

CHAPTER- I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal has practiced various development programs in last fifty years. But during the last two decades, the term 'empowerment' has become a key word of development and discussions worldwide. In Nepal, first of all only from the sixth five year plan (1980-85) the government addressed the issue of women's role in national development and then every five year plan gave priority to women's participation in development program. It is evident that development of a country could not be possible without the participation of women. It is therefore accepted that women's socio economic status plays a vital role in the development activities of a nation.

Empowerment of women is much talked and debated issue at present scenario. No society or nation can develop without materializing this valuable asset woman. Women comprise half of the total population of Nepal, where Nepalese women's status is very low; and they are deprived section. Empowering women or to promote their status is essential to approach the economic, political and social development. Education is a very important means of raising consciousness in human beings. Lack of awareness and education leads women into the confinement of the household activities and increases their inferiority complex as a psychological disease that builds up a number of bottlenecks on the path of women's development in the gender sensitive world.

Discrimination between men and women exist in developed as well as developing countries. In Nepalese society social structure is patriarchal, female discrimination exists in every sector such as socio economic, political and cultural participation, although the policies and laws are indiscriminative to any sex and class. There is prevalence of clear gender inequality in Nepal. Acharya and Benette stated that developing countries like Nepal; women's role in economic activities is insignificant. Men are considered as bread earner and women are the care taker of households. Women's are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. The time allocation studies and the decision making data revealed women's major role in an agricultural product. Both labors and managers of the production process, they also claimed that a host of social and demographic factors also influence women role i.e. household decision making both directly or indirectly through their effect on women's economic participation (Acharya and Benette, 1981).

The word empowerment was coined during 1980s. The feminist activities develop this word to address the inferior status of women due to traditional and superstitions values of the society. The empowerment approach was adopted by the feminist attacks on the feeling of inferiority, superstitions beliefs and traditional values of the society, which hinders the development of women (Luitel Shamira, 1996).

Empowerment is the ability to exercise power; the every forms of women's empowerment are the ability of women to exercise power in the social institution that governs their lives, the household and intended family local community councils and local government. Women empowerment include both personal strengthening and collective participation effort to achieve equality of opportunity and equity between different genders, ethnic groups, social classes and age groups essential

starting point and a process for realizing the ideals of human liberation and equal access for all. (UNDP – 2004)

During the last two decades, the term "empowerment" has become a keyword of development discussions worldwide. In Nepal, first of all, only from the sixth five years plan (1980-85) the government addressed the issue of women's role in national development. The main policy approaches of sixth five-year plan were to enhance women's efficiency through raising productivity by imparting education and training. After that, every five-year plan gave priority to women's participation in development activities. The main commitment of Ninth five-year plan is to integrate women in the mainstream of development through gender equality and women's empowerment. The government is also reviewing the National Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. The Tenth Plan recognizes marginalization of women as a serious bottleneck for the socio-economic progress of Nepali society and a strategy has been developed to reduce gender gaps and disparities of all levels. (NPC-2002)

Women have not been empowered to participate in the social and economic development in a full fledged manner as they are excluded from the development process. The deep-rooted gender stereotyping in the socializations pattern role models has consistently inhabited women from coming out of their traditional cocoons. Reorganization of the need to improve the status of women and to promote their potential roles in development is no longer seen only as an issue of human rights of social justice. While the pursuit of gender equity remains strongly imbedded within the framework of fundamental human rights and gender justice, investments in women now also are recognized that as crucial to achieving sustainable development. Economic analysis recognized other low level of education and training, poor health and nutritional status and limited access to resources not only depress women's quality of life, but

also limited productivity and hinder economic efficiency and growth. Hence, promoting and improving the status of women need to be pursued, for reasons of equity and social justice and also because it makes economic sense and is good development practice policy on Gender and Development (Asia Development Bank 2004).

To raise the socio economic status of women the government has implemented various programs such as: 'Build Our Village Ourselves' (BOVO, 1995), 'Village Development and Self-help Program (VDSHP), Participatory District Development Program (PDDP), Local Governance program (LGP), Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) since 1987 and Micro Credit Project for Women (MCPW) since 1994. The PCRW and MCPW program have been very successful in increasing socio economic status of women in the implementation area. Because of the limited outreach of the program it could not provide the national wide impact.

Decentralized Local Governance Support Program (DLGSP) has been giving a top priority to the socio-economic empowerment of women. Its program is based upon social mobilization in VDP. The progress made by the program has clearly reflected the active participation of the women in the community organization. They need identification, prioritization of the programs and implementation. Women who used to remain inside the four walls of house now participate in the community activities. They no longer remain silent spectator to the violence against women rather they fight against it. VDP has two components, institutional development and economic empowerment. Under institutional development, VDP provides skill development, Credit capital and seed grant support. VDP helps CO members directly through a package of benefits including training, seed grant for initiating small

infrastructure projects in the community, credit capital for micro-enterprise development and technology for enhancing production.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gender discrimination created by society between man and women depends upon the socio-cultural experience. It is considered in different aspects to analyze the socio-economic, political and other roles, responsibilities, constraints and opportunities for the both males and females. It shows the status of males and females in the society or community or nation. Gender inequality is main problem of social economic advancement and empowerment. Discrimination creates social injustice, which has negative impact on social and economic development. (UNDP-2004)

Men and women are treated equally by laws but in practical life the inequality exists. This is major problem in Nepal by the cause of religion, cultural, social aspects, social value, norms attitudes and other backwardness of education, illiteracy, and economic activities etc. (Acharya, Meena. 1996)

Nepal has poverty-ridden economy and this poverty is a function of high population pressure, inequitable land ownership, low literacy and traditional techniques of production etc. Large percent of the total population is involved in the subsistence agricultural economy. Women are affected by the existing poverty. Women's poverty is visualized in term of background socio-cultural and traditional norms, value, attitudes, lack of basis health facilities, high burden of households and field works, less input even in the most important areas of family decision making low employment, lack of opportunities, wealth and legal rights etc. (UNDP-2004)

The study is focused on the various problematic areas regarding the women's empowerment such as socio-economic status of women, their participation in main streaming and policy level, enhancement of their self esteem and confidence as well as the addressing of the gender equity issue. Moreover it attempts to highlight the need based programs required for women's empowerment.

In spite of various poverty alleviation programs and empowerment programs implemented over the years, poverty level remains the same. In this context, the proposed research has study the women empowerment through VDP and its problems in Lakhanpur VDC.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to find out the impact of village development program on women empowerment in study area. Some specific objectives are given below:

-) To assess women's participation in economic activities in Lakhanpur VDC.
-) To explore the problems in institutional development of women in Lakhanpur VDC.
-) To see the relationship between VDP and women empowerment process.

1.4 Importance of the Study

No doubt, development of women is much essential in Nepalese society. Nepalese culture is rooted in discriminations based on religions, which have perpetuated both practices of untouchables and exploitation of women. Women comprised more than 50.1% of the total population of

Nepal in 2001. According to Hindu culture boys not only pass on the family name, but also represent "insurance" for parents in their old age and carry out important situation when parents die. So women are dominated in Nepali society. Women fear triple work responsibilities in Nepal like; reproduction, household work and employment. Women concentrate more on their ascribed reproductive sales and responsibilities while men focus on 'productive' income earning roles. Reproducing is not regarded as work world wide and household work is not considered as a productive. So, Nepalese women fall on the cycle of under decrement and discrimination. Most of works, which considered as productive work, also falls on the subsistence farming. So institutional development which operate on the basis of local demand, resources and skill, create the local intuitions which would be helpful for the creation of opportunities for women by which they will empower (UNDP-2004).

This study is important for investigating change of women status or empowerment scenario and activities in the area under study. Many studies have been attempted to evaluate the socio-economic impact of VDP in various parts of the country but nobody has attempted to analyze the VDP on women empowerment. The women empowerment is burning issue in the development of women and empowered them at the local governance process to improve their socio-economic status.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

There is lack of concrete literature for VDP. There are five separate part of the literature review. This chapter deals with literature regarding the conceptual review related to theoretical consideration about Women and Development issues, Development practice in Nepal, Review of Government policies and program on women empowerment, VDP program on women in empowerment. Based on these aspects, available literature has been reviewed below.

2.1 Conceptual Review

Due to social, cultural and religious belief, Nepalese women do not enjoy same status as men do. In society women are less endowed with productive resources in terms of education, health and productive asset, which could bring higher return to their labour. As in other developing countries women in Nepal earn on average 70 percent of what men earn (NLSS 1996).

