

**WOMEN'S ROLE IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING:
A Sociological Study of decision making process in Shesh Narayan VDC
of Kathmandu District**

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KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU

RECOMMENDATION

This dissertation entitled "**WOMEN'S ROLE IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING: A Sociological Study of decision making process in Shesh Narayan VDC of Kathmandu District**" is submitted by Surya Kumar Ghimire for the partial fulfillment of Master of Arts in Sociology completed under my supervision and guidance. Therefore, I recommend it for the final evaluation to the dissertation committee.

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APPROVAL LETTER

This is to certify that this thesis entitled "**WOMEN'S ROLE IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING: A Sociological Study of decision making process in Shesh Narayan VDC of Kathmandu District**" submitted by Surya Kumar Ghimire has been evaluated and approved for partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master's degree in Sociology by the dissertation committee comprised of:

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ABBREVIATIONS

BBC	:	Beyond Beijing Committee
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistic
CEDAW	:	A Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CREHPA	:	Centre for Research on Environment Health and Population Association
FWLD	:	Forum for Women Law and Development
NDHS	:	Nepal Demographic Health Survey
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organization
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
T.U	:	Tribhuvan University
UN	:	United Nation
UNICEF	:	United Nation Children found
UNFPA	:	United Nation Found for Population Activities
VDC	:	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The term 'decision making' was defined choice of appropriate alternatives in decision process. Decision making is associated with various aspects of human life such as households work, public and private sectors. Both male and female are means and ends of decision in society. They were participated in every works in everywhere. In modern society, the male female participation is considered to be equal. Their role should be equal that may be at home or outside. For the improvement of women status there should be decision-making power with women, if decision-making power is equally divided to men and women, then the family can run very easily in a better way.

Women's roles in household decision-making is determined by social and economic status, independent entrepreneurs of religious celebrations, greater freedom of choice at marriage, economic support in the absence of sons in the family, and self-employment of women working in the household productive sectors.

Nepal's total population is 23,151,423. Out of this about fifty percent is Women (CBS, 2007:2). Like other developing countries, the state of women is not satisfactory. Male dominated family system provides very little scope for the female to assert their identity. They are marginalized from economic and social opportunities due to illiteracy, poverty and conservative social taboos.

Though, people are from several different caste and ethnic groups speaking over a 100 languages and/or dialects (Gurung, 2007). According to a broad based categorization, they come from two main ethno-origins - Tibeto-Burman and Indio-Aryan. Intra-household gender relations and the social status of

women vary between these ethnic and caste groups. It ranges from highly egalitarian relationship where the status of the women is in par with men to highly inegalitarian where the status of women is subordinate to men. Tibeto-Burman ethnic groups are more favorable to gender egalitarianism than Indo-Aryan groups.

Gender egalitarianism has existed in many communities, ruling elite since the unification of Nepal in late 1700s had always been from Indo-Aryan groups. This has resulted in state mechanism being controlled by their patriarchal values, norms and beliefs, where the status of women remained low. As the patriarchal culture prevailed over time, gender egalitarian communities also became co-opted to patriarchal values and norms through educational and legal systems. This has resulted in pervasive discrimination of women in spite of such cultural and ethnical diversity (Pradhan, 2000).

Women's empowerment must involve women making choices that enhance their individual well being. In addition to that, well being further enhances their families and their communities. Integrated empowerment programs result in measurable behavioral changes in women. Women who have participated in such programs often become more actively participate in their household and communities and as a result contribute more to the growth of the Nepalese Economy (BBC, 2005).

To dig out the role of women in household decision making process in Shesh Narayan VDC, this study is a real example of rural women.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Nepal is a multi ethnic state comprised of a great social and cultural diversity. Along with the diversity, the country is characterized by widespread inequalities and discrimination in terms of ethnicity, gender and geography.

Gender inequality to empower Nepalese women can be justified in terms of the social and cultural context of the Nepalese society. It is excessive patriarchal based social structure and extended family system which restrict women to make independent decision.¹ Lack of decision-making power has deprived women of the basic elements of a decent life such as food and nutrition, education, skill development, health, and family planning. This has ultimately undermined their access to gainful employment opportunities and participation in professional jobs.

