

CHAPTER-ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study:

Nepal is widely known as an agriculture country bounded to the north by China and else where by India. Expanded between approximately 26.22' to 30.27' north latitude and between approximately 80.12' east longitudes. It covers the area 1,47,181 sq. km and about two third part of country occupied by high mountains and hills. Only the 17 percent of the total land remains the Terai area. According to the world development report (2006), the per capita income of Nepal is US\$260 and about 39 percent of total population falls under absolute poverty line.

The total population on Nepal is 18.5 million in 1991 and female constitutes 50.1 percent of the total and male constitute 49.9 percent of the total. Similarly in the census of 2001, total population is 23.1 million and female constitute 49.96 percent of the total. Data itself shows that without the involvement of women in development the development of country will be lame.

Women play a significant role in the development of a nation. In the past women were considered as second grade citizens in most of the countries including Nepal. Nepali women are daughter, wives, and mother but not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men.

It was not realized the different between men and women in development process before 1970. First of all the analysis Esther Boserup's research paper "women's role in economic development," from the concept of "women in Development" was developed to involve women in social, political, economic improvement. One strategy of "Women in Development" is to change social condition and position of women. Because of some weakness of "women in

Development” the concept ‘gender and development’ took place in 1980. This concept defined biological and social differences between men and women.(MCPW)

The social attitude of patriarchal socio-cultural structure is that male is superior to female, It is taken for granted that men can do best work outside of home as right and women inside the home as duty. These norms has led to men to treat the females in a discriminatory way specially those women who involved in outside.

In general ‘women and men are two wheel of a chart,’ group of half population equality between men and women these statements are advocated from leaders and gentlemen’s lip. But the data shows the different reality either in polities or any other social activities (Silwal: 1997:1).

The conditions of Nepalese women are deplorable. It is because of the lack of proper education, traditional social values and norms, religious and superstitions most of them are due to illiteracy and poverty. After 1950s various developments program were lunched focusing women but their conditions could not be improved due to various reason. The major impact of international decade of women during the period of 1975-1985 has been spare for policy formulation and recognition of the need to integrate and promote the role of women in national policy in Nepal too.

Since the start of sixth five year plan (1981-1985) initiatives have been taken by HMG/N to mobilize and involve women in various development activities. Appropriate measures have also been taken to strengthen their socio-economic role through better access to health care, education, training and formal credit. In the last decade various government organization such as Ministry of Local Development and Women Development Department were involved to implement program like production credit for rural women. Various INGOs/NGOs have been trying to assist Women Development Program by providing credit facilities for income generation. The ultimate goal is to raise

the overall conditions of Nepalese women through empowerment. Women empowerment by launching development program through community organization is the only viable solution to alleviate poverty in Nepal.

There are various factors, which pushes Nepal into poverty. The evidence about participation reveals that antipoverty and social development projects that take a participatory approach are more successful than those based on hierarchical structure (United Nations 1997). Heyzer, N (1992) forwards an article on “Gender, Economic Growth and Poverty” in the journal of the society for international development. In that article she pinpoints that almost every Asian country, women comprise a large percentage of the poor and the very poor. The reason for this large percentage needs to be fully understood and measures taken to overcome them. Even with the most effective economic development policies most poor families wouldn't be able to survive without the contribution of the rural women and impact of community organization on women has been very much important in order to reduce poverty through women empowerment.

In Nepal there is a long history of voluntary type of social organizations. They are mainly of self-help type of community groups and also social trust like Guthis. These organizations are formed, founded, managed and recognized by the community members themselves. Such organization basically serves their own member and membership is quite open to the community members. The range of their activities can improve from forces management to trial improvement or saving and credit to such organizations as community based organizations (CBOs). CBOs are also a type of NGO, but not funded by outside donors for their activities. Therefore they are more independent in terms of contribution to the process of community development (Phuyal, 1996:5).

One of the government office women development calls was established under Ministry of Panchayat and local Development in 1981. It started PCRW Project in five districts at starting phase. Now it is under the Ministry of Women,

Children and Social Welfare and Extended the program all over Nepal. It has objectives to empower the women in every sector having strategy of training loan investment facility, saving and credit program, community development and environment protection program. To achieved its goal CBOs are formed under the WDS. (WDD: 2000:1)

Women number in the civil service is very low and the proportion of female gazette offices to the total has remained almost stagnant over the years. The population of women officers and non-officers was 4.4 percent in 1999. As of mid July 2000, the total employee in civil service was reported at 93716 of which only 8.5 percent (8008) are females. Comparative proportion of women which men in higher positions of power in bureaucracy judiciary diplomatic services are almost negligible.

Development activities cannot be achieved with the absence of women's participation. Therefore, without the involvement of women in the main stream of development, this process is incomplete. The status of women is an important aspect influencing the socio-economic development of a country. The overall development of a country cannot be realized, if women who usually represent 50 percent of the total population enjoy a subordinate position to them.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Nepal has vital gender disparity between male and female. In our country all most of the women are involved in the subsistence agriculture. But they are poor than men. Because they are illiterate and here to live the conservative culture. They are affected by the existing poverty.

Most of the women contribute more labor to the economy then men. Women generally work from survive to the late evening. Besides agriculture, they have to perform many other household activities like childcare, cooking, washing, cleaning, collective firewood, fetching water, caring livestock etc. It was

recommended by the international labor organization (ILO, 1982) that women's work in the household also should be recognized as productive activities.

Development that is not engendered is engendered. Sustainable development of a nation is like a dream without women empowerment. In Nepal as women has been suppressed in all walks of life for generation, women empowerment is far easier said than done. This in a certain respect demands a revolutionary change in socio-economic and cultural value of the society.

The basic problem of alleviating poverty in a developing country like Nepal is not proper involvement of the women in decision making process. Also, women have much more limited access than men to resources such as land, credit facilities, technology and other opportunities. Understanding constraints of women empowerment and their remedial measures are components of antipoverty program must be lunched by means of women participations. Therefore, this study has attempted to find out socio-economic profile of the rural women in Hemja VDC. The impact of local government program on poverty alleviation through the empowerment of women has been studied in detail. While conducting the research, the researcher have been tried to find out the answer of the following questions.

-) What is the feeling of women to community program?
-) How this program had became effective in order to alleviate poverty through women empowerment?
-) What was the level of the women participation in that program?
-) What should be done while designing community organization project in future?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this study is to assess the impact of community organizations on women who have involved in CO of the study area. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- I. To study the socio-economic status of women who has involved in the community organization.
- II. To find out the impact of Community organization on poverty reduction through women empowerment.
- III. To examine the role of women in community organizations.

1.4 Importance of the Study

The study is a case study of Hemja VDC Kaski. In Hemja VDC a nearest of urban center of Pokhara Sub- Metropolitan city It resembles a typical Nepalese VDC with a faxable income status. The study has been highlight the community organization and their impact of women of the VDC who involved in COs. The study is to see income generating, how baring revolutionary changes of women status. The study will help the uplift their living standard.

It may serve as a helpful guidance for future research studies related to women for national and international organizations. The study will also attempt to find out the ways to join the gap between rural women and men. The study will also help the policy makers and development planners for introducing relevant development interventions.

The findings of the study will be useful for concerned agencies in order to improve of their program in next phase. Also this study shall be very much useful for planner and policy maker to know the actual situation of the women of Hemja VDC while designing the community development program in future. In addition, it helps to add information on women status and will be useful for the future researchers and analyst. Moreover it can help donor; NGOs/INGOs and other stakeholders to lunch plans and programs focusing on women.

CHAPTER- TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Nepal is a one of the poorest country of the world. The income level of Nepalese women is very low. As women make half of country's population education of women is very important and it should receive top priority in the context of development of modern Nepal women's health is a societal issue. Improving women's health and well being improves not only their own life but also those of their children and contributes to improve household and community welfare.

Involvement of the community in development projects in Nepal had been realized during the early seventies. The concept of community participation then was limited to the involvement of the communities in contributing voluntary labor in the construction stage of projects. Such community involvement was believed to be adequate for the sustainable development of the projects.

This the important part of research works. The literature review has been done under two categories the empirical review and review of conceptual study. For these different journals, books, reports, previous research work articles are used. Other published and unpublished documents related to subject have been reviewed.

2.1 Evolution of Community Organization in Nepal

Community based organization had been started in Nepal since the opening up of Nepal to the outside world in 1950. The first community development organization in Nepal was Tribhuvan Village Development Program. Different community organizations have been working in Nepal since 1768 with different modalities (Bhattachan and Mishra, 1997). Mr. K.B. Bhattachan has classified the history of indigenous organizations or community organization in Nepal as:

-) Preunifications (Pre 1768 A.D.): Autonomous indigenous organizations.
-) Rana Regime (1846- 1950 A.D.): Indigenous organizations under the center .
-) Planned Development Period (1950 A.D.): Community Development.
-) Early Panchayat Regime (1960 A.D.): Growth and Community Development.
-) Mid Panchayat Regime (1970 A.D.): Integrated Rural Development Programs and Community Development.
-) Late Panchayat Regime (1980 A.D.): Basic Needs and Community Development.
-) Democratic Period (1990 A. D.): Market and Nongovernmental Organizations+ State+ People or Community Development.

In Nepal community development approach was adapted after 1950 under the financial assistance of the USA government but unfortunately this type of community development approach couldn't success due to various reasons. In the decades of seventies Integrated Rural Development Program had been implemented. This program served the interested of national and local elites and community participation in development was overlooked (SAPPROS, 1992: 1)

Failure of the above mentioned approach was due to the lack of people's participation in the development program, which was designed for them. The development framework focused on the three questions:

What is the development?

For whom is development?

Who should initiated development in the local communities and at the national level?

This question helped the participants put into context the strategic importance of community participation and provided a framework to reach a common understanding of what development means to them. From the past experience it is learnt that community development program without people's participation couldn't be sustainable.

The main objective of community development program is to reform social life through empowerment and mainstreaming of women in order to alleviate poverty. Community participation is a rather slow and gradual process but in the long term it brings desired social change in community. Self help participation is the beauty of community participation approach. People's participation is a vital prerequisite for community development program. The concept of people's participation has emerged after the failure of trickled down approach. Local community is involved from conceptualization phase to maintenance and operation phase in community participation model. All men and women have equal authority and responsibility in decision making and mobilization of resources in this approach.

2.2 Community Organization As a Social Work Process

Community organization, as it is a defined and described here, is one of basic social work processes, being used to attain the same basic objectives, and using many of the same methods, as casework and group work. It has in fact moved through some of the same stages as casework and has only recently been able to identify with these other processes.

