caste/ethnic Composition

The caste system in Nepal is an important part of ancient Hindu tradition. Portuguese travelers who came to India in the 16<sup>th</sup> century first used the term caste. Caste comes from the Spanish Portuguese word "Casta" which means "race", "bread" or "lineage". Nepalese use the term "Jati" each related to a specific occupation.

The Caste/ ethnic groups reveal a tendency to stay clustered among their own communities. However, people from different groups were also found to be believing together in certain areas of settlement. The study area is the mixture of different

cultural groups. The major portion of the population comparisons of Brahmin and Chhetri which is followed by Newar, Tamang, Gurung, Rai, Sherpa, Others, Damai and other:

**Table 4.2**

**Caste/Ethnic Composition**

Caste/Ethnic groups	No .of Households	Percentage
Brahmin	20	33.33%
Chhetri	12	20%
Newar	9	15%
Tamang	7	11.67%
Sherpa	5	8.33%
Magar	3	5%
Gurung	3	5%
Others	1	1.67%
Total	60	100

Source: Filed survey, 2073

The above table 4.2 shows the ethnic composition of households. Among the total household, Brahmin is the highest, Chhetri contains the second position and Newar is stayed third position in which Magar, Gurung are 5 percent, 5 percent respectively. In comparison with the females of the so-called upper class, the condition of the females of the lower class is even more pathetic. They are forced to obey whatever the males say. The Brahmin constitutes 33.33 percent of the total household. Others constitute 1.67 percent of total household. Likewise, Brahmins community is female there in ward no .7 because they live in another ward of the total household in the study area. The untouchables are the people of different occupational groups.

In the present study, caste has been taken up as one of the socio-cultural characteristics of the population. This is because the gender roles and responsibilities differ in dichotomous and non-dichotomous societies. In the later chapter, caste will

also be considered to find out the differing work pattern and whether or not this variable affects gender participation in decision making process in a household.

#### **4.5 Family Type**

Nepalese society is dominantly patriarchal village is governed by these norms. Traditionally senior males are accorded the headship of the family and daughters after being married; go to live in their husband house. The sons live with their parents until they have offspring. Some prefer to stay separately and lead their own life having children. According to the villagers usually after parent's death the brother live separately. Generally, there are two common practices for the location of new residence. If the present's house is big enough then the son's have their own separate kitchen within their parents house or build their independent house in their share of the family's land. If one has two or more sons, they divide their parent's property equally. The old parents almost prefer to live with their youngest son's family.

A Family is a social and economic unit consisting minimally of one or more parents and their children. Member of family always have certain reciprocal rights and obligations towards each other, particularly economics ones. Family members usually live in one household, but common residence is not a defining feature of families. The family size of the sample households is as given below.

#### **Type of family:**

- ) Nuclear family:-A nuclear family is often the considered traditional family group that it consists two of generation's father, mother with clearly divided gendered roles, with children.
- ) Extended family:- A consanguine family unit that includes two or more generations of kindred related through either the paternal or maternal line who common residence and are subject to common social ,economic ,and religious regulations.
- ) Joint family: - The extended family generally consists of three generations of people that is grandparents, parents and children who all live close to each other and maintain regular contact. This type of family is usually found in society where a large group of people living together can be of real use.

The given table 4.3 shows extended family are not there ward because now a day people are not interested this type of family. In present content most of them like to live in nuclear and joint family

**Table 4.3**  
**Types of Family**

Type of Family	Brahmin	Chhetri	Newar	Tamang	Sherpa	Magar	Gurung	Others	Total	%
Nuclear	12	7	2	5	4	2	3	1	36	60
Joint	8	5	7	2	1	1	-	-	24	40
Total	20	12	9	7	5	3	3	1	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

After studying the table 4.3. I found that maximum number of family have a nuclear family 60 percent and 40 percent of the family lives jointly of Brahmin group. Similarly, 58.33 percent of family have nuclear and 41.67 percent of family lives jointly in Chhetri, 71.43 of family have a nuclear and 28.57 of family lives jointly in Tamang, 22.22 percent nuclear and 77.78 percent joint family in Newar, 80 percent nuclear and 20 percent joint family in Sherpa, 66.67 percent nuclear and 33.33 percent joint family in Magar, 100 percent nuclear family in Gurung and 100 percent nuclear family in Others.

However, an increasing trend for nuclear family mainly because of the following. As people started to move far and wide in search of jobs, business and other career development opportunities, people started to break down giving rise to nuclear family. The low income and more expenses to fulfill the basic needs of the family people tend to think living separately so as to curtail their expenses. In joint families, they have substantially less work burden then men and women of nuclear families (Bennet, 1983). But in the decision making process, the women's of nuclear family have more role then the women of joint family.

#### 4.6 Marital Status of the Household

The marital status is the civil status of each individual in relation the marriage laws or customs of the country, i.e. never married, married, widowed and not remarried, divorced and not remarried, married but legally separated, facto union.

Marital status makes difference in women's status, because it is through marriage that the women change their status from the status of daughter to daughter-in-law, which increases their responsibility regarding the decision making. In the Nepalese context, marriage leads a women to child bearing. With increasing role expectations the married and unmarried have different status due to this position in Nepal. In the life of women, marital status is an important indicator. Marital status is also a significant social indicator for understanding gender participation in household economy. Gender ideologies for married and unmarried male and female differ and consequently their roles also differ in the household economy. Therefore, the marital statuses of the respondents have been taken into consideration.

##### Classification of Marital Status

- ) Married (and not separated): This category includes persons whose opposite or same-sex spouse is living, unless the couple is separated or a divorce has been obtained .Also included are persons in civil unions.
- ) Living common law: This category includes person who are living with a person of the opposite sex or not legally married to that person. It includes situations where the members of such a couple are living apart temporarily because of illness, work or school.
- ) Separated (not living common law): This category includes persons who have lost their legally married. Those who live with a common law partner are not included in this category.
- ) Separated (not living common law): This category includes persons legally married but who are no longer living their spouse (for any reason other than illness, work or school) and not obtained a divorce. Those who live with a common law partner are not included in this category.
- ) Divorced (not living common law): This category includes persons who have obtained a legal divorce and have not remarried. Those

who live with a common law partner are not included in this category.

- J Single (not living common law): This category includes persons who have married (including all persons less than 15 years of age) It also includes persons whose marriage has been legally annulled who were single before the annulled marriage and who have not remarried. Those who live with a common law partner are not included in this category. The marital status of the respondent is shown in the table.

