

WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING PROCESS:

**A Study of High Caste Women in
Purkot VDC, Ward No-6 Tanahun**

Submitted By

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This dissertation entitled “**Women in Household Decision Making Process: A Study of High Caste Women in Purkot VDC, Ward No-6: Tanahun District**” has been prepared by **Mrs. Usha Pandey** under my supervision., as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Masters Degree of Humanities in Population Studies. To the best of my knowledge, the study is original and carries out useful information on this topic. I, therefore, recommend it for the evaluation to the dissertation committee.

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CDPS, T.U.

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ACRONYMS

ADB	=	Asian Development Bank
BBC	=	Beyond Beijing Committee
CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	=	Central Department of Population Studies
CEDA	=	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
CERID	=	Centre for Education Research Innovation and Development
INGOs	=	International Non-Government Organizations
MOF	=	Ministry of Finance
MOH	=	Ministry of Health
NDHS	=	Nepal Demographic Health Survey
NGOs	=	Non-Government Organizations
NPC	=	National Planning Commission
SAARC	=	South Asian Association for Regional Corporation
SLC	=	School Living Certificate
TU	=	Tribhuvan University
UN	=	United Nations
UNDP	=	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	=	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	=	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VDC	=	Village Development Committee

ABSTRACT

The present study is an analysis of **“Women in Household Decision Making Process”** among high caste married women at age 15-49 years. Its sample cluster is Purkot VDC ward no-6 of Tanahun districts. This study is based on primary information. Out of 193 households 108 households were included purposively as sample for the study.

This study has attempted to portray the decision making power of married women in household chores, farm management, educational aspects and family planning related activities. It also demonstrates the socio-economic status of women as a whole in the study area.

It has found that the two ethnic groups the socioeconomic status of Brahmin is high. Majority of Brahmin respondents participated in community level committees. Chettries respondents took more participation in household decision making process than Brahmin respondents.

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Chapter- I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

In the development nation women can play the vital roles for all developmental programs. However, in the male dominated country like Nepal, women have low socio-economic status as well as low decision-making power. Women have to perform three responsibilities as reproduction, household work and productive economic activities. Beside this, they do not have control over decision making on their reproduction and economic activities. Nepali women are daughters, wives and mothers but are less recognized by their own identity. Many societies have placed women to the lowest rank and a submissive role, combined to the home and farm and their family responsibilities (Subedi, 1997:1-3)

Women's empowerment must involve women making choices that enhance their individual well-being. In addition to that, their well being further enhances their families and communities. Integrated empowerment programs result in measurable behavioral changes in women. Women who have participated in such programs often become more active participate in their households and communities and as a result contribute more to the growth of Nepal's economy (BBC, 2004:2).

The 2001 census in Nepal had observed women constituted more than fifty percent of the total population. Hence, their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but also essential as well to speed up the development process. The socio-economic standard of women greatly enhances the progressive development of the nation. On the country, the situation is different; the 2001 census report reveals women to be far behind the males in terms of education, employment, in decision making positions, in land-ownerships, business etc. women still have less control over economic and physical resources and lagging, behind in terms of political power. The outlook of society towards women has not been changed to the desire extent. They are still suffering from economic crisis.

According to 2001 census, 43 percent of females were literate and in the same time, the male literacy rate was 65.5 percent. Due to wide gap (21.5 percentages) in literacy between women and men, there is less access of women in decision making (CBS, 2003: 239).

In the Nepal context, the empowerment and development of women is inextricably bound to the dominant Hindu social structure, which influences all aspects of social, cultural and economic life. This structure assigns women restricted roles, which most often involve household and family responsibilities. Nepali women have internalized this system and this makes it difficult for them to envision themselves in roles outside the home (BBC, 2004: 2).

Nepal is a multiethnic and multicultural country with more than 50 spoken languages and cultural traditions. For analytical purposes, they have often been classified into two broad groups, the Tibeto- Burman and the Indo Aryan. Women from the Tibeto- Burman communities are socially less constrained than, their Indo- Aryan sisters in terms of mobility, marriage/remarriage options and most importantly, income earning opportunities. In the Indo- Aryan groups, traditionally, women have fewer social and economic options.

Women's participation in the market economy has increased their status and this is more conspicuous among Tibeto- Burman communities, while women from the more orthodox Hindu communities are largely confined to non- market domestic and subsystem production, displaying a much less significant role in major household decision making (NPC, 1992: 92)

A change in the status of women requires a change in both men's and women's attitude towards interpersonal relation and behavior. The harmonious partnership between men and women improve the decision making power of women. An improved decision making power results in higher gender equality and lower level of fertility. Men play a key role in bringing about gender equality. A better communication between men and women on all issues including sexuality and RH ensues in the understanding of their joint responsibilities. Efforts to improve the state of equal partnership of men and women in public and private life would

eventually improve the status of women resulting in desired demographic consequences (CDPS, 2000:63).

Dalits women comprise of more than half of the Dalits community in Nepal. After the political change in 2007, the situation of women has certainly changed but not to the extent, it should have been. The fact is Dalits women also consist of one fourth of the total women population. The whole women are the victims of gender discrimination in the society. The basic difference between high caste women and Dalits women lies on the ground of caste based discrimination and untouchables, which Dalits women have to face patriarchal feudal system considers women folk in general as commodity, means of entertainment and second class citizen. That is why, even wages and decision making decision making process.

Indigenous women of Nepal participation in the decision making bodies related to economic, professional and business affairs and others policy executive is almost negligible. Due to gender and ethnic discrimination in the state, half of the work force has become incapacitated. This study has tried to portray the situation o role of high caste married women in household decision making process.

1.2 Statement of the problem

National Census 2001 observed that, women's population in Nepal is more than half of the total i.e. sex ratio is 99.8 (CBS, 2003) but their roles as decision-making is negligible. Women's participation in various levels of decision-making is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of equality, development and peace. The status of women is considered as one of the factors that influence nation's social, cultural and economic development.

Nepalese women are highly restricted in independent decision-making. Lack of decision-making power has deprived women of the basic elements of a decent life such as food and nutrition, education, skill development, health and family planning. This has ultimately undermined their access to gainful employment opportunities and participation in professional jobs. Women play a significant role in all societies, both as economic and social actors; they should therefore be seen as integral partners in all development efforts (Clarke, 2003: 17).

A woman is 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 women is very low in Nepal. Low decision-making power further descends on the economic dependence. Women, particularly in rural area in Nepal, tend to be the poorest of the world's poor. They constitute more than half of all persons living in extreme poverty. Women are under-represented in formal sector employment as well as in policy and political decision-making positions (UNFPA, 2003: 9).

Women have remained voiceless and their representation in social, economic and political life has been minimal. Problems related to women in power and decision-making have qualitative and quantitative dimensions. The first dimension involves the capacity of women to assert and exercise their rights, and lack of an enabling environment in which to do this. On the other hand, some quantitative improvements have been made with the introduction of reservations in local election. The overall participation of women in decision-making positions is very low and remains unsatisfactory. The statutory provisions alone do not adequately facilitate women's entry into these positions. Quantitative growth has been horizontal and only observed at the lowest levels of representation. Higher levels, of both local and national policies, are still regarded as the 'male sector'. Thus far, the political parties and legislatures have failed to substantiate their commitment to ensuring women's access to powerful decision-making positions (BBC, 2004: 28).

Nepal is a multi ethnic state, comprised of a great social and cultural diversity. Along with the diversity, the country is characterized by widespread inequalities and discrimination in terms of ethnicity gender and geography. Gender inequality to empower Nepalese women can be justified in terms of the social and cultural context of the Nepalese society. Its excessive patriarchal based social structure and extended family system, which restrict women to make independent decision. Men have major role of decision-making, and they ask women only for formality and their decision has not prominent part in any activities in household and in society.

The majority of the women population is far from mainstreaming. There is no any effective government policy to support decision-making power for women. As like men, women are also considered the factors that contribute in nation's development. However, the fact is that women are oppressed and suppressed lots in our society. All these reason makes clear that role of women in household decision-making is important issue for the prosperous development of the nation.

The research on this issue was not taken before in the Purkot VDC of Tanahun district. In the wider social scenario, low socio-economic status of women found as a variant in less access in household decision-making in the research site; furthermore, this study have proved the similar trend. This study shows the current situation of high caste married women in household decision-making. Which further pay way outs and provides guidelines to other researchers to conduct research on this issue and contribute in improving women's status in decision-making process.

Some research questions are as following:

-) What is present condition of women in selected area?
-) What is their idea about male supremacy?
-) Are they aware of available development program?
-) In what ways the change in socio-economic factor affect women's lives?
-) What is the condition of female participation of decision-making in research area?
-) What can be done to make measures far empowering women more acceptable to the majority of the people?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is women in household decision-making process among high caste married women of Tanahun district.

The specific objectives for the study are as follows:

-) To examine the socio-economic status among high caste married women at age 15- 49 years.
-) To analyze the role of women in household decision making on farm management, educational aspects and family planning measures.
-) To identify the level of participation in the household decision making among the high caste married women.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

Women play a significant role in all societies, both as economic and social actors; they should, therefore be as seen as integral partners in all development efforts. In patriarchal society, women are discarded from participation in social, political and economical areas. Status must seek to include gender perspectives in their national development policies and should implement various programs to improve women's self confidence and decision making power. This study is an important to explain socio-economic status and household decision making power of high caste married women at age 15-49 years. In the study area, majority of married women at age 15-49 years are living. Among them maximum married women from Brahmin and chettri. So, I have selected only high caste women for the study.

The importance of the study are as follows:

-) This study is important to explain socio-economic status and household decision making power of women.
-) It describes the relationship between ethnic, educational status and, household decision making power of women.
-) It will be useful to develop awareness toward household decision making situation.
-) It will be helpful to those organizations, which are working in this field to identify the situation of women in household decision making and implement some welfare program to improve their status.
-) It will be helpful for other researchers to conduct further research in the same issue of decision making.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

Because of the limited time, source and cost, this study has its own limitations. The issue of women's participation in decision making process is very vague issues, which cannot be studied at once. Majority of Brahmin and chettries are living in this ward, so I have selected this area for research and only limited on high caste.

This study is limited in the following areas:

-) This study is focused in a very small area, ward no-6 of Purkot VDC of Tanahun district.

-) This study covered only 140 samples from the focused area.
-) This study covered only married women of age 15-49 years.
-) This study will be concentrated to analyze the situation of women in household decision making.
-) This study focused only high caste married women.