A number of years ago, there was what was sometimes called the "regions counselor," a person who certainly know the answer to if not the nature of the problem even before he saw the client; in community organization we have had the worker who know the problem and the solution to the problem before he

arrived the community around his conception of the need and the goal. Later, in counseling we had a phase of " scientific psychological tests" on the basis of which the counselor could tell the client not only what his problems were but what he should do about them; in community organization we have used some of the insights and tools of social science to show where and how changes could be made with the least social dislocation and with the greatest support in the community. Now, in casework there is recognition that the client himself must be involved in identifying his problem and mastering it, and that if the process is successful, the client will be better equipped to deal, not only with his original conscious problem, but with many other life situations. Similarly in community organization we are coming to realize that the community itself must struggle and strive to deal with its own conception of its needs, and that in doing this the community can increase its capacity to deal not only with these problems but with many other problems as they arise.

Thus while the context in which the case worker, group worker, or the worker in community organization operates is quite different, fundamentally the objective they seek and the means they use to achieve these ends have a good deal in common. If we were to adopt to casework our statement defining community organization, it individual identify his problems, develop the confidence and will to deal with these problems, find the resources (Internal and External) to take action in respect to these problems, and in so doing increase his understanding of himself and his capacity for integration." we should then be defining approximately what the caseworker or psychotherapist attempts with an individual client. (Harper & Row, 1995: 61)

2.3 Local Government Program and Community Development

Local Government Program (LGP) was conceived in 1996 A.D. after the successful implementation of ongoing participatory district development program (PDDP) in twenty district of Nepal. This program has been implemented since December 1996 with the technical and financial assistance

of UNDP, with Ministry of Local Development (MLD) as its executing agency and National Planning Commission (NPC) as cooperation agency. The aim of LGP is to support the efforts of government for better local governance, better management of local resources and to support HMG/N poverty alleviation effort. This program has reached to twenty districts of eastern, central and far-western development regions of the country. LGP supports in enhancing the capabilities of DDCs, VDCs grassroots level institutions and community based organizations (CBOs). In order to attain the goal of sustainable development, LGP supports in capacity building of local authorities in participatory development, local development management and poverty alleviation through women empowerment (LGP/PDDP Briding program unified report, 2003)

The main objectives of LGP are to promote decentralization that supports local governance and empower communities and local institutions for poverty alleviation. It seeks to empower people in order to enable them to enlarge their choices and opportunities to participate in decision making that affect their lives as well as their capacities to mobilize and channel the resource required for poverty alleviation (LGP, 1995-2000). The LGP, VDP program has been lunched in Hemja VDC. Community get organize to work together and save from common interest for their development though village development program in this program. This program is successful in order to motive beneficiaries for active participation without any gender discrimination. The ultimate aim of this program is to organize communities into a holistic organization for social mobilization and economic upliftment. Also this program will actively support local beneficiaries to be independent capable and economically and socially empowered through skill enhancement. LGP plays a major role in facilitating the local authorities and strengthening them to mobilize the local resources equitably for local development.

2.4 Socio-economic and Political Dimension of People's Participation

Human being can't fulfill their needs without the help of others in community. Therefore, search for a new strategy of people's participation has both political and socio-economic dimension. A strategy of economic and social development that relies on people's participation is radically different from a concept based on elite participation (Lohani, 1980). In the process of social development the participation of more than fifty percent of women population can't be overlooked. And it is impossible to carry out sustainable development of a country without women empowerment through their active participation. Politically, it represents a search for a new source of legitimacy to rule and govern. The shift of attention from the so called democrat elite to the masses as a vehicle for economic transformation, on the other hand, should mean willingness to real decentralization and empowerment of local beneficiaries. This is not going to easy, for this will involve significant changes in economic strategies, policies, institutional performance and philosophy, and indeed the very conception of development itself.

2.5 Necessities of People's Participation in Community Development Program

Sustainable and broad-based economic growth is not possible without people's participation in development process. People based development was understood as an approach to development where people are at the center stage. The development effort would give priority attention to the poor, the disadvantaged, the marginalized, i.e. those whose circumstances are the worst in a given community. The overall purpose is to help those people take change of their lives and that of their community and help fashion its future by their self-reliant efforts. This future would be towards a balanced and all round development of the people on a continuing basis, sensitive to the just needs of other and the husbanding of the environment. The approach posits that the people themselves would determine the direction and pace of change and

always be in control of the process. They would be “Subjects” of their history (SAP 1994: 88)

2.6 Women and National Policy

The commencement of systematic planning since 1956/57 in Nepal is an indication of the government for all round development of the country. By and large, the government integrated women development into national development process up to fourth five year development plan. From the fifth plan women’s education got a separate place in the national agenda. Sixth plan adapted the policies of promoting women’s capacity and participation in women’s health and education. The seventh plan strengthening the previous policies added equal participation of women in development process. That was a strong indication to put women development into mainstream of the development (Khatiwada, 1998)

The political adopted in the eighth plan put the women into mainstream of the development. The main objectives of the plan were sustainable economic development, poverty alleviation, considering women development as an integral part of the all round development of the country, fourteen separate policies were adopted, which include promotion of women’s participation in every sectors of employment general health, education, training, equal right, equal access to resources, institutional reform etc.(Khatiwada, 1998)

With the target for achieving its aim of poverty alleviation and human resources development by involving women actively in different sectors of development for building egalitarian democratic society and also by increasing the access of women to political, economic and social sectors, and reforms in legal provisions so as to ensure women’s rights for making that access more effective, the ninth plan (2054-2058) has included policy to involve women in the National Development Mainstream

Although some of the strategies of ninth plan has already been implemented like contribution of women to household labor are evaluated scientifically and substantially by reviewing the national accounting system; in the women's participation in development, appropriate gender desegregated indicators are reformulated, modified, monitored and evaluation measures are cried out effectively in the population census 2001, yet there are lot of things to be implemented by the government to uplift the status of women.

2.7 Women and Development

Education is the most important factor for the development of human personality. If we want holistic development of our nation we have to give equal important for women education like men.

CERID explained about the Nepali women's educational and access. The majority of the population of Nepali is illiterate and of those most are women. That a large number of girls are still deprives of education in our society. Although many schools opened in village there large number of girls is still unable to receive education (CERID, 1992)

Neaupane (1982) shows that female education plays an important role to reduce population growth. The fertility rate decreases as the education of women and vice versa. So to reduce the fertility rate it is necessary to provide facilities for all women especially in village area in the field of education. If they are engaged in other works outside the home there is little chance to have more children.

The research done by family health found that the vast majority (80%) of Nepalese women have never been to school. One in nine has attended primary school, six percent have passed their S.L.C. four or five percent women are illiterate (Family Health Survey, 1996:21). Ghimire had further emphasized on the importance of female education. He had mentioned that a boy is to educate an individual, but to educate girls is to educate the whole family and society.

Education is therefore essential for women and girls to become self dependent, more productive, skill full, creative and to recognize their right place in the society and enter the mainstream of development of the nation (Ghimire, 1997)

2.8 Women and Agriculture

The economy of Nepal is totally based on agriculture. In agriculture women play a major role as they actively participated in the various farm activities (98.1%) of the economically active rural women are agriculture worker, hence women importance.

According to Sauzsa (1980) in the countries of south Asia, between Seventy to eighty percent of total female workforce is employed in agriculture activities either as cultivator or farm labor.

The role of women in farm activities is crucial not only because of the verity of agricultural activities they perform. Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables, fruits and livestock farming. The role played by women is significant in the development of the nation. But all these works by women are considered voluntary (Gautam, 1998:45).

Women are discouraged in respective fields. More over their role in agriculture sector is decisive. But they are not evaluated properly and they are underestimated in their work (Aryal, 1990:25).

2.9 Women and Health

The health status of Nepalese people in general has been improving though it is low compared to other fewer developing countries. The health status of women remains still lower and the life expectancy for men is high than women.

Nepalese women's health is in miserable condition in the sense that they are quite neglected from their very childhood stage. The cultural norms, economic condition and preferential attitude of parents towards the boys are in the center of the ill/ poor health of women (Luitel, 1992).

Subedi, 1993 highlighted that throughout the developing world, more boys than girls are generally in worse condition than boys.

Most of the illnesses related to women can be prevented or cured through medical treatment but for many reasons women are unable to take preventive measures or obtain medical treatment. According to Subedi, now a day's maternity related illness are regarded as the most serious, although the problems of malnutrition and anemia also harms women's health. Each year 50,000 mothers throughout the world die of problems related to childbirth.

2.10 Women and Economy

Having a very low level of per capita income of US \$ 190, Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. More than 70% of people are under absolute poverty (World Bank, 1990). All these data show the economic background of the country. The rural women's condition is more miserable than that of their male counterpart even though women constitute one third of the total formal labor force, their participation in economic activities in decision making seems negligible. About 26,64,003 women who are economically active which is nearly 32% of the total population of women (CBS, 1991). The majority of women in Nepal is engaged in four occupational sectors like agriculture, manufacturing trade and services. In these sectors economically active population may be categorized as:

- I. Self employed
- II. Employed
- III. Non paid family workers (Joshi, 1980)

Rural women have contributed greatly towards the agro-economic development of Nepal but their involvement of reciprocal type, which is called "Parma" (Labor exchange). Nepalese women spend eleven hours a day as compared to 7.51 hours for men. Again women's contribution will be 50% to total income;

the rest 50% goes to both men 44% and children of 10 to 14 age groups six percent.

2.11 Women and Decision Making Power

Sharma, (2054) states that the women have little role in family's decision-making due to their illiteracy and non-involvement in direct income generating works. Nepal is a male dominated country where women's decision making authority comes only after the man's. The women decisions only when the males are not in the home or they have gone outside their village. (Status of women, Vol. 4 part 2nd). In the same manner, while making decisions on an agriculture sector, the women's role is limited only to selection of seeds and manure. The women make 18.5 percent decisions by themselves and 12.5% jointly with men. About the power and authority of decision making, Dr. Rijal advocates that "A Nepalese Wife Exercise as much power and authority in the household as her husband. In some cases her power and authority may even exceed to that of her husband (Achrya, 1979:106).

It is seen that the role of women in decision making is stronger in Magar, Newar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu, Tamang, Bhotes communities then in the comprision of Brahamin, Chhetries And lower caste communities. To conduct this research, a great deal of references were studied and were analyzed through the review of the literature which have been helpful in adopting a methodology for the study, selection of samples, to make the research qualitative, to identify the genuine problems, selection of appropriate title for the study report till the outcome of the conclusion. It is honestly hoped that, this research study shall supplement to some extent the previous study reports on the socio-economic status of the women in Nepal.