The United Nations fourth world conference on women, September 4-15, 1995, country reports Nepal states that women constituted 50.13 percent of the total population and that 45.5 percent of the females were economically active and the corresponding figure for males was 68.71 percent. Around 91 percent of the economically active females were engaged in agriculture where as this figure is 75 percent for males. Slightly more than 5 percent if "economically active" women were in personal and community services. 2.04 percent in commerce and 1.16 percent in manufacturing. Employment of women in other sectors was negligible. Not only was the percentage of economically active women

lower than that of men, women were also confined to power categories of economic activities (UN 1995).

The concept that "women is much as human being as man and thus entitled to the same freedom, rights and responsibilities" is yet to find universal acceptance in spite of the unequivocal assertion that women have complete and equal rights with men in every respect by the international, Bill of Human Rights. This has been reiterated right from 1945, in the charter of United Nations and then in the convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in 1967 and the Nairobi Declaration in 1979.

The importance of women in the development process of a country is being realized lately. The concept of Women in Development (WID) was developed in early 1970s by the women's committee of the Washington DC chapter of the society for International Development (Moser, 1993;2). The term was very rapidly adopted by the USAID / United States Agency for International Development, in their so-called Women in Development (WID) approach. The very rationale behind WID was that women are untapped resources that can provide an economic contribution to the development. So, historically USAID is the major advocate of the WID approach. WID is based on the fact that development would much proceed better if women were fully incorporated into the development process. In other words, it focuses mainly on women in isolation, promoting measures such as access to credit and employment and the means by which women can be better integrated into the development process. This concept was further elaborated as Gender and Development and Gender Empowerment measure, which is calculated by measuring the percentage share of women and men in administrative, managerial and other professional

occupation which reflects their economic participation and decision making power.

Acharya (2003) argued that WID evolved into the concept of Women and Development (WAD), which emphasized that women were not outside the development process and they were integrated in development in an exploitative relation. They were supporting the process of capitalistic development by freeing it from the need of paying adequate subsistence wages to its workers to support their families. However, the WAD approach paid little attention to the patriarchal relations within the domestic and public area, after reinforced by the developing capitalist structures. She added that the changes realized in women's status and rights, particularly in developing countries were marginal. After a review of the progress made in advancing women's cause, the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) proposed a 12 points program. The distinguishing feature of this platform compared to earlier programs was its emphasis on the multidimensional nature of women's sub-ordination and the need to attack it in all spheres by mainstreaming and empowerment of women. It adopted a gender framework for the analysis and solution to women's problems and adopted an Action plan, emphasizing 12 focus areas as follows:

1. Women and Poverty
2. Education and training for Women
3. Women and Health
4. Women and armed conflict
5. Violence against Women
6. Women and the Economy
7. Human rights of Women
8. Women in power and decision-making
9. Women and the Media
10. Women and the Environment

11. The girl child

12. Institutional Mechanisms for Advancement of women

She mentioned that the move to WID, WAD and gender approaches to development (GAD) has not been uniform in all sectors and civil society institutions in Nepal. In principle the government / donors and some INGOs and women specific national level NGOs have move faster in this direction. Other civil society institutions such as media, trade unions, and local NGOs seem still to the analysis of such moves of various sectors, it seems only appropriate to provide some clarifications on the concept of gender and women empowerment approach in community level to development. Thus, much of the problems with women's advancement are now related to patriarchal ideology, behavior and structures. The entire sectors sub sectors discussed above are hampered in achievement of their objectives by patriarchal ideology and structures.

Acharya (1996) clearly shows the picture of women's empowerment in Nepalese context and says that empowerment of women presumes the quantitative and qualitative participation of women in the total governance process of country. In the context of empowerment, the Nepalese women house made limited gains over the last decades women's educational status and visible economic participation have improved in absolute firms. But gender disparity in access to resources and modern power structure is also increasing. Traditionally, rural women have contributed substantially to household income and participated substantially in the household decision making process. But with commercialization of the rural economy they may be losing ground relative to men because they are less equipped to cope with the commercialized economy. The majority of the rural households are fast

losing access to community resources, such as land and forest. Without adequate means of alternative employment, they will not have access to food as more land gets under commercial agriculture. Rural Women are the greatest losers with increasing work burden and reduce access to resource.

Social mobilization is a dynamic and participatory process of empowering people especially for the poor and socially excluded for their socio-cultural political and economic upliftment in a sustainable manner more, social mobilization is a process of exploiting the latent energy of the people for collective action (Baruna, 2001).

Beijing Declaration (1995), stated that the empowerment and advancement of women including the right to freedom of thoughts conscience, religious and belief, thus contributing to the moral ethical spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others and thereby guarantying them the possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shopping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations. The declaration convinced that women's empowerment and their participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision making process and access to power are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace.

During the last two decades, the term "empowerment" has become a keyword of development discussions worldwide. It is defining, empowerment as the process of transforming existing power relations and of gaining greater control over the sources of power. Empowerment builds people's capacity to gain understanding and control over personal, social, economic and political forces to act individually as well as

collectively to make choice about the way they want to be and do things in their best interest to improve their life situation. The tenth plan also offers a variety of strategies for drawing the excluded into the mainstream of Nepal's development. These include new alliances between major economic stakeholders and local governments to generate employment opportunities and increase income at the grassroots level; special monitoring of deprived areas, marginalized groups and women; and special projects and programs, based on nation-wide needs assessments, to improve regional balance and make visible progress towards the G/N. However, the plan can not reduce poverty significantly without systematic efforts to augment and harmonize the three fundamental components of empowerment; the economic, the political and the socio-cultural empowerment. Improvement in one dimension of empowerment can play a catalytic role in bringing change in the other two. Expanding human knowledge and capabilities certainly has an indirect influence on economic and political empowerment (UNDP-2004).

Nepalese culture is rooted in discrimination based on religion, which have perpetuated both practices of untouchables and the exploitation of women. It has also worked against the preservation of the cultures of various ethnic groups, including indigenous people of the country. Without eliminating these biases, the empowerment process can not become sustainable. Despite the provisions in the constitution of 1990, which clearly state the freedom to "profess and practice one's own religion", Hindu values have exerted vast influence over the nations other religions and its general cultural practices. Although the National Country code of 1963 abolished the costs system, it remains very much alive in practice. Indeed, the National Country Code amended in 1992 has upheld

the preservation of "traditional practices" Even the constitution constrains some degree of ambiguity in this regard.

The low status of women, systems of patriarchal descent, local residence and rules of inheritance interact to isolate and subordinate women throughout the country. Gender issues are thus interwoven systematically into the basis social structure of Nepalese society, as are other traditional cultural values deeply embedded; they abstract the empowerment of the poor and the disadvantaged groups throughout the country (UNDP-2004).

2.2 Development Practice in Nepal

Nepal faces complex social and economic problems based on diverse physiographic conditions, delicate ecological balances, open international borders, a multi faceted social structure and skew ness of resource ownership and wealth distribution (Sah, 1991). Nepal is ranked as one of the least developed countries of the world where 86 percent of people live in rural areas and the nature of poverty is rural oriented. Therefore, the development target needs attention for rural areas and its people. Unless the villages developed there is no meaning of development. The issues and challenges of the country are poverty reduction, human governance, implementation of pro-poor policies, people participation in development and people's empowerment. All these issues and challenges indicate the need of rural development and rural development has got high priority in the national development agenda since the beginning of the development programs in Nepal.

In Nepal different types of development practices models and strategies were exercised. Some of these were focus on rural development.

In the period of state led development strategy, meaningful result was seen after the introduction of democracy in 1950 when 104 years. Rana family regime collapsed. Under the family rules, there was no difference between the individual property of Maharaja's and government revenue. The concept of development efforts through the periodical plans of the government can be put into practice with the start of First five-year plan in 1956. The role of the state has been changed according to the pace of time and situation. After the state-led development strategy, the new concept market-led development strategy were introduced to the concept of open economy, free market privatization, free economy and competitive market. And then INGO and NGO-led development strategy has come into the scene since the realization of ineffectiveness and insufficient development efforts of government and local agencies, such organizations carry on their activities with the self-autonomy without external pressures. The service delivery mechanism is found comparatively better with accountability in this model. After the introduction of multiparty democratic system, the government adopted liberal economy policy playing a facilitator's role for running the CBOs. Besides different kind of strategic has been adopted for the community development in the country with focusing, community based development programs. Now days, the community development has become popular for train streaming disadvantage people in national development efforts. Community developed approach is helped to promote self-help development activities and fostering people's participation in decision making process in the various states of development. It is widely agreed that the community people are the key decision-making and masters of their own development. For the developing country like Nepal, only governmental effort in community development is not sufficient. Hence the support from NGOs and INGOs

and donor agencies are also found helpful in strengthening community development (Kunwar, 2002).