**Table 4.4**  
**Marital Status of the Respondents**

Marital status	No. of Male Respondent	Male Percent	No .of Female Respondent	Female percent
Married	20	66.67	23	76.67
Unmarried	7	23.33	1	3.33
Widowed/widower	3	10	6	20
Total	30	100	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 72

Out of the total 60 respondent, 20 male and 23 female of them are found to be married 7 male and 1 female of them unmarried and only 3 widower male and 6 female widowed .The married women constitute large majority of 76.67 married comparatively male 66.67 percent, unmarried male 23.33 female 3.33 percent and widowed female 20 and male widower is 10 percent out of the total number of respondent .A widow is the women whose husband has died. A widower is the man whose wife has died.

Married, unmarried and widowed females get different treatments in the society. In comparison with others, unmarried females can enjoy more freedom in the family. The married females have to lose all their rights and freedom. Their main duty is supposed to satisfy their husband. They are not allowed to doubt and question their husbands. The condition of widowed females is even worse. They have to face the curses and unnecessary blames of the society.

#### **4.7 Educational Status**

Education is an important element of life that exposes the bright future of life. It plays a vital role for the development of people, national economy as a whole. It is the principle mechanism for fulfilling the awareness and change of the people. Therefore, it is one of the most important demographic characteristics for empowering both men and women.

Expanding opportunities and amplifying the voices of women and girls isn't a zero-sum equation because gender equality conveys broad development dividends for men and boys, and communities. Conversely, constraining women's agency by limiting what jobs they can do or condoling gender-based violence can causes huge economic losses and hinder development efforts.

Uneducated people tend to live in little "bubbles". Educated people understand how to be global citizen; they know there are other countries out there, the society and culture of their own countries, city, town is not the only one out there, and they aren't afraid of people who look or act differently than they do. They increased awareness on political, social, economical matter, just to name a few. They know there's more to the world than just their own backyard. The educational status of the sampled household of the study area has been presented below:

**Table 4.5**  
**Educational Status**

Education status	Male	Female	Total	Percent	
				Male	Female
Illiterate	2	8	10	6.67	26.67
Literate	11	10	21	36.67	33.33
Under SLC	9	8	17	30	26.67
SLC	5	3	8	16.67	10
Above SLC	3	1	4	10	3.33
Total	30	30	60	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The educational status is divided into categories which are literate, illiterate, under SLC, SLC and above SLC those people who can only read and write are kept in literate and having school education but did not pass the SLC are kept, under SLC and above SLC represents are all who have attained all the levels above SLC level education.

Table 4.5 shows the education status of the respondent .The total respondents illiterate consisting 6.67 male and 26.67 female It was found that only 36.67 male are literate among the 33.33 are females.30 male are under SLC among them 26.67 are female.16.67 percent male and 10 percent female respondent attained SLC education .Only 10 percent male and 3.33 percent female engaged above SLC.

This is a clear indication that the literacy rate among the male is negligible compared to that of the considering the felt that the male constitute only 36.67 percent as opposed to 33.33 female out of the total number of respondent. The percent of female 33.33 was recorded the least. This shows that still women are far behind than male from educational attainment. Through the government has greater early expenses still many people in the grass root level are deprived of education clearly signified by my study area?

In the context of literacy, there was not vast gap between both male and female which is good in village context. However, the overall literacy rate is lesser to the comparison of upper caste people like Brahmin. The main reason of their educational backwardness was poverty, lack of awareness, impact of socio-cultural practices etc. In conclusion, 90% people are literate and 10 % Illiterate.

#### **4.8 Occupation and Source of Income**

Occupation and source of income represent the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as the main source of income. Business is the main occupation in the study area along with government services. Thus, the major sources of income are business and service. However, some households are engaged on agricultural occupation too and some HHs are engaged in non-agriculture occupation for e.g.: Foreign employment, Tourism, Daily-wage earners etc. The following table shows the occupational composition of sampled HHs with reference to male and female population.

**Table 4.6**

#### **Occupational Composition**

Occupation	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage
Agricultural	13	43.34	11	36.67
Business	4	13.33	–	-
services	9	30	2	6.66
Household Work	–	–	17	56.67
Other	4	13.33	–	–
	30	100	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

As shown the table 4.6 sees that 30 out of the 13 male are involved in agriculture, 4 in business (small shops). 9 in government services; out of the 30 females 11 of them concentrated mainly upon agriculture 2 in government services, 17 in household work. Therefore I find a comparatively higher rate of male in agriculture 43.34 business 13.33, service 30, and others 13.33 percent as compared to female. But we also see no involvement of male in the household activities.

From this study it is found that the involvement of male in business and other economical field in great deal. Female are involvement is negligible as compared to male still many of the female are as compared to male. Still many of the female are engaged in agriculture and household activities and aren't conscious about other, than agriculture.

The great portion of females does not have access to paying jobs. Though, they have to do more works in comparison with their male counter parts in total, they get nothing in return. The household works, which are completely non-paying works, pull the females backward from their creativity. This further compels their submission before the males.

#### 4.9 Working Hours among the Male and Female

The working hour of female is definitely higher than that of their male counterpart. This can be attributed to their involvement in both business, HHs work as well as the agricultural sphere of activities.

In the Nepalese society, women have always been looked down upon as the weaker sex and thus, in the context of our country; they lag far behind men in all aspects of life. While men are thought to be the breadwinners and the heads of families, women are only confined to do the household work. However, all the work that they do within the house is not given importance, even though they toil hard day in and out and put in more working hours than men. It is not just in Nepal but rather a global problem and according to the United Nation, women "earn only 10 percent of the world's income and own less than one percent of the world's property."

**Table 4.7**  
**Working Hours among the Male and Female Groups**

Working Hours	Male	Female	total	Male percent	Female percent
Up to 2 hours	5	–	5	16.67	–
3-5hrs	6	8	14	20	26.67
6-8hrs	10	12	22	33.33	40
9-11hrs	6	8	14	20	26.67
11+hrs	3	2	5	10	6.67
	30	30	60	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The female input in terms of working hours per day is definitely higher than that of their male counterpart. This can be attributed to their involvement in both domestic as well as the agricultural sphere of activities.

As shown in the table 4.7 only male in the category where the working hour per day is 2 hours on the other hand. Female constitute 16.67 percent and male 10 percent within the category of the highest number of working hours per day (11+ hours).

Overall finding is that man comprises a larger portion of the lesser number of working hours where as women constitute a greater percentage of the higher number of working hours. In the category of 3-5 working hours/day, male constitute 20 percent and the female only 26.67 percent. But for the category of 6-8 working hours/day female constitute 40 percent as compared to only 33.33 percent for male. Female, therefore have longer working hours as compared to male.

The working hours between males and females definitely shock everybody. The females are compelled to internalize the fact that they are born to work. In other words, working always becomes their natural duty towards their family and society.