Some additional statements and researchers are put here for clear more. None the less, not only has the wider culture of "Negatively Gendered" practice and consciousness remained high, but governmental to counter such practice and consciousness here also remained weak and spotty. Illustratively, the supreme

court of Nepal, in its landmark judgment of 1995 on a public interest mitigation on the equal rights of daughters and sons to ancestral property, counseled the government to frame “appropriate laws” in this regard “with due regard to traditional and customs” (Millennium Development Goals, Nepal 2002).

2.12 Conceptual Framework of the Study

Figure-A

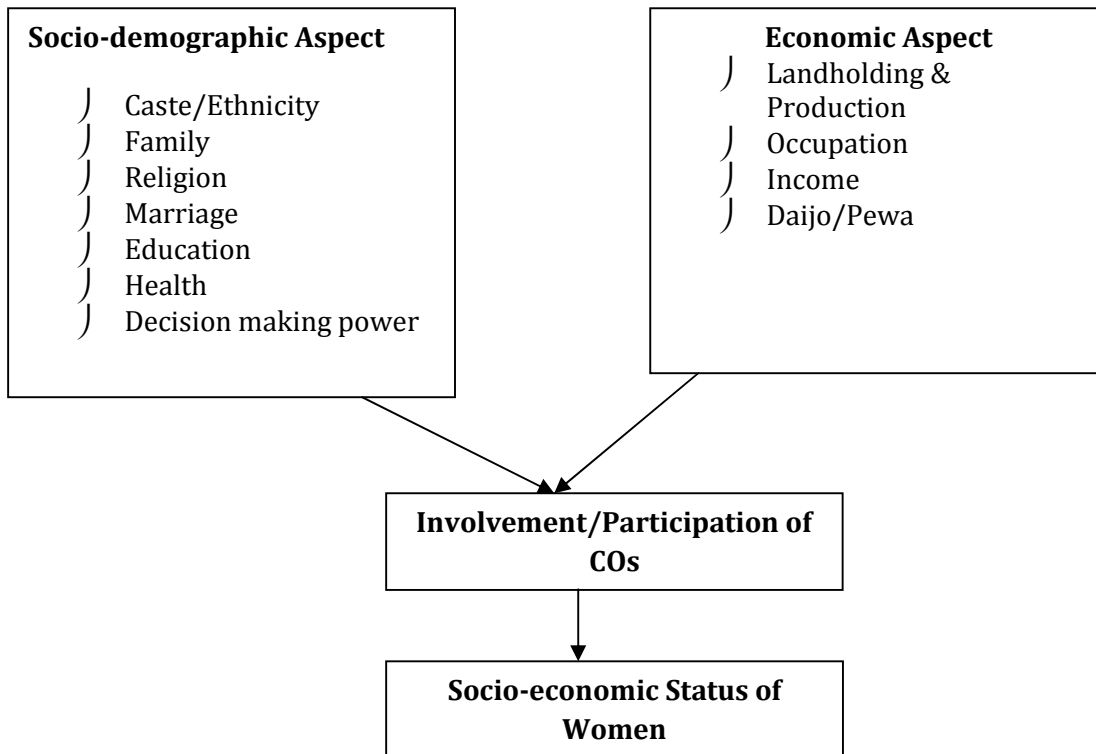
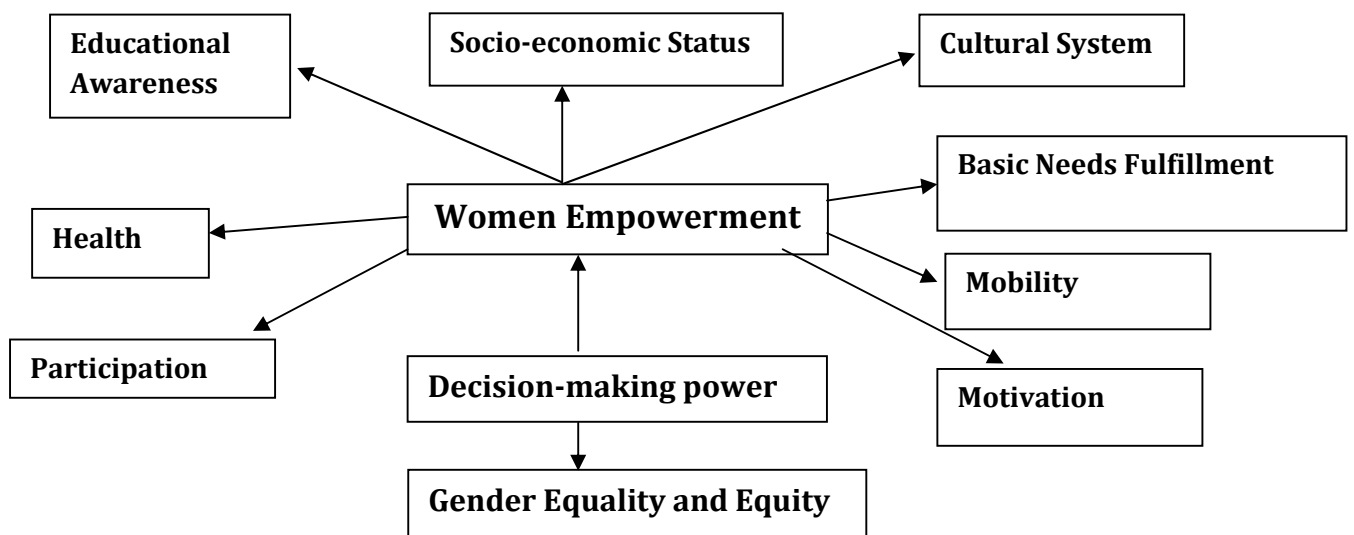


Figure-B



CHAPTER -THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the various methods applied in order to complete the thesis work. They are reasons for selecting the field area, reasons for selecting the topic, research design universe and sampling, methods of data collection, data analysis procedure and limitation of the study.

3.1 Research Design

A descriptive cum exploratory research design was followed in this study. This is exploratory because community organizations and their impact on women of the study area were not studied earlier. The opinions and characteristics of the respondents have studied in detail in order to describe the events occurring at present where as exploratory research design has applied to acquire in depth study of the respondents.

3.2 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area

Out of forty-three VDCs of Kaski district, Hemja VDC has been purposively selected due to the following reasons:

- A. The VDC has been many community organizations and the COs are working in different development activities/program
- B. There is a big gap in gender equality in Nepal and overall situation of the women is not good. Therefore researcher is interested in carrying out this research.
- C. It has learnt that women participation and management in some COs were very effective then men in Hemja VDC and in some CO, the condition of participation has very disappointing that is why researcher is very interested to acquire the reason of active participation of women in COs.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

The universe of the study is Hemja VDC, from which nine wards are taken from random sampling. In those nine wards there are twenty-five COs. Out of twenty-five COs only ten COs are chosen randomly. The study is only concentrated on the female's participation on the community organizations. Thus, again the selected numbers of women who are inquired during the field survey are only six from each selected ten COs. This is how; total inquired respondents number is sixty only.

3.4 Nature and Source of Data

This study has been primarily based upon empirical data from Village Development Committee of Kaski District. Primary data has collected by survey using formal and informal interviews and field observation. The secondary data has also collected from related departments district development committee and village development committee and from non-governmental organization etc.

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

3.5.1 Interview Schedule

In interview schedule was prepared and used to the respondent of the study area. The interview schedule was prepared in such a way it provided both the quantitative and qualitative information were obtained through the interview schedule. They were related to family size education elicit information on socio-economic as well as conditions of the people in the study area i.e. the role of women in decision making process. Source of income and their distribution, education, health care and participation of women in COs.

3.5.2 Field Observation

Field observation is one of the methods of data collection. Observation in the field can provide so many information which are not actually obtained through

the survey questionnaire technique of data collection through observation was employed to obtain information on physical conditions as well as existing conditions of natural resource and access of women in the research area. The activities of the COs participation especially for resource mobilization. Women empowerment, gender mainstreaming and various social gathering in COs meetings, saving and credit has observed in detail. Decision making process and overall management of CO has also observed in detail.

3.5.3 Selection of Key Informants

The persons who know detailed information in specific area were selected as the key informant for the study. They were VDC chairperson, secretary, ward chairperson, women representative and a social worker. So, key interview has conducted in order to assess, describe and explore the proposed research question especially advantage from the COs, benefits achieved, future plan and perception that has experienced by the respondents.

3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation

The researcher has collect data through various instruments. The data has analyzed with the help of computer program. Simple statistical tools like table, graphs, pie-charts have used for data analysis. Descriptive methods have been used for qualitative data analysis.

3.7 Limitations of the Study

This study has covered only Hemja VDC and will not applicable to all the VDC of Nepal because of different socio-cultural conditions. The analysis of this study has based on the primary data collected from the household of the study area and secondary information received from district development committee Kaski and from various sources. The study has covered only a sixty respondents of the CO members of different cast and ethnic groups. Key informant interview has taken with CO members and social women workers in the study area. Time and budgetary constrains has faced while conducting research

CHAPTER-FOUR

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Location and Physical Feature of the Study Area

Kaski district has always been a significant district because of its rich ancient cultural, social and political background among six district of Gandaki zone. It is surrounded to the east by Lamjung and Tanahun district and to the west by Parbat and Myagdi districts, Manang and Mustang surrounded it from northern side and Syangja district surrounded it from southern side.

One of the VDC of Kaski district is Hemja VDC which is about ten kilometer far from Pokhara Sub-metropolitan city. This VDC is situated at an altitude of 5000 feet from mean sea level. Sarangkot VDC surrounded Hemja VDC in the east, Dhampus and Dhital VDC in the west, Lahachok and Puranchour VDC in the north and Kaskikot VDC in the south. The main rivers of this VDC are Yamdi and Seti. Seti River flows towards north direction whereas Yamdi River flows towards western direction. Hemja VDC is one among forty-three VDC of Kaski district. Thus VDC is surrounded by low peaks around in all direction and seems like a small valley. The climate of this VDC is Sub-tropical type. The literacy rate of the VDC is about sixty (60%). Main crops produced in this VDC are rice, millet, wheat, maize, groundnuts, potatoes etc. The main occupation of the people of this VDC is agriculture and about sixty (60%) percent of the people in this VDC are found engaged in agriculture whereas about thirty (30%) percent are found engaged in business, ten (10%) percent are engaged in job. (VDC Records-2007/08)

4.2 Population Distribution of the Study Area

More than ten thousand people live in Hemja VDC. Brahmin, Newar, Chhetri, Magar, Gurung, and Damai are the main castes of the VDC. The following table shows ward wise distribution of population of Hemja VDC.