A planning approach to development in Nepal began in 1956 with the formulation of the first plan (1956-61). Nine periodic plans have been implemented and the tenth plan (2002-2009) is under implementation.

First of all, the model of Tribhuvan Village Development Program was initiated in 1953 and this development program initiated in multi-sectored approach. This program was based on the concept of technological diffusion through human and financial assistance. The basis elements of the program were people's participation, benefits of scientific knowledge and use of democratic methods. But the program was found ineffective due to limited coverage and lack of people's participation. The program included primary. Education, construction of play grounds drinking water, inns and ponds, distributions of chemical establishment of cottage industry and co-operatives. Even today, people say that it was the best village development program launched so far and if it had continued the face of Nepal would have changed in better shape-unfortunately it was lost with the withdrawal of democratic system in 1960.

The Village Development Program was changed into 'Panchayat Development Model' after the political change of 1960s. Other programs regarding rural development in this period were: Integrated Panchayat Development Model, food Distribution Program, Nutritious food Program, Joint Nutrition Support Program, Employment Creation Program etc.

In the beginnings of 1970s, the concept development was shifted from economic development to integration of economic and social dimension. Thus, a new strategy under the name of "Integrated Rural

Development Program was initiated. IRDPs were implemented in Nepal with the assistance of bilateral and multilateral agencies. Although six IRDPs were launched in Nepal, but most of them have painful record with no improvement in household income or nutritional status (Sharma-1993). Performance of these programs in general has been found largely unsatisfactory and ineffective due to top down approach of the model.

Some other significant programs of the 1970s and 80s were Small Farmers Development Program (1975), Small Farmers Credit Program (1980), Production Credit for Rural Women (1982), Intensive Banking Program etc.

The Government launched the structural Adjustment Program (SAP) and the Basic Needs Program (BNP) in 1985. This program stressed self-reliance, financial discipline and austerity as goals through the year 2000. The SAP sought to confront some of the longer-term constraints to economic growth. Its measures included increasing domestic resource mobilization, reducing the growth of expenditures and domestic bank borrowings and strengthening the commercial banking and public enterprises sector.

The objective of the Basic Needs Program was also to improve the standard of living by increasing food production as well as provide clothing, health services and education. Six goals were to be achieved by the year 2000. But these programs also failed to improve the condition of the people.

The failure of different programs to uplift the socio-economic condition of the poor led the policy makers to formulate new frameworks for development. In recent years, participatory approach in development has gained considerable importance in wide range of integrated

community development initiatives. This has been particularly significant in the field of rural development programs. Such community based rural development programs are emphasizing much on decentralized way in participatory approach to ensure people's participation not only in planning but also in monitoring and education. Some of these programs are is Build Our Village Ourselves" (BOVO) 1995, Village Development and Self-Help Program (PDDP), Local Governance Program (LGP), Bishwesor with Poor, Women Awareness (income generating) Program etc.

2.3 Review of Government Policies and Programs on women Empowerment

Reference to policies and programs for women and development began with the sixth plan (1980/91-1984/85). The sixth plan recognized the need for involving women in all the programs and the projects in particular those related to provision of basic services in health and education. The plan emphasized to remove the legal impediments to women's economic empowerment and initiated programs to address them.

The seventh plan continued on the same path and legal reforms were made to promote women's participation in development. Provision of quota and special incentives for women/girls education and various training programs were launched. Special provision to facilitate women's entry into government and non-government sector employment was also initiated. The government adopted the policy of encouraging women to undertake women's economic activities through provision of training, credit and other resources.

During the Eight plan, for co-ordination and monitoring women related activities and programs in the government, non-government and

semi-government sectors and organizational structure was developed with the creation of the ministry of women, children and social welfare, as well as women's division within the National Planning Commission.

The Ninth Plan recognized the importance of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in achieving poverty reduction goals. The plan gave priority to gender mainstreaming in programs, removing in gender in equality and enacting provisions for equal opportunity for women to participate in every aspect of development as mentioned in the National Plan of Action.

In its review of the Ninth Plan, the government reported the following achievements in relation to women's empowerment the gender mainstreaming (Ninth plan).

The eleventh amendment of Mulki ain (Civil code) was made to protect women's rights and to eliminate discrimination. In order to mainstream in all fronts gender focal points was established in all ministries. The process of enduring the census, 2001 was initiated. The women's contribution in the household income was recorded in National account.

The Local Self-Governance Act of 1999 has made provision for reservation of one seat for women in District Development Council and 20% representation of women in local bodies at the ward level. As a result some 40,000 women are now engaged in local governance. The first Amendment of civil service Act, 1998 was made to make special provision for women. The ministry of women, children and social welfare has been designated as a focal point to implement the Beijing plus Five Action Plan (BPFA) in Nepal.

Various Programs targeting women like Micro-Credit and Skill Development were launched. Another achievement was increased social mobilization of women with their active participation in savings and loan programs.

The Tenth plan; in its goals and objectives, the tenth plan makes clear the importance of women's empowerment to the achievement of poverty reduction goals. The Tenth Plan States: the main objective for the 10th plan is to reduce poverty by means of empowerment, human development, security and targeted programs. These will increase access into the means and economic achievements for women, backward, ultra-poor and people living in the remote areas (Tenth Plan).

The objective of the Tenth Plan as relates to women's participation is: To achieve the overall target of sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation with a main objective of increasing women development indicators and Women's Rights by eliminating all forms of discrimination against women to create an equitable society.

The Tenth plan makes comprehensive commitments for improving the status of women through various programs like mainstreaming in the development activities and various empowerment programs (Social, economic, political and legal). The plan has stated that the resource allocation and the development activities will be based upon equity (Tenth Plan).

2.4 Decentralized Local Governance Support Programme (DLGSP)

UNDP and other donor partners have been supporting Government of Nepal (G/N) in the area of decentralization and local governance since mid-nineties. In this effort, Participatory District Development

Programme/LGP executed by National Planning Commission (NPC) and Ministry of Local Development (MLD) respectively, with the assistance of UNDP enhanced the programming and management capacity of Local bodies and socio-economic status of rural people. PDDP and LGP were unified as LGP / PDDP Bridging Phase Programme in the year 2003 to design new programme to enhance, effective participation of people in the decentralized governance process. The new programme is designed in the form of Decentralized Local Governance Support Programme (DLGSP). DLGSP is being implemented by HMG/N with the assistance of UNDP and Norway. Ministry of Local Development (MLD) has been designated as an executing agency of DLGSP.

DLGSP seeks to continue the support in poverty alleviation efforts through Village Development Programme (VDP) based on social mobilization by introducing pro-poor and positive discriminatory policy to address the issues of social exclusion of DAGs including Dalit and Women. The Programme aims to enhance the capacity of local bodies by adopting capacity development strategy of identify the capacity gaps in the area of planning, monitoring, strategic management of devolved sectors, financial management, information system, revenue generation, human resource development and ability in establishing linkage with the development partners. At policy level, the programme aspires to extend support to MLD / NPC in organizational reorientation, monitoring, GIS consolidation and policy research on decentralization and poverty alleviation.

The Focus of DLGSP would be on decentralization and socio-economic empowerment of Disadvantaged groups, including Dalit and Women through positive discriminatory social mobilization package and other productive measures.

Goal

The overall goal of the programme is to enhance effective and meaningful participation of people in the local governance process

ensuring, improved access to socio-economic services by rural poor, particularly women, Dalit and other disadvantaged groups.

Specifically, the programmed will contribute in the following three major outcomes:

1. Decentralised governance with enhanced capacity of Local government to plan, finance and implement development programme in as accountable and transparent manner.
2. Conflict transformation initiatives support to conflict affected groups and areas, and restoration of livelihoods.
3. Capacities created for an expanded response of the HIV / AIDS epidemic including integration into poverty reduction strategies.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the Programme are:

- a. To uplift the socio-economic status of rural people particularly women, dalit and disadvantaged groups through social mobilization based Village Development Programmed incorporating positive discriminatory policy.
- b. To strengthen the efficiency and capacity of local bodies (DDCs and VDCs) to deliver basis services through decentralized governance as envisaged in LSGA.
- c. To support MG/N in preparing and implementing necessary Acts policies and guidelines and decentralized governance and poverty alleviation

Programme Strategies

Micro Level: Village Development Programme

- Continuation of VDP, implemented through Local Development Fund (LDF), to develop capacity of local communities through social mobilization with following reforms and strengthening (a) introduction pro-poor and positive discriminatory policy to address

issues of equity and social exclusion: and (b) establishment of strong monitoring and better management system.