Things are changing slowly but steadily. Women in development have been accepted since the sixth plan as a national policy. After the restoration of multi party system in 1990 policy makers are giving due importance to uplift the status of women. A separate ministry, to look after the welfare of the women, has been established. After the World Women Conference, held in Beijing on 1995, the question of women empowerment has been brought into the limelight. Government of Nepal is very much committed to fulfill the commitment made in this Conference.

The status of women compared to men is different in geographical regions (rural, urban, hill, mountain, terai) of the country. There are also varying practices among different classes, castes, ethnicity, tribes, dalits etc. women as a whole are trying to be empowered, wanting to know more, practicing their inborn legal rights, feeling competent with their male counterparts, wanting to occupy positions, trying to make decisions within the family affairs.

The proposed study intend to married women's role in household decision-making in Shesh Narayan Village Development Committee (VDC) of Kathmandu district. The VDC is chosen as the field of study because in the present work it is intended to study the status and decision-making power of women in rural area. This study allows us to compare the status of women in

¹ http://www.minorityrights.org/partner_interventions/2006/indigenous_women-lucky.doc

rural area which collectively can show the real picture of decision-making power of Nepalese women. Some major research questions will be raised on the study which is as follows:

- What is the present socio-economic condition of married women in the Shesh Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district?
- What is the ideas on household decision making role of women and male supremacy in family affairs in the same VDC?
- What is the condition of female decision making power of household decision-making in term on their age, education and caste/ethnicity in the same VDC?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The overall objective of the study is to study the role of married women in household decision-making process. The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out the socio economic backgrounds of the women of the Shesh Narayan VDC.
2. To describe the women's roles in household decision-making process.
3. To describe decision-making power of married women at household in terms of their caste/ethnicity, age, education.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Women constitute half of the total population in Nepal. They are the back bone of the nation. They play a significant role in the societies, both an economic and social actors; they should, therefore be seen as integral partners in all development efforts. In patriarchal society, women are discarded from participation in social, political and economical areas. States must seek to include gender prospective in their national development policies and should

implement various programs to improve women's self-confidence and decision-making power. The significances of this study are as follows:

1. This study will be explains socio-economic status and household decision-making power of women in Shesh Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district.
2. It will be useful to develop awareness towards household decision-making situation.
3. It will be helpful to those organizations which are working in this field to identify the situation of women in household in decision-making and implement some welfare programs to improve their status.

1.5 Organization of the Study

Chapter first deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study and significance of the study. Chapter-II deals with the literature review from the various books, journals, publications etc. It also organizes the conceptual framework for the study. Chapter-III deals with the description of the study area and it gives explanation of the research design, sampling procedure and procedure the data generated, statistical tools used during the process, and limitation of the study.

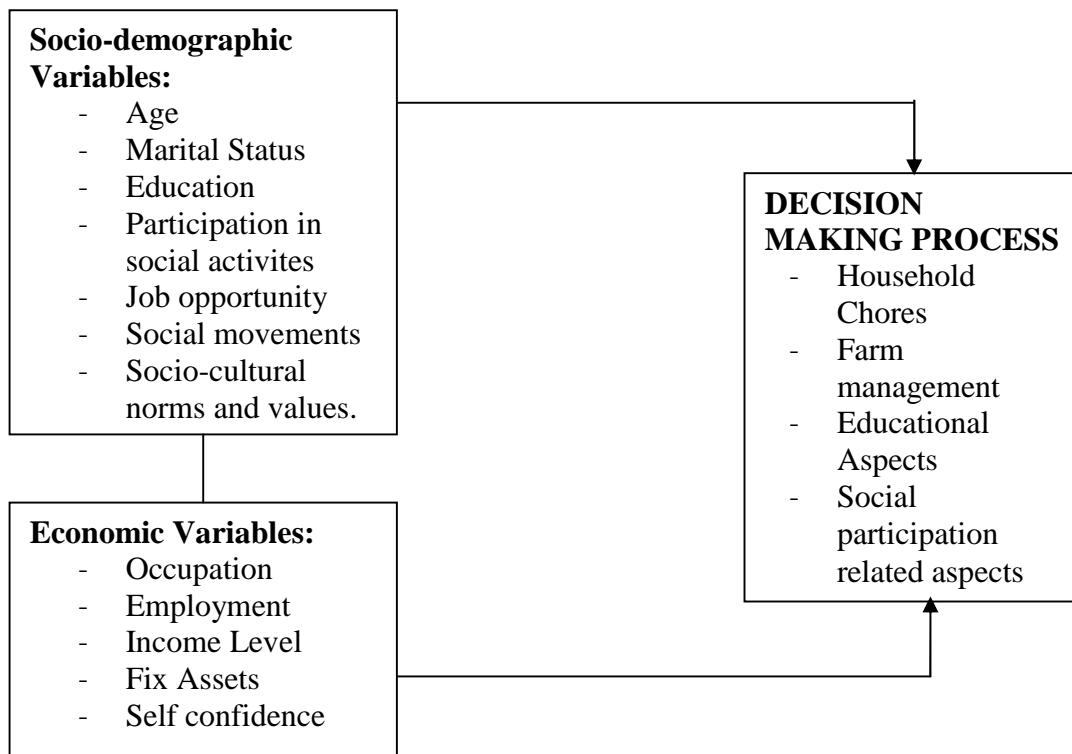
Chapter-IV deals with demographic, social, economic and participatory characteristics of the sample population and respondents. Chapter-V deals with the analysis of collected data regarding the household decision-making process. Finally, Chapter-VI provides summary and conclusion of the whole study.