Table No. 4.2(A): Population Distribution

Ward No	No of Households	Population			
		Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1.	210	397	466	863	8.27
2.	243	490	631	1121	10.74
3.	191	393	465	858	8.22
4.	144	310	372	682	6.53
5.	825	1670	1737	3407	32.66
6.	243	477	522	999	9.57
7.	171	385	407	792	7.59
8.	176	365	422	787	7.54
9.	205	425	495	920	8.82
Total	2,408	4,912	5,517	10,429	100.00

Source: VDC Profile of Nepal, 2008

The above table shows that the total population of the VDC is 10,429 out of them male are 4,912 and female are 5,517 respectively. The total households are 2,408. The average family size is 4.5 Ward No. five is found the biggest of all in terms of population, where, there is 33 percent of the total population. Out of the total population of Hemja VDC women constitute 52.90 percent. Female population is found greater than male population from each ward.

More than seven castes are found in Hemja VDC. They are Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung, Magar, Damai, Kami etc. The following table depicts the cast wise population composition of the study area.

Table No. 4.2(B): Cast/Ethnicity Structure of people

S.N.	Cast/Ethnicity	No of HHs	Percentage
1.	Brahmin	985	40.90
2.	Chhetri	771	32.01
3.	Gurung	312	12.95
4.	Magar	105	4.36
5.	Damai	95	3.94
6.	Kami	81	3.36
7.	Others	59	2.45
	Totals	2,408	100.00

Source: VDC Office Record, 2009

The total households of nine wards of Hemja VDC are found 2,408. Among all, majority of the peoples (40.90%) were found Brahmin and (32.01%) were found Chhetri. Remaining all was found with different casts and ethnic groups. According to the data 12.95% were Gurung, 4.36% were magar, 3.94% were Damai, 3.36% were Kami, 2.45% were found different casts.

The number of Damai and Kami were found very few households. They are involved in traditional customs like as: Tailoring, Labor, Plugging and playing different types of musical instrument in cultural and religious program.

4.3 Social Life

The Hemja VDC is near to Pokhara valley, it is increasingly influenced by the urban way of life style. Higher promotion of the people is found aware on education, health, drinking water and social life. Comparatively this place is socially advanced. Howe ever, those who live in the inner part of the village are still a little bit conservative. But due to the influence of education awareness

program, and self-help programs. People are slowly changing their attitude and development works are taking place in this VDC.

4.4 Occupation

The main occupation of the Hemja VDC is agriculture. There are 60% people are engaged in agriculture. About 30% of the people in this VDC are found engaged in business and 10% are engaged in jobs (VDC Records, 2009).

Large population of Hemja VDC is Brahmin they are mostly engaged in agriculture and some are in jobs. Other ethnic group is engaged in agriculture and other different kind of income work like business, making Basket, Rack, Dalo, Nanglo, government jobs, private jobs and foreign employment etc.

4.5 Infrastructure

There are three schools in this VDC. Out of three one government school and two private Boarding Schools. The water supply condition of this VDC has not found satisfactory. There is no private taps in all households. Most of the people of this VDC have to depend upon public taps for drinking water whereas there are two big Rivers like Seti and Yamdi River are flow into the northern side of the VDC. At present a new water supply scheme and other physical infrastructure of the VDC is implementing very soon This scheme can be expected to improve after completion of this plan.

There are different types of social and cultural organizations in this VDC. They are given below:

- Village Development Committee Office
- Hemja Sub-health Post
- Post Office
- Twenty-five Community Organizations etc.

4.6 Health Services

The Hemja VDC is quite near from the Pokhara valley. There are some private clinics and one government sub-health post no other health institutions like hospitals are there in the VDC. Most of the major cases of medical problems of the peoples are treated in regional hospital Pokhara, Manipal Teaching Hospital and other private hospital of Pokhara city because they are located nearer from Hemja VDC. Some conservative people still follows the traditional healing practices. Some peoples are dying due to uneducated treatment practices in the community every year.

4.7 Settlement Pattern

The Hemja VDC is situated in Kaski district. The study area is composed of several ethnic groups and majority of them are Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung etc. Local people of this VDC are depending upon agriculture and cottage industries. The settlement pattern and houses in this VDC are found cluster and liner pattern they are generally made up of brick, stone, RCC, wood and steel sheet.

4.8 Development Program of VDC

There are so many community development programs in the VDC. In Hemja there are different types of development program like health, education, infrastructure, drinking water, sanitation, livestock, horticulture etc. were run successfully with the help of government level like VDC, DDC and non-government level like NGOs, INGOs, and COs etc. The Hemja VDC is a one of the developing VDC out of forty-three VDC of Kaski district.

CHAPTER- FIVE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTIC OF RESPONDENTS

This chapter of the dissertation attempts to analyze the socio-economic and demographic characteristic of the communities of the study area on the basis of primary data collection by the researcher during fifteen days long field study. The researcher started to collect data from 2nd Oct. 2009 and completed on 16th Oct. 2009. In this dissertation sixty households were selected for research based on purposive sampling in the study area. Information about development activities of the community organization in the Hemja VDC Kaski were accessed, collected and analyzed. The description also covers the socio-political and ethnic status of the communities.

5.1 Demographic and Social Characteristics

The word “Population” usually denotes all the inhabitants of a specific geographical area at a given time. The size, age structure and distribution of a population are the result of the interactions of fertility, mortality and migration (Population report, 2004). Demographic transition is a description of observed long term trends in fertility and mortality and a model, which attempts to explain them. Demeny 1972 has summarized it “In traditional societies both the fertility and mortality are high and in modern society both the fertility and mortality is low. In between, there is demographic transition.”

5.1.1 Age/Sex of the Sampled Population

Population is young or old, or getting older or younger depends on the portion of people at different age group. In general, a population with more than thirty-five percent under age of 15 is considered young and population with more than ten percent aged sixty-five and above is considered old. Age structure is affected by the fertility, mortality and migration (Nepal population Report, 2004). Independent and active age group of population has a significant role in

the overall development of the society. In this dissertation three age group of population interval among sample household. The following table depicts age and sex structure of sampled population.

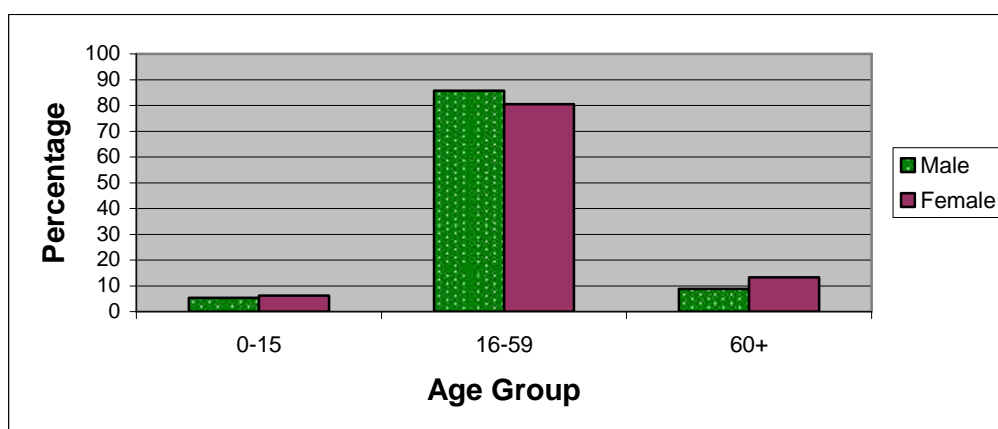
Table No. 5.1 Distribution of Sample Population by Age/Sex

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	Numbers	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10-15	12	5.33	16	6.25	28	5.82
16-59	193	85.77	206	80.46	399	82.95
60+	20	8.88	34	13.28	54	11.22
Total	225	100.00	256	100.00	481	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The above table shows that, the sample population has been classified into three different age group they are 0-15 age groups, 16-59 age groups and 60+ age groups. From this 0-15 age groups are children and school going children. 16-59 age groups of population are the active and independent professional groups of population. The populations of 60+ age groups are dependent population as well as old population. Thus a total of 17.04 (i.e. the total population of 0-15 and 60+ age groups) Percent of population are dependent and 82.95 percent total population of 16-59 age groups are found to be economically active in the study area.

Figure No. 5.1 Distribution of Sample Population by Age/Sex



5.1.2 Cast/Ethnicity and Sex Composition

Population of cast and ethnicity is classifying here only tentatively. The cast system of Nepal is basically rooted in Hindu religion; on the other hand the ethnic system has been rooted mainly in mutually exclusive origin myths, historical mutual seclusion and the occasional state intervention. The following table depicts cast/ethnicity numbers of households, population and their percentage of the study area. Cast and ethnicity are most critical component in the community development process in developing countries like Nepal. This analysis has been taken into consideration in order to recognize the social conditions and cast comparison in the study area.

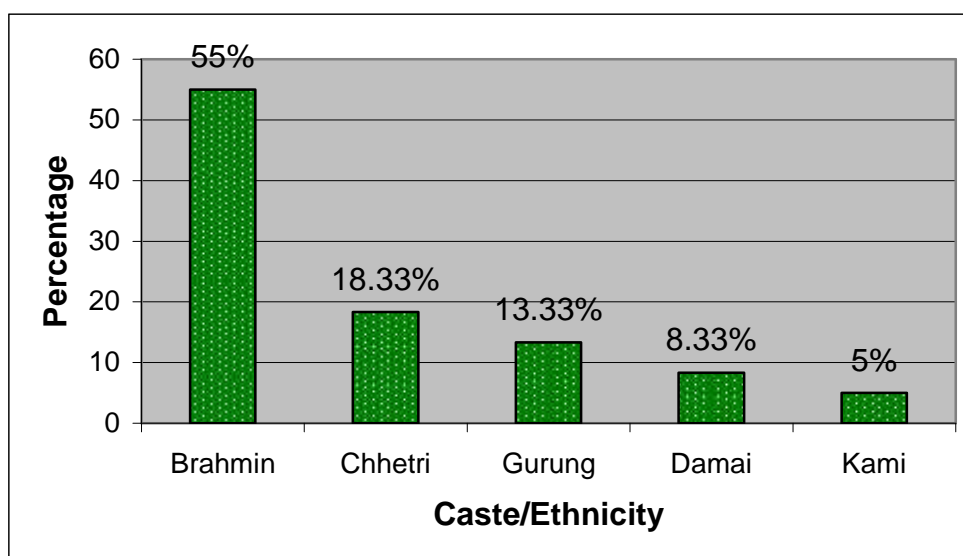
Table No. 5.2 Distribution of Respondents by Cast/Ethnicity

S.N.	Cast/Ethnicity	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Brahmin	33	55
2.	Chhetri	11	18.33
3.	Gurung	8	13.33
4.	Damai	5	8.33
5.	Kami	3	5
	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The above table shows that the distribution of cast/ethnicity groups sampled respondent of the study area. Brahmin is the dominant cast at the Hemja VDC and the major cast/ethnic groups indentified by the researcher in the study area are Brahmin (55%), Chhetrai (18.33%), Gurung (13.33%), Damai (8.33%) and Kami (3%) they all are only a femal respondents of the study.

