

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY
BASED ORGANIZATION:
A study of Shanischare VDC, Jhapa District, Nepal**



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

**BY
SANJEEB KUMAR GOMDEN
T.U.Reg.No: 6-3-28-56-2005**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU
2011**

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

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the thesis work entitled **“Women Empowerment through Community Based Organization: A study of Shanischare VDC of Jhapa District, Nepal”** has been prepared by Mr. Sanjeeb Kumar Gomden under my supervision. As a supervisor, I forward this thesis for its final evaluation as per the rules of the Department.

Mr. Jiban Mani Poudel

(Lecturer)

Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology

T.U, Kirtipur

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
KIRTIPUR

LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis entitled “**Women Empowerment through Community Based Organization**” submitted by Mr. Sanjeeb Kumar Gomden has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Sociology by the evaluation committee.

Evaluation Committee

Head of the Department

Prof. Dr. Om Gurung

External

Binod Pokharel

Thesis Supervisor

Mr. Jiban Mani Poudel

(Lecturer)

Date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study is focused on the women empowerment through community based organizations. This thesis is the result of the guidance, supervision, valuable suggestion and creative comments provided by Mr. Jiban Mani Poudel, Lecturer of Sociology/Anthropology Department of Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur. So, would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Jiban Mani Poudel.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. Dr. Om Gurung, Head of Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prof. Dr. Chaitanya Mishra, Dr. Ram Bahadur Chhetri, Dr. Padam Lal Devkota, Dr. Laya Prasad Uprety and all other respected teachers at Department who played vital role in the completion of this thesis.

I sincerely wish to express my thanks to Mr. Lila Katwual, Mr. Lochan Nepal, Mr. Kamal Khanal, Mr. Llia Chaudary, Mr. Dadiram Dahal, Miss. Sapan Shiwakoti, Ravi Maharjan, Nabin K. Bhattari, Sudhair, Salma, Ram, Durga, Bharati, Santosh, Gyanath, Hari Sir, Jugul Sauji and Kalpana for their help in various ways from time to time. Similarly I am also thankful to Mr. Yogesh Oli and Mahesh for helping with some of the language of my thesis. I am sincerely obliged to Mr. Satrughan Gupta, Ameet Shrestha, Kamal Acharya, Suman Sharma for their kind co-operation during my field work.

I am grateful to all those respondents who helped me to collect the information and data. At last, I should also express my thanks to Anup Oli for formatting and printing this thesis.

Sanjeeb Kumar Gomden
Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Tribhuvan University
Kathmandu, Nepal

Abstract

Women are found suffering from social, cultural and political biases in the traditional male dominated society of Nepal. Compared to male counterparts women have limited access to educational and employment opportunities. They have less power and ability to do activities like men counterparts do; even they have the least authority to do something at their own initiation. Women are economically dependent on men (father, husband or brother), as men are traditionally considered as assertive and breadwinners of the family, they are focused on materialistic success. Women are found greatly confined to household and soft nature of farmyard activities. Still largely the households and society directly and indirectly deny or discourage women's role as decision-maker. Though the women of Nepal have substantial contributions both as labor and mentor in the household and outside, but their role is often underestimated and not counted as economic activity. Being heads of households, women have to carry out the full traditional roles with the added responsibility of household and production management. The connection between poverty and women's lack of power over resources has now caught the attention of policymakers in government and mainstream development all over the world. Women empowerment issues perceived nationally or locally are being addressed by both state and non-state agencies. Beside the government intervention, CBOs are implementing various types of Women Empowerment Programmes including IG Programmes. Women Empowerment Programmes in Nepal include livelihood support Programme, rehabilitation and job placement for rescued women, safe motherhood Programme and so forth. In spite of involvement of various CBOs in women empowerment through Income Generation and Skill Development Programmes, the status of women is still not satisfactory

in Nepal as various official as well as unofficial reports claim and the outcomes against the stated objectives of the CBOs' Women Empowerment Programmes are often questioned. Therefore, the present study is focused in assessing the impact of IG Programmes run by CBOs in empowering women. The researcher hypothesizes that IG Programme with its components viz., skill training, resource inputs of loan and equipment help to increase income to the women through independent business or work in the related field; the increased income lessens their dependence on family heads and enables to spend for personal expenses; gives them certain freedoms as individuals; enables them to contribute to family affairs financially, which creates an environment in the family in favor of the women to accept her views and participation in family matters like education, marriage, purchase etc. Bases on these hypotheses, the researchers investigate into the Programmes of three organizations –Kalika Aama Shamuha, Tinghare Mahila Shamuha and Jhalkynaya Mahila Bikash Shamuha – which implemented their Income Generation (IG) Programmes between 2006 and 2010 at Shanishare Village Development Committee (VDC). Apart from the components of IG Programme delivered by the CBOs for the increase in women's decision capacity in personal and family life, the researcher also considers family background, viz. family size and education of the family heads as separate independent variables, to understand how much it has effect on empowerment of women.