1.6 Conceptual Frame work

Decision making power of women is influenced by socio-cultural, economic and demographic factors. Demographic variables such as age and marital status are important factors, which determine the social role and responsibilities of

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

Fig 1: Conceptual Framework



CHAPTER–II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter deals with the available literature about decision-making role of women. Review of literature is an important element of research design. It is the description about the related topics which is published by scholars, researchers, academicians and professionals. This part of research is very important because it provides knowledge about the related topic which increases ability of researcher to perform research.

2.1 Situation of Women Decision Making Process

In modern society, the male female participation is considered to be equal. Their role should be equal that may be at home or outside. For the improvement of women status there should be decision-making power with women, if decision-making power is equally divided to men and women, then the family can run very easily in a better way.

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

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

Across the cultural diversity, the majority of communities in Nepal are patriarchal – a women's life is strongly influenced by her father and husband – as reflected in the practice of patrilocal residence, patriarchal descent and by inheritance systems and family relations. Such patriarchal practices are further reinforced by the legal system. Marriage has an overwhelming importance in a woman's life. The event of marriage determines almost all her life options and subsequent livelihood. According to the predominant Hindu tradition, marriage is essential for all whether man or woman. While a man's life is not considered complete without a wife, a woman has no option but to marry. Early marriages are rooted on both the concept of purity of the female body and the need for helping hands in farm and households. The traditional concern over the purity of women's body limits female's mobility. Marriage is understood as a social contract between two clans rather than the personal affairs of the bride and groom. In addition polygyny, though outlawed can still be observed especially

in the rural areas of the Terai. The socio-culturally constructed son preference and dowry system also look at women from minus lens in Nepal. The idea that women can achieve salvation only through sons compels them to marry at an early age and couples to breed as many sons as possible. Consequently there are high rate of child marriage and pregnancy among adolescent women. The heavy burden of pregnancy and childcare at early age seriously limit female's chances to receive education and confine women's role within the household as wives and mothers. It also hinders women's participation in decision-making and politics. The dowry system also creates serious barriers for women. Many young women are mentally and physically tortured by their husbands, in-laws and others by arguing of insufficient dowry from their parents.²

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

² http://www.laliguranswomenskill.org.np/nepali_women

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

UNICEF (1996) has introduced the South Asian culture which has placed the women at inferior position. Cultural practices place daughter in-law at the lowest position in the family hierarchy. Even during pregnancy they often bear the heaviest work load, but get least food.

Women's role in household decision-making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. A woman has greater economic participation and will have a greater power in decision-making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision-making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision power for women. A study of rural women's work burden reveals that women contribute 74 per cent of the labor input to subsistence economic activities and 86 per cent of input to social and domestic work. Statistics show that rural women's total work burden is extremely high that at an average of 11.44 hours per day in contrast to 8.34 hours per day for men (Acharya & Bennet, 1981).