Figure No. 5.2 Distribution of Respondent by Cast/Ethnicity



5.1.3 Family Structure

The women play significant role in controlling the population and the size of the family will be small if the women are literate. The literate women will understand that “Small family is a happy family”. But the illiterate women are always busy in hay trussing, collecting fire-wood and fetching water etc. But literate women desire a small family. They want few children and they also motivated by population education. They generate programmers. The employed women do not give birth to more number of children. They are responsible for managing economic resources for family planning due to employment. It helps to build small happy and healthy to some extent help to control the growth of population as they prefer nuclear family.

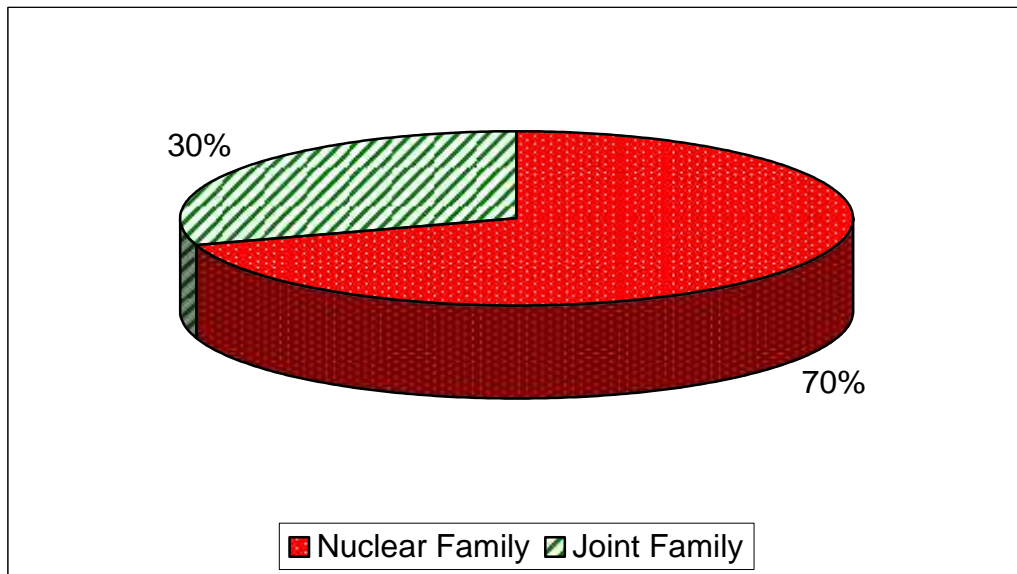
Table No. 5.3 Family Structure of Respondents

Family Structure	No	Percentage
Nuclear Family	42	70.00
Joint Family	18	30.00
Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The above table shows that 70 percent of families are living in nuclear and remaining 30 percent are living in joint family. This data indicates that higher percentage of women is living in nuclear family. The other reason for living in nuclear family could be related to the impact of urban life style.

Figure No. 5.3 Family Structure of Respondents



5.1.4 Educational Status

“Education is the key that opens the door the door in life which is essentially social in character.” The level of women is an important indication for the understanding of the present and future status of women in a country.

Education plays a vital role in overall development of an individual. It is one of the major degrees to measure the social status of any community. Moreover, education for women is so important that it helps them to improve their status in the society. Generally, the level of education is the indicator of the social status of women.

The majority of the population of Nepal are illiterate with whom women comprises the largest group among the illiterates. Women literacy rate in Nepal is 3.91 percent according to the 1971 census. Now the literacy percent of Nepal

is 54.1 in which female literacy rate is 42.8 percent according to the census 2001.

The percentage of literacy rate of Kaski district is 88% whereas 70.5 percent of the Hemja VDC (VDC Profile, 2007/08).The data shows that the whole percentage of literacy rate in the VDC is very high of the Nepalese context.

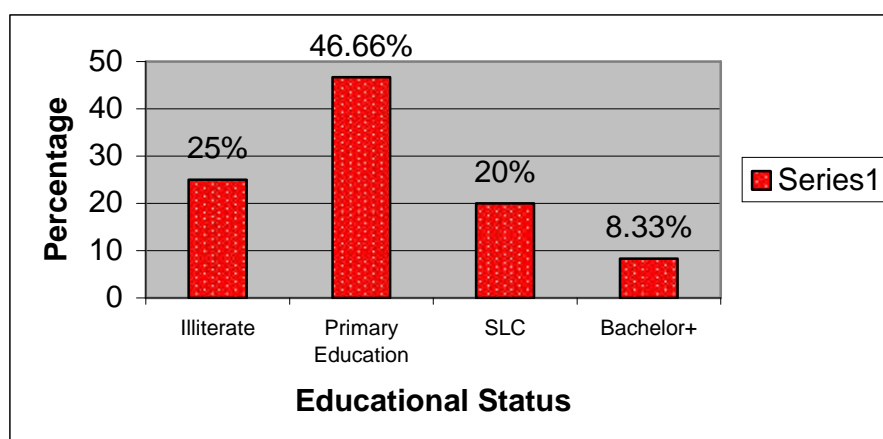
Table No. 5.4 Educational Status of Respondents

S.N.	Education	No	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	15	25.00
2.	Primary Education	28	46.66
3.	SLC	12	20.00
4.	Bachelor+	5	8.33
	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The number of education women in the study area has found 45 i.e. 75 percent of the sample population. The percentages of illiterate women in the study area are found 25 percent. There are few government school and boarding school in the Hemja VDC. In the study researcher has defined literacy as the ability to read and write, illiteracy as having no ability to read and write. The education status of respondents are shown in table 5.4 in the below bar diagram.

Figure No. 5.4 Educational Status of Respondents.



5.1.5 Health Status

Particularly in most of the rural areas of Nepal, women possess poor health. Social and cultural values prevailing there are the most affecting factors. The socio-economic status of women depends on health also. Maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate are relatively high in Nepal. Their access to health facilities is low. Hence, in this study, an attempt has been made to identify the access of women to some health facilities and practice of medical checkup. The following table shows the real health status of the respondents.

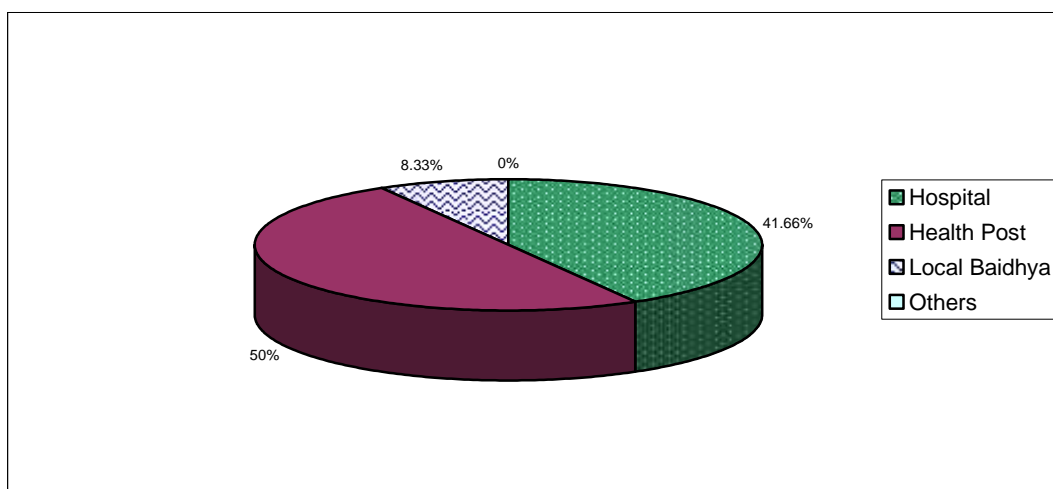
Table No. 5.5 Health Status of the Respondents as Regards to Health Facility

S.N.	Type of Facility (Usually treat in a sick)	No	Percentage
1.	Hospital	25	41.66
2.	Health Post	30	50.00
3.	Local Baidhya	5	8.33
4.	Others	0	0.00
	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table shows that out of 60 respondents only 25 (41.66%) are treated in hospital, 30 (50%) are treated in health post, 5 (8.33%) are treated in local bidhya in case of sick. The health facilities of respondents are shown in table 5.5 in the below pie chart.

Figure No. 5.5 Health Status of the Respondents



5.1.6 Occupation

Occupation is one of the most important factors which affect the socio-economic status of women. In rural Nepalese society occupation of women is household activities. But their contribution are not confined within the household activities alone, they perform agricultural works almost equal to their male counterparts.

In Hemja VDC here also women are very hard working. They work from the early morning till night. Besides household chores, they are involved in agriculture, service, business etc. in the village.

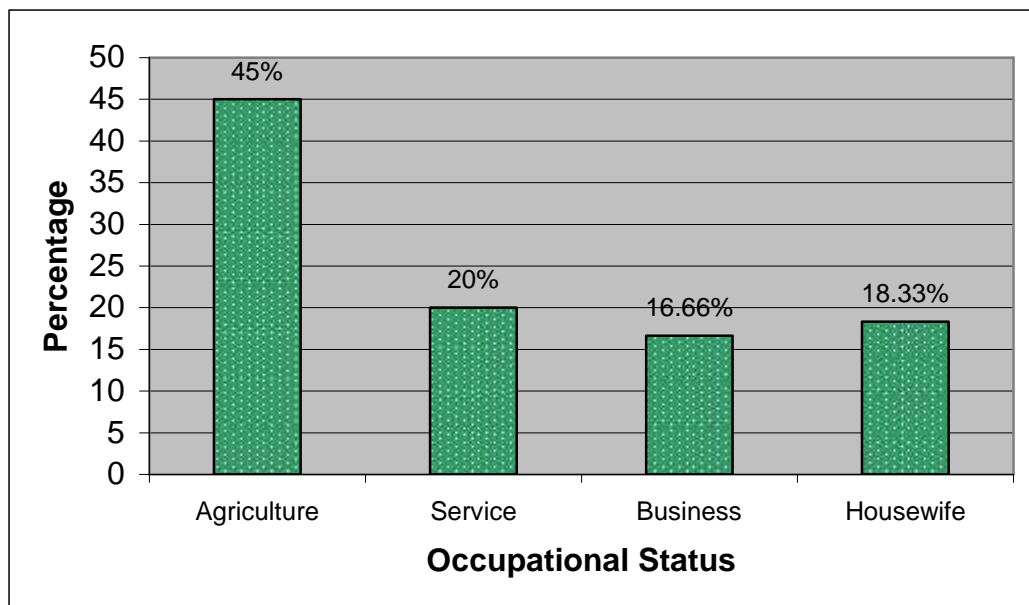
Table No. 5.6 Occupation of the Respondents

S.N.	Occupation	NO	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	27	45.00
2.	Service	12	20.00
3.	Business	10	16.66
4.	Housewife	11	18.33
	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Half of the respondents were involved both in house work and agriculture. In household chores they had to perform cooking meal, cleaning, washing, bringing fire-wood, preparing children for school etc. 12 (20%) of the respondents were involved in service which is government as well as private sector. There are 10 (16.66%) respondents are involved in different types of business and service.