1.6 Organization of the Study

Chapter I deal with background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, and objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study. Chapter II deals with the theoretical and empirical literature review from the various books, journals, publications, and consist conceptual framework. Chapter III deals with the description of the study area and it gives explanation of the research design and procedure of the data generation and statistical tools used during the process. Chapter IV deals with the demographic, social, economic and participatory characteristics of sample population in the Purkot VDC of the Tanahun district. Chapter V deals with the analysis of the collected data regarding the household decision making process. Chapter VI provides summary, final interpretation and conclusion of the whole study. It is also includes recommendation on the basis of the findings.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of literature is an important element of research design. It is the description about the related topics, which is published by scholars, researchers, academics and professionals. This part of research is very important because it provides knowledge about the related topic, which increases ability of researcher to perform research. This section of literature review is discussed in three parts: theoretical review, empirical review and conceptual framework.

2.1 Theoretical Literature

In addition, to routine domestic work, women play a significant, if not a predominant, role in agricultural production. One participatory research project found that women do more agricultural work than men in the high mountain areas, equal to or more than in middle hills, and slightly less than men in the Terai (southern plain). Women, both as participants and decision makers, share the responsibility for planting, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, carrying grains to the mill for grinding, and collecting wood, water and fodder. Women's involvement is also significant in the care and management of livestock and poultry, and as well as in kitchen gardening. While women participate in agriculture throughout Nepal, the character of their participation is not uniform. The participation of women in agriculture is quite different in the Hills and in the Terai. In the complex social system of the hills, women's participation in agriculture further varies tremendously according to social group. Despite women's important role in agriculture, traditional social norms and customary laws, which are often gender biased, are a barrier to women's equitable access to productive resources (BBC, 2004: 23-24).

Acharya (2004: 12) observed that women play important social role in the families of Janajati community. There is high social mobility in Dalits women due to compulsion to earn for family livelihood. In Khas society, male head of the house has absolute authority, women as they grow older gain power but are still considered and act as dependent to male figure (husband or son or brothers) and restricted social mobility due to the fact that dignity is attached to women's sexuality.

Despite their inherent potential as agents of change, Nepal's political parties and NGOs have made only token contributions to linking women's problems and needs with formal state structures and authorities. Although women are empowering themselves through their interaction with the state's power structure, their participation in the decision-making process has yet to be properly streamlined, and they remain largely excluded from politics, government and governance. Had they been given full access to formal political structures and processes, their vision of the state would undoubtedly be guided more by factors like power sharing, self-channeling of resources and playing a role in policy formulation and implementation. However, Nepali women are distant from the axis of state power, as the Human Development Report of Nepal says: "Gender empowerment in Nepal is abysmally low in relation to achievements at the regional and international level. The global GEM is more than double that of Nepal. Women in all South Asian Countries except Pakistan are more empowered than women in Nepal." (Hachhethu and Shrestha: 2002: 78).

With the exception of what food to cook, husbands in Nepal have a greater say in the decision making than wives. For example, one in two married women states that their husbands alone have final say in making decision about the wife's healthcare. In general, women have much greater say in what food to cook each day since cooking is often perceived as women's work, with little male involvement. The data also show that two in five married women state that their husband makes the role decision on the purchase of large household items, which are in three states that they need their husband's permission to visit family or relative and to make daily households purchases. It has found that currently married women are much less likely to have a final say in any of the five types of decisions, than women who are divorced, separated, widowed. Even so, about one in four previously married women have someone else making decisions for them (DHS, 2001: 45).

Women's political participation and representation at decision-making levels are two different issues. Participation is necessary but insufficient condition for representation because representation does not flow automatically from participation. Women all over the world have participated widely in political movements in times of crisis but,

once the crisis is over, they are relegated again to the domestic arena (ADB, 1999: 41).

Decisions made within the rural households are divided in five categories: farm management, domestic expenditure, education, gifts, religious and social travel and disposal of household products and capital transactions. In all of these, women's contribution to rural household's decision-making process seems to have declined in the last decade. The StriiShakti report does not explain why this is happening. One cause could be the increasing commercialization of agriculture, which is changing the pattern of household expenditure and investment. Women know less about new technology and commercial agriculture than men, and are, therefore, getting marginalized from farm management. Changing pattern of household expenditure in favour of market goods and investment beyond small household industries could also reduce women's input into decision-making process. But all these are only conjectures and can only be explained by in-depth research of these processes (Acharya, 1997:19).

In spite of the reality of the significantly patriarchal structure of Nepalese society, which by design has relegated women to a subordinate position, there were meaningful variations between communities in the extent of women's participation in the wider market economy and the overall household decision-making process. These variations fall into a consistent pattern, suggesting that women's household decision-making input in a given community is directly related to the strength of the inside/outside dichotomy. To varying degrees the 'inside' private domestic sphere is characterized as the proper domain of and the 'outside' sphere of politics. Commerce and wider public concerns-VDC meeting on political candidacy, water/irrigation system construction, budget allocation, village development program, selection of extension workers-are mostly ascribed to men. Women in dichotomous village communities (based on cultural and economic criteria) including the Maithili and Parbatia, have considerably less control in terms of decision making than those in non-dichotomous communities including the Lohorung Rai, Baragaonic and Kham Magar. The Newar, Tamang and Tharu fall between two groups (StriiShakti, 1995:201).

The social status of women and their access to resources varied widely depending on the cultural groups they belonged to. Generally, women belonging to Tibeto-Burman cultural groups had considerably greater freedom in matters such as choice of marriage partners, deciding the time for marriage and in selection of economic activities, they wished to pursue, as compared to their sisters belonging to the Indo-Aryan cultural group. While Indo-Aryan women were married early, had no choice in their life partners and were severally restricted in their social mobility, such findings did not generally apply to women belonging to Tibeto-Burman groups. In all cultural groups, however, it was found that women's access to modern resources in the form of knowledge (e.g. land, machines, employment) was severely limited (Acharya, 1994:1).

2.2 Empirical Literature

Normally husbands were the major decision maker as to whether to terminate a pregnancy. It was found that if the husband decided to keep the unintended pregnancy to term, his wife would have few or no options to alter the decision. It was not possible in this study to access whether women with unintended pregnancies had resorted to abortion without informing their husbands. Nevertheless, the finding indicates discordance in responses between husbands and wives regarding the final outcomes. For example; of 12 husbands who said their wives had successful abortions, two of these wives (of matched couples) responses did not match with their husband's responses. Similarly, among those seven husbands who reported abortion failures, these responses matched only with four wives (CHREPA, 2007:3).

Women's share of seats in parliament and in the local government bodies remains insignificant. Moreover, a decline has taken in the number of women in senior administrative and professional positions: from 15 percent (1998) to 12.7 percent (2003). However, greater number of women has been contesting for local elections over the years (UNDP, 2006: 115).

Women's role in Nepalese society appears to be changing in the cities but it is only a surface change. Unfortunately, the majority of women are living in the rural areas. Almost 93 percent of Nepal is rural, and here change is coming at a painfully slow pace. The rural women have little or no self-confidence and do not consider

themselves on par with men. The village women's life is nothing more than that of a servant or a possession of the family. They do not appear to know the value of their individual lives.

Religion determines women's position in the family and in society. Through, existing religions differ in their approach to God and salvation; one common feature they share is the allocation of inferior status of women. Besides religious tenets, taboos also play a role in establishing women's lower position in the society. Nepal has two major religions; Hinduism and Buddhism, among them 86.51 percent are Hindus and 7.78 percent are Buddhist. Broadly speaking, Buddhist women do enjoy better position compared to Hindu women, but within their own community, their status is lower in compare to men. The notions of purity and impurity, which are dominant caste system, are even more stringent in relation to women. Menstruation and childbirth are considered impure and these accords women lower status than men. Even women from high caste are considered lower in the status than men from lower caste. Furthermore, women are so influenced by the religious scriptures that they consider themselves subordinate to their male counterparts, as especially Hindu women consider it their duty to take orders from their husbands. Their whole life revolves around their husbands and children and only few have individual identities (FWLD, 2003:3).

As to the access of women to economic assets and property, there is no ground to believe that women's access to land and other economic resources has increased in the last 20-25 years as their legal rights over property and inheritance has not changed much during this period. Even the recently promulgated amendment, to the law on property rights of women does not change her access to parental property substantially. The law, however, does provide easier access to property in her a final household. As per the census 2001, about 11 percent of the households reported some land in female legal ownership (Acharya, 2003:47).

The survey, "Women's position within the household as a determinant of maternal health care in Nepal" reported that, few women reported participation in household decision making, and even fewer had only control over their own earnings. However,

more than half reported discussing family planning with their husbands, and there were significant differences among subgroups in their indicators of women's position.

Very few women have been elected to executive positions of VDC and DDC local institutions in 1997. Only 289 women have elected on ward chairpersons in a total of 3993 wards. Between nearly 8000 chairperson and vice-chairperson, only 26 are women. Their proportion declines progressively as one move to higher decision-making position. The participation of Nepalese women in the judiciary is also negligible women constitute only some 4 percent of the judiciary's decision makers. There were one-secretary two women judges (special class) and a district judge as of 1997 (ADB, 1999: 44-45).

The participation in the decision-making inside the household sphere was found to be equal for men and women of Tamang community. The percentage of decision-making authority constituted 40.26 percent of the total. However, the female participation in decision-making authority for outside the household sphere was found to be dominated by male decision authority (32.47% vs. 49.35%) (Limbu-, 1997:87).

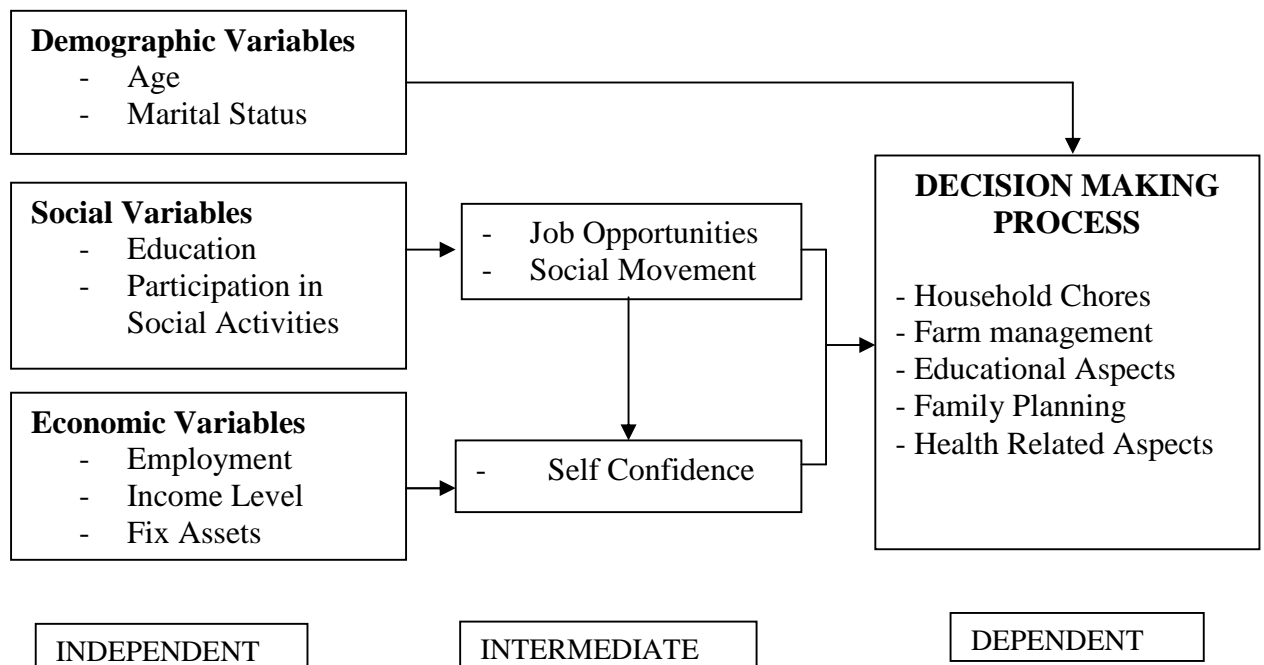
A village case study from Bajhang showed that about 20 percent of female-headed households were landless as compared to only about 9 percent of male-headed households. Slightly more female-headed households than male-headed households were marginal former category. No women were found in the category of medium and large farmers. All female households in this sample had incomes below poverty level (NPC, 1992:92).