Thus, in the male-dominated societies, females are considered just as machines which can easily be repaired and replaced if they do not function. They are confined within the narrow walls of kitchen. Furthermore, they are given their prime duty of giving birth, rearing and nourishing their children. The age-old male ideology deprives them from their natural, innate and inborn rights of equality, freedom and justice. The females of all classes and families are trapped in the claws of cruel and ruthless male ideology.

#### **4.10 Decision Making Role in HHs Related Expenditures**

Decision making is one of the indicators of social status. The ability to make decision makes people powerful. The decision maker is considered as centre both in the family and society, around which all other members revolve. Decisions have to be taken in all sectors including business, household works, education, choosing bridegroom and so on. The chances and opportunities to make decisions determines the progress and development of people.

##### **4.10.1 Decision Making in Livestock Household**

In this sphere, women's role in household's money keeping and marketing are obvious. Women generally do not have access to markets except within their village itself. In Thali Area like other villages household head does the decision-making. In patriarchal system senior most male or the household head keeps money and controls

household and agriculture. This being the household head, landholding is also in control of the head of the family as he has total control over the household.

**Table 4.8**

**a) Livestock Purchase**

Decision-Maker	Idea Generate	%	Final Decision maker	%
	No. of Household		No. of Household	
Husband	24	40	26	43.33
Wife	16	26.67	15	25
Household head (father in law)	14	23.33	13	21.67
Jointly	6	10	6	10
Total	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

As shown the table 5.8, 60 out of total households are involved in a recent livestock purchase. Both the husband and wife a household 40 and 43.33 percent each as the initiator of the idea of livestock purchase. But wives score the highest 38.33 percent as the persons consulted as well as the final decision makers for these purchase 25 percent. But the household these purchase 26.67 percent. But the household head and jointly members score a lower percent than the husband and wife as the final decision makers in this matter.

Most women do not have any role in the purchase involving huge sense of money. In the same way if they have access to such resources their role in such transactions is more important.

The family where the male member has gone to other places, women herself is acknowledging acting head of the household and thus the decision maker. After returning to the home male takes charge as a household head. In the patriarchal

system like Nepal, husband has been functioning as a head of the household. After the absence of father, the elder son does the decision making.

The finding of the study shows that, the total sample household of the study area, women were heavily participate in local market activities and are also more involved in the market economy as agricultural labors, so they have more access in socio-economic status then the other high caste groups (Acharya and Bennet, 1983).

This household management part deals with the purchases of domestic goods, borrowing, lending money, sale of agricultural product etc.

**Table 4.9**  
**b) Livestock Sale**

Decision-Maker	Idea Generate	%	Final Decision maker	%
	No. of Household		No. of Household	
Husband	17	45.95	13	35.14
Wife	8	21.62	-	-
Household head (father in law)	7	18.92	15	40.54
Jointly	5	13.51	9	24.32
Total	37	100	37	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

It should be noted that only 37 out of the 60 household were engaged in recent sale of livestock.

The husbands show greatest input as initiators 45.95 percent and final decision makers 35.14 percent of livestock sale. Among the persons consulted, the wives score the highest percent 32.43 percent but none as the final decision makers. The household head jointly members appear in lower stage of the decision making process.

Overall the household head members of the household appear to have a stronger hold over the decision making of livestock sale.

**Table 4.10**  
**c) Livestock Maintenance**

Grass Collector	No. of Household	%	Overall care taker	No. of Household	%
Husband	10	17.86	Husband	11	19.64
Wife	41	73.22	Wife	39	69.64
Household head (mother in law)	-	-	Household head	3	5.35
Jointly	5	8.92	Jointly	3	5.37
Total	56	100		56	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Only 56 households are found to keep livestock. Among them the wives are seen as the major grass collectors 77.58 percent for the livestock. Both make up a significant portion of the household members as the overall caretakers of livestock.

The male members however show the least in this respect. The greater involvement in female members is found in feeding and carving the livestock and involved in the regular check up of the live stock.

#### **4.10.2 Decision Making in Business**

Business is the major source of income in some families. It yields large profit to those who invest. In almost all families, decision about business investment is taken by male members, as a consequence, females have to be dependent on males. The following table clearly shows the decision making in business investment.

**Table 4.11**  
**Decision Making in Business Investment**

Decision maker	Idea Generated (No. of H.H)	Percentage	Final decision maker (No. of H.H)	Percentage
Husbands	26	43.33	29	48.33
Wife	18	30	23	38.33
Other Male members	9	15	4	6.67
Other Female members	2	3.33	-	-
Jointly	5	8.34	4	6.67
Total	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table 5.11 shows that only 60 percent out of the 60 households are involved in business investment. Although wives have a greater input as initiators 30 percent, however the husbands appear as the main persons to be consulted 43.33 percent and as final decision makers 38.33 percent as well. The other male members have some kind of contribution in all three stages of the decision making process, while the joint decisions in the final stage score 6.67 percentage. Ignoring the females, males make decisions in business investment and other income generating activates.

Despite their negligible involvement in income generating and profit making activities, we can find large involvement of women as major decision maker regarding food expenditure, clothing, medical treatment, loans and gifts, social and religious ceremonies.

#### **4.10.3 Decision Making on Buying Household Items**

In this section radio, T.V, furniture and (telephone/mobile) are categorized as household things. Almost all households have a radio in their home but only 51 percent of the households own television. Maximum number of women replied that

they had mutually decided to buy a Television. But in the case of telephone/mobile) women were found to decide less than men. The responses from the households are shown in the table below:

**Table 4.12**

**Decision on Buying Household Things**

Household things	Percentage <sup>4</sup>
Radio	21.67
T.V	26.67
Telephone	33.33
Furniture	26.67
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table 4.12 shows, the decision of male, female and both of them on buying of household things. As shown in the table, 43.33 percent of male and 35 percent of female and 21.67 percent of both of them made decision on purchasing Radio. 40 percent of male, 33.33 percent of female and 26.67 percent of both of male and female made decision to purchase T.V. Similarly, the decision to purchase Telephone (Mobile) is made by 36.67percent of male 30 percent of female and 33.33percent of both of them made decision to purchase Telephone (Mobile). Likewise, 31.67 percent of male, 41.67 percent of female and 26.67 percent of both of them made decision to purchase furniture.

Therefore, as shown in the table, the decision to purchase Radio, Television and Furniture were found to have relatively more than that of male. This clearly indicates the role of female to be effective only deciding about the minor household activities.