Figure No. 5.6 Occupational Status of Respondents



CHAPTER-SIX

IMPACT OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND THEIR ROLE

6.1 Social Condition of Respondents

In general, the objective of any development program is to bring positive change in the community and to uplift the life standard of the poor, disadvantaged and backward segment of the society. The program may bring either good or bad impact in the society based on cast/ethnic groups. The researcher found positive change occurred by community development program in Hemja VDC. The following table shows the social impact on household through community organizations.

**Table No. 6.1 Social Impact on Women through Community
Organizations of HHs**

Social Condition	Yes	No	Total	Percentage
Occupation Successful	50 (83.33%)	10 (16.66%)	60	100.00
Conflict in Family	5 (8.33%)	55 (91.66%)	60	100.00
Family Breakdown	0	60 (100.00%)	60	100.00
Use of Outside Labor	0	60 (100.00%)	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The above table shows that only 83.33 percent respondents are successful in their occupation. No one has found suffer from the family breakdown due to

the impact of community development program is the study area. Only 8.33 percent of households in the study area found having conflicts between family members in the distribution of resources and saving whereas 91.66 percent of household have very harmonious relationship among the family members due to this program that is a very positive indicator in socio-economic development of the community that is illustrated below in the diagram.

Figure No. 6.1 Social Impact in Household through COs

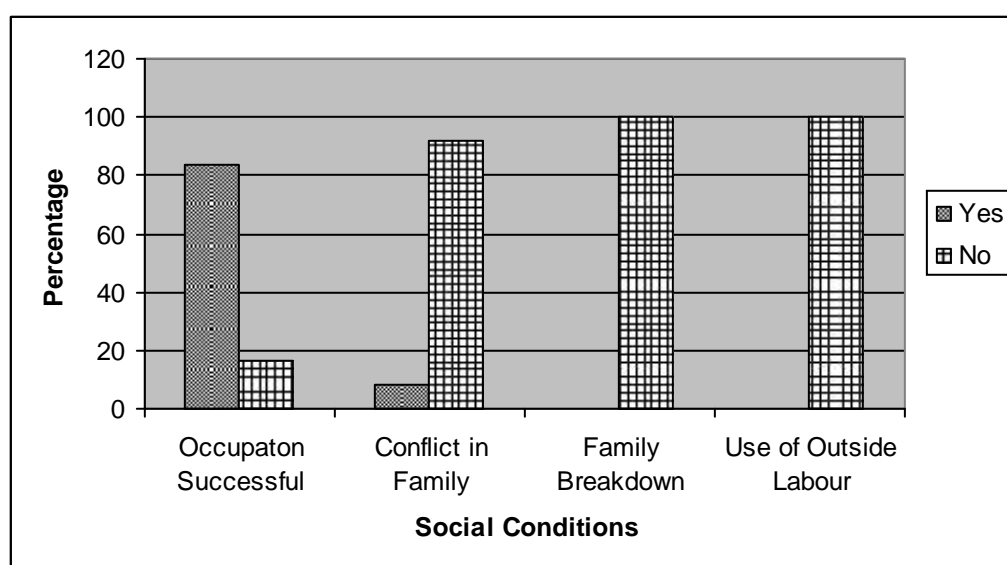


Table No. 6.1.2 Impacts on Women in Households

Social Impacts	Excellent	Good	Not Good	Total Percentage
Family's Views in Occupation	25 (41.66)	30 (50%)	5 (8.335%)	60 (100.00%)
Husband's Response in Occupation	30 (50%)	26 (43.33%)	4 (6.66%)	60 (100.00%)

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The above table shows that about 42 percent respondents have expressed excellent view on women involvement in COs program in the study area and

50 percent household's family members have remarked women involvement excellent and the response of husband on women involvement in community organization in study area was found 50 percent excellent and 43.33 percent good respectively.

6.2 Role of Women in Household Decision Making

Involvement in family decision making process indicates one's higher or equal status in the family. Status of women is also religiously higher in Nepal, especially in higher caste Hindu families. But it is only in theory or it can be said that it is true to some extent, when they are in their status of daughter.

In the role of daughter or daughter in law women are not accepted as a decision maker. When, particularly at their old age, performing the role of mother or mother in law, she can take part in decision making process. Except for a few percentage most of the women change no authority or say on economic decision making. The situation is however much better in hill women such as Limbu, Gurung and Magars. (Seddon: 1987).

The role of women in household decision making and the allocation of household resources depend upon a number of factors. These factors include type and composition of the household, age and life stage of the women and number of household males absent from the village. The breakdown of decision making by various sector is presented below.

Table No.6.2 Impact of Decision Making in Household

S.N.	Decision Making Title	Male	Female	Both
1.	Income & Expenditure, Resources Mobilization	35 (58.33%)	7 (11.66%)	18 (30%)
2.	Occupation	34 (56.66%)	13 (21.66%)	13 (21.66%)

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From the above table, it is clear that the decision making power and authority of the women of the study area has not increased so far. The reasons of increase in decision making power of respondents is due to training, discussion with the community, groups meeting etc. only about 12 percent of women take decision independently in resources mobilization, income & expenditure of the households. About 58 percent of the decision making power and authority over household resources has still found in the hand of male. Decision making authority to choose own occupation by women is about 22 percent of female has increased then before the implementation of COs. Similarly decision making authority on occupation has also increased by 22 percent then before. Joint decision making by male and female on household resources has increased by 30 percent whereas joint decision making on occupation has increased by 22 percent. It can be concluded that, decision making on household resources and occupation of women has increased somehow in slow pace and thus empowerment of women has increased then before but it is not satisfactory level.

6.3 Impact on Health, Hygiene and Sanitation

Women's health has always been a cause for concern in Nepal particularly in the context of limited economic resources and socio-cultural factors that give women a low status in our society. Factors like poor sanitation, inaccessible health services, food insecurity, and lack of information awareness, difficulty in getting safe drinking water and over workload have been responsible for women's ill health. The impacts are illustrated in the following table no. 6.3

Table No. 6.3 Impact on Health, Hygiene and Sanitation

Enhance of Knowledge and Practice	Before CO Program			After CO Program		
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
Health Post	60 (100.00%)	0	60 (100.00%)	60 (100.00%)	0	60 (100.00%)
Knowledge of Family Planning	50 (83.33%)	10 (16.66%)	60 (100.00%)	60 (100.00%)	0	60 (100.00%)
Use of Toilet	50	10	60 (100%)	60 (100%)	0	60 (100%)
Safe Drinking Water	35 (58.33%)	25 (41.66%)	60 (100.00%)	43 (71.66%)	17 (28.33%)	60 (100.00%)

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From the above table, it is clear that before the implementation of this program only 84 percent of the respondent has knowledge of family planning and they are practicing but now 100 percent of the women in the study area have found having proper knowledge of family planning and they are using various family planning means. The percentage of toilet users after the implementation of this program has reached 100 percent but the percentage of toilet users before launch of this program was 84 percent only. The percentage of population having safe drinking water was found 58.33 percent after the implementation of this program but this figure was only 41.66 percent before the start of the program. From the above finding it can be concluded that the knowledge of health,

hygiene, sanitation, drinking water and family planning of the respondents have much increased after launch of CO program.

6.4 Roles and Status of Women

There has been past efforts to reduce prevailing discrimination and inequalities against women. Notwithstanding these initiatives, there is a huge gap between de jure and de facto equality for women, as well as for other underprivileged caste and ethnic group (Beijing and Beyond, 2004).

Nepali women are some of the most disadvantaged people and one of the major focuses of the community development program is to increase the role and status of women. From the research, it was found that the Local Governance Program has successful in increasing the status of the women thereby increasing their role that can be considered as a positive impact on women development of the community development program.

Table No. 6.4 Roles and Status of Women

Women Status	Increase Before	Decrease than Before	As it is	Don't Know	Total
Status in Household level	50 (83.33%)	0	10 (16.66%)	0	60 (100.00%)
Status in Social Level	60 (100.00%)	0	0	0	60 (100.00%)
Participation in Group	45 (75.00%)	0	15 (25.00%)	0	60 (100.00%)
Authority in Household	40 (66.66%)	0	10 (16.66%)	10 (16.66%)	60 (100.00%)

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From the above table, it is clear that community organization program has successful partially to meet the goal of women empowerment. Status of the women has increased by 83.33 percent in household level than before the establishment of community organization. But status of women increased by 100 percent in social level. After the implementation of this program, about 75 percent women participation in group activities has found increase in the study area. Authority and responsibility of 67 percent respondent have increased than before in the study area. About 17 percent of the respondent have found unknown about responsibility due to lack of education.

6.5 Impact on Saving and Credit Program

Group activities play a vital role in saving and credit program. Saving is only possible if the groups have proper knowledge attitude about saving and credit. If there persist a group conflict between them it is impossible to uplift their economic condition in desirable way. The group activities are illustrated in table below.

Table No. 6.5 Impact on Group Activities Saving and Credit Program

Group Activities	Yes	No	Total
Regularity in Group Meeting	54 (90.00%)	6 (10.00%)	60 (100.00%)
Implementation of Group Meeting's Decision	55 (91.66%)	5 (8.33%)	60 (100.00%)
Community Development Program in Group	35 (58.33%)	25 (41.66%)	60 (100.00%)
Regular Saving	60 (100.00%)	0	60 (100.00%)
Proper Use of Loan	50 (83.33%)	10 (16.66%)	60 (100.00%)
Group Conflict	20 (33.33%)	40 (66.66%)	60 (100.00%)

Source: Field Survey, 2009

From the table, it is clear that about 90 percent of the respondent have regular meeting for the purpose of supervision, monitoring and evaluation of their program, to prepare annual plan and to provide loan to the most needed members of the COs that is very encouraging for community development program. About 92 percent of the respondents have effectively implemented the decision of the groups meeting. Percentage of respondent involved in other community development program such as infrastructure development has found about 59 percent. From the research, it was found that 100 percent of the respondent has regular saving of money. According to the respondent save money has found expounded for the medical treatment, food supply for their children and for the schooling of their sons and daughters. About 6 percent of the women found misuse of loan in non- productive sector such as worship of god and expenses in festivals. About 34 percent of the respondent has expressed about group conflict in the study area i.e. the conflict between husband and wife for saving and conflicts among the group in order to get the loan. From the research, it is observed that the program has an excellent impact on saving group, decision making and proper use of loan money in community development program that is a paramount objective of this program.