Both women and men have equal human rights, but there is a widened gap between them due to socio-cultural values and norms. Thus, men are superior to women. The massive literatures in the field of role of women in decision-making show that there are very few women in political level decision makers. The participation of Nepalese women in the judiciary is also negligible. There are more women farmers in farming labor force but in this level, also they have less decision-making power. Women from Tibeto-Burman groups are socially less constrained to women of Indo-Aryan groups. Male are found more participated in household decision making than females.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

Decision making power of women is influenced by demographic, social and economic factors. Demographic variables such as age and marital status are important factors, which determine the social role and responsibilities of women. Job opportunities and mobility in such society is determined by education and chances of participation in social activities, which finally influenced the decision-making. Economic variables as employment and economic status play important role to build up the self-confidence, which directly influence the decision making power of women.

Fig: Conceptual Framework



Chapter- III

METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problems. This chapter deals with the methods employed while constructing the research study in order to achieve the research objectives.

3.1 Introduction to Study Area

Among the six districts of Gandaki zone, Tanahun is one, which has covered around 1549 sq km. Its bordering districts are Chitwan and Gorkha in the east, Syangja in the west, Kaski and Lamjung in the north and Palpa and Nawalparasi in the south. This district comprise of three electoral constituency, 46 village development committees, 1 municipality and 13 poles. Headquarter of this district is Damauli. The population of the district is 316127 among which 146644 are males and 169483 are females. According to ethnic composition 25.6 percent are Magar, 14.4 percent are Brahmin, 13.6 percent are Gurung, 13.4 percent are Chettries, 8.7 percent are Newar, 6.2 percent are Kami, 3.6 percent are Damai, 0.6 percent are Sarki, 0.4 percent are Thakuri and 13.5 percent are Other castes (CBS 2001).

People with different caste/ ethnicity live in Purkot VDC like Brahmin, Chettries, Newar, Tamang, Majhi and Gurung etc. agriculture is the main occupations for the most household, majority of people are found to be engaged in daily wage and own business in this VDC. The educational status is at the bottom line, which is 61.68% (Village Profile of Purkot VDC). Road facilities, electricity, minor hospital, clinic, collage and other general access are available in this VDC.

3.2 Sample Design

This study has selected ward no-6, Purkot VDC of Tanahun district for the study area. The total female population of the ward no-6 is 546 among which, 140 are married. In this study 140 females are taken as sample, purposively. This study has cover 140 married women from high caste from the total population as a sample of this study. This sample has revealed the socio-economic status and situation of role women in

household decision making process of the overall population of married women in Purkot VDC of Tanahun district.

3.3 Questionnaire Design

Questionnaire is designed in such a way that it provides all required data needed to fulfill the objectives of the study. Questionnaire were mainly divided into twelve schedules, as personal information, family information, household land information, agricultural information, livestock information, utilization of fuel, birth information use of family planning, child schooling, information about economic condition, information about the participation in social activities and information about decisions on family activities. All these schedules provided the information about socio-economic condition of women and their situation in household decision making.

3.4 Data Collection and Processing

During the research study, the data were collected with the help of both structured and non-structured questionnaires. The questionnaire included all the questions, which are needed to collect the information related to household and socio-economic activities. After the collection of data, processing of collected data were done for drawing out meaningful results. Data processing has been done using methods such as frequency distribution, cross tabulation, average and percentage distribution.

3.5 Data Presentation and Analysis

We get raw data from the field so it needs to be analyzed to get fruitful results. The collected data are analyzed by using such as frequency distribution, cross tabulation, average and percentage distribution.

3.6 Operational Definition of the Term

- ❖ High Caste Women (Brahmin & Chettries).
- ❖ Married Women at Age 15-49 Years.
- ❖ Decision Making Process On:
 - Occupation
 - Educational Status
 - Marital Status
 - Taking and Giving Loan

- Family Planning
- Landownership
- Treatment for Sickness
- Selling and Purchasing
- Social Participation etc.

Chapter- IV

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

This chapter deals with the demographic, social, economic and participatory characteristics of household and respondents. Out of the total 193 households, 108 households were taken as sample.

4.1 Demographic and Social Characteristics of Respondents

In this segment, the demographic characteristics such as household population by age, marital status, family structure, religious composition, language composition and educational status.

4.1.1 Age composition

Age is an individual characteristic which directly affects the socio-economic status of any community. Member of children or economically productive members of a family or a community determines the socio-economic status of that family or the community at a large extent. Age group effect on decision making process of women. While increase the age of women, also increase the decision making power of women because many women are mother and mother in law after 30 years. Age wise composition of the respondents is presented in table - 4.1.

Table 4.1: Distribution of the Respondents by Age Group

S.N.	Age Groups	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	15-19	18	12.9
2	20-24	28	20.0
3	25-29	12	8.6
4	30-34	31	22.1
5	35-39	24	17.1
6	40-44	11	7.9
7	45-59	16	11.4
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The age group has been classified in to seven groups. The largest percentages of the respondents are in age group 30-34 years, which is 22.1 percent and lowest percentage of respondents as found in age group 40-44 years, which is only 7.9 percent. It is followed by age group 20-24, 35-39, 15-19 and 45-49 years, which are 20.0 percent, 17.1 percent, 12.9 percent and 11.4 percent.

4.1.2 Marital Status

Marriage is considered as most essential and spiritual compulsion. Marriage changes status of daughter to daughter in law and mother to mother in law. It also changes women's rule, responsibility, duties and work load women are totally involved in husband's household activities. Marital status change the decision making power, when women have change in to widowed, divorced and separated they can decide without restriction of their husband. Table 4.2 presents the marital status of the respondents.

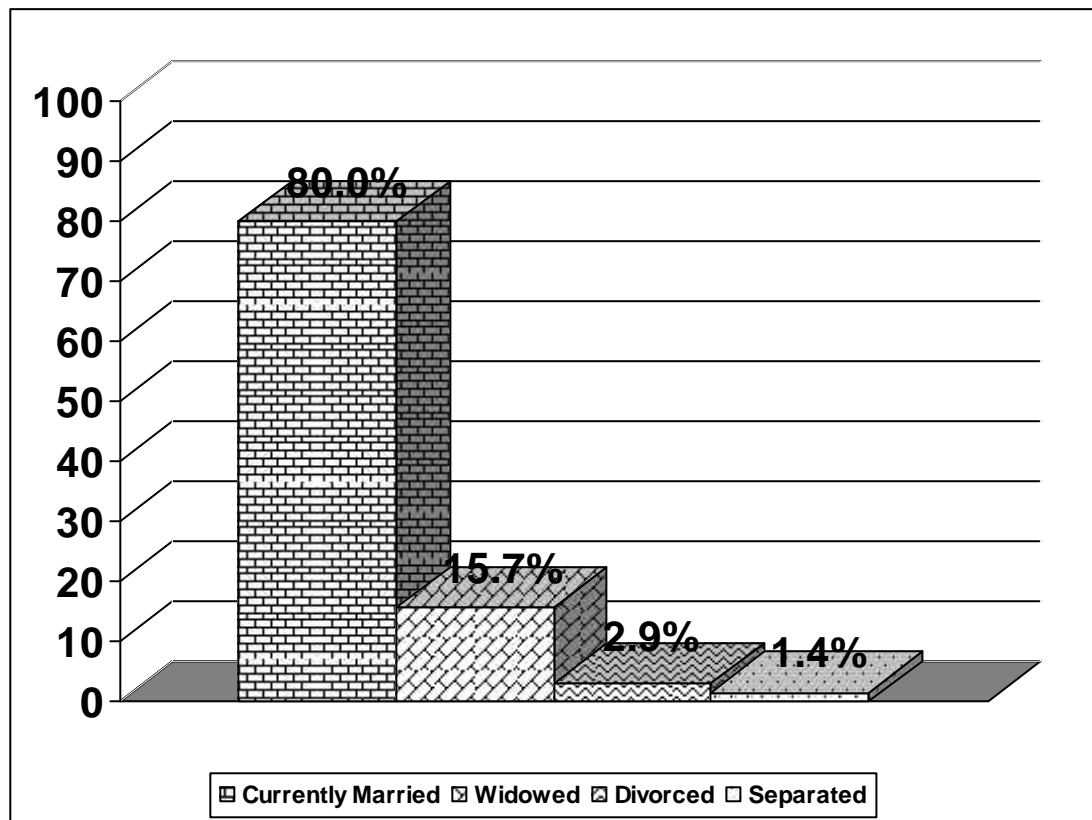
Table 4.2: Distribution of the Respondents by Marital Status

S.N.	Marital status	Number of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Currently Married	112	80.0
2	Widowed	22	15.7
3	Divorced	4	2.9
4	Separated	2	1.4
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table 4.2 shows marital status of the respondents. Out of the total 140 respondents, majority of the respondents (80%) were found currently married and only 1.4 percent was found separated.

Figure No. 1: Distribution of the Respondents by Marital Status



4.1.3 Family Structure

Family is the basic unit of the society and it is an institution which plays important role of building society. Family structure has dominant role on decision making process. There are two categories of family structure mainly nuclear and joint family. Nuclear family refers that family which consists of husband, wife and unmarried children while joint family contains husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as other relatives, who share the kitchen for meal and reside under the same roof. In most of the cases, it was recorded that the women from the nuclear family and female headed household have higher responsibilities for decision than joint family and male headed household. Table 4.4 presents the family structure of the respondents.