#### 4.10.4 Educational Management

Parents have to take the responsibility of educating their children. Better educated women may have more status in the household and have greater authority to speak openly with their husbands about their children's education. In the present study, all the households (60) were asked about who decides to take admission of their children to school, buy books, uniforms and payment of fees. The responses are presented in table below:

**Table 4.13**  
**Decision Making Role in Educational Management**

<b>Educational Instrument</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male Percentage</b>	<b>Female Percentage</b>	<b>Both Percentage</b>	<b>Total</b>
Books/Copies	26	22	12	60	43.33	36.67	20	100
Uniforms	19	26	15	60	31.67	43.33	25	100
Payment of fees	28	20	12	60	46.67	33.33	20	100
Admission in school	23	22	15	60	38.33	36.67	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table 4.13 shows the decision of males and females regarding to buy the educational instruments of the children. As shown above table, 43.33 percent of male, 36.67 percent of female and 20 percent of both of them made decision to buy books and copies for children. Similarly, to buy their uniforms, the decision is made by 31.67 percent of male, 43.33percent of female and 25 percent of both of them. Likewise, 46.67 percent of the male 33.33 percent of female and 20 percent of both of them made decision to pay the fees of the children. 38.33 percent of male, 36.67 percent of female and 25 percent of both of them decided regarding selection of school regarding their children's admission.

According to the table 4.13, it is clear that most of the decision regarding education of the children, their fees selection of school for admission is made by males where as

female made the decision regarding the uniform of their children only. Though some of the roles are given to females, they are of less value. For example; women's participation is higher in terms of selection of uniform as it is considered more or less household chore reserved for woman of the house. The major roles are assumed by the males themselves. Thus, the females are engaged only in insignificant things, in which the final and most decisive decision is taken by males.

#### **4.10.5 Decision making on the use health services (Traditional/Modern)**

Wives are again seen as the primary initiator and final decision makers for expenditure on medical treatment (both traditional/modern) among the 60 households.

**Table 4.14**  
**Decision making on the use of health services**

Decision maker	Idea Generate (No. of H.H)	Percentage	Final Decision Maker (No. of H.H)	Percentage
Husband	18	30	24	40
Wife	30	50	25	41.67
Other Male members	8	13.33	6	10
Other Female members	3	5	3	5
Jointly	1	1.67	2	3.33
Total	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Such decision making depicts women's greater control for the health of the family members. The husbands, however are consulted the most in such matters, as they score the highest 40 percent in the second stage of the decision making process. The other male members have a greater input than the female members in all three stages of decision making. The joint decisions are 3.33 percent only.

Hence, females are taken as only house keepers whose main duty is only inside the family. Their decisions do not contribute to the overall development of the family as these decisions can be completely subverted by the males. The females are forcefully made to internalize that they are physically and mentally immature and weak, and as a result, they cannot make wise decisions.

#### **4.11 Decision Making Role in Other Household Related Activates**

Different activities are performed within the family to run it smoothly. The role of both male and female is inevitable in every activity. There should be gender equality and equity. But, it is not found in the male - dominated society. The role of male and female in decision making is colored by discrimination and guided by male ideology. Some of the household activities and role of male and female are presented below.

##### **4.11.1 Control over Household Cash/ Expenditure/ Transactions**

Female's share is found more in decision making in case of general household expenditure. They have to manage the expenditure of different kitchen items and other materials. The following table shows the control of female over household cash:

**Table 4.15**  
**Control over Household Cash**

Persons	No. of Households	Percentage
Husband	17	28.33
Wife	31	51.67
Male members	8	13.33
Female members	4	6.67
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

From the above table 4.15 I see that wives make up the highest percent 51.67 percent among the other members of the household as the ones to keep the household money. However the other female members appear to have no such control as compared to their male counterpart. The female especially wife have dominant role in deciding the expenditure of household materials.

#### 4.11.2 Control over Bazaar Purchase

Every family has to purchase the essential materials from the market. In my field of study, the females have greater authority over purchasing the materials. They can decide what and where to buy but their purchasing authority is indirectly controlled by economy in which husband has complete grip. The following table shows this situation:

**Table 4.16**

**Control over Bazaar Purchase**

Persons	No. of Households	Percentage
Husband	17	28.33
Wife	28	46.67
Male members	10	16.67
Female members	5	8.33
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The wives alone have a greater control over purchases required from the bazaar as compared to the other members of the household. The other female members, however, show very little control in this matter 8.33 percent which is in fact the least among the rest of the household.

The husbands alone make up 28.33 percent for control over bazaar purchases. The remaining males can control about 16.67 percent .This is less than female members to control over bazaar purchase.

The female despite having almost complete control over purchasing the essential things, are not free from male bondage. As they are engaged only in non-paying works, they have to kneel down in front of their husbands for money. So, inaccessibility to income sources has become a curse to female.

#### 4.11.3 Control over Family Expenditure (Small gift/loan to friend/ relative)

Female have sole control over other different family expenditures, which are mainly supposed to be minor. They are free to decide about small gifts, loan to friends or relatives. But, in most of these cases, the final decisions are made by male. Discarding such things as insignificant and minor, males do not bear their responsibility regarding such things:

**Table 4.17**

#### **Control over Family Expenditure**

Decision maker	Idea Generated (No. of H.H)	Percent	Final decision maker No. of H.H	Percent
Husband	17	28.38	19	31.67
Wife	33	55	30	50
Other Male members	3	5	3	5
Other Female members	5	6.33	3	5
Jointly	2	3.33	5	8.33
Total	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The total 60 households have expenditure on small gifts and loans to friends or relative. Among them, the wives reveal the greatest input as initiators 55 percent and final decision makers 50 percent for such expenditure, while the husbands are consulted the most in these matter, the other male and female members appear to have a low input as initiators and final decision makers.

In sum, the role of female in household decision making is ambivalent. They are allowed to make decisions in some so-called inferior and insignificant works, but the main and final decisions are taken by male only. The voices and suggestions of the females are found to be addressed only in some of the cases. Avoidance and negligence of female in household activities have lead to degradation of the family.

Family welfare is possible only with the involvement of female. Active participation and involvement of women in each and every activity of the family including decision making in different matters is needed for the all round development of family members and it also helps to make the family happy, realty, progressive and prosperous.

#### **4.12 Decision Making Role in Social**

Males and females have different roles in the social activities. Males can participate in all social and other activities whereas females are restricted only within the family. The exposure of males in different activities supersedes them than females in many respects. The female are made to be passive and silent, and accept whatever the males decide irrespective of the advantages and disadvantages.

##### **4.12.1 Decision Making in the Choice of Bridegroom**

The natural right to choose the bridegroom is not given to daughters. Moreover, their mother and other female members are also pathetic in this regard. The final decision is made by male members.

**Table 4.18**  
**Decision Making in the Choice of Bridegroom**

Decision Maker	No. of H.H.	Percentage
Husband	21	35
Wife	15	25
Other Male members	8	13.33
Other Female members	4	6.67
Jointly	12	20
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

From the above table 4.18 it can be concluded that husbands from 21 (35 percent) out of the 60 household decide on the bridegroom for their daughters. The wives and other male and others female members and joint decisions have 25 percent, 13.33 percent 6.67and 20 percent respectively each for the choice of bridegroom. It has been proved that the other female members are including the choice of the bridegroom.