Women's participation in the decision-making process is an important indicator of their empowerment. In order to assess women's decision-making autonomy, the NDHS (2006) sought information on women's participation in four types of

household decisions: he own health care; making large household purchases; making household purchases for daily needs; and visits to family or relatives.

The participation in the decision-making inside the household sphere was found to be equal for men and women of Tamang community. The percentage of decision-making authority constituted 40.26 % of the total. However, the female participation in decision-making authority for outside the household sphere was found to be dominated by male decision authority is 32.47 % vs. 40.35 % (Limbu, 1997).

According to Pyakuryal and Thakuri (1998), as soon as the males born, expectations are bestowed on him. He has certain stereotype roles waiting for him when he reaches adulthood. In Nepalese society, social status of women is always thought to be that of subordinate to men. A survey conducted by UNICEF on the status of women and children in Nepal reports that gender disparity starts right from the birth and continues through different stages of the girl's life and as further depended and perpetuated through various rituals.

Women's participation in formally defined labor force has increased substantially between 1981 and 2001. Much of the definitional problems in the economic activity rates are also being taken care of slowly. As per the Census, 2001, women constitute more than 43 % of the labor force, 73 % in agriculture and 27 % in the non-agriculture sectors. Women's proportion has increased almost in all occupations to some extent. But their greater concentration in agriculture is also visible. A positive trend is also visible in their empowerment as reflected in their increasing proportion among the professionals and technicians as also in administration and management (Acharya, 2003a).

Although employment is assumed to go hand in hand with payment for work, not all women receive earnings for the work they do, and even among women who do receive earnings, not all are paid in cash. One in seven (14 percent)

receives payment in cash only, and one in five (21 percent) receive both cash and in-kind payment. Two in five (41 %) receive payment only in kind. Nearly one in four employed women do not receive any form of payment for their work (NDHS, 2006).

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

Again according to NDHS (2006) notable variations are seen in the proportion currently employed by place of residence and region. Rural women are more likely to be currently employed than urban women (75 % compared with 49 %). Women in the mountains are more likely to be economically active than women residing in the other ecological zones. Women in the far-western, western and mid-western regions are more likely to be currently employed (84 %, 80 % and 78 %. respectively). A similar pattern was observed for ever-married women in the 2006 NDHS, the 1996 NFHS, and the 2001 NDHS surveys.

In spite of these efforts, the indicators of gender development and gender empowerment in Nepal are only 0.520 and 0.351 respectively. The participation of women and men in labor is 48.9 and 67.6 %. Majority of women are engaged in informal subsistence and domestic labor, without wage or with low wage. The contribution of women to economic activities outside their homes is 36.3 hours every week, while that of men is 42.6 hours. On the

other hand, weekly contribution to in-house economic activities by women is 42.5 hours and that of men is 46.5 hours. Outside home non-economic activities of women occupy 25.1 hours of labor and that of men occupies 9.7 hours a week. On the whole, aggregate hours spent in economic and non-economic activities every week by women and men are 103.9 hours and 98.8 hours respectively. In income earnings and administrative services, women share 30.0 % and 12.7 % respectively (National Planning Commission, 2010).

The strength of women's role in the decision-making varies with the type of decision. Thirty-six percent of currently married women reported that they alone made the final decision about daily household purchases. Although 20 percent of women make some decisions on their own health care, one-third say that their husband make such decisions mainly by himself. Decisions on large house hold purchases are most likely to be made jointly by the respondent and husband (37 percent). More than one-third of women say that decisions to visit family or relatives are made jointly with their husband (NDHS, 2011).

In the Nepalese context the status of women is very low due to the lack of decision-making power. So the decision-making power of women should be increased. Most of Nepalese women don't have power of decision due to the culture. To empower women, social injustice and gender disparity in socio-economical as well as decision-making process should be addressed and thereby raising the status of female in the society.

CHAPTER – III

RESEARCH METHODS

Research method is a way to systematically solve the research problems. This chapter deals with the methods employed while constructing the research study in order to achieve the research objectives. The intensive field work was conducted in February 2013.