- A special package to benefit the poorest of the poor (pop), Dalit and Women and pro-active initiatives to include left-over households of VDP-VDCs.
- Introduction of positive discrimination approach to onboard disadvantaged groups, including women in recruiting local staff local facilitator.
- Introduction of services of NGOs/CBOs in facilitating the VDP implementation.
- Benefit mapping exercise to increase the access to resource by disadvantaged groups including Dalit and Women.
- Mobilization of village experts, CBOs, NGOs and private sector at the local level for delivery of service and
- Mainstream the HIV/AIDS issues in local planning by integrating in poverty reduction activities.

Meso Level: Capacity Building of local Bodies

- A more focused support to DDCs by assessing the capacity gaps in the areas of management, organizational structure, planning, accounting and financial management, devolved sector management, human resource, information system resources mobilization and linkages with development partners; and
- Mobilization of various agencies including private sector for implementing capacity building strategy of local bodies.

Macro Level: Policy Support

- Support to MLD/NPC in strengthening the institutional mechanism for policy and monitoring functions in collaboration with development partners.

- Support to co-ordinate and harmonize policies and procedures developed by MLD, NPC and other concerned ministries to expedite full and efficient functioning to developed sectors.
- Support to operational the local service Act, sectoral devolution guidelines and reporting system of MLD.
- Support to Decentralization Implementation Monitoring Committee (DLMC) and Decentralization Working Committee (DWC) in their efforts to meet their mandate as per Local Self-Governance Act 1999;
- Support to develop and enforce the district specific budget ceiling and planning guidelines.

Hence the issues of Empowerment Development have higher rational value in any development programme, particularly rural development. This report help enhancing retrieving and presenting the information related with problems possibilities on different elements at women empowerment within the design of DLGSP/VDC programme

2.4.1 About VDP

There are different component of DLGSP. Among there Village Development Program (VDP) is one. It focuses on people-centered development for poverty reduction by mobilizing the communities into self-governing, broad based and multi-purpose Community Organization (COs). VDP was initiated in 1996 as one and the key programs directly associated with building a sustainable foundation towards poverty alleviation. It main thrust is on improving livelihood of household at the settlement level through an effective use of component and principles of social mobilization. COs enhance their capacities to effectively plan and manage participatory development to boost up their income. The VDP is people centered development program that constitutes social mobilization as a strategy to enhance people's participation in decision-making, program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Through awareness building, empower them, potential mobilization and collective thinking; people are encouraged to solve their own problems. People may

enhance their independence and capacity with minor outside facilitation (Chhetri, 2001).

VDP is one of the components of DLGSP geared towards empowering rural Nepali communities to rise above the poverty trap. It urges communities both men and women towards self-reliance and self-governance by broad based multipurpose Community Organization (COs). Through institutional and economic developments, these COs enhance their capabilities to effectively plan and manage participatory and sustainable local development to enable or empower them to uplift their living standard. In the process they also transform themselves into self-governing institutions at the grassroots.

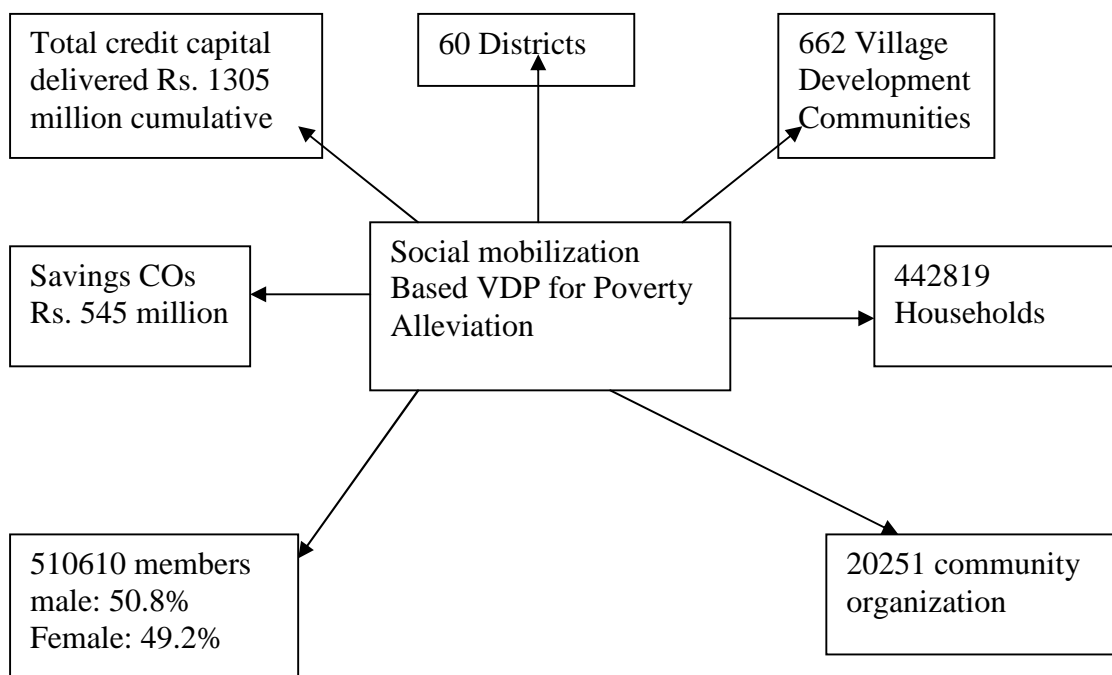
The COs work for the benefit of the entire community giving first priority to the poor, women and oppressed. Once grouped into a broad based organization. They rise above individualism and concentrate on collective actions that benefit the community at large.

The program offers support to the DDCs to establish at district level. Local Trust Fund (LTF) to implement and expand the social mobilization process in rural village. The LTF supports these mobilized communities to undertake community based micro entrepreneurial activities of their choice to develop their professional skill in specialized services. Improve their access to market and technology as well as providing support for the implementation of priority productive investments that provide common benefit to the community through Seed Grant Funds (SGF). Credit capital forms the core part of LTF support and can be accessed by the mature COs on the basis of social collateral. This is a revolving fund and its revolving nature alleviation is the major component of Decentralized Local Governance Support Programme. VDP is being implemented in 662 VDCs of sixty programme districts across the kingdom. VDP based on social mobilization is implemented under the DDC through the institutional mechanism called Local Development Fund (LDF). VDP has adopted pro-poor and positive discriminatory approach to address the issues of social exclusion of the

Women, Dalits and DAGs. More than 20 thousand COs are being operated under the VDP in program districts covering 442819 households.

VDP has two components; institutional development and economic empowerment. Under institutional development it supports COs to develop as self sufficient organization where as, under economic empowerment, VDP provides skill development, credit capital and seed grant support VDP helps CO members directly through a package of benefits including training, seed grant for initiating small infrastructure projects in the community, credit capital for micro-enterprise development and technology for enhancing production.

Fig 1: VDP Overview of National Level



Source: DLGSP, Bulletin, 2005

VDP has been able to mobilize people from poor communities especially dalits, DAGs and women for their socio-economic empowerment. As a result, the coverage of VDP is increasing every year. The increase in the membership is higher among male than among the female members and the number of COs has gone up by almost two

percent to that of the first quarter of 2005. Similarly, the number of female COs is more than of male COs. One of the reasons could be the conflict. As conflict has forced the male members to abandon their homes, the number of male COs might have been less compared to that of female COs. Flower the number of members is low compared to that of male members. The number of CO members has increased by 11690 in the second quarter of 2005. Nonetheless, the increment in the number of female members is still lower than that of male numbers. (DLGSP, Bulletin-2005)

2.4.2 Status of Women Empowerment on VDP

DLGSP has been giving a top priority to the socio-economic empowerment of women through its social mobilization based VDP. The progress made by the programme has clearly reflected the active participation of the women in the community organization: need identification, prioritization of the programs and implementation. Women, who used to remain inside the four walls of house, now participate in the community activities. They no longer remain silent spectator to the violence against women rather they fights against it. Regular savings have helped them to initiate micro-enterprises.

Women have organized in the CO, which it's provided them a forum to discuss their problems and seek solutions. Of the total 510510 members 49% are women. Similarly of the total 20251 COs, 33% is female COs, 31% male COs and 36% is the mixed COs. This percentage also indicates the encouraging involvement of the women in the COs.

One of the major achievements of the DLGSP towards the empowerment of women is that women have been assuming leadership position in the COs. A compulsory previous for women to become either the chairperson as the manager of the CO has been able to bring the women into the mainstream of local development initiatives by involving them in planning, prioritization and implementation of the programmes. In the total 20251 Cos, 43% are led by women. 8756 COs have women as their chair where as 7449 COs have women managers.