Thus, female members are made just silent recipients of the male's decisions.

### 1.12.2 Decision Making in Dowry System

Dowry system is observed to be practiced among all the 60 households. Women are questioned whether taking fewer dowries with them during their marriage meant greater condemnation from their laws or the profile in households.

**Table 4.19**

**Decision Making in the Dowry System**

Decision Makers	No. of Household	Percentage
Husband	26	43.33
Wife	14	23
Male members	7	10
Female members	3	7
Jointly	10	16.67
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

From the above table 4.19 I see that husbands in the households appear to have a greater say 43.33 percent in the amount of dowry to be giving away for their daughters. Joint decisions are also comparatively strong 23 percent in these matters. The other male members and wives of the households have a low, while the other female, male including daughters(bridess) have say no at all in this decision making process.

### 4.12.3 Social/ Religious Ceremonies

Wives are mainly responsible for the two stages of decision making process namely as initiators and final decision makers for expenditure on social/ religions obligations. But, their input as persons consulted equal that of the husbands.

**Table 4.20****Religious Ceremonies**

Decision maker	Idea Generate (No. of H.H)	Percent	Final Decision Maker (No. of H.H)	Percent
Husband	21	35	15	25
Wife	27	45	23	38.33
Male members	10	16.67	9	15
Female members	2	3.33	4	6.67
Jointly	-	-	9	15
Total	60	100	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table 4.20 clearly shows that the male members show the greater input as final decision makers than the other female members, the later show greater input as initiators than former, while joint decisions, and although low are found in the second and third stage of decision making.

Wives are mainly responsible for the two stages of decision making process namely as initiators final decision makers. For expenditure as social/religious obligations but their input as persons consulted equal that of the husbands. While the male members, show greater input as final decision makers than the female members. The latter show greater inputs initiators than the former. While joint decisions although low, are found in the second and third stages of decision making.

All the households 60 spend on social religious ceremonies. The same pattern of wives as the major initiator 45 percent and male the 35 percent. The most 38.33 percent in the decision making process by wives and 25 percent by the husband.

The females are found to be most pathetic members in their own family. They are suppressed and dominated by their male counterparts. They are considered only as the

manager of the household activities, where the important role is played by male members. Their decisions are only nominal and insignificant.

#### **4.12.4 Decision Making for the Use of Family Planning Measures**

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present in most of the developing countries. Rapid population growth is the cause of the degradation of the quality of life as well as environment.

Family planning is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people. In developing countries, the food production is low and there is lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is essential to balance and manage population and environment properly.

**Table 4.21**

#### **(a) Decision Making for the Use of Family Planning Measures**

Decision maker	No .of Households	Percentage
Husband	19	38
Wife	17	34
Jointly	14	28
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

It should be noted that only 50 out of the 60 households using family planning measures reported their decisions for its use as being the strongest. Their inputs in this process constitute 34 percent of the total percentage. The joint decisions rank second 28 percent among the 19 households with the decision of the husbands following closely behind with 38 percent .The husband are found to be privileged to make the choices of family planning devices. Their dominant role in each and every sphere of life indicates the culmination of male domination and hegemony.

Thus, family planning was adopted in large households in my study area. So, it can be said that people have knowledge about family planning. Both husband and wife jointly decide which family planning measures to adopt. However, temporary family planning measure was practice in great deal. Though both husbands and wife use and

decide the family planning devices, the role of husbands in deciding these devices is crucial.

**Table 4.22**  
**Type of Family Planning Measures Used**

Types	No. of Household	Percentage
Permanent	7	14
Temporary	43	86
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

Among the 50 women (out of 60 households) who practice family planning measure, a large majority are found to use the temporary methods 86 percent a compared to the permanent ones 14 percent.

Thus family planning was adopted in few households in my study area. Both husband and wife jointly decide which family planning measures to adopt .however, temporary family planning measure to adopt. However, temporary family planning measure was practice is great deal.

Currently married women of reproductive age who say they do not want anymore children or that they want to wait at least for two year before having another child but are not currently using ay contraception are considered to have unmet for family planning.

#### **4.12.5 Decision Making in Sending Children to School**

Education is generally regarded as the light of life, which leads us from the darkness to the brightness. It enlightens and brightens our life, thereby removing the inherent weaknesses and short-comings. Every family has to take wise and timely decision about the education of their children. The role of husband and wife is found as follows regarding decision making in sending their children to school in my area of study:

**Table 4.23**  
**Decision Making in Sending Children to School**

Decision Maker	No. of Households	Percentage
Husband	28	46.67
Wife	21	35
Jointly	11	18.33
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

From the above table 4.23 hundred percentage households are found to send their children to school. 46.67 percent of male, 35 percent of female and 18.33 percent of jointly have made decisions to send children to school.

The close analysis of the above table shows that women are backward in making decisions about sending their children to school. Though some of the women can be involved in decision making, others have to obey the decisions of their husbands. This clearly exhibits the dependency of female on male.

#### **4.12.6 Decision Making for Women's Education**

Women education is one of the fundamental steps for women empowerment. Educated women can be self-supportive and self-dependent. It is helpful to release them from the cruel trap of male domination. But, the women are not free to decide about their education. They need to take permission from their husbands to attend the adult literacy classes. Only few of them can decide independently. The following table shows the decision making for women's education:

**Table 4.24**  
**Decision Making for Women's Education**

Decision making	No. of Households	Percentage
Husband	19	42
Wife	16	35.56
Jointly	10	22.22
Total	45	100

Source: Field Survey, 2073

The above table 4.24 shows that only 45 of women among the 60 households are found to participate in adult literacy classes

For the 16 women who participate in these classes, their husbands dominate as decision makers for their education, making up 42.22 percent of the total while the wife's decision is only 35.56 percent of the total and joint decisions of husband and wife is 22.22 percent of the total women.

Thus, with the help of their clever strategy of not sending females to get education, males are successfully continuing their dominating education for most of the females is the matter of mercy of their husbands.

#### **4.12.7 Community Activities**

Community activities provide great chance to expose to the public. These activities determine the public image of a person and help to create their own identity. In my area of study, many women are found to be participated in community activities.

##### **a) Women Participation in community Activities**

See that women form 42 out of the 60 households participate in community activities like exchange labor (Parma), community forest group and agricultural group etc. These women form a large majority of 70 percent of the total as opposed to the 30 percent of the women who do not participate in such activities Because 30 percent female are so much poor, illiterate and conservative minded.