3.1 The Study Area and Rationale for Selection

As mentioned earlier main objectives of this study was described the women's role in decision making process among married women at micro level. For this purpose, Shesh Narayn Village Development Committee (VDC) was selected for the study. It is situated and nearly closed in southern part of Kathmandu metropolitan city of Kathmandu district. The VDC is bordered by Seti Devi VDC in the East, Dhalku Dhudechaur VDC in the West, Machhe Gaun VDC, Chalnakhel VDC and Kirtipur municipality in the North and Dashinkali VDC in the South. The total population and household of the VDC were found to be 3436 and 689 respectively (VDC Profile, 2067). The VDC was selected for behind reason such as the impression of Shesh Narayan society, culture and inclusive caste/ethnicity. Similarly, researcher was curious from there settlement and to gain also more knowledge about the VDC women to seem somehow applied decision making in households activities like farming, business, family affairs, etc. So, the researcher had got some opportunity to visit oldest Pharping hydropower which is one of the oldest Pharping hydropower plans of Nepal. It is most accessible and graceful site from Kathmandu valley for visitor and researcher also.

People of different caste/ethnicity live in the study area. Although agriculture is still the main occupation for the most of the households, majority of people are found to be engaged in vegetable farming at *Dollu Naumule Tole*. The

educational status in the rural areas of Shesh Narayan VDC is at the bottom line with the average literacy 70% (VDC Profile, 2067).

3.2 Research Design

Design of the research is exploratory and descriptive. Exploratory research design helped to explore the women's roles in household management of married women of research area. It has made interaction to find the decision making process in family affairs. Descriptive research design was used to describe the result of descriptive way of family affairs that how it affecting their gender roles.

3.3 Universe and Sampling Procedure

This study is conducted in ward no 6 gaun of Shesh Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district. The study comprises parts of ward nos. 6 of this VDC. The total population and households of the ward has 362 and 80 (VDC Profile, 2067). *Dollu Naumule* and *Dollu Naya Basti* are the major study villages. The researcher was found 80 household in field survey. Among the 80 households, 80 married women were taken as respondent in each households by census method. The study was covered married women of age groups between 15 years and above. The representing different status of respondent covering students, teacher and low & high paid working women, and housewives, etc. This study has revealed the socio-economic status and situation of role of married women in household decision-making of the overall population of VDC.

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary data were collected for the study. The primary data were collected from the field study. For this purpose, an intensive

fieldwork has been conducted. During the fieldwork, primary data was collected from the sample respondents and key informants. On the other hand, the secondary data was taken from published and unpublished literature such as books, journals, articles, research reports, VDC report, etc.

3.5 Methods of Data Collection

3.5.1 Sample Survey Questionnaire

Questionnaire is designed for interview in such a way that it provides all required data needed to fulfill the objectives of the study. Questionnaire is mainly divided into ten schedules as personal information, family information, house-land information, household decision-making information, health information, children schooling information, information related to economic condition, information related to participation in social activities, information related to knowledge on the legal aspects of women right and miscellaneous information. All these schedules provided the information about socio-economic condition of women and their situation in household decision-making.

During the research study, the data was collected with the help of both structured and non-structured questionnaires. The questionnaire included all the questions, which are needed to collect the information related to household and socio-economic activities. Since the study area is an urban residential area, many people are living in rent. So in order to include married women of different socio-economic status and different level of education, data was collected even from the women of different family living in the same house.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interview

Observation method was applied for some related gathering field data. Physical settlement of households, socio-cultural values, agricultural practices, behavior and attitudes were observed by indirect participation. It is helped to the researcher to understand the local language, male and female communication in social ceremony, and seeking behavior, household's works.

3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation

After the collection of data, all the data was edited to get fruitful results. The data was analyzed by using simple statistical tools and techniques. Quantitative data was shown by simple table and percentages. Qualitative data was used by descriptive way as meaningful presentation. Data analysis was done by analyzing the respondent's views from different aspects. For the overall data presentation, simple tabulation has shown on number and percentage for field results.

3.7 Limitations of the Study

The issue of women's roles in household decision making process is very vague issues, which cannot be studied at once. This study is limited in the following areas:

- This study is focused in a very small area, ward nos. 7 of Shesh Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district,
- This study covered only 80 households from the focused area,
- This study covered only married women,
- This study concentrated to analyze the situation of women in household decision making process of only the farming activities, family affairs, etc of married women.
- Being a small unit study this study cannot represent the situation of all married women of Nepal as well as the total status of Nepalese women.