Table 4.3 Distribution of the Respondents by Family Structure

S.N.	Family Structure	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Nuclear Family	71	50.7
2	Joint Family	69	49.3
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

In this study more than half of the respondents (50.7%) are living in nuclear family. Likewise, another half of the respondents were found, to have joint family. Most of the respondents prefer nuclear type of family because it is easier to run house.

4.1.4 Religious Composition

Nepal is a multi-casts, multi-language and multi-religion country. Most of the Nepalese are Hindu. Buddha, Muslim, Kirat and Christian. In this study area most of the respondents were Hindu and Christian. Table 4.5 presents the religious composition of the respondents.

Table 4.4: Distribution of the Respondents by Religion Composition

S.N.	Religion	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Hindu	127	90.7
2	Christian	13	9.3
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

In this study area, out of the 140 respondents 90.7 percent respondents were found Hindu and 9.3 percent respondents were found Christian. So, most of people in Nepal are Hindu but Christian religion also slowly influences in this V.D.C.

4.1.5 Language Composition

Language is the medium of communication, which can play important roles for the socio-cultural status of household composition. Table 4.6 presents the language composition of the respondents.

Table 4.5: Distribution of the Respondents by Language Composition

S.N.	Language	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Nepali	125	89.3
2	Hindi	3	2.1
3	Bote	12	8.6
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.5 shows that all 140 respondents speak different language. The largest percentages of the respondents speak Nepali language, which is 89.3 percent, followed by Bote, which is 8.6 percent and lowest percentages speak Hindi language, which is 2.1 percent in this study area. Some respondents migrated from India and some respondents are living with Bote or Majhi community. So who are come from India, they are using Hindi and who are in Bote community they are using Bote language in their speaking.

4.1.6 Educational Status

Education is the most effective factor, which affects the socio-economic status of women. Education enables basic skills and confidence in people. In Nepal illiteracy rate is very high than other countries. According to 2001 census, in Nepal women literacy rate was 42 percent against 65 percent male literacy. Therefore, education as a variable is accepted as an important factor to conduct any research about the socio-economic status of any community. In this study educational status can play vital role to decision making process. If women have educated, they can involve in income generating program and they can empower themselves easily. So women can decide every aspects of life. Table 4.7 presents the educational status of the respondents.

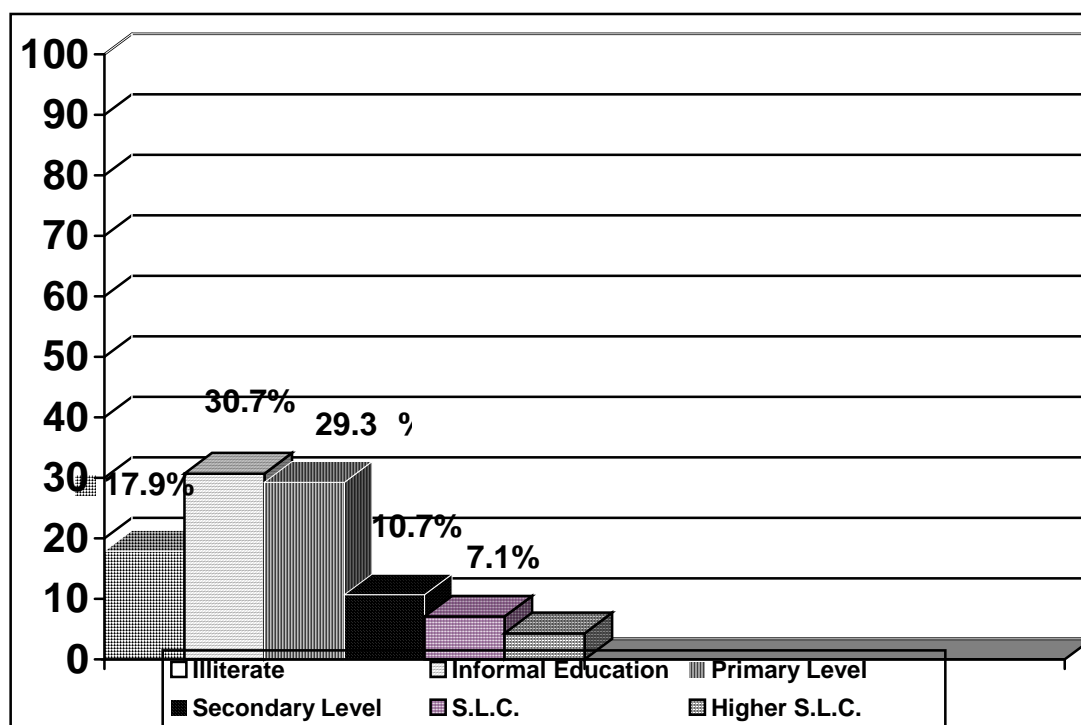
Table 4.6 Distribution of the Respondents by Educational Status

S.N.	Educational Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Illiterate	25	17.9
2	Informal Education	43	30.7
3	Primary Level	41	29.3
4	Secondary Level	15	10.7
5	S.L.C.	10	7.1
6	Higher S.L.C.	6	4.3
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.6 shows that out of the 140 respondents, majority of respondents have informal education, which is 30.7 percent. 29.3 percent respondents have primary education, 17.9 percent respondents were illiterate and only 4.3 percent had attended higher S.L.C.

Figure No.2: Distribution of the Respondents by the Educational Status



4.2 Economic Characteristics

This chapter deals with economic aspects of the respondents such as occupation, possession of land, livestock, sources of income, area of cultivated land, personal property etc. following analysis presents economic aspects of the respondents of study area.

4.2.1: Occupational Status

Occupation is one of the key indicator/ factor determining the socio-economic status of women. In Nepalese society most of women from rural area are involved in household activities. The study shows that a married high caste woman is doing very hardworking. They involved in household work from early morning to till night. Beside this they are involved in agricultural activities and other income generating works. Occupation can change the decision making power, if women who are involve in job/service and trade/business, their decision making power is high than daily wages and agriculture. Table 4.9 presents the occupation of the respondents.

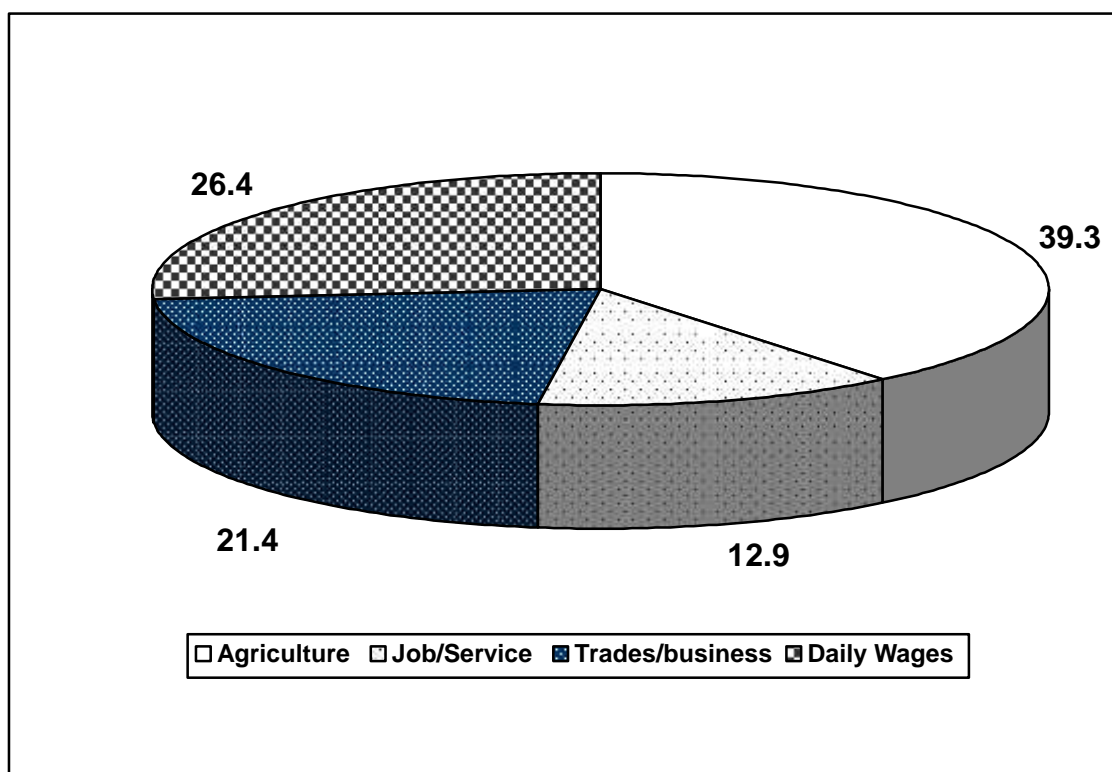
Table 4.7: Distribution of the Respondents by Occupation

S.N	Occupational Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Agriculture	55	39.3
2	Job/Service	18	12.9
3	Trades/ Business	30	21.4
4	Daily Wages	37	26.4
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.7 shows that nearly majority of the respondents (39.3%) were involved in agriculture. 26.4 percent respondents were involved in daily wages and 21.4 percent were involved in Trade/Business. Likewise, only 12.9 percent respondents were involved in job/service sector.

Figure No.3: Distribution of the Respondents by Occupation



4.2.2 Cultivated Land

The study shows that agriculture is the main source of living of Purkot VDC, Ward No-6 of Tanahun Districts. Most of the respondents have not cultivated land; they are depending on other's land, it is also effect on socio-economic condition of family and decision making process. Table 4.10 presents the cultivated land of the respondents.

Table 4.8 Distribution of the respondents by cultivated land

S.N.	Cultivated Land	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	17	12.1
2	No	123	87.9
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.8 shows that in this study area all of the respondents have not cultivated land, which were found 87.9 percent and only 12.1 percent have cultivated land in this study area of Tanahun Districts.

4.2.3 Land Ownership

Agriculture is the backbone of Nepalese economy. Most of the respondents in this VDC were involved in agriculture. Land ownership plays a vital role in determining socio-economic status of women. Low output ratio, high man land ratio, small and fragmented land holding are the characteristics of the Nepalese agrarian economy. In this VDC most of the families have their own land. Table 4.11 presents the landownership of family by the respondents.

Table 4.9: Distribution of the Respondents by Landownership of Family

S.N.	Land Ownership	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	1Dhur- 10 Dhur	4	2.9
2	10 Dhur- 1 Bigha	70	50.0
3	1Bigha- 2 Bigha	32	22.8
4	2 Bigha- 3 Bigha	12	8.6
5	3 Bigha- 4 Bigha	8	5.7
6	4 Bigha- 5 Bigha	9	6.4
7	5 Bigha Over	5	3.6
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.9 shows that out of 140 respondents, majorities (50 %) of the respondents have land holding (10 Dhur- 1 Bigha) and lowest 2.9 percent of the respondents have land holding only (1Dhur-10 Dhur). Followed by 22.8 percent, 8.6 percent, 6.4 percent, 5.7 percent and 3.6 percent of respondents have land holding (1Bigha-2 Bigha, 2 Bigha-3 Bigha, 4 Bigha- 5 Bigha, 3 Bigha- 4 Bigha and 5 Bigha Over) respectively.