#### **b) Freedom for Women in Participation of Community Activities**

Out of the 60 households 40 percent of the women professed at having freedom in their participation in community activities. But the remaining 60 percent women denied having any such freedom. Therefore, women's input as decision maker for their participation in community activities is very low.

From the finding of my study area we found involvement of women as he initiator in various decision making like education, expenses, family planning labor utilization etc. however, the final decision regarding all these matters was found to solely depended upon the husband. Very less involvement of other male and female members was found in decision making in different aspects.

Though most of the females are found to be involved in different community activities, it is not found to be very effective because they are weakened and paralyzed in other sectors. Their interactions and discussions in such activities are not very useful to change their overall status. here, the politics of male ideology is successful to cause then falling behind indirectly.

The greater role of husband as final decision maker signifies that women are still far behind that male as major decision maker. One of the main problem was illiteracy in rural area which lead only the husband as final decision maker.

#### **4.12.8 Women's Participation in political activities**

Political is ethnics applied to a group of people. Political tells you society must be set up and how should within a society act. Political activities provide great change to expose to the public. These activities determine the public image of a person and help to create their own identity. In my area of study very less women are found to be participated in political activities.

I see that women from 45 out of them 60 households participation in political activities. These women from the large majority of 64.44 percent of the women who do not participate in such activities .Because most of the women are illiterate.

From the finding of my study area we found involvement of women as he initiator in various decision making like education, expenses, family planning labor utilization etc. however, the final decision regarding all these matters was found to solely depended upon the husband. Very less involvement of other male and female members was found in decision making in different aspects.

The greater role of husband as final decision maker signifies that women are still far behind that male as major decision maker. One of the main problems was illiteracy in rural area which leads only the husband as final decision maker.

#### **4.13 Factors Affecting Women's in Decision Making Process**

It attempts to identify and examine the factors that affect women participation in the decision making process. In the previous chapter decision making process and women's fallback position and participation were examined. It is found that women who were largely confined to domestic and subsistence production played fewer roles in major household decision. Women, those who participate actively in the market and there are various factors that affects women in the decision making process. Factors which affect participation have been broadly grouped into two categories: Household factors and Social factors.

Household factors deals about male dominated position, exploitative nature of men and relation in the household etc. Likewise, social factors consists like prevalent socio-cultural beliefs, concept of pure and impure, access over resources, education etc.

##### **4.13.1 Household Factors**

Here in selected Area household head does the decision-making. In patriarchal system senior most male or the household head controls household and agriculture. Thus, being the household head, land holding is also in control of the head of the family. But in some families where men has gone to other places, women herself in acknowledge acting head of the household as a decision maker. After returning to the home husband takes charge as a household head. In families where husband is present as the functioning head of the household, he often initiates the decision making process. In the joint family household head is the father of the house and if he has passed away, the elder son does the decision making. Father's place is taken over by his elder son of the household in controlling as a household head. Likewise in nuclear family, the husband does the decision making as a household head. In this village out of 36 sample households, most of the household head were men but where the husband had absence in his home and women who lost her husband in such a family only women were the head of households.

Female from nuclear families participates in decision making process. She has to look after most of the farm, household and marketing activities. Females from the nuclear family said that they are free to put their views and act accordingly to their will. They do sell milk, labor works and they use the income for buying household consumption for their family. So we can say that, in the nuclear family the women's decision making power is high then to the comparison of joint family.

According to the relation of the members; father, who is the household head, for the decision making process, firstly consulted with the son and wife then only daughter-in-laws are informed later in time of final meeting. So, household head firstly prefers to inform his son about his plans and then his wife is informed about his plan. In the decision making process females are included if necessary. Male member of the household get more preference in the participation in the decision making process.

#### **4.13.2 Social Factors**

Socio-cultural beliefs influence the participation in decision-making process. There are certain tasks that are traditionally termed as the male works. In research areas, decision making was also thought to be one of those male dominated areas. Though females were involves in decision making, many females seem to hold the attitude that males had more knowledge. The example of ploughing agricultural land, there is traditional knowledge about what women should and should not to do. The local people explained that the females do not use plough. Men used plough from before: forefathers have made this rule that only the males should use it.

In most traditional societies girls are kept largely within the confines of the household and family where they are protected and taught to accept the decisions that other parents, teachers, brothers make on their behalf. But the things have changed now but still mothers make the daughters do the household work agricultural work and boys go to school and roam around.

Female are not decision makers because firstly she is not a household lead; the head usually does the decision making. Secondly, she is not male of the household the male is the household head. Thirdly, women seldom hold ownership and tenure rights to land. While women contribute most of the labor for agriculture, they rarely have formal control of land or ownership. After the death of the household head the control on decision making passes on to the eldest son of the family according to the patriarchal practice. Even in the female headed household, in the decision making

process, she ask for the help from other male relatives and friends to take decision. If she has her grown up sons then the son do all the decision making for the household.

Women's involvement in market activities give them much exposure and greater power within the household in terms of their input in all aspects of household decision making. At the same time, confining women's work to the domestic and subsistence sectors reduces their power vis-a-vis men in the household. A greater economic role definitely improves their status within the family. In the study area women goes to involved market activities, they used to go out of their home for selling labor, they involve women's group and informal education center. So, to the comparison of other high caste women, lower caste women are freer and they have more power in the decision making process. But most of them involved to domestic and subsistence production which played a much less role in major household activities.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **MAJOR FINDINGS, SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Overall study comprises the major conclusion drawn strictly based upon researcher's assessment of women's participation in the household decision making the finding regarding the social economic characteristic of the selected 60 households also have been listed. But we have to keep in mind that this conclusion drawn can be applicable only at the micro within the Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 of Sunsari District households.

A few pragmatic recommendations have also been included with the intent of raising women's status in terms of their decision making powers in present study. These suggestions, hope would initiate policy makers and local development practitioners to design appropriate and effective policies and programmers regarding the upliftment of women and their status within the households.

#### **5.1 Summary**

Entire analysis focuses upon the relative status of woman in terms of their household decision making powers vis-à-vis their male counterparts. Household decision making is envisaged to be a strong indicator of the different powers and positions held by the different members within the household.

Study includes households from three different 8 caste/ethnic communities comprising of Brahmin 20 Chhetri 12, Newar 9, Tamang 7, Sherpa 5, Magar 3, Gurung 3 and Others one. Among them Brahmin the highest average size (33.33 percent) Chhetri 20 percent, Newar 15 percent, where Tamang, Sherpa, Magar, Gurung and Others are 11.67 percent, 8.33 percent, 5 percent, 5 percent and 1.67 percent respectively. However issue in question has been limited only within the households irrespective of castes and inter-class relationships.