CHAPTER-IV
THE SETTING OF SOCIO-CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE
STUDY AREA AND THE RESPONDENTS

This chapter deals with the socio-demographic, economic, educational and participatory characteristics of households and respondents. 80 households have been taken as sample. The field work was conducted in February 2013.

4.1 The general Background of the Study Area

4.1.1 Caste and Ethnicity

Nepal is a multi-ethnic country where there are different cast/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic group has its own language, culture and tradition. Nepal is full of cultural diversity. Caste is also main factor in the society and it plays important role in social activities. The following table reveals the ethnic composition of the responds in the study area.

Table 4.1: Distribution of Household Respondents by Caste/ethnicity

Caste/ethnicity	Total Number	Percentage
Chhetri	52	65.0
Damai	10	12.5
Tamang	8	10.0
Brahmin	5	6.2
Giri/Sanyasi	3	3.7
Newar	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table 4.1 clearly shows that 80 caste/ethnic households in the study area. The majority of the respondents were found from Chhetri (65.0%) of the total

household. Next to them are Damai with 12.5% who are the Dalits of Shesh Narayan VDC. Then some Tamang with 10.0%, Brahmin 6.2%, Giri/Sanyasi 3.7% and Newar 2.5% respectively. It shows the cultural diversity of the Nepalese society.

4.1.2 Age Sex Composition

Information on age and sex of each household member has been obtained from the married women of age group 15-49 years. In 80 sampled households, the total population is 320. Among total population 168 are males and 152 are females. Table 4.2 shows the age composition of the sample household population by sex.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Household Population by Age and Sex

Age group	Sex				Total (%)
	Male		Female		
	N	%	N	%	
0-4	15	8.9	12	7.9	27 (8.4)
5-9	14	8.3	19	12.5	33 (10.3)
10-14	15	8.9	15	9.9	30 (9.4)
15-19	15	8.9	12	7.9	27 (8.4)
20-24	17	10.1	24	15.8	41 (12.8)
25-29	21	12.5	21	13.8	42 (13.1)
30-34	20	11.9	11	7.2	31 (9.7)
35-39	12	7.1	16	10.5	28 (8.8)
40-44	12	7.1	3	2.0	15 (4.7)
45-49	7	4.2	5	3.3	12 (3.8)
50-54	9	5.4	8	5.3	17 (5.3)
55-59	4	2.4	0	0.0	4 (1.3)
60 +	7	4.2	6	3.9	13 (4.1)
Total	168	100.0	152	100.0	320 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The highest proportion of the population has been found in age group 25-29 years (13.1 %) whereas the lowest proportion of the population is in the age group 55-59 years (1.3 %). The proportion of female population is highest in age group 20-24 years (15.8 %) while the highest proportion of male population is in age group 25-29 years (12.5 %).

4.1.3 Marital Status

Excluding the infant population (age group 0-4 years), 57.6% of the population is married and 30.7 % is unmarried (Table, 4.3). In the study area proportion of married male (60.7 %) is greater than that of female (54.2%).

Table 4.3: Distribution of Household Population (Five Years and Above) by Marital Status

Marital Status	Sex				Total (%)
	Male		Female		
	N	%	N	%	
Married	93	60.7	76	54.2	169 (57.6)
Unmarried	44	28.7	46	32.8	90 (30.7)
Widow/widower	11	7.1	8	5.7	19 (6.4)
Seperated	5	3.2	10	7.1	15 (5.1)
Total	153	100.0	140	100.0	293 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.1.4 Education

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. Education enhances the ability and capability of human beings to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision-making process in the society. In most of the cases it can be seen that

higher educational status plays dominant role in decision-field (Singh, 2004). Those voices are respected who are educated and having higher educational background. Table 4.4 shows the educational status of the household population by sex.

