

**ROLE OF DALIT WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING**  
**(A Case Study in Sunkhani VDC OF Dolakha District)**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology**  
**Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the**  
**The Degree of Master of Arts**  
**in**  
**Sociology**

**Submitted By:**

**Laxmi Mainali**

**Roll No.: 2523**

**TU Regd.No.: 9-2-796-7-2009**

**Central Department of Sociology**

**Tribhuvan University,**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**2019**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This is to certify that Ms.LaxmiMainali has prepared this thesis entitled **Role of Dalit Women in Household Decision Making (A Study of Dalit Women from SunkhaniVDC, Dolakha)** under my guidance and supervision. I forward this thesis for final approval and acceptance.

.....

Dr.Shambhu Prasad Kattel

Lecturer

Central Department of Sociology

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

Date: 14/12/7075

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
**KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU**

**LETTER OF APPROVAL**

This thesis entitled **Role of Dalit Women in Household Decision Making (A Study of Dalit Women from Sunkhani VDC, Dolakha)** prepared by MsLaxmiMainal has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Sociology.

**Approval Committee**

.....  
(Department Head)  
Prof. Dr. Tulsi Ram Pandey  
Central Department of Sociology  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

.....  
(Supervisor)  
Prof. DrShambhu Prasad Kattel  
Central Department of Sociology  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

.....  
(External Examiner)  
Dr. Surendra Mishra  
Central Department of Sociology  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: 17/12/2075

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All the success is the result of contribution of some co-operative hands and a number of individuals have helped and encourage me in various ways in completing this study. I wish to express my gratitude to the flowing individual& institution.

It is my great pleasure to present this thesis to central department of sociology, Tribhuvan University, kirtipur, as a part of partial fulfillment of the requirements of Master Degree in Sociology.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor. Prof. Dr. Shambhu Prasad Kattel, who generously took time out for her continuous encouragement, guidance and supervision for this thesis. This project report would have never been completed without his analytical inspiration. His cooperation's and suggestions for this study are highly appreciated.

I am grateful to my respect teacher Prof. Dr. Tulsi Ram Pandey, Head of the Central Department of Sociology, T.U., and Kirtipur for his assistance in writing this thesis.

I am equally grateful to my respect teacher Dr. Surendra Mishra lecturer of the Central Department of Sociology, T.U., Kirtipur for his constructive suggestions and recommendations for final approval of this thesis.

Similarly, my hearty thanks especially to go my family members for their encouragement and affection. Furthermore, I extend my thanks to all the respondents and information of the study area.

I also extend my deep appreciation to Academy book house Computer Service for finalizing my research work.

**LaxmiMainali**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>LETTER OF APPROVAL</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLE</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>CHAPTER-ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1-7</b>
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objective of the Study	6
1.4 Rational of the Study	7
1.5 Organization of the Study	7
<b>CHAPTER-TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>8-19</b>
1.1 Women's Role & Status: Definition & General Overview	8
2.2 Women Status in Nepal	9
2.3 International law, Convention and Agreement	11
2.4 Laws, Regulations and Policies Related To Women Empowerment in Nepal	12
2.5 Feminist Theory	15
2.5.1 Liberal Feminism	15
2.5.2 Marxist Feminism	16
2.5.3 Radical Feminism	16
2.6 Empirical Studies	17
2.7 Conceptual Framework	19
<b>CHAPTER-THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>20-24</b>
3.1 Rational Of Site Selection	20

3.2	Research Design	21
3.3	Universe, Sample Size and Sampling Methods	21
3.4	Nature and Source of Data	21
3.5	Data Collections Tools/Techniques	22
3.5.1	Household survey questionnaire	22
3.5.2	Interview with Key Informants	23
3.5.3	Observation	23
3.6	Data Analysis and Interpretation	23
3.7	Limitations of the Study	24
<b>CHAPTER- FOUR: THE STUDY AREA</b>		<b>25-33</b>
4.1	Dolakha District: An Overview	25
4.2	Sunkhani VDC-: A Brief Introduction	25
4.3	Household and Population of Study Area (Ward No. 07)	26
4.4	Population of Sampled Household According to their Age and Sex	27
4.5	Classification of Dalit Women According to Family Type	28
4.6	Views of Dalit Women about Age at Marriage	29
4.7	Religion of the Dalit Respondents	30
4.8	Economic Condition of Study Area	30
4.9	Natural Resources of Study Area	31
4.9.1	Water	31
4.9.2	Forest	31
4.10	Education of Study Area	32
4.11	Political Situation of Study Area	32
<b>CHAPTER- FIVE: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DALIT'S WOMEN</b>		<b>34-40</b>
5.1	Education	34

5.2	Economy	35
5.2.1	Occupation and source of income	35
5.2.2	Land Distribution	37
5.2.3	Food Sufficiency	38
5.2.4	Alternative Source for Fulfillment of Deficit of Food Production	38
5.3	Saving money of Dalit women	39
5.4	Spending Money by Dalit Women	39

## **CHAPTER-SIX: ROLE OF DALIT'S WOMEN ON DECISION MAKING**

### **PROCESS**

**41-52**

6.1	Distribution of Role on Household Activities by Sex	41
6.2	Decision on Purchasing Households Goods	43
6.3	Decision in Sending Children to the School	44
6.4	Decision on Children's Marriage	45
6.5	Decision on Giving and Taking Loan in Dalit Households	46
6.6	Decision Making on Spending Saving Money in Dalit Community	47
6.7	Decision in Family Affairs	48
6.8	Decision on Public Social Activities	49
6.9	Hindrances to Women in Decision Making	50
6.10	Views of Respondents towards Property Right to Women	50
6.11	Views toward Women's Decision Making Role	51

## **CHAPTER-SEVEN: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

**53-62**

7.1	Summary	53
7.2	Conclusion	59

## **REFERENCES**

## **APPENDIX-I**

## **APPENDIX-II**

## LIST OF TABLE

		<b>Page No.</b>
Table 4.1	Population Composition of SunkhaniVDC	26
Table 4.2	Population Composition of Sunkhani VDC of Ward No.-07	27
Table 4.3	Age & Sex Structure of Dalit Women's Household Populations	28
Table 4.4	Types of Family	29
Table 4.5	Age at Marriage	29
Table 5.1	Distribution of Dalit Women by Educational Status	35
Table 5.2	Distribution of Dalit Women by Occupation and Source of Income	36
Table 5.3	Distribution of Households by Land Ownership	37
Table 5.4	Food Sufficiency Status on the Basis of Production	38
Table 5.5	Distribution of Households by Coping with Deficit Food Production	39
Table 5.6	Spending Money by Dalit Women	40
Table 6.1	Distribution of role on Household Activities by Sex	42
Table 6.2	Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Purchasing Households Goods	43
Table 6.3	Decision Making to Send the Children to School	44
Table 6.4	Decision on Children's Marriage	45
Table 6.5	Decision on Giving and Taking Loan	46
Table 6.6	Decision Making on Spending Saving Money in Dalit Community	47
Table 6.7	Decision in Family Affairs	48
Table 6.8	Decision on Public Social Activities	49
Table 6.9	Views of Respondents towards Property Right to Women	51
Table 6.10	Views toward Women's Decision Making Role	51