4.2.4 Personal Property

Personal property also plays a vital role in determining women's socio-economic status. In our society if a woman has more personal property she gets high respect from her family. Her position is strong than other women; especially "Personal Property" is called also "PEWA" in our Society. Brahmin and Chettries married

women bring livestock, land, house etc. from their parent's house. In these property women have their own right and can use it by her choice. Table 4.12 presents the status of personal property of the respondents.

Table 4.10: Distribution of the Respondents by “Personal Property”

S.N.	Personal Property	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	24	17.1
2	No	116	82.9
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.10 shows that among 140 respondents, only 17.1 percent have personal property or PEWA and 82.9 percent of the respondent have not any personal property.

4.2.5 Types of Dowry Taken from their Parent's House

Dowry is another factor of determining women's socio-economic status. Women have taken from different types of dowry from their parent's house during their marriage. Table 4.13 presents the status types of dowry of the respondents.

Table 4.11: Distribution of the Respondents by Types of Dowry Taken from their Parent's House

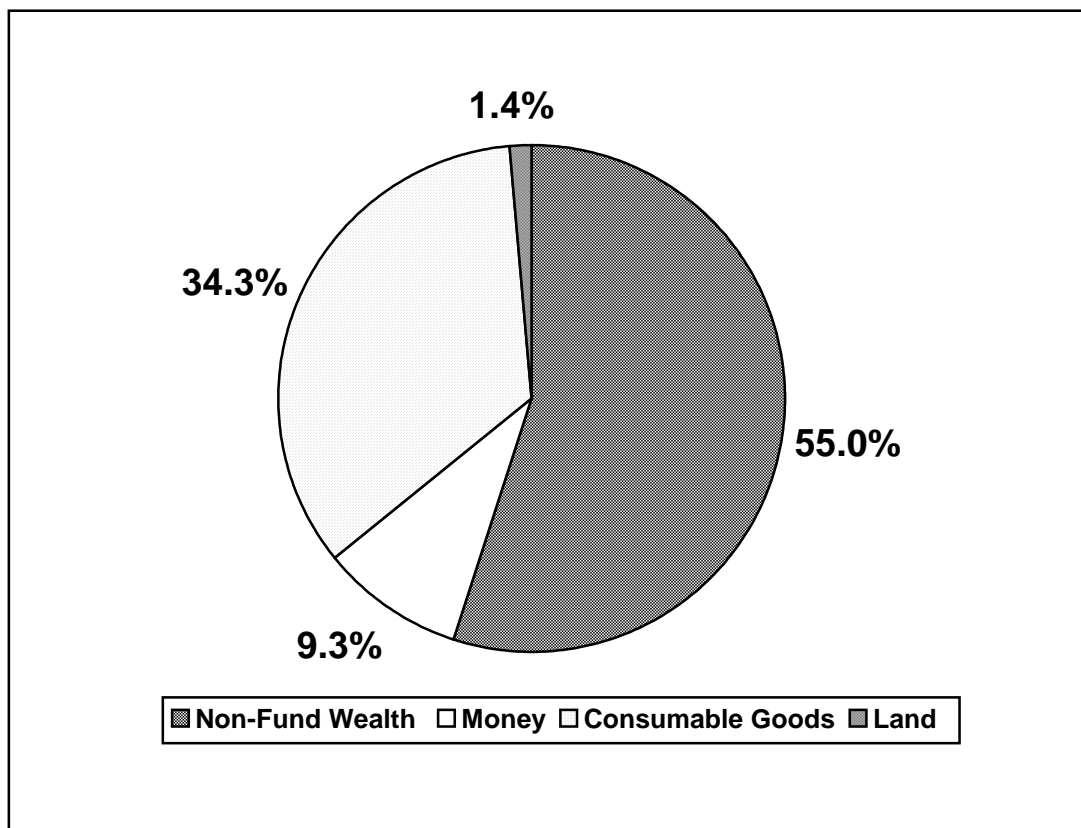
S.N.	Types of Dowry	Number of Respondents	Percentages (%)
1	Non-fund Wealth	77	55.0
2	Money	13	9.3
3	Consumable Goods	48	34.3
4	Land	2	1.4
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.11 presents that out of the 140 respondents of the study area; highest 55.0 percent married women were found taken non-fund wealth from their parent's house. It is followed by 34.3 percent were found taken consumable goods, 9.3

percent were taken money and 1.4 percent were taken land from their parent's house as a dowry.

FigureNo.4: Distribution of the Respondents by Types of Dowry Taken from their Parent's House



4.2.6 Loan Taking and Giving

Taking and giving loan is another most important indicator of household decision making. Loan also makes impact on socio-economic condition of the family. Table 4.14 presents the status of loan taking and giving of the respondents.

Table 4.12: Distribution of the Respondents by Taking and Giving Loan

S.N.	Taking & Giving Loan	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	111	79.3
2	No	29	20.7
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 4.12 presents that out of the 140 respondents, 79.3 percent respondents were found to have taking and giving loan, and only 20.7 percent respondents were found to have not taking and giving any loan in this study area.

Chapter- V

WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Decision has a great role to enhance the social status. It plays important role in terms of people's participation in different activities. There is gender disparity in terms of decision making process. Improvements in women's decision making power minimize the gap between males/ female's status in any society. In many cases females especially married females are deprived of decision making process due to low educational and economic status in the society. However, women play a dominant role in decision in female headed of household or in nuclear family. The ability and capacity of married women in decision making is affected by various factors such as; education, occupation, employment status etc.

5.1 Participation of the Respondents on Decision Making

As a daughter, women's involvements in decision making are high after married the status of daughter changed into daughter-in-law. As a daughter-in-law, women's involvement in decision making is rare or women are not accepted as a decision maker. They are totally involved in household chores some may be involved in farm activities in the Nepalese contexts. Only when women are performing the role of mother or mother-in-law, she can take part in decision making process.

Women are having subordinate status to men in society. Women are not allowed to act as a decision maker in the family. The role of women in household decision making and the allocation of household resources depends on structure of family, age and life stage of women and absence of male from village/country. Role of women in decision making process also impacts on socio-economic status of women. Table 5.1 presents the volume of participation on decision making process.

Table 5.1: Distribution of the Respondents by the Volume of Participation on Decision Making Process.

S.N.	Involvement in Decision Making	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Fully Involved	18	12.9
2	Partially Involved	48	34.3
3	Not Involved	74	52.8
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.1 shows that out of 140 respondents, only 12.9 percent respondents were found fully involved in decision making process. Followed by 52.8 percent respondents were found not involved in decision making process and one-third 34.3 percent was found partially involved in decision making process in this study area.

5.2 Decision on Selling and Purchasing

Selling and purchasing of good is an important decision that per has to be made in household. Many women are not involved in purchasing and selling goods for daily needs. But all of these husbands of respondents are involved in these activities of this study area. Table 5.2 presents the involvements of the respondents for decision on selling and purchasing goods.

Table 5.2: Distribution of the Respondent's Decision on Selling and Purchasing

S.N.	Decision on Selling and Purchasing	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Husband	77	55.0
2	Self	12	8.6
3	Both	40	28.6
4	Others	11	7.8
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.2 shows that out of the all 140 respondents, more than half, which is 55.0 percent respondents were found depend on selling and purchasing by their husband. Followed by 28.6 percent were found involved on selling and purchasing both, 8.6 percent were found self and lowest, 7.8 percent were found on selling and purchasing by their other family members.

Table 5.3: Distribution of the Respondent’s Decision on Selling and Purchasing by Occupation, Family Structure and Marital Status.

Occupation	Can Decide	Can’t decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	41.0	59	55	100.0
Job/Service	63.2	36.8	18	100.0
Trade/Business	78.7	21.3	30	100.0
Daily Wages	17.1	82.9	37	100.0
			140	100.0
Family Structure	Can Decide	Can’t decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Joint	33.5	66.5	71	100.0
Nuclear	70.3	29.7	69	100.0
			140	100.0
Marital Status	Can Decide	Can’t decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Currently Married	39.4	60.6	112	100.0
Widowed	88.2	11.8	22	100.0
Divorced	79.0	21.0	4	100.0
Seperated	90.1	9.9	2	100.0
			140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.3 shows that all of the 140 respondents, according to occupation, family structure and marital structure, decision on selling and purchasing. Highest percentage of respondents, those who were involved in Trade/Business was found 78.7 percent, those who were involved in Job/Service have 63.2 percent and lowest percent have found only 17.1 percent, who were involved in daily wages have lowest decision making on selling and purchasing goods.

According to family structure, all of the respondents those who were from the nuclear family have highest decision on selling and purchasing goods, which were

found 70.3 percent from nuclear family, can decide and similarly, only 33.5 percent from joint family can decide.

Based on the marital status, majority of the respondents were found 90.1 percent, which have separated because of the absence of husband, they can decide herself in this study area followed by 88.2 percent, those who were widowed, 79.0 percent were found divorced and lowest percentage have found from currently married women which were only 39.4 percent involved in decision on selling and purchasing goods.

5.3 Decision on Cropping System

Mostly female are engaged either in household chores or in agriculture activities in this study area. There is more involvement of females in agriculture, decision making regarding cropping pattern. Table 5.4 presents the decision on cropping system.

Table 5.4: Distribution of the Respondent’s Decision on Cropping System

S.N.	Decision Makers	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Self	71	50.7
2	Husband	37	26.4
3	Both	17	12.2
4	Others	15	10.7
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Out of the total 140 respondents, 50.7 percent women were involved self in decision on cropping. Followed by 26.4 percent women’s decision on cropping is depend on their husband, 12.2 percent respondents were involved with husband and 10.7 percent respondents were depended on other members of family. This study indicates that, majority of respondents were self decided to crop.