CHAPTER-SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Women constitute more than half of population and are the primary providers of subsistence for most of the population in Nepal. In order to empower women economically, socially and politically various factors are involved. In spite of their concerted efforts women continue to be marginalized in terms of literacy, education, job opportunity and women right etc.

Women in Nepal enjoy secondary socio-economic status; some are preferred because they are required to perform religious functions especially after death. They carry on family name and property by law and they are considered as socio-economic insurance against old age. By contrast, Nepalese women enjoy only supplementary role in the religious function. They follow husband family name and enjoy only sentimental value for caring parents. They enjoy conditional legal right to property. This is either they have to buy on their own or they have to remind unmarried up to 35 years of age to enjoy the legal share on parental property. Their right on husband's property is conditional by different limitation.

The poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) points out that, at the end of 2001/02, thirty- eight percent of Nepal's population was below the poverty line, only less then forty-two percent estimated in the 1996 Nepal living standard survey (NLSS). Most of the poor i.e. more than ninety percent of the population live in rural areas of Nepal. Poverty is also more severe and intense in the more remote rural areas, especially in the mid and far-western hills and mountains of Nepal.

The community organization program of the LGP has boost up the bottom up decision- making approach instead of top down approach. Altogether 25 community organizations have found engaged in the Hemja VDC of Kaski district of Nepal at the time of study. The research problem was feeling of

women on CO program, level of their participation and effectiveness of the program to reduce the poverty through women empowerment.

The objective of the study is study of socio-economic conditions of the women of CO and impact of community organization on women. Different tools and technique were used for data collection. Descriptive research was carried out as well as both primary and secondary data were collected for this research. Perception on COs was collected from 60 respondents based on purposed accidental random sampling from nine wards of Hemja VDC. Participatory tools were used to analyze the data.

This chapter presents the summary of the research finding, conclusion from the previous chapter and prescribes recommendation to improve the community development program for the future.

7.1 Summary

The field survey of Hemja VDC, it is clear that the most of the population of Hemja VDC has still remained largely poor despite the CO initiatives. The basic indicators those are very vital for the socio-economic development of the society such as education, health, hygiene, sanitation, drinking water, occupation etc ply major role for the positive change in the community. From the ethnic composition perspective, most of the respondents of the VDC were poor in social as well economic activities before the establishment of CO.

In the Hemja VDC there are Brahmin (55%) is dominant in population composition as compare to other caste group. Such dominant caste group is the major obstacle in empowering women in terms of decision making, awareness and other factors. On all ethnic composition, the male female population distribution is almost proportionate similarly the economically active population (age group 16-59) comprises almost equal number of male and female population (figure No. 5.1). This indicates that the possibility of active participation of male and female equally in the area of economic productivity if

the women are given chance. The overall educational status of the sample population of the Hemja VDC is illiterate 25 percent, primary education 47 percent, SLC 20 percent and bachelor 9 percent of the respondents.

The sample population engaged in agriculture is 45 percent but engaged in service are 20 percent. Women are directly or indirectly involved in agricultural activities. After the implementation of CO program women have an easy access in the economic sector. About 70 percent of sample household have nuclear type of family, which might be an impact of urban life style in which is the Hemja VDC is too nearer of Pokhara valley.

Community organization has been instrumental for considerable successful in terms of community awareness, which has been reflected upon equal opportunity to women in the selection of occupation, education, training and various other social activities. It is evident that women's role and status has been increasing positively to 83.33 percent than before after the establishment of COs. The level of increase is slow and gradual but has improved significant in terms of household decision making and in economic productivity. The household decision making power and authority of women has been significantly improved and reached to 20 percent after the establishment of CO program.

Economic empowerment of the community by increasing food storage capacity and saving have been found successful after the establishment of CO. Women's Saving/ deposit 100 percent which are excellent data and they prove that the CO program has been very successful for the empowerment of the women. This has directly influence the women status at household levels in terms of authority over economic decision making and at social levels in terms of their increase in role in community works.

The percentage of regular group meeting holders is 92 percent which is a very positive impact of CO and demonstrates the strong willingness of the

community for the overall development of their areas. A significant number has utilized the loan amount to the productive business.

7.2 Conclusion

This community program has been successful to bring positive change in Hemja VDC. The CO program under LGP has been able to change the status of women in that VDC. It is evident that the role of women has changed and their participation level in various activities in the community has tremendously increased by the impact of this program. They are found engaged very actively in group formation, group decision-making, saving and implementation the group decision.

The CO program has been successful considerably on top of various operational constraints associated with it. On the whole the researcher found CO program as instrumental in including positive change in the Existing socio-economic structure of the study area. The major achievement obtained so far from this program is empowerment of the poor and backward rural women by creating awareness among them and to facilitate them to change their decision making power and saving habit.

The researcher found that economic independency of the women has increased and their confidence in household decision making has improved. The other important achievement of the CO program is its success to motivate women in regular group saving active participation in social activities and to give knowledge about health and sanitation, family planning, literacy skill development, training, group meeting, group-decision making and child care.

7.3 Recommendation

Women who constitute one half of the total population play an important role in every society. Hence gender discrimination is a major issue of development in Nepal. The selected study area is situated not far from Pokhara sub-

metropolitan city. The following are the main recommendations for the improvement of socio-economic status of women of this area are as follows:

1. Living some educational women behind the women of this study area does not possess an adequate education. Most of them are illiterate. Hence, it is important that literacy program should be conducted on a wide scale to increase the literacy rate of the women in this area.
2. Unemployment seemed to be one of the main problems of this area. The different types of training are needed to build up the self confidence of the women. The government bodies and NGOs have to implement some off farm employment income generating program for the upliftment of the economic status of women in this area.
3. Gender sensitization is important for the success of any program. Local men and women of young and old age should be sensitized about the importance of women's roles in the family. By means of organization various program especially from the existing women's group of this locality this may be achieved.
4. Cast discrimination should be reducing because there are all types of cast in the VDC, to improve socio-economic status of all peoples in the VDC.
5. Women based awareness program on health, sanitation, scientific agricultural farming domestics industries, educational opportunities etc. are especially needed to the all women of the community.
6. Proportional participation of women in every aspect of developmental program is better to be implemented.

The following recommendation has suggested for further improvement of the CO program in the future. The recommendation has divided into two categories i.e. at policy level and implementation level, which are given below:

Policy Level

- LGP and CO program should be designed in a realistic way by focusing to rural and backward community women.
- There should be strong co-ordination mechanism between LGP and VDC.
- Arrangement of subsidy of those women who really could not pay back loan and interest due to failure of her business should be ascertained
- There should be a perfect balance between development program and the environment.
- Deprived backward and disadvantaged group should be given more focus while designing the program.
- There should be effective monitoring and evaluation system. Higher-level staffs of the concerned office should visit site at least 25 percent of the time for monitoring and evaluation of the program.

Plan and Program Implementation Level

- Community program needs to be more focused on target groups to deliver the development objectives in an efficient manner.
- Educational program should be more focused.
- Credit facilities need to be reviewed and should be provided as per priority based at the rate of low interest.
- Plans and program to enhance the social status of the women should be carried out to aware them.
- Economic opportunity needs to be integrated with other social facts and realities, which will help to achieve a balance and positive social change and women empowerment simultaneously.

- Leadership development training of chairperson and managers of CO to be provided regularly.
- Feasibility study of the area to be focused should be carried out before hand in order to ensure pay back of seed, money and interest rate in the stipulated time period.
- Development of handicraft from bamboo of this VDC. Therefore availability of raw material, guarantee of financial resources at low interest rate is a pre-requisite for the empowerment of ethnic community women of this VDC.

REFRENCES

- Achrya, Meena, (1997). "Gender Equity and Empowerment of Women."
Kathmandu: A Status Report Submitted to UNFPA.
- Achrya, Meena, (2008). "Future Constitution and Women Empowerment".
Lalitpur: FES.
- Achrya, Meena, (1979). *The status of Women in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Center for
Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) TU.
- Adhikari, R. L. (2004). "Gender Role and Decision Making in Child Rearing
Practice": A Case Study of Dhital in Kaski District. Unpublished
Master Degree Thesis, Central Department of Sociology, TU Kirtipur.
- Aryal, Deepak, (1990). *SAARC Women Nepal*, Kathmandu: An Unpublished
Report Presentation.
- Banskota, S, (2004). *Research Methodology*. Kathmandu: New Hira Books
Enterprises.
- Beijing and Beyond, *Beijing Plus Ten NGO Country Report*. Kathmandu:
Beijing plus Ten NGO Review Nepal.
- Bhattachan Krishna B. and Chaitanya Mishra, (1997). *Development Practices
in Nepal*, Kathmandu: (n.p.).
- CBS (2002). *Population Monograph*. Kathmandu: National Planning
Commission.
- CBS (2003). *Statistical Pocket Book*. Kathmandu: CBS National Planning
Commission.
- Dahal, Abi Chandra, (2008). "Socio- Economic Status of Women". An
Unpublished master Degree Thesis, Central Department of Rural
Development TU Kirtipur.
- DDC, (2007/08). *District Profile of Kaski*. Destrict Development Committee
(DDC) Kaski.