CONTENTS

	Page No.
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	I
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE	II
ABSTRACT	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	IV
ABBREVIATION	V
CHAPTER – I: INTRODUCTION	1-13
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Research Problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study	8
1.4 Rationale of the Study	9
1.5 Conceptual framework	10
1.6 Operational Definition of CBOs	12
1.5 Organization of the Study	13
CHAPTER – II: LITERATURE REVIEW	15-28
2.1 Poverty and Women	15
2.2 Women and Women's Status	16
2.3 Poverty situation in Nepal	18
2.4 NGO and Women Empowerment	20
2.5 Government attempt for Women Empowerment	23
2.6 CBOs programmes relation with Women Empowerment	24
2.7 Poverty and Empowerment	25
2.8 Relation of Income with Empowerment	27

CHAPTER-III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	29-33
3.1 Rationale of the selection of the study area	29
3.2 Research Design	29
3.3 Field Work	30
3.4 Nature and Source of Data	30
3.5 Universe and Sampling	30
3.6 Data Collection Techniques	31
3.6.1 Interview	32
3.6.2 Key Informant Interview	32
3.7 Data processing and Analysis	32
3.8 Limitation of the Study	33
CHAPTER-IV: DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	34-37
4.1 Geographical Location	34
4.2 Social Composition	35
4.3 Caste and Ethnic Groups	35
4.4 CBOs in Shanischare	36
CHAPTER-V: ROLE OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT	38-60
5.1 Need and Involvement of Women in CBOs programme	38
5.2 Utilization of Skill Training	40
5.3 Effect of CBOs programme on Women Income	42
5.4 CBOs programme, Income and Empowerment	45
5.4.1 Decision Making	45
5.4.1.1 Decision on Utilization of Women's Saving	46

5.4.1.2	Effect of CBOs programme on Women Decision Making capacity	47
5.4.1.3	Decision making in personal affairs due to involvement in CBOs by gap in number of years after training	51
5.4.2	Change in Decision making capacity	52
4.4.2.1	Saving and Decision making capacity	52
5.4.3	Women's participation in Society	53
5.4.4	Society perception towards women	54
5.5	Family Background and Empowerment	55
5.5.1	Decision making in personal matter depending on Family size and Education	55
5.5.2	Decision making in Family matters depending on Family size and Education of Family Heads	58
CHAPTER-VI: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SCOPE OF FUTURE RESEARCH		61-65
6.1	Summary	61
6.2	Conclusion	62
6.3	Future Research	65

References

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Interview for participation women
- Appendix 2: Interview for participants' family members
- Appendix 3: Checklists
- Appendix 4: Semi-Structure Interview/Checklists for Community/Social leaders

List of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

	Page No.
Table 1. Sampling and Sample size	31
Table 2. Reason for Joining the CBOs programme	38
Table 3. Occupation of women before and after CBOs programme intervention	40
Table 4. Effect of CBOs programme on women's income	43
Table 5. Who decides on utilization of women's saving	46
Table 6. Decide on Saving	47
Table 7. Decision making capacity of women in personal matters before and after the intervention	48
Table 8. Decision making capacity of women in family matters before and after the intervention	48
Table 9. Decision making capacity in personal affairs depending on before	51
Table 10. Decision making capacity before and after and involvement in saving	52
Table 11. Decision making in personal matters depending on family size	55
Table 12. Decision making capacity in personal matters depending on education of family	56
Table 13. Decision making in family matters depending on family size	59
Table 14. Decision making capacity in family matters depending on education of family heads	60

ABBREVIATIONS

CBOs	:	Community Based Organizations
HDI	:	Human Development Index
HIPC	:	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
IG	:	Income Generation
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organization
KAS	:	Kalika Aama Shamuha
VDC	:	Village Development committee
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
PRSP	:	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
WTO	:	World Trade Organization