Table 5.5: Distribution of the Respondent's Decision on Cropping System by Landownership, Personal Property and Dowry Status

Landownership	Can Decide	Can't decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1Dhur- 10 Dhur	28.6	71.4	4	100.0
10Dhur-1 Bigha	35.1	64.9	70	100.0
1Bigha-2 Bigha	41.2	58.8	32	100.0
2Bigha-3 Bigha	43.4	56.6	12	100.0
3Bigha-4 Bigha	58.0	42.0	8	100.0
4Bigha-5 Bigha	69.7	30.3	9	100.0
5 Bigha Over	82.1	17.9	5	100.0
			140	100.0
Personal Property	Can Decide	Can't Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	91.3	8.7	24	100.0
No	33.5	66.5	116	100.0
			140	100.0
Dowry Status	Can Decide	Can't Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
NonfundWealth	62.9	37.1	77	100.0
Money	77.1	22.9	13	100.0
Consumable Goods	45.6	54.4	48	100.0
Land	89.7	10.3	2	100.0
			140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.5 shows the respondents decision on cropping system among landownership of the respondents, those who have 5 Bigha over land, they have found 82.1 percent respondents were could decide on cropping. Similarly, 69.7 percent of the respondents, those who have 4 -5 Bigha land of cropping system, followed by 58.0 percent were found 3 - 4 Bigha and 43.4 percent were found 2–3 Bigha

landownership, lowest percentage of the respondents were found 28.6 percent, respondents having 1 Dhur - 10 Dhur land. We can easily found that, respondents those who have owner of the land, they can easily decided on their cropping system. Based on the personal property of the respondents, out of the 140 respondents, majority of the respondents have not own personal property in this study area, so they have found only 33.5 percent respondents can decide, they have not personal property and 91.0 percent respondents can decide, they have own personal property. Similarly, according to the dowry status of the respondents, majority of the respondents, 89.7 percent were found can decide, they have taken land from their parent's house. 77.1 percent respondents were found can decide, they have taken money from their parent's house. followed by 62.9 percent respondents, they have taken non-fund wealth and lowest percentage of the respondents were found , they have taken consumable goods from their parent's house, which was only 45.6 percent respondents can decision on cropping system.

5.4 Decision on Giving and Taking Loan

Giving and taking loan is one of the most important indicators of household decision making. Table 5.6 presents the situation of decision for giving and taking loan.

Table 5.6: Distribution of the Respondent's Decision on Giving and Taking Loan

S.N.	Decision Makers	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Self	32	22.9
2	Husband	93	66.4
3	Both	9	6.4
4	Others	6	4.3
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.6 presents that, out of the 140 respondents, 66.4 percent respondents were found depend on their husband's decision on giving and taking loan. Followed by 22.9 percent women were involved on decision on giving and taking loan, 6.4 percent were found both (husbands & self) and 4.3 percent were found to be depended on others decision on household.

Table 5.7: Distribution of the Respondent's Decision on Taking and Giving Loan by Caste/Ethnicity, Age Group and Literacy Status

Caste/Ethnicity	Can Decide	Can't decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Brahmin	64.1	35.9	78	100.0
Chettries	79.0	21.0	62	100.0
			140	100.0
Age Group	Can Decide	Can't Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
15-19	44.4	55.6	18	100.0
20-24	57.1	42.9	28	100.0
25-29	66.7	33.3	12	100.0
30-34	80.6	19.4	31	100.0
35-39	54.2	45.8	24	100.0
40-44	45.5	54.5	11	100.0
45-49	56.3	43.7	16	100.0
			140	100.0
Literacy Status	Can Decide	Can't Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Literate	78.3	21.4	115	100.0
Illiterate	72.0	28.0	25	100.0
			140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.7 presents that the characteristics of respondents on giving and taking loan by caste, age and literacy status. Among the 140 respondents, based on caste and ethnicity we were mainly focus on the high caste, majority of the Chettries respondents were found decision on taking and giving loan than Brahmin respondents, which was 79.0 percent and Brahmin respondents have found 64.1 percent can decide for taking and giving loan in this study area.

According to the age group of the respondents, age group of 30-34 years were found to have highest the decision making power for giving and taking loan 80.6 percent. Followed by 25-29 years age group were found 66.7 percent, 20-24 years age group 57.1 percent, 45-49 years age group was found 56.3 percent, similarly lowest percent were found 44.4 from the age group 15-19 years.

Based on the literacy status, those respondents were found 78.3% literate involved in decision on giving and taking loan and 72.0% illiterate respondents were found involved in decision on giving and taking loan.

5.5 Decision on Household Expenditure

Most women are engaged in household chores and they spend more time on these activities, while males play dominant role in decision on household expenditure. Table 5.8 presents the situation of decision making in terms of household expenditure.

Table 5.8: Distribution of the Respondent's Decision on Household Expenditure

S.N.	Decision Makers	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Self	31	22.1
2	Husband	82	58.6
3	Both	14	10.0
4	Others	13	9.3
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.8 presents that out of the 140 respondents, 58.6 percent respondents were found husband makes decisions on household expenditure. Self decided Only 22.1% percent respondents where as 10 percent respondents were decided by both (husband & self) and 9.3 percent are made by others. It shows the low decision making power of married women in household with regard to household expenditure.

Table 5.9: Distribution of the Respondent’s Decision on Household Expenditure by Occupation, Family Structure and Marital Status

Occupation	Can Decide	Can’t decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	19.4	80.6	55	100.0
Job/Service	84.0	16.0	18	100.0
Trade/Business	59.9	40.1	30	100.0
Daily Wages	11.5	88.5	37	100.0
			140	100.0
Family Structure	Can Decide	Can’t Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Joint	67.8	32.2	71	100.0
Nuclear	58.1	41.9	69	100.0
			140	100.0
Marital Status	Can Decide	Can’t Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Currently Married	49.2	50.8	112	100.0
Widowed	87.0	13.0	22	100.0
Divorced	63.1	36.9	4	100.0
Seperated	72.8	27.2	2	100.0
			140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.9 shows that the characteristics of respondents, decision on household expenditure by occupation, family structure and marital status. According to occupation, out of the 140 respondents, those who were involved in Job/Service have found 84.0 percent respondents can decide on household expenditure. Similarly, 59.9 Percent were found those who have involved in Trade/Business and minority of the respondents were found from daily wages, which were only 11.5 percent respondents can decide on their household expenditure.

Based on the marital status of the respondents in the study area, highest percentage of the widowed were involved in decision on household expenditure, which was 87.0 percent, separated respondents were found 72.8 percent and divorced were found 63.1 percent, because of the absence of their husband, widowed, divorced and separated respondents have highest involvement in this study area. Similarly, lowest respondents were found from currently married, which was 49.2 percent.

5.6 Decision on Children's Education

According to the field survey, out of the total 140 respondents, decisions about children's education were made by males in most cases. Table 5.10 presents the situation of the respondents by decision making on children's education.

Table 5.10: Distribution of the Respondent's Decision on Children's Education.

S.N.	Decision Makers	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Husband	86	61.4
2	Self	30	21.4
3	Both	17	12.2
4	Others	7	5.0
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.10 presents that, most of the respondents 61.4 percent were found depend on their husband's decision on children's education, followed by 21.4 percent were involved in decision on children's education, 12.2 percent were decided both and 5.0 percent were depended an others. This study shows that, most of the respondents depend on their children's education on their husband's decision.

Table 5.11: Distribution of the Respondent’s Decision on Children’s Education by Age Group and Literacy Status.

Age Group	Can Decide	Can’t Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
15-19	61.1	38.9	18	100.0
20-24	42.9	57.1	28	100.0
25-29	58.3	41.2	12	100.0
30-34	87.1	12.9	31	100.0
35-39	62.5	37.5	24	100.0
40-44	81.8	18.2	11	100.0
45-49	62.5	37.5	16	100.0
			140	100.0
Literacy Status	Can Decide	Can’t Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Literate	81.7	18.3	115	100.0
Illiterate	64.0	36.0	25	100.0
			140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.11 shows the respondent’s decision on children education, according to the age group of the respondents, at age 30-34 years 87.1 percent were involved decision on children education. Followed by 40-44 years age group of respondents were found 81.8 percent, 35-39 years age group were found 62.5 percent, 45-49 years age group were found 62.5 percent, 15-19 years age group were found 61.1 percent, 25-29 years age group were found 58.3 percent and 20-24 years age group were found 42.9 percent for decision on children’s education.

Field survey shows that, the literacy status of this study area, 81.7 percent literate women were involved decision on children’s education and 64.0 percent illiterate women were involved decision on children’s education.

5.7 Decision on Treatment for Sickness

Life expectancy of people has been increased due too modern medical facilities. In terms of decision related to treatment for sickness of family members, males have dominant role. Mostly male members decide the types of treatment to be practiced to care during the sickness. Table 5.12 presents the respondents by treatment for sickness.

Table 5.12: Distribution of the Respondent’s Decision on Treatment for Sickness

S.N.	Decision Makers	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Self	18	12.9
2	Husband	85	60.7
3	Both	27	19.3
4	Others	10	7.1
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.12 presents that out of 140 respondents, 60.7 percent respondents were found depend on their husband’s decision on treatment for sickness. Followed by 19.3 percent respondents were found decided both, 12.9 percent respondents were self decided and 7.1 percent respondents were found decided by others in this study area.

Table 5.13: Distribution of the Respondent’s Decision on Treatment for Sickness by Occupation, Personal Property and Literacy Status

Occupation	Can Decide	Can’t decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	25.4	74.6	55	100.0
Job/Service	73.3	26.7	18	100.0
Trade/Business	81.9	18.1	30	100.0
Daily Wages	18.0	82.0	37	100.0
			140	100.0
Personal Property	Can Decide	Can’t Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	90.3	9.7	24	100.0
No	17.6	82.4	116	100.0
			140	100.0
Literacy Status	Can Decide	Can’t Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Literate	89.2	10.8	115	100.0
Illiterate	28.5	71.5	25	100.0
			140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.13 shows that the distribution of respondents, treatment for sickness by occupation, personal property and literacy status. According to occupation, highest percentage of the respondents, which were found 81.9 percent, those who were involved in Trade/Business. Similarly, 73.3 percent respondents those who were involved in Job/Service have can decide on treatment for sickness. Lowest percentage of the respondents, those who were engaging daily wages have only 18.0 percent found to decision on treatment for sickness.

According to the status of the personal property of the respondents, highest percent of the respondents were found 90.3 percent respondents can decide on their treatment for sickness, those who have own personal property. Similarly,

respondents have not any personal property were found only 17.6 percent can decide on treatment for sickness in this study area.

Based on the literacy status, out of the 140 respondents of the study area, most of the literate respondents were involved in decision on treatment for sickness, which was 89.2 percent and illiterate respondents were found 28.5 percent involved in decision on treatment for sickness.

5.8 Decision on Use of Family Planning Methods

Use of the family planning method is burning issues in the present world and it is considered to be the main factors for reducing rapid population growth. Rapid population growth degrades the quality of life of the people and result in different kinds of problem as food deficit, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, health hazards, bad sanitation etc. Table 5.14 presents the respondents by use of family planning methods

Table 5.14: Distribution to the Respondent's Decision on Use of Family Planning Methods

S N.	Decision Makers	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Self	20	14.3
2	Husband	85	60.7
3	Both	32	22.9
4	Others	3	2.1
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

It is found that out of the 140 respondents, among them 60.7 percent married women from Brahmin and Chettries at age 15-49 years were depending on decision to use family planning by their husband. Followed by 22.9 respondents were decided with husband, 14.3 percent respondents were involved in self decision to use family planning methods and only 2.1percent respondents were depended on other family member's decision.