In terms of sex, number of male members borrowing from internal savings and credit capital still but numbers the number of women. However, there have been some increases in the number of women borrowing compared to the first quarter of 2005. There is an increase of 10.8% among the male members and 7.2 percent among the female members borrowing from the internal savings in the period of March-June 2005. Similarly, the number of female borrowers from the credit capital increased by 8.9% in the second quarter of the year 2005 and the number of male borrowing by 7.9%

Female members of COs have received specialization training as a part of skill development initiatives. Of the total 9666 members training as village experts 4003 (41%) are women. The specialization training includes plumber, carpenter etc with at least seven days duration. Similarly, 59% of 121342 members trained on general subjects are women. The general subjects include poverty farming, vegetable farming, bindi making training etc aimed at encouraging CO members to initiate micro-enterprises. Following the training women has started micro-enterprises also of the total 107170 micro-enterprises initiated by CO members; the female members are operating 48%. Such enterprises have created self-employment opportunities for the women, especially in the present situation of the conflict where the male members have migrated to other places.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODS

This chapter deals with the procedure and technical part of the study. It consists: Research design, Rational for the selection of the study area, Sampling Procedure, Nature and Sources of Data Collection, Data Collection Techniques and Tools and Methods of Analysis, Presentation of Data and Organization of the Report.

3.1 Research Design

The research study has been carried out on the basis of exploratory research design because the study has focused on investigate the impact of Village Development Program (VDP) on women empowerment and analyze the role of women in decision-making. The study based on primary data and information. The research has been conducted with the help of local women on the study areas who are participated in VDP program by create COs.

Besides, the study was attempt to describe the things related to the women empowerment such as institution development, social, economic and political awareness, knowledge of law, vocational training, skill development, role of women in decision making process and the investigated of explored finding has been described. Thus, this study is based in descriptive, exploratory research.

3.2 Rational for the Selection of the Study Area

Gender mainstreaming is the main path of development in 21st century. Village development program is flourished for the empowerment

of women in Jhapa district, which does have significant potentialities for the empowerment of local women. Lakhanpur VDC of Jhapa district was chosen for the study. In this VDC, the VDP program was implemented for the first phase in 1996. Sampling frame comprised those households who are directly involved in the community organizations (COs) formulated by VDP and related to women. Lakhanpur VDC is chosen for the study because it is easily accessible and heterogeneity in socio-economic and cultural structure and also my working place as well as my home town is located near to this VDC.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

The universe of the study has been sampled in the VDP area and women participating households in Lakhanpur VDC. The simple random sampling and quota sampling methods were used for household survey. There are altogether 39 COs in VDC, consisting 5 male COs, 27 Female COs and 7 mixed COs groups. In total 1038 members are participated in the community organization among them 811 are female members. Among these COs groups four female COs groups were selected randomly for the study. A total of 40 households were sampled and from in each group, 10 CO members were chosen randomly using simple random sampling technique.

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data Collection

This study aims to find out the impact of VDP on women empowerment in study area. The primary and secondary source has been applied for data collection. The primary data has been collected from study area in Lakhanpur VDC where VDP program was launched.

The secondary data has been collected from published and unpublished documents from individual experts and organization report related to women empowerment.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques and Tools

Primary data are collected from the Lakhanpur VDC. To generate the primary data household survey, key informant interviews and observation techniques were applied. For the collection of primary data, structured questionnaire, Topic guideline, work schedule were applied.

3.5.1 Household Survey

Structured questionnaire and semi-structured questionnaire were used for collection of the realistic and accurate data from household's survey of the study area. Information was gathered by having discussion with women of the community organization members in study area. The survey was taken from the sampled community organizations and its members by adopting door-to-door approach. Both primary as well as secondary sources of information were used for the study. The primary data was also collected through the key informants using the semi or unstructured interview method. The interview has been taken as cross checking for data obtained from questionnaire.

3.5.2 Key Informants Interview

The key informant's interview method was used to collect additional informants about the impact of VDP program on women empowerment. The interview was taken as cross checking for data obtained from questionnaire. Other Key related issues i.e. institution development, decision making process, capacity building, leadership development etc and social, economic and political issues of the women

were also major agenda for Key Informants. It was taken of individual basis.

3.5.3 Field visit and Observation

The researcher has visited the study area and carried out information by using participation observation. Each household selected in sampling was observed directly to women activities and their entrepreneurship in study area. The participation of then in different programs was recorded in different data's which can be seen through this study.

3.6 Methods of Analysis and Presentation of Data

The collected primary data from various sources were edited and entered in the computer and processed by using computer software program. Simple statistical tools were used for data analysis. The qualitative data are analyzed in systematic textual form and descriptive methods were used for quantitative data.

3.7 Organization of the Report

Altogether five Chapters have been categorized in this study:

Chapter One: The First chapter includes the background of the study, Statement of the problem, Objectives, Limitations, Significance of the study.

Chapter Two: The second chapter deals with the review of literature i.e. conceptual as well as contextual, has been mentioned systematically and chronologically as far as possible.

Chapter Three: The third chapter deals about the methodology of the study.

Chapter Four: The fourth chapter describes about the Analysis of findings and Impact of the program.

Chapter Five: The fifth chapter comprises Findings, conclusion and recommendations.

3.8 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study basically attempts to assess the impact of VDP on women empowerment of local level. This study is important for investigating change of women status or empowerment scenario and activities in the study area. The finding of this study could be useful for further developing VDP all over the country and help to change backward women status of the country.

This study will be helpful to governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies. Likewise, the study will be helpful for policy makers and planners because they can know the actual condition of women and problems in Nepal. This research will be useful for the staffs of DLGSP, DDCs and for effective implementation of the VDP program. They will be able to know the causes of success and failure of program. Thus, it is hoped that this study will be useful for teachers, students, researchers, policy makers, economists and staffs of NGOs, INGOs and other related agencies.

Every study has its own limitations and constraints. This study also has such type of limitations, which are given below:

1. This study covers Village Development Program (VDP) launched area in Lakhanpur VDC.
2. The study was focused on the primary data and observation as the secondary source of information is limited.

3. This study has focus on Lakhanpur VDC where women are active participate in VDP and get beneficiaries.

Despite these limitations, the secondary data also gathered adequate to examine the effectiveness of program in study area.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

4.1. Overview of Jhapa District

Jhapa district is situated in the eastern part of the Nepal within altitude 27°32' North and 83° 28' East Longitude. The majority area of the districts lies in the plain which has elevation from 70 m to 300m above sea level. The Jhapa district is surrounded by Mahabharat range of mountains and Churia range. Jhapa is the easternmost district of Nepal and lies in the fertile Terai plains. It borders Ilam district in the north, Morang district in the west, the Indian state of Bihar in the south and east, and the Indian state of West Bengal in the east. According to population census 2001, the total population of Jhapa district is 688109 in which 346434 are female and 341675 are male. The population composition of the district is heterogeneous. The literacy rate is 59 percent while female literacy rate is 47 percent and male is 71 percent. The low level of women literacy rate indicates low level of empowerment because education is key indicator of empowerment.

On the basis of Human development index, the social empowerment index is 0.482, Economic empowerment index is 0.457 and political empowerment index is 0.795 in Jhapa district. This indicates very low socio-economic and political status of people living in Jhapa district.