Within these prescribed limits, women's role in decision making have been perceived mainly from three different aspects of household affairs, farm management, household resources procurement and its use and the labor utilization pattern etc. further, the three-stage decision making process comprising of initiators, persons consulted and final decision makers, has been utilized to provide a simplified, yet a wider overview of decision making.

Researcher finds a distinct pattern of women as the main initiators and final decision makers of many aspects of the household affair. This can be attributed to their role as the basic providers and managers of the domestic sector. But a point to be considered here is that, women may have a greater say in many issues but which may be of lesser importance of e.g. decision making in mundane matters like food, clothing etc. they might also have a significant contribution in the decision making of important issues, but they heavily rely upon the approval and consent of their husbands for the execution of both important as well as unimportant matters. On the hand, the husbands are found to be the final decision maker's rogation pattern and so.

Another interesting pattern which emerged from derivations is that the other female members (comprising of daughters-in-law etc. excluding the wives or female household heads) have a comparatively low power of decision making vis-à-vis their male counterparts. The underlying implication here is that, women holding the status of "mothers" or rather, the female household heads have a greater control over the powers of decision making. Therefore, once the daughters are married off and the daughters-in-law eventually replace their mothers-in-law as female household heads, they then become worthy of greater power of decision making which was earlier enjoyed by their mothers –in-law.

Research revealed that only 80.9 percent of the female household heads were literate, in the sense that they can at least read and write. The dissertation through general observations discovered a vast difference in the manner in which the small minority of literate female household heads answered the questions from that by the remaining illiterate ones. The literate women showed greater confidence in their approach and seemed to command a greater power within the household as compared to the illiterate female household heads. The conclusion derived from the analysis of socio-economic characteristics and subsequently the conclusion of women's role in household decision making process is as follows:-

#### **5.1.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics**

- ) The Brahmin community dominates over the other ethnic groups in their population distribution.
- ) The large of women are found to be married while only small minorities are unmarried.

- ) Women are solely responsible for household chores and activities. In other words, men have no contribution at all this particular sphere of activity.
- ) The women have much longer working hours than men, their average working hours being 6-8 hour/day as compared to only 3-5 hours/day for men.
- ) Early marriages for women are still practiced. Their average age at marriage is 17-22 years which has naturally prolonged their child bearing age?
- ) The Brahmins have a greater livestock holding among the selected ethnic groups.
- ) The households have a moderate production of paddy and maize as their summer crops and wheat and mustered as winter crops.

## **5.2 Major Findings**

This study has been carried out in Itahari Sub-metropolitan City Ward no.5 of Sunsari District find out the socio-economic condition of that area. In my study area many women of the traditional view are prevailing. The society is the patriarchal type. In the community we find less involvement of women in different community based programs like ward meeting, school management, community forest and various other programs. Agriculture being the main sources of income of people of this area, women's participation is high in household farming. But outside the home various works like business, official works are mostly handled by male member. We find high involvement of male in buying labor agricultural goods, tools or selling them. Male member decide paying labor wages, purchasing and selling livestock, fruits and vegetables. Male are paid more than women through they perform same work outside the household which indicates that there is still business between male and female in this society.

In male dominated country like our we find a large inequality male are given preference in many socio-economic activities. We find involvement of male in district as well as in national level programs rather than women. Many opportunities are given to male rather than women from the household bases. Women's participation is little in every decision making and job opportunities.

Women of the study area are living in a miserable condition. Regarding the educational aspects most of the women are illiterate and a few have managed to forward their study up to the +2 level.

Women of this area mostly involved in agriculture. There is very less involvement of women in other economical activities like business and government officials. Women do not have clear concept to elaborate various economical program to enhance their financial conditions.

Though various programs like Adult literacy programs, negotiations and seminar are organized by various governmental and non-governmental agencies still the women of this area are lagging behind in educational, economical and social aspects.

Economically Kageshwori Monohara Municipality word no.-7 Thali Area of Kathmandu District women's are contributing greater share of the farm workers. Besides, they have to take care of their children, cattle and manage family in preparing foods and serving males. In other words, they cannot escape from their domestic drudgery.

#### **5.2.1 Women's Role in Household Decision Making**

- ) The wives have a greater input in the decisions making of the cropping pattern by the husbands.
- ) The wives are the main persons consulted and the final decision makers for the purchase of livestock while the husbands have a greater input as initiators and final decision makers for its sale. The other male members have a comparatively greater say in both these issues than their female counterparts. But the other male members including the husbands show the least input in the overall livestock maintenance as compared to the women.
- ) Regarding family expenditures, the wives are seen as the main initiators and final decision makers for items like food. Clothing, medical treatment, social/religious ceremonies and gifts/loans to friends. This is due to their closer association to such mundane matters than the rest of the family. However, these wives rely upon the approval of their husband even for such unimportant items since the husbands figure as the persons to be consulted regarding all these expenditures. But the husbands are the main final decision makers or a crucial issue like investments. The other male members usually have either a higher or equal input to that of the

other female members in the three stages of the decision making process. This clearly indicates that these female members are through incapable of making any effective decision. The joint decisions are found to be very low among the households.

- ) While wives have the greatest say regarding the use of family planning (F.P) measures, the joint decision of both husband and wife also appear to be quite strong. The same trend is evident in the selection of the family size.
- ) The wives have a greater contribution regarding the decisions in sending the children to school. This can be associated with their greater concern for the children's education.
- ) Regarding the women participation in adult literacy classes the husbands have a greater control over the decision making of this particular issue. On the other hand, the wives themselves appear to have no such control whatsoever.
- ) Although women play greater role and take major responsibility in every aspect but in the vital and crucial areas men make decision where women's roles have been narrowed down only to follow or obey. The crucial areas are-sailing of property, marriage of children, migration or other deciding factors which in a long run effect in household or family.

Therefore, the women have the least or rather no power the decision making of issues that solely concerns them.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

On the basis of the above findings, it had been concluded that women have more contribution in household activities in comparison to men. They have great responsibilities in household activities like preparing food, fuel wood collection, water collection, taking care of children and elderly people of family etc. It is seen that only a few numbers of male members help their wives in these activities. Generally in higher caste most of the males are involved in different government service, local NGO's etc. So they never help their wives in the household activities but in lower caste, males somehow help their wives in these activities.

Major problems of women of the study area are hunger and health related problem. Females rarely visit the health post. Most of the delivery cases are carried out at

home. Major decisions in family like, decision about land selling purchasing agriculture, children's education, getting health services, general marketing of daily foodstuffs, marketing of expensive things family planning and number of children are taken by male members either husband or father in law. Only in the case of daily necessary food preparation and crushing, grinding food grains etc. female members of the family have major role.