Table 5.15: Distribution to the Respondent’s Decision on Use of Family Planning Methods by Occupation, Family Structure and Age group.

Occupation	Can Decide	Can’t decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	38.3	61.7	55	100.0
Job/Service	81.8	18.2	18	100.0
Trade/Business	54.1	45.9	30	100.0
Daily Wages	10.7	89.3	37	100.0
			140	100.0
Family Structure	Can Decide	Can’t Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Joint	48.3	51.7	71	100.0
Nuclear	77.4	22.6	69	100.0
			140	100.0
Age Group	Can Decide	Can’t Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
15-19	30.5	69.5	18	100.0
20-24	29.2	70.8	28	100.0
25-29	41.6	58.4	12	100.0
30-34	57.0	43.0	31	100.0
35-39	89.4	10.6	24	100.0
40-44	70.8	29.2	11	100.0
45-49	37.3	62.7	16	100.0
			140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The respondents of the study area, who belonged to involved in Job/Service have been found 81.8 percent, can decide to use family planning method. Similarly, 54.1 percent respondents were found, they were engaged in Trade/Business, 38.3 percent respondents were found, they were engaged in Agriculture and only 10.7 percent respondents were engage in daily wages. This study can shows the decision on use of family planning methods of the respondents.

Based on the family structure of the respondents have higher decisive power about using family planning method, those who were from the nuclear family which was found 77.4 percent and respondents have lower decisive role about using family planning method, those who were from the joint family which was 48.3 percent respondents.

According to age wise composition of the respondents of the study area, highest respondents at age group 35-39 years respondents were found, 89.4 percent, 40-44 years age group were found 70.8 percent, 30-34 years age group were found 57.0 percent, 25-29 years age group were found 41.6 percent, 45-49 years age group were found 37.3 percent, 15-19 years age group were found 30.5 percent and lowest at age group 20-24 years were found 29.2 percent respondents can decision for using family planning methods.

5.9 Decision on Social Participation

Social participation is most important for women to empower their life. This can play an important role to improve the society and women's status. Table 5.16 presents the situation of the respondent's decision on social participation

Table 5.16: Distribution by Respondent's Decision on Social Participation

S.N	Decision Makers	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Self	18	12.9
2	Husband	67	47.8
3	Both	50	35.7
4	Others	5	3.6
	Total	140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.16 indicates that out of the 140 respondents, 47.8 percent respondents were found depended on their husband's decision on social participation. It is followed by 35.7 percent respondents were found decided with their husband. 12.9 percent respondents were found their own decision and only 3.6 percent respondents were found decided by their other family members.

Table 5.17: Distribution to Respondent's Decision on Social Participation by Occupation, Family Structure and Education

Occupation	Can Decide	Can't decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	37.8	62.2	55	100.0
Job/Service	58.6	41.4	18	100.0
Trade/Business	88.1	11.9	30	100.0
Daily Wages	12.0	88.0	37	100.0
			140	100.0
Family Structure	Can Decide	Can't Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Joint	78.3	21.7	71	100.0
Nuclear	40.7	59.3	69	100.0
			140	100.0
Age Group	Can Decide	Can't Decide	Total	
	Percentage	Percentage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	28.4	71.6	25	100.0
Informal Education	39.0	61.0	43	100.0
Primary Education	50.2	49.8	41	100.0
Secondary Education	47.5	52.5	15	100.0
S.L.C	60.8	39.2	10	100.0
S.L.C. Above	79.3	20.7	6	100.0
			140	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5.17 determine that out of the 140 respondents in this study area, among the Occupation, Family Structure and Age Group of the respondent's decision on social participation, according to the occupational status, highest percent of the respondents were found 88.1 percent, those who were engaged in Trade/Business,

58.6 percent respondents were found, those who were engaged in Job/Service, 37.8 percent respondents were found, those who were engaged in Agriculture and 12.0 percent respondents were found, those who were engaged in daily wages can decided on social participation of that community.

Based on the family structure of the respondents, highest percent of the respondents were found 78.3 percent have been decided on social participation, they were from joint family and lowest percent of the respondents were found 40.7 percent have been decided on social participation, they were from nuclear family.

According to the educational status of respondents, majority of the respondents have been found 79.0 percent, they have finished S.L.C. above, 60.8 percent respondents were found having S.L.C., 50.2 percent respondents were found having primary education. Similarly, 47.5 percent respondents were found having secondary education, 39.0 percent respondents were found having informal education and lowest 28.4 percent respondents were found illiterate can have decision making power on social participation in this study area.

Chapter- VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The specific objective of the study is to identify the socio-economic status and household decision making power of married women of High Caste i.e. Brahmin & Chettries women at age 15-49 years. The role of socio-economic status of married high caste women and their decision making power of Purkot VDC, ward no- 6 Tanahun Districts.

6.1 Summary

This study has selected ward no-6, Purkot VDC of Tanahun district for the study area. The total female population of the ward no-6 is 546 among which, 140 are married. In this study 140 females are taken as sample, purposively. This study has cover 140 married women from high caste from the total population as a sample of this study. This sample has revealed the socio-economic status and situation of role women in household decision making process of the overall population of married women in Purkot VDC of Tanahun district.

According to caste/ethnicity i.e. Brahmin & Chettries women majority of Brahmin respondents were found in the study area, which were 55.7 percent and Chettries respondents were 44.3 percent.

According to age group of the respondents, majority of respondents are at age group 30-34 years, which was 22.1 percent. It is followed by 20.0 percent which is from age group 20-24 years, 35-39 years age groups were found 17.1 percent, 15-19 years age group's respondents were 12.9 percent, 45-49 years age group's respondents were 11.4 percent, 25-29 years age group's 8.6 percent and 40-44 years 7.9 percent respectively in this study area. There are only two religions in this study area i.e. Hindu and Christian. Majority of respondents, were found Hindu, which was 90.7 percent, and only 9.3 percents respondents were Christian. Christian religion also slowly influences in this V.D.C.

Based on the marital status; among the total respondents in the study area, 80.0 percent respondents have currently married women. Likewise, 15.7 percent have widowed, 2.9 percent respondents have divorced and 1.4 percent respondents have separated respectively. The family structures among the respondents of this V.D.C

were found like this; 50.7 percent respondents have nuclear family and 49.3 percent respondents have joint family in the study area of Tanahun Districts.

Most of the respondents (89.3%) speak Nepali language, (8.6%) respondents speak Bote language because; most of the respondents are living with Bote community in this study area and (2.1%) respondents speak Hindi also. Some respondents migrated from India and some respondents are living with Bote or Majhi community, so who are come from India, they are using Hindi and who are in Bote community they are using Bote language in their speaking.

According to literacy status out of the 140 respondents, most of the respondents (82.1%) were literate and (17.9%) respondents only were illiterate in this study area. This data indicates that most of the respondents are literate in this VDC.

Most of the respondents (39.3%) have main occupation is agriculture, who are facing the problem of food deficiency and they are fulfilled their food deficiency by involving the daily wages (26.4%), trade/business (21.4%) and job/service (12.9%). Agriculture is the main source of family income in both Brahmin & Chettries women groups of the respondents. Agriculture being the main occupation its productivity is low in comparison to the manpower involved. Thus, people started to engage in non-agricultural activities like household work, service, business etc.

The study shows that all women are involved in income generating activities in this study area. Especially respondents (Brahmin and Chettries) married women at age 15-49years were found very smart for income generating programmed and social participation. Most of the Brahmin and Chettries women are keeping their livestock.

The working hour of the women ranged from 4-8 hours per day; cooking, fetching water, carrying of children from school, cutting grass etc. women being manure to the form and food grains to the mill. Most of the respondents have done tending the livestock and fetching fodder. Most of the respondents have Gobar Gas for cooking, so they are using gas stove for cooking in this study area of Purkot, VDC, and ward no-6 of Tanahun Districts. Respondents are in this study area; male members are more involved in work as an outside the household like go to market, involved in social participation, taking and giving loan than female members. Male members are rarely involved in inside household management and household chores than females.

Women's involvement in decision making is found low in high caste married women than other lower caste. Male play a vital role in any decision making process of household matter. Thus, decision making power rests as men, some earning women are to be found involved in decision making. Now a days, because of the nuclear family structure, some high caste married women are found involved in decision making process. Thus, the trend of involvement in decision making process is increasing.

There is some discrimination in terms of education opportunities, personal expenditure and dietary intake against male counterparts. The observation showed that some married women; they do not want to complain against it because of fear. The study showed that participation of respondents in decision making power of not involvement is (52.8%), partially involvement (34.3%) and fully involvement (12.9%).but higher the proportion of respondents (50.6%) are engaged in decision with regard to cropping system than others.

Selling and purchasing goods is an important of decision that has to be made in household. About only (8.6%) women are involved in decision on selling and purchasing goods for households. According to occupational status of the respondents, highest (78.7%) those who are involving in trade / business can decide on selling and purchasing goods for household. Among the 140 respondents, have highest (70.3%) are involved decision on selling and purchasing goods, those who were from nuclear family. In this study area, the separated respondents have highest decision on selling and purchasing goods than others because the absence of their husband.

Majority of Brahmin respondents have decision role on their children's education. According to age group, it has been found that highest (87.1%) at age 30-34 years have decisive role on their children's education and (81.7%) literate respondents have highest decisive role on their children's education than illiterate. Among the 140 respondents (79.0%) Chettries respondents have highest decisive power as giving and taking loan. According to age group 30-34 years have highest (80.6%) decision making power as giving and taking loan. Similarly, (78.3%) literate respondents have highest decisive power as giving and taking loan.

Most respondents, those who have involved in trade/ business (81.9%), which is highest percentage of the respondent's decision on treatments for sickness. Similarly, respondents those who have own personal property has highest decisive power for treatment for sickness (90.3%) and literate respondents have highest (89.2%) decisive power for treatment of sickness.

Family planning method is most important in household to achieve the goal of decision making power. Respondents have highest decisive power about using family planning method from those respondents, who was involved in job/ service than other occupation which was (81.8%) can decide to use family planning method. According to family structure of the respondents, highest respondents were found (77.4%), those who are from the nuclear family having well decision making to use family planning. Similarly, at age group of 35-39 years that is (89.4%) respondents have highest decision on using for family planning method. According to social participation, Chettries respondents have highest decisive power to social participation than Brahmin respondents in this study area.

6.2 Conclusion

There are different caste/ ethnic groups in Nepal. So, the status of women differs from the place, caste/ethnicity and religion of the country. Women are depriving with restriction on mobility and income generating programmed or income earning opportunities. As a whole socio-economic status and decision making power of women in Nepal is generally low because of gender biasness unequally distribution of power and resource in the family and society. Women's socio-economic status is not better. So, nature of women's status visualized in terms of backward socio-cultural and tradition norms and values, lack of basic health facilities, high burden of household and field work, less participation in the most important areas of family decision making, low employment opportunities, health and legal rights.