4.2 The Lakhanpur VDC

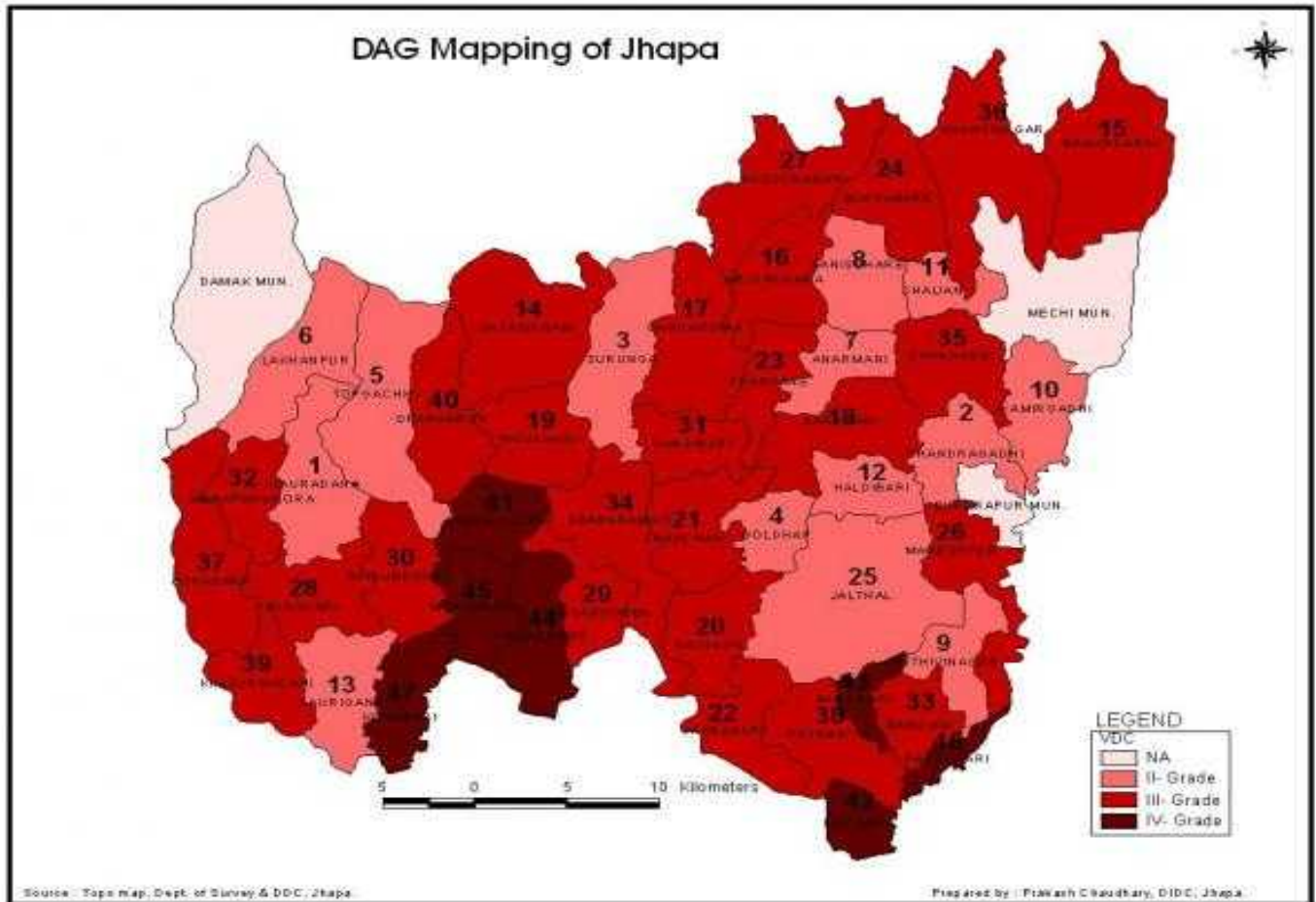
Jhapa district encloses 47 VDCs. Lakhanpur is one which lies in the western part of the Jhapa district. The VDC consists of 9 wards. It is bordered with other VDCs, which are Gauradaha, MaharaniJhoda,

Damak Municipality, Toggachhi and Dharampur. Out of 3359 households the total population of the Lakhanpur VDC is 21262. In which male are 10422 and female are 10840 respectively. Where economically active population is 51.50 percent, which are consists of 61.2 percent male and 43.0 percent female (CBS, 2006). There are different casts such as Brahmin, Chhetri Magar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu, Chaudhari, Newar, Karki , Sarki, Thakuri , Damai, Rajbanshi, Satar and Tajpuriya.

Figure 1: Nepal (DLGSP Supported Districts)



Figure 2: Jhapa District



4.3 Institutional Development and women participation of the VDP in study Area

Village Development program (VDP) under PDDP was started in Lakhanpur VDC form 1996 AD. PDDP and LGP were unified as LGP/PDDP Bridging phase program in the year 2003 to design new program to enhance, effective participation of people in the decentralized governance process. The new program is designed in the form of Decentralized Local Governance Support Program (DLGSP). There are total 39 community organizations in study area, among the all COs, the female COs were 27, male were 5 and mixed COs were 7.07. In each Co, there is one manager and one chairman. The major role and responsibility of keeping economic records goes to the manager although the decision is made by the attendance of all members once or twice a month and the chairperson has less power and responsibility regarding the economic affairs. LDF introduced CMC networking comprising of COs chairperson and manager of the district level. The motive behind the formation of CMC networking is to understand the ground reality and to interact with co members. The table 4.1 shows the development institutional (formed of COs) and women participation in VDP implemented VDCs in Jhapa District.

Table 4.1 Community Organizations and Women Participation in VDPs

S.N	VDC	No.CO's formed				No. of Members in COs			No of women in COs	
		Male	Female	Mixed	Total	Male	Female	Total	Chairperson	Manager
1	Gauradaha	19	29	12	60	450	946	1396	35	31
2	Maharani jhoda	3	6	13	22	178	374	552	9	9
3	Goldhap	11	19	15	35	472	785	1257	21	21
4	Jyamirgadi	7	15	5	27	290	426	716	15	16
5	Chakchaki	15	15	3	33	478	350	828	16	17
6	Taghanduba	21	16	4	41	424	433	857	19	15
7	Dagibari	19	15	0	34	256	352	808	15	11
8	Khajugachhi	15	11	2	28	338	236	574	12	12
9	Jalthal	29	11	9	49	758	312	1070	14	12
10	Haldibari	19	10	0	29	416	170	586	10	10
11	Gherabari	17	12	0	29	457	297	754	12	12
12	Maheshpur	16	9	3	28	444	259	703	11	11
13	Satasidham	10	19	5	34	314	643	957	21	20
14	Lakhanpur	5	27	7	39	227	811	1038	39	29
15	Topgachhi	25	25	0	50	611	652	1263	25	25
16	Baniyani	23	26	6	55	611	681	1292	28	28

Source: DLGSP, Jhapa VDP Program Report-2005

The table 4.1 shows that in Lakhanpur VDC of Jhapa there are altogether 39 Cos. Among them female are participates in maximum number of Cos. Though, there are still five Cos without having participation of female. Seven Cos are represented by both male & female. Among 1038 member of Cos in Lakhanpur VDC, 811 are female members. From 39 COs 29 Manager and 28 Chairperson are female. The data clears that women in Lakhanpur VDC were more participated and aware in compare with male institutional development.

4.4 Social Status

4.4.1 Ethnic Composition of the Respondents

Most of the study sites are belonged to the Brahmin, Chhetri, Mongoloid, Rajbansi, Terai ethnic and occupation cast. Brahmin likes. Adhikari, Bhattarai, Poudel, Bhandari etc. Chhetri likes Chaulagain, Khadka, Basnet, Bhandari etc. Mongoloid are Rai, Limbu, Tamang, Magar, Gurung etc. likewise Terai ethnic Rajbanshi, Satar, Chaudhary, Tajpuriya etc are live respectively in Lakhanpur VDC

Table 4.2
Distribution of Respondents by Ethnicity

Cast	No. of Persons	Percentage
Brahmin	22	55
Chhetri	8	22.5
Mongoloid	5	12.5
Terai ethnic	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The Table 4.2 shows that population of Brahmin (55%) is higher than other Caste group following by Chhetri (22.5%), Mongoloid 12.5% and Terai ethnic 12.5% respectively. Because of the higher population of Brahmin in the VDC, the representation of Brahmin women in COs is seen high.

4.4.2 Respondents by Age

Age can play a significant role in the development of village. In the context of Nepal, youth's are more empowering than mid and old age because mostly youth are literate and aware about their rights. Therefore equal participation is essential to empower women.

Table 4.3

Age Group of Respondents

Age group	No. of persons	Percent
20-30	12	30
30-40	15	37.5
40-50	10	25
Above 50	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.3 shows that the respondents from study area were mainly from the age group of 20 to 30 closely followed by group of 40 to 50. It shows that program have equal participation of people by age group.

4.4.3 Number of Family Member of Respondents

The number of family member also Present the Situation of Women In study area it was found that the status of women in big size family was very low than man in education and other activities.

Table 4.4

Distribution of Family Members

No. of Family Members	No. of Persons	Percent
1to 5	24	60
5 to 10	15	37.5
above 10	1	2.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The tables 4.4 presents the data of family member in which we can set that out of 40 women respondents, 60% have 1 to 5 family members. There are more about 37.5% of women who have 6 to 10 family members. Only 2.5% of women have above 10 family members. It shows that status of women in big size family is very low.

4.4.4 Family Structure of the Study Area

Nepal is a male dominant or patriarchy society. So women are dominating by social norms, value and attitude. In study area, male dominant family structure is found higher than equality which we can see from given table.