- Devi, Sita, (2005). "Community Based Organization and Women Empowerment with Reference to Decision Making at Local Level". An Unpublished Master Degree Thesis, Central Department of Sociology TU, Kirtipur.
- Empowerment (2002). A Quality Journal of MWCSW Vol.1. Kathmandu: (n.p.).
- Ghimire,Durga (1997).Women and Development. .Kirtipur: CEDA TU.
- Harper and Row (1995, 1967). Community Organization Theory, Principles and Practice. US: Harper & Row Publication.
- HMG/ UNICEF (1996). *Children and Women of Nepal, A Situational Analysis LGP/PDDP Bridging Program*. Kathmandu: Unified Report 2003.
- Khatiwoda,D.D.,(1998). *Mainstreaming Gender in Nepalese Context*. Kathmandu: The Rising Nepal, Gorkhapatra Sansthan.
- Kheral, Sambridhi, (2007). *Gender Poverty of Nepal*. Kathmandu: Nepalese Journal of Development.
- Lohani, Praksh Chandra, (1977). People's Participation in Development. Kathmandu: CEDA, TU.
- Marilee, Karl, (2004). *Women and Empowerment Participation and Decision Making*. Kathmandu: Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal Population Report.
- MDG, (2002).*Nepal Progress Report*. Kathmandu: United Nations Country Team of Nepal.
- NPC, (1998). The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002). Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Singha Durbar Kathmandu, HMG/N.
- NPC, (2002). Tenth Plan (2002-2007). Kathmandu: National Planning commission.
- NPC, (2004). Nepal Living Standard Survey (NLSS), Vol. 1 and 2. Kathmandu: Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

- PRSP, (2004). Progress Report on Poverty Reduction an Assessment of the Tenth plan Implementation Kathmandu.
- Sanza, Alfred, (1980). Women in Contemporary India and South Asia. New Delhi: Monohar Publication.
- Sharma, P, (2004). Social Science Research Method in Pratical Use. Kathmandu: Kshitiz Publication.
- Sharma, Salikram, (2006). Research Methodology in Rural Development. Kathmandu: Sujata Publication.
- Sharma, T. (2004). "Gender Discrimination in Nepal". Unpublished Master Degree Thesis, Cenral Department of Population, TU, Kirtipur.
- Shrestha, Indra, (1981). The Status of Women in Nepal, Vol. 2 Kathmandu: (n.p.).
- Shrestha, Mangala,(2008). *Community Development in Nepal: Past and Present Strategies*. Kathmandu: Nepalese Journal of Development and Rural Studies, Vol. 5 pp 39-55.
- Shrestha, Shanta Laxmi, (1994). Gender Sensitive Planning, What, Why, and How in Nepal. Kathmandu: Women Awareness Center.
- UNDP, (2004). *Nepal Human Development Report*. Kathmandu: Empowerment and Poverty Reduction (UNDP).
- VDC, Kaski, (2007/08). Village Profile of Hemja. Pokhara: Village Development Committee.
- Wolf, H.K., and P.R.Panta, (2003). A Hand Book for Social Science Research and Thesis Writing. Kathmandu: Buddha Academic Publisher and Distributor.
- www. ekantipur.com(accessed 5th Nov, 2009).
- [http:// www. hinary.com.np](http://www.hinary.com.np).
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/feminism>.

S.N.	Name of the Respondents	S.N.	Name of the Respondents
1.	Ambika Adhikari	31.	Rubina Gurung
2.	Sarsowati Adhikari	32.	Pabitra Gurung
3.	Mithu Adhikari	33.	Bishanu Gurung
4.	Hira Sunuwar	34.	Devi Gurung
5.	Nandakala Sunuwar	35.	Laxmi Gurung
6.	Bishnu Sunuwar	36.	Basanti Gurung
7.	Kausila Sunuwar	37.	Rita Gurung
8.	Junkiri Pariyar	38.	Rupa Gurung
9.	Putali Pariyar	39.	Sabita Paudel
10.	Laxmi B.K.	40.	Sirdevi Banstola
11.	Pream Kumari Pariyar	41.	Sapana Banstola
12.	Harimaya Bastola	42.	Dilmaya Adhikari
13.	Narayani Lamichine	43.	Dhana Thapa
14.	Ambika Sangarula	44.	Laxmi G.C.
15.	Yadu Sangarula	45.	Maya G.C.
16.	Narayani Adhikari	46.	Sarsowti Thapa
17.	Ishwori Adhikari	47.	Sarita Thapa
18.	Dillmaya Poudel	48.	Nanda Thapa
19.	Kharika Adhikari	49.	Sita Thapa
20.	Dhansari Lamichine	50.	Kunti G.C.
21.	Devaki Lamichine	51.	Sabita Thapa
22.	Durga Adhikari	52.	Shova G.C.

23.	Bishanu Adhikari	53.	Rama Thapa
24.	Jamuna Dhakal	54.	Gita Banstola
25.	Bhimmaya Bhandari	55.	Usha Paudel
26.	Goma Dhakal	56.	Sumitra Bhandari
27.	Bhagawoti Adhikari	57.	Uma Thapa
28.	Goma Adhikari	58.	Nandakala Gautam
29.	Harimaya Subedi	59.	Rita Subedi
30.	Kamala Bhandari	60.	Jamuna Adhikari

ANNEX- THREE

LISTS OF RESPONDENTS

ANNEX-ONE

A CASE STUDY- ONE

Name: Ambika Adhikari

Age: 66

Locality: Hemja VDC Ward No. – 2

Literacy Status: Uneducated

Family Status: Married with one child

Occupation: Agriculture

I got married at the age of eight in this village. Village at that time was very typical based on this superstitions and traditional stereotypes. Many people were uneducated and the

living standard too was very poor. All the villagers used to depend on traditional way of farming and it was hard to earn the living based on it. I too belong on the same category as I mention above. Nearly about my forties there were no such kind of changes in the status of living through my life had struggled a lot. Only within a few years the COs are formed which become a bright light in our village and they are also very helpful for us to improve the condition of the villagers.

Though I am a married woman with one son with me, I never get support of my husband. Because of some familial conflicts we were separated when I was seventeenth with one child, my son. The typical villagers and the patriarchal society with its female biased nature made me bound all over. Generating income and feeding me and my child was very hard to me in that very period. I faced many difficulties to teach my child.

Now, the situation and the time is totally changed with recent awareness towards COs. COs of different fields are helping the villagers in many ways. As I am free, I join the COs and get many modern techniques of agriculture. I get loan, I get many more help. I am in my sixties now, through my age is dependent age I feel energetic and self encouraged. I participate in everything and every program. Now, I have my own Orange Orchard, three buffalos, six goats of my own. I now am able to provide money for my grand-son and grand-daughters too.

At last, I only can say is if these COs were in my young days I could do many more then I have now.

ANNEX-TWO

A CASE STUDY - TWO

Name:	Laxmi B. K.
Age:	32
Locality:	Hemja VDC Ward No. 5
Literacy Status:	Literate (Primary Education)

Family Status: Married with three children
Occupation: Agriculture
Amount of loan taken: 50,000
Loan utilization: Treatment of my son

I stay with my family and there are five members in my family. My husband is peon in a school and I do agricultural works. We have low income to collect money. In such a situation my son was very sick and suffered from heart problem. We were very upset and were in great sufferings because of the money needed to us for that treatment. In such situation some members of COs came to me and encouraged me to become the member of it and take the benefit. I did the same, got loan and get my son alive and healthy after treatment. In past we both husband and I were totally negative towards COs. I used to think that they are not necessary for anyone and they ruin all the villagers. But time did not remain the same. We were shocked when we learned about the heart problem of our son. At that time we had not enough money for treatment. Thuli didi the chairperson of a CO came to me to consult me and learned our problem. Then she suggested me to involve in COs which help in income generating program as well as help in difficulties. I agreed and joined as a member and got money for my son's life. Now, I am honest, hardworking and active member of CO. My husband too is very positive regarding such organizations. I now get different training, help and hopes for much income.

I thank all COs in Nepal which helps the people like us in difficult situation. For me COs are like God who can give the life back. I always respect the CO.

ANNEX - FOUR

QUESTIONNAIRE

1 GENERAL INFORMATION:

1.3 Who do obtain benefit from economic activities in your community?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Both

1.4 Why do you not come forward in economic activities?

- a. Due to household works
- b. Due to the control of men
- c. Due to social response

2. INFORMATION OF WOMEN MEMBER OF COs.

2.1 Why did you decide to participate in community organization? Aim of participation in CO at the beginning stage?

Ans :

2.2 In which categories of group are you engage?

- a. Credit Group
- b. Saving Group
- c. Saving & Credit Group
- d. Others.....

2.3 If you are in credit group for what purpose do you taken loan?

- a. Livestock
- b. Hotel
- c. Horticulture
- d. Vegetable farming
- e. Others.....

2.4 Do you participate in CO nowadays?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If no, why do you left later on?

- a. Household problem
- b. Because of CO program
- c. Others reasons

2.5 What is the view of your family about your activities in COs?

- a. Excellent
- b. Good
- c. Not good

3. ROLE OF WOMEN IN COs.

3.1 How do you participate in CO?

- a. As a member only
- b. As a facilitator
- c. As a decision maker
- c. As a leader
- d. Others

3.2 Do you feel that female can earn equal to that of male?

- a. Yes
- b. No

3.3 Do you find an improvement in training assessment after involvement in CO?

- a. Highly improved
- b. Improved
- c. Little improved
- d. Not improved

3.4 Do you think the society is change after the women involvement of CO?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes how did it change?

- a. Women are literate
- b. Women's decision making power is high
- c. Improve in child care
- d. Improve in food habit
- e. Increase in freedom
- f. Others.....

3.5 Do you find any important in income generating activities after involvement in Co?

- a. Yes
- b. No

4. EDUCATION, TRAINING, HEALTHCARE IN COs?

4.1 Did you attend any literate class before start of CO program in your community?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Sometimes

4.2 Where do you and your family member usually treat in of sick?

- a. Hospital
- b. Health post
- c. Local Baidhya
- d. Others.....

4.3 Are you familiar with contraceptive and of family planning?

- a. Yes
- b. No

4.4 What type of family planning means you are using now?

a. Permanent

b. Temporary

5. PUBLIC MARKTING, GROUP SAVING/CREDIT IN CO

5.1 What is the attitude of your neighbors and society after your involvement in this program? They treat you in a

a Prestigious way

b. Jealous way

c Indifference way

5.2 Is group meeting held regularly in your areas?

a. Yes

b. No

If no, what kind of punishment is given to those who do not attend the group meeting?

Ans:

5.3 Does your chair person make decision without any consultation with the CO member in the meeting?

a. Yes

b. No

5.4 Do you save any amount of money monthly?

a. Yes

b. No

If yes what is your monthly saving?

Ans:

5.5 For which work your saved money is spent?

- a. Household expenditure b. Productive sector
- c. Others social sector

5.6 How is your relationship with your relative's neighbor and society after the involvement in this program?

- a. Improved b. Decreased
- c. Bad d. don't know

5.7 Do you want to continue as a member in this program? If not why?

Ans :.....

6. SUGGESTION, ADVICE TO IMPROVE IN CO PROGRAM IN STUDY AREA

6.1 What kind of program will be more useful and effective in order to improve women's status in your society?

Ans:

6.2 What are other necessary infrastructure urgently in order to improve COs present condition?

Ans :.....

6.3 Do you have any recommendation in order to improve CO in a better way in your VDC? Give reasons.

Ans:

Thanks for your kind cooperation and response!