Illiteracy is the main cause of women's poor socio-economic status. So women are backward in every as part of life. Lack of proper education women aren't encouraged to involve in income generating activities. Thus, women are unable to raise women's empowerment and self-development.

This study is concentrated to analyze the decision making power of high caste i.e. Brahmin and Chettries married women at age group 15-49 years in terms of social as

well as household activities. It can be concluded that females have lower decision making power and they have such ordinate role in family and in the society. They are deprived from their rights and responsibilities. The female who have higher educational background and employed have higher decision making power than merely illiterate household. In some cause illiterate women have high decisive power than literate, which may be depend on caste/ethnicity and religion. In major household activities men played a dominant role in decision making. Female have lower decision making power than their male counter parts. This study indicates that, among the Brahmin and Chettries women. Chettries women have high decisive power than Brahmin women in this study area.

As our society is male dominated, male have superior status in most of the cases and female have follow them. Even they cannot decide for childbirth and treatment of sickness. They have to give birth of their husband of family. They cannot decide by themselves about their own health problem. They have to ask their male partner to do something. Although they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it.

Women have played significant roles in our countries development. They have contributed to the economic growth of their country by taking care of their families and working in owning business. In my study area men tend to be owner of the properties and decision makers in the families. Women stay at home cleaning, caring of children, making meal etc. Although these activities are essential for the well being of the family, they are often not respected for their work. Married women has loose command over their own property, literate married women have high decisive role in the all sector of decision making between high caste i.e. Brahmin and Chettries women in this study area.

In Nepalese society because of the social system, women have always become the victims of discrimination. For a family as a community, to be sound in the socio-economic status, sex and gender play important roles. In the Nepalese society women are exploited in most of the fields like education, health, economic independence, external exposure etc. To improve women's condition it is necessary to aware people to improve women's socio-economic status it is necessary to provide quality education, skill oriented training. This will enable women to generate self-employment opportunities. Education and occupation help women to

be decision making and may help to control over social and material resources within the households. Women's independence helps to raise women's socio-economic conditions.

6.3 Recommendations

Women constitute more than half of the total population of the country. So, women play a vital role in every society in Nepalese context gender discrimination is a major issue of development. Some recommendations are given in this chapter, which might help to take steps towards raising the socio-economic status, and decision making process of married high caste married women of the study area.

- ✓ Illiteracy is the main cause of poor socio-economic status and decision making power of women. By conducting adult literacy classes women's literacy rate should be increased. By providing incentives women should encourage to send more girls to school. Women's participation enhanced through skills training and vocational education. Training facilities will help earning capacity and decision making power of married women within the society and household.
- ✓ Awareness programs and amendments of discriminatory laws can help enlistment in the socio-economic status of women.
- ✓ To up-lift socio-economic status of married women among the high caste, the concentrated authorities, GO's and NGO's should conduct awareness program, educational program and income generating and employment opportunities activities to women.
- ✓ Women committee should from the income generating activities as well as their active involvement in various programs of the study area.
- ✓ To develop health education program in real sense, women participation should be encouraged in economic, education and health awareness especially in reproductive age group 15-49 years of study area.
- ✓ Eliminate the gender discrimination existed interpretation in the society.
- ✓ Eliminate the traditional values and customs, which are against the development of females.
- ✓ Increase the access of females to modern health facilities and contraceptives.

- ✓ Women should not be bounded in household and agricultural area only.
- ✓ Develop the concepts of equality between men and women.
- ✓ Males have to participate for household chores.
- ✓ Share the idea of females in developments activities.
- ✓ Encourage females to participate in politics and other related activities.
- ✓ Their decisions should be respected for the social welfare.

Special Recommendation to Study Area

According to the findings of the study, married women are spending more time in the household activities but they have less decision making power in household. The following recommendations should be followed to increase women's decision making power in household.

- ✓ Create awareness to the people about women's rights.
- ✓ Educate people i.e. increase educational status of married women.
- ✓ Change the traditional values, norms and customs gradually.
- ✓ Provide opportunity to female in decision making.
- ✓ Encourage the female to decide freely.
- ✓ Involve the women in social and economic activities.
- ✓ Increase their economic status.

Suggestion for the Further Study

- Ensure women's right in resource mobilization.
- Bring women in to the mainstream of development by improving economic status.
- Reduce poverty among women.
- Value women's reproductive work.
- Integrate women in to the process of social development.
- Increase educational attainment for girls and women.
- Improve women's reproductive health.
- Give opportunity to equal participation in politics for women.
- Formal and informal education should be launched in rural areas.

- Special programs should be adopted to raise the standard of married women.
- Severe traditional cultural values should be changed.
- The independent existence of women as citizens regardless of their husband's nationality should be recognized under the citizenship law.
- Men and women should be given equal right to marriage and divorce.
- The concept of not discrimination is recognized as a right.
- The government should adopt different programs to reduce the level of poverty, food scarcity and social injustice between various caste and ethnic groups.

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Appendix: Questionnaire
High Caste Women in Household Decision Making”
In Purkot VDC, ward NO: 6 Tanahun”

Survey Questionnaire:

Central Department of Population Studies

Tribhuvan University Kirtipur,

Kathmandu Nepal.

The information covered in this questionnaire is merely for academic purpose and will be kept confidential. It will not be used beyond the research purpose.

(To be asked to High Caste i.e. Brahmin & chettries women those who are married at age 15- 49 years)

Date:

District:

Time of starting interview:

Name of VDC:

Household Number:

Ward No:

Respondent No:

Respondents' Name:

Types of Family: Nuclear/Joint

Section I:

S.N.	Name of family member (100)	Relation with head of household (101)	Sex (102)	Age (103)	Current Occupation (104)	Literacy (105)	Educational attainment Status (106)	Marital status (107)	Eligible women (108)
1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.									
6.									
7.									
8.									
9.									
10.									
11.									
12.									

Coding: -----

Relation Code:

Husband & Wife: 01
 Brother & Sister: 02
 Father & Son: 03
 Father & Daughter: 04
 Mother & Son: 05
 Mother & Daughter: 06
 Father in law & Daughter in law: 07
 Mother in law & Daughter in law: 08
 Others: 09

Sex Code:

Male: 01
 Female: 02

Literacy Code:

Literate: 01
 Illiterate: 02

Education Code:

Illiterate: 01
 Able to read & write: 02
 Under S.L.C.: 03
 S.L.C.: 04
 Above a higher level: 05

Occupation Code:

Agriculture: 01
 Job/Service: 02
 Trades/ Business: 03
 Daily Wages: 04
 Household Work: 05

Marital Code:

Currently Married: 01
 Widowed: 02
 Divorced: 03
 Separated: 04

A. Household Questionnaire: -

- A.1) What is your mother tongue?.....
- A.2) What is your religion?.....
- A.3) Does your family have cultivated land?
i) Yes ii) No
- A.4) If yes, how much land does your family have?
i) Bigha..... ii) Kattha..... iii) Dhur..... iv) Ropani.....v) Haat....
- A.5) How much land does you have in your own name?
i) Bigha.....ii) Kattha..... iii) Dhur..... iv)Ropani.....v) Haat.....
- A.6) Type of your house
i) Own ii) Rented iii) Others but not Rented
- A.7) If own, who is the legal owner of this house?
i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others.....
- A.8) Are you engaged in agricultural activities?
i) Yes ii) No
- A.9) Who make decision on cropping?
i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others.....
- A.10) Who looks after livestock i.e. cutting grass, collecting fodder, growing animals?
i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others
- A.11) What type of cattle do you have and how many?
i) Buffalo..... ii) Cow..... iii) Ox..... iv) Goat..... v) Hen.....
vi) Duck..... vii) Pig.....viii) Others.....
- A. 12) Are you engage in selling and purchasing goods?
i) Yes ii) No
- A.13) If yes, who make decision on selling & purchasing goods?
i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others.....
- A.14) Do you have any “Daijo/Pewa”?
i) Yes ii) No
- A.15) Which type of fuel do you use for cooking in your family?
i) Wood ii) Kerosene iii) Gas iv) Others.....
- A16) Who make a decision on using there fuel in your family?
i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others.....
- A.17) Are you engaged in any income generating activities?
i) Yes ii) No

- A.18) If yes, who makes decision on it?
 i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others.....
- A.19) What is the main source of income for your family?
 i) Agriculture/ Livestock ii) Business
 iii) Labor/ Employment iv) Job/Services v) Others.....
- A.20) Who keeps the household income?
 i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others.....
- A.21) Have you any giving and taking loan?
 i) Yes ii) No
- A.22) If yes, who make a decision on giving and taking loan?
 i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others
- A.23) Who make decisions on households expenditures?
 i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others.....
- A.24) Are you a member of any social institutions?
 i) Yes ii) No
- A.25) If yes, who make a decisions in participating on such social activities?
 i) Husband ii) Self iii) Both iv) Others
- A.26) What is the volume of your participation on decision makings of household?
 i) Fully Involved ii) Partially Involved iii) Not Involved

Section II

B. Individual Questionnaire: -

- B.1) What was your age at marriage?.....
- B.2) What was your education at that time?.....
- B.3) Have you given any live birth till now?
 i) Yes ii) No
- B.4) Do you of your own children living with you now?
 i) Yes ii) No
- B.5) If yes how many of them are living with you now?
 i) Sons..... ii) Daughters.....
- B.6) Do any of your own children not living with you now?
 i) Yes ii) No
- B.7) How many of them are not living with you now?
 i) Sons..... ii) Daughters.....
- B.8) Are any of your children died after having live birth?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

B.9) If yes, how many of them are died?

- i) Sons.....
- ii) Daughters.....

B.10) Have you ever heard about family planning methods?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

B.11) If yes, from which source did you hear?

- i) Media
- ii) Friends /Neighbors
- iii) Husband
- iv) Others

B.12) Have you ever used family planning method?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

B.13) If yes, which method do you use?

- i) Temporary
- ii) Permanent

B.14) Who make decision on using such family planning methods?

- i) Husband
- ii) Self
- iii) Both
- iv) Others.....

B. 15) Who make decision on treatments for sickness?

- i) Husband
- ii) Self
- iii) Both
- iv) Others.....

B.16) Have you any school going children?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

B.17) Who makes decision on going /not going to school children?

- i) Husband
- ii) Self
- iii) Both
- iv) Others.....

B.18) Have any of your children got married?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

B.19) If yes, who decided of children marriage?

- i) Husband
- ii) Self
- iii) Both
- iv) Others.....

B.20) Have you any dowry related activities performed during your marriage?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

B.21) If yes, mention the type?

- i) Non-fund wealth
- ii) Money
- iii) Consumable goods

B.22) Have you any personal property or “PEWA”?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

Time of completing interview.....

Thank You!