Table 4.5

Family Structure of Respondents

Structure	No. of Persons	Percent
Male dominant	14	60
Female dominate	-	-
Equal	11	27.5
Don't know	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.5 shows that the family structure of the respondents is found to be male dominated i.e. 60 percent household are male dominated. 12.5 percent are unknown about their role and family structure. Among respondents household education shows that female literacy rate is less than male. 27.5 percent have found equality of both male and female. Likewise, numbers of family members are divided as 1 to 5, 5 to 10 and above 10 in which 60 percent household size is 1 to 5. No female head

family has been viewed & experienced in the village not only in the study period but also is the history of village.

4.4.5 Educational Status of the Respondent Family Members

Education is a major tool to empower both men and women. The majority people of Nepal are illiterate and most of them are women. Educated women can have better communication with the family rather than illiterate one. Table 4.6 shows the literacy percent of the male female and child in respondents household.

Table 4.6

Education of Respondents Household

Education	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Literate	77	95.07	70	84.34
Illiterate	4	4.93	13	15.66
Total	81	100	83	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.6 shows that most of the women are illiterate than man, but educated women can have better communication with the family rather than illiterate. The table also shows, through many women we found literate but still it is less than male one. Only 84% women are literate when the literate percentage of male is more than 95%.

4.4.6 Toilet in Households

Table 4.7

Toilet System in households

Type	No. of persons	Percent
Traditional /temporary		
Hole/General	9	22.5
Modern cemented	31	77.5
Safety tank	-	
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The Village people were provided the toilet either temporary or permanent. Among the total respondents, 77.5 percentages was cemented safety tank. Toilet attached or detached in their house. There were 22.5 percentage general traditional temporary whole toilets. This can show in given table.

4.4.7 Energy Consumption pattern of HHs

Table 4.8 present the energy consumption pattern of respondent HHs.

Table 4.8

Energy Consumption Pattern of HHs

Type	No. of persons	Percent
Firewood	19	47.5
Biogas	18	45
LP Gas	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.8 shows that majority of the respondents household use firewood following by biogas (45%) and lp gas (7.5%). It is related to the women's health and social status of the family.

4.5 Economic Status

4.5.1 Occupation and Income Source

Most of the women in this study area are involved on agriculture sector. They spend their time on household work besides other agricultural work. Some women earn from labour on agriculture sector. Minority of the women are involved in income generating activities as well as agriculture. Most of the women, who are involved VDP, Start income generating activities with the help of LTF. The major sources of income are faming, live stock Business, and enterprises.

Table 4.9

Distribution of Women by their Income Sources

Occupation	No. of persons	Percent
Farming	26	65
Business	9	22.5
Enterprises	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Among the total respondents 65% of women said that the major source of income is farming, 22.5 percent are involved in business and very few number (12.5%) women established enterprises and got miracle change on their income level.

4.5.2 Annual Income of Respondents HHs

Estimation of income of household and respondents is difficult task. Most of the respondents do not give accurate information about their income and they are unknown about their household income. The table 4.10 shows that 15 percent of respondents are unknown about their household income.

Table 4.10
Distribution of Women by their Annual Income

Income in (RS)	No. of persons	Percent
0-25000	5	12.5
25000-50000	4	10.0
50000-75000	7	17.5
75000-100000	3	7.5
100000-1,25,000	15	37.5
Above 125000	6	15.0
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.10 shows that after village development program, 37.5% women are found able to raise their annual income from 10,000-125,000. Though, some women raised their income level; still 12.5% women are earning less than 25000. Data also shows that there are 15% women who become able to earn more than 125000 annul income which is higher than of other women.

4.5.3 Consumption Pattern of Income

The consumption pattern of income has been presented in table 4.11.

Table 4.11

Distribution of Respondents by Decisive Role of Consumption Pattern

Decisive role	No. of persons	Percent
Oneself	19	47.5
Husband	5	12.5
With co-operation	16	40
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.11 proved that the accessibility of income and their decisive role in consummate is increased after VDP program. In study area, most of the women (47.5%) consume their own income by their own decision 12.5 percent of women spend their income by their husbands decision.40% women consume with co-operation with their husband. Data also shows that women in the VDC have more access to the resources.

4.5.4 Ownership of Land

The table 4.12 Show that 12.5 percent of the respondent's households are land less. Only 25 percent women have ownership of land but maximum ownership of land have found husband name.

Table 4.12

Distribution of women by ownership of land

Description	No. of persons	Percent
Own self	10	25
Husband	25	62.5
Landless	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.12 shows that 62.5% of women are dependent with their husband in land. Only 25% of women enjoy with the land in their own right. But still 5% of women are avoided land in the village.

4.5.5 Loan Size of Respondent

In the past, people used to go the local moneylenders for loan but nowadays after implementation VDP. They got loan from Local Trust Fund with support of DLGSP. The VDP has been laying special emphasis to uplift economic condition of the poor and poor people in the community through social mobilization approach. The table 4.13 has presented the VDP provide loan size of the respondents on study area.

Table 4.13

Distribution of Women by their Size of Land

Size of loan inc Rs.	No. of persons	Percent
Without Loan	11	27.5
0-10000	14	35
10000-20000	9	22.5
20000-30000	3	7.5
Above 30000	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.13 shows the loan amount and percentage distribution of women. Among the total sampled women 27.5 percent did not take any loan and 7.5% take loan Rs.30000 above. Loan is provided on the basis of community organization and their purpose. Most of the women had taken loan for the purpose of animal husbandry, off seasonal farming and enterprises. This includes buffalo, goat, vegetable farming, candle making, Bakeries and business purpose.

4.5.6 Group Saving

VDP program has provided loan for community organization member for income generating activities. But is these programs group saving is compulsory and mobilized by group members for different purpose to give priority of poor/ ultra-poor member of the community. The table 4.13 shows the status of monthly group saving.

Table 4.14

Distribution of Women by their Monthly Group

Monthly Saving (Rs.)	No. of persons	Percent
5-10	20	50
15-25	20	50
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.14 shows that women from the Lakhanpur VDC are saving minimum amount of money in the group. 50% of women saving 5 – 10 Rs. a month and remaining population's saving are 15 – 25Rs.

4.6 Political Status

4.6.1 Women Participation in VDC and other Program Meeting

Village development program is based on holistic approach. It was focused on women and disadvantage group in community level. In study area, VDP focus on enhancing the socio-economic and political status of rural communities. From these purpose LDF introduced CMC networking comprising of COs chairperson and manager at district level the CMC which is the village level body of chairpersons and managers now meet at the district level under the umbrella of CMC net working . The CMC has also been ensuring participation of local people in decision making process even in a situation where there is no presence for elected representatives. CMC have been taken lead role in planning, prioritization and implementation the projects in conflict affected VDP-VDC. In sample VDC Lakhanpur has found maximum level of women participation in VDC meeting and other programs.

Table 4.15

Participation of Respondents in VDC and Other Program Meeting

	Yes	%	No	%
Participation in meeting	30	75	10	25
Listen their voice	30	75	10	25

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table no.4.15 shows that 75% of women participate in meeting and listen their voice. Remaining 25% women never involve and care for the participation in meeting and listening their voice.

4.6.2 Control over Household Products

Regarding the control over household product female have less access than male. For the women empowerment and development it should be needed to have equal access and control over resources and equal power of decision making in the household activities.

Table 4.16

Decisive control over household products

Control by	No. of persons	Percent
Husband	22	55
Father / Mother	3	7.5
Own self	15	37.5
Other	-	-
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.16 shows that among the informants, 37.5 percent of women have control over household product. Maximum 55 percent

respondents reports that they are depending on their husband. Only 7.5% of women are controlled by their Father & mother.

4.7 Women Empowerment and Impact of VDP

Women's empowerment has direct relation to rural development. The village development program (VDP) has played vital role in women empowerment. The VDP has focus on the institutional development and socio economic and political empowerment through social mobilization. Under institutional development, it supports cOs to develop self sufficient organization whereas, under economic empowerment, VDP provides skill development credit capital and seed grant support. VDP help co members directly through a package of benefits including training in seed grant for initiating small infrastructure projects in the community credit capital for micro enterprises, development and technology for enhancing production VDP program in Lakhanpur VDC has been able to mobilize people from poor communities especially Dalits, disadvantages groups and women's for their socio-economic empowerment. Basically in the process of women empowerment and awareness creation of the VDP has been played a significant role by giving them different, kinds of training awareness program, Infrastructure development, income generating activities and enterprises development.

4.7.1 Training Status of Women

In the process of women empowerment, the VDP has been contributing to enhance the skill of co members through training and exposure visits. In the connection co members have been trained as village expense on different subjects so that they could provide minimal services to co members. In study areas, the type of training and number of women trained is shown on the table 4.17.