Participation of female in different CBOs, GOs, and NGOs is hopeless however some female members can be seen but it is only due to the govt. policy. Beside that women representation in different political parties also can be rarely seen. But in the social entertainment gathering male and female have equal participation.

It is concluded that the responsibility of rural women in different household activities is higher with maximum working load comparatively with her male counterpart. Similarly, women have great contribution in income generating activities. Women are working very hard and more time than man. Even though the status of women is lower than that of male counterpart, thus the status of rural women is lower than the men.

## References

- Acharya, M. (2011). *'Gender equality and empowerment of women in Nepal'*: Kathmandu : UNFPA.
- Acharya, M. and Basnet L. (1981). *'The rural women of Nepal': An Aggregate Analysis and Summary of 8 Village Studies*, 2 (9) (Kitipur: CEDA).
- Acharya, M. and (2011). *'Women and subsistence section economic participation and household decision-making in Nepal'* the World Bank's staff working paper 526, ( World Bank : Washington DC).
- Ahooja, P. (2005). *'Another development with women: development dialogue'* A Journal of International Cooperation, Dag Hammarsold Foundation.
- Barret, E. (1985). *Role of women in Household Activities*. New York: OUP.
- CBS, (2011). *'Population monograph of Nepal'* vol. 1 Kathmandu : Central bureau of statistics.
- Dangi, P. (2013). *'Women's economic participation to their household management': A Case Study of Chuhandanda VDC, Terhathum District*, An unpublished thesis submitted to the CEDEOIN, Kirtipur: T.U.
- Hunzai, K. (2010). *The poverty status of female headed household in Nepal :Gender perspectives in mountain development*. No.57 ICIMOD, Kathmandu.
- Kerlinger. P. (2009) *Research Methodology*. New Delhi : Rupa Co.
- Luitel. S. (2008). *'Gender studies'* Kathmandu: Academic book center.
- Mazumdar (2009). *Another development with women: A View from Asia: Development Dialogue*, Dag Hammarsold Foundation, vol.5 Uppsala.
- Millet, Kate. *Sexual Politics*. New York: Garden City Double, 1970.
- NPC, (2012). *A situational analysis of children and women in Nepal, Kathmandu:* NPC and UNICEF.
- NPC, (1994). *Country report Nepal-* presented in the UN forth World Conference on Women, Beijing China, Kathmandu : NPC.

- Pandey, (2005). *Role of women in household decision-making: A Special Study of Arbeni VDC, Gulmi*, An unpublished Thesis submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, Kirtipur : T.U.
- Pandit, B. (2002). *Women's participation in decision-making activities: A Case Study of RCIW Program in Doti District*, An unpublished Thesis submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, Kirtipur: T.U.
- Pokhrel, T and Adhakari, L. (2009). 'Women empowerment: discourse and perspectives' population magazine.vol.5 (Kirtipur : CDPS).
- Sharma, (2000). *'People participation in local development planning: A Study of Five Districts in the Western Development Region'* An unpublished thesis submitted to Department of sociology, Kirtipur : T.U.
- Shtree Shakti. (2013). *Women development democracy: A Case Study of the Socio-Economic Changes in the Status of Women in Nepal, 1981-1993*, Kathmandu: Shtree Shakti.
- Thapa, B. (2014). *Women in household decision-making: A Case Study of Luyata VDC of Bajhang, Nepal*, An unpublished Thesis submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Kirtipur:T.U.
- World Development (2012), *Promoting women's agency world bank: Washington, DC*.
- Jackson. (1998). *'Contemporary feminist theories'* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- UNO (2015) *Status of Women*. New York : UNO Bulletin.

## WOMEN PARTICIPTION IN HOUSEHOLD DECISSION MAKING IN THALI AREA OF KATHMANDU DISTRICT

Name:

Age:

Sex:

Marital Status:

Religion:

Education:

Caste/ Ethnicity:

Ward:

1. How many Children do you have?

a. 1-2              b. 2-3              c. 3-4              d. 5 + above

2. What types of your family?

a. Nuclear        b. Joint             c. Large

3. What is your husband education status?

a. SLC b. + 2                  c. Bachelor                  d. Master and above e. Illiterate

4. Are you happy with your family environment?

a. Yes                                                  b. NO

5. If yes, Why?  
.....

6. If No, Why?  
.....

7. What is your main source of income?

a. Agriculture and livestock                  b. Service  
  
c. Business                                                  d. Wage earning                                  e. Others

8. Who does the agricultural activities mostly?

a. Male              b. Female          c. Both

9. Who controls the agricultural products?

a. Male              b. Female          c. Both

10. Who does buying and selling of the livestock or agricultural products?

a. Male          b. Female          c. Both

11. If female does not decide livestock or agriculture, Why?

.....

12. Who does the household activities mostly?

Activities	Male	Female	Both
Cooking			
Washing Cloths			
Milking Animals			
Feeding Animals			
Cleaning cooking utensils			
Taking care of animals			
Cutting grass			
Collecting Fire			
Raising and taking of children			

13. Who generally keeps the household money?

a. Male          b. Female          c. Both

14. Who is mainly responsible for deciding loan for family?

a. Male          b. Female          c. Both

15. Who decide the buying of household things?

Buying things	Male	Female	Both
---------------	------	--------	------

Television			
Computer			
Furniture			
Utensils			
Cloths			

22. Do your children go to school?

a. Yes b. No

23. Are boys given priorities over girls to go school?

a. Yes b. No

24. Who decides about education of children?

Activities	Male	Female	Both
School to admit			
Book/ Copies			
Uniform			
Payment of fees			

25. What kind of marriage do you usually have?

a. Arrange b. Love c. Other

26. If in case an arranged marriage, who usually decides about the bridegroom?

.....

27. Is Divorce system practice within the family?

a. Yes b. No

28. If yes, are women consulted in this matter?

a. Yes b. No

29. Who goes to bazaar mostly?

a. Male            b. Female            c. Both

30. Have you heard about family planning measures?

a. Yes            b. No

31. If yes, through what source?

a. Media            b. Friends and neighbors            c. From the school

32. Do you use family planning methods?

a. Yes            b. No

33. Who does decide to use family planning method?

a. Male    b. Female            c. Both

34. Who decides upon the selection of the family size?

a. Male            b. Female            c. Both

35. Is any women of your household a participant of these community activities?

a. Yes            b. No

36. Do you have any freedom to decide upon such participants?

a. Yes            b. No

37. What are the causes of being deprived of female?

a. Lack of education    b. Lack of awareness    c. Low economic status

d. Due to traditional culture

38. Does female decides correctly?

a. Yes            b. No

39. If no, Why?

.....

40. Have you strong decision in your family?

a. Yes            b. No

41. What are the possible causes of backwardness of women in the society?

.....