Table 4.17

Distribution of Women by Types of Training

Type for mining	Number	Percent
Vegetable forming	6	15
Women component	5	12
Improved stove	2	5
Maternal Health	1	2.5
Candle making	4	10
Institutional development	5	12.5
Not receive training	17	42.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

In the study area from the total sampled size of respondents, 23% have taken more than one training but 17% respondents have not got any training. Followed by improved stove (5%) candle making (10%) institutional development (17.5%) and so on. about 12.5 percent have received women empowerment training.

4.7.2 Problem of Women Participation in COs

In Nepal female population are more than male but their participation in economic, social and political activities is less than male. Most of the women are engaged in unproductive and unpaid household works. Women are depending on supremacy of male even their individual affairs. At that situation, women are facing many problems to participation in development activities. So that, in the period of VDP lunched, women have not got permission to participate in VDP.

Table 4.18
Distribution of Facing Problems

Description	No. of persons	Percent
Facing problem	23	57.5
Not facing Problem	17	42.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 4.18 shows that 57.5 percent women's were facing problem to create co and institutional development, to manage time and household work. But 42.5% have not faced any problem to create it. Because some women are still illiterate as the data showed above. Many women do not have control over the property and resources. Some are still depending to their husband and parents. It is also found that social and cultural values, traditions and belief do not let women to raise movement and participate in such organizations.

4.7.3 Social Family Attitude Towards women After Participating in VDP

Social attitude towards women to participate organization has positive. The table 18 shows that after these program 72.5 percent respondents say their social attitude is positive and only 7.5 percent have negative attitude.

Table 4.19

Distribution of Women by Social Attitude towards Participation after VDP

Attitude	No. of persons	Percent
Positive	29	75.5
Negative	3	7.5
Equal	8	20
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table 4.19 shows that many respondents (75.5%) got positive response by the society. 20% of women were regarded by positively as well as negatively. But still 7.5% of women faced negative response by the society.

4.7.4 Impact of VDP on Knowledge Skill Development and Social Attitude

The main procedure of the VDP programs is to disburse loan, make women self confidence and free from dependence. Such program has been giving positive result.

Table 4.20

Distribution of Respondents by the Impact of VDP on Knowledge, Skill and Social Attitude

Trends	Increased		Decreased		Constant	
	No. of persons	Percent	No. of persons	Percent	No. of persons	Percent
Women empowerment	37	92.5	-	-	3	7.5
Political Right	14	35.0	-	-	26	65.0
Property Right	32	80.0	-	-	8	20.0
Legal Awareness	36	90.0	-	-	4	10.0
Social responsibility	35	87.5	-	-	5	12.5
Income	18	45.0	-	-	22	55.0
Family responsibility	38	95.0	-	-	2	5.0
Violence against women	-	-	38	95.0	2	5.0
Social discrimination	-	-	38	95.0	2	5.0
participation in development activities	37	92.5	-	-	3	7.5
Decision making	37	92.5	-	-	3	7.5
Employment	24	60.0	-	-	16	40.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The Table 4.20 shows that the impact of VDP on knowledge, Skill development and social attitude of the study area. The table shows the increase, decrease and constant level of social activities most of the

respondent knowledge and skill is increased after VDP and the constant level is low that the increased level. The VDP program also impacts the violence and social discrimination is decreased and women also feel high social and family responsibility. Table 4.20 shows that 92.5% women are empowered by the program. But still 7.5% women are not affected by the program in the village. The program has been able to impact on political right also. 35% women are aware of their right, though 65% women has no affected by the program. Likewise awareness and property right has also increased from the impact of the program. Data shows that 80% of respondent has got awareness on property right while 20% are still constant. Legal awareness has amazingly (90%) increase while 87.5% women feel their social responsibility of the VDP. Still 12.5% women are indifference from the program. Women are also able to increase their income but 55% women's income is still constant. It shows that the program has less impact regarding income matter. Women have not only feel social responsibility rather they are also concerned with the family responsibility as the data shows 95% women feel their family responsibility after the launch of program. After the program women of lakhanpur VDC have not faced violence against them but 5% are still suffering from the violence. Data shows that violence against women has been dramatically fallen down after the program as the number of this kind is 95%. Social discrimination level has also been fall down as the same percentage with violence. Though, 5% of respondents are facing the discrimination before the program. The number of women (37) has also increased regarding the participation in development activities. Decision making role (92.5%) and employment level (60%) has also increased after the program.

To summarize this, it can be said that, Village Development Program has many positive impact to the women's life. It has brought lots of positive changes though there are still some limitations. So the program has been able to bring change and empower the women in every aspect of their life in Lakhanpur VDC.

CHAPTER –V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summaries the whole study, draws the conclusion and makes some applied recommendation for future improvement and advancement of the level of empowerment of women.

5.1 Summary

The entire study is concerned with the rural women of Lakhanpur VDC on their empowerment. The reason for choosing the topic was to analyze the problem related with empowerment since the topic has been an important issue today in Nepal and other developing countries.

The objective of the study entitled "Women Empowerment Through Economic Activities Under Village Development Program: A Case Study of Lakhanpur VDC, Jhapa" is to find out the impact of the VDP on women empowerment in study area and it is based on both primary as well as secondary sources of information. The secondary sources were the published and unpublished documents of PDDP, DLGSP and other articles, newspaper, journal related to women and empowerment. The primary data has been collected using structured questionnaire with different CO groups in Lakhanpur VDC. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were adopted for data analysis. This research is based on the descriptive and exploratory research design. The quantitative data have been tabulated and analyzed using simple statistical tools such as percentage method and tabulation.

In study area, there were total 39 COs group in which 27(69.24) were female out of them 4 COs group were selected and 40 COs member were selected for the household survey.

According to the tables given in chapter four the following findings have been made.

- In this study, the total six samples consists 40 respondents, majority of the respondents (37.5%) belong to the age group 30 to 40 years, major caste/ethnic (Rajbansi,Satar) and occupational caste. most of the respondents are found involved in agriculture and livestock.
- Among respondents household education shows that female literacy rate is less than male. The family structure of the respondents is found to be male dominated i.e. 60 percent household are male dominated and 27.5 percent have found equality of both male and female. Likewise, number of family members is divided as 1 to 5, 5 to 10 and above 10 in which 60 percent household size is 1 to 5.
- Out of total 40 respondents 47.5 percent respondents have consumed their own income by oneself decision rest other depend with family members.
- Among the sampled women only 25 percent women have ownership of land maximum ownership of land have found husband name decisive control over household products is shown 37.5 percent, 55 percent have control by husband and 7.5 percent have controlled by father and mother.

Education, income, income generating activities, equal participation in politics, access of assets, training for skill development and increase involvement of decision making process etc are important

factors for women empowerment. The VDP has focused in these factors to empower women.

5.2 Conclusions

Empowerment of women has become a global issue. If women become economically active and financially independent, their social status also will change automatically. So efforts have been made to empower on the basis of economic, political and social components. Income generating activities such as skill development, education, access of assets, participation in politics, leadership development, control over household product etc are key indicator of empowerment focused by VDC.

In Nepal various programs have been launched since decades of 70s to empower women, among them VDP plays vital role to empower women. It is based on holistic approach. It was focused on women and disadvantage group in community level. In study area, VDP focuses on enhancing the socio economic and political status of rural communities. The main procedure of this program is to disburse loan and make women entrepreneurs, self-confidence and free from dependence. Such program has been giving positive change of women knowledge, skill social attitude, norms and value. Income, education and other participation in development activities etc. in Nepal women have very limited access to the institutional credit and lack of ownership or control over the land they own exceeds the women from the access to the agricultural inputs particularly the credit. Women in Nepal however face multiple barriers in obtaining the loan from any source to be informal financial institutions, co-operatives or farmer's bank. But VDP has focused on the five main aspects of development methods which are:

-) Credit, investment, mobilization and savings.
-) Institutional development.
-) Technology transform and resources mobilization.
-) Training and entrepreneurial development.
-) Human resources development and entrepreneur development.

organization, saving and skill is the three approved tools which can play vital role in uplifting the socioeconomic condition of people and sustainability dimension of the program was yet to be accessed.

Participation of women and institutional development of the VDP and its activities is satisfactory but needs to increase more of loans but granting loan is not any sufficient. Women should be made able to use the loan properly. Special focus is lacking in uplifting dalits ethnic groups who are much deprived than the other cast groups.

Thus in overall VDP has become successful in improving women condition through the techniques of social mobilization. Procurement of loans with some skill generating, skill has benefited a lot of women but much attention is needed in the field of education, leadership development, opportunities, and skill development and entrepreneurship development. A special funds is still needed to uplift women, good governance, decentralization and resolution of conflicts and replacement of social excluded people in village society of Nepal.

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