Table 4.4: Distribution of Household Population ((Five Years and Above) by Education

Education	Sex				Total (%)
	Male		Female		
	N	%	N	%	
Illiterate	11	7.2	23	16.4	34 (11.6)
Under SLC	70	45.8	76	54.3	146 (49.8)
Intermediate	20	13.1	16	11.4	36 (12.3)
Bachelor	25	16.3	19	13.6	44 (15.0)
Masters & above	27	17.6	6	4.3	33 (11.3)
Total	153	100.0	140	100.0	293 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

It is found that highest proportion of the population (49.8 %) has attended the school education but has not passed School Leaving Certificate (SLC examination) and is kept under the category "under SLC". The lowest proportion of the population (11.3 %) has attended the education of Master level or above. Proportion of illiterate population is next to it with 11.6 %. Greater proportion of female (16.4 %) is illiterate than male (7.2 %). So is in the case of under SLC with females 54.3 % and males 45.8 %. On the other hand, the proportion of males attending higher education which includes intermediate, bachelor and master or above is greater (cumulatively 47 %) than that of women which is cumulatively 29.3 %. In this table the infant population (of age group 0-4 years) has been excluded.

4.1.5 Occupation

The study area has been found inhomogeneous with respect to the occupational status of the population. Excluding the infant population (age group 0-4 years), 5.8 % of the rest population is found unemployed. Unemployment is found more in females (7.1 %) than in males (4.6 %). The highest proportion of the population (38.9 %) is student, females (44.3 %) leading the males (34.0 %) (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5: Distribution of Household Population (Five Years and Above) by Occupation

Occupation	Sex				Total (%)
	Male		Female		
	N	%	N	%	
Service	22	14.4	8	5.7	30 (10.2)
Teaching	15	9.8	5	3.6	20 (6.8)
Housework	1	0.7	35	25.0	36 (12.3)
Students	52	34.0	62	44.3	114 (38.9)
Daly Wages	19	12.4	6	4.3	25 (8.5)
Hotel & Business	19	12.4	13	9.3	32 (10.9)
Driving	8	5.2	0	0.0	8 (2.7)
Foreign Employment	4	2.6	0	0.0	4 (1.4)
Journalists	3	2.0	0	0.0	3 (1.0)
Engineer	3	2.0	0	0.0	3 (1.0)
Unemployed	7	4.6	10	7.1	17 (5.8)
Low and High Age	0	0.0	1	0.7	1 (0.3)
Total	153	100.0	140	100.0	293 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This segment, age composition, family type, religious composition, etc, have been analyzed.

4.2.1 Age composition

Age is an important factor in demography and it makes difference in decision-making roles, social relation and responsibilities. The age groups are divided into 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 years.

Table 4.6: Distribution of Respondents by Age Group

Age group	Total Number	Percentage
15-19	1	1.3
20-24	20	25.0
25-29	21	26.3
30-34	9	11.3
35-39	18	22.5
40-44	4	5.0
45-49	7	8.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The highest population is found in the age group 25-29 years (26.3 %) and the population is lowest in the age group 15-19 years (1.3 %). Population in the age groups 20-24 and 35-39 appear significant relative to that of the highest population age group. Population in 20-24 age group is 25.0 % and that in the age group 35-39 is 22.5 % of the total respondent population respectively (Table 4.6).

4.2.2 Age at Marriage

The age at marriage in this study is categorized into four groups: 10-14, 15-19, 20-24 and 25 and above years. It is observed that most of the women were married between ages 15-19 years, their percentage being 42.5 among the total respondents. Marriage age between 20-24 years is also found to be significant with 33.8 % of the total respondent population and it is least (8.8 %) in the age group above 25 years (Table 4.7).

Table 4.7: Distribution of Respondents by Age at Marriage

Age at Marriage	Total Number	Percentage
10-14	12	15.0
15-19	34	42.5
20-24	27	33.8
24 +	7	8.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.2.3 Family Structure

Family is a basic unit of the society and is an institution which plays important role in building society. Family structure has dominant role in decision-making process. There are two categories of family structure - nuclear and joint family. Nuclear family refers that family which consists of husband, wife and unmarried children while joint family consists of husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as other relatives who share the kitchen for meal and reside under the same roof.

Table 4.8: Distribution of Respondents by the Type of Family

Type of Family	Total Number	Percentage
Nuclear	67	83.8
Joint	13	16.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Among the sampled households 83.8 % have nuclear family and 16.2 % have joint family. It can be seen from the table 4.8.

4.2.4 Religious Composition

Nepal was a Hindu nation until 2005 when, after the major political change in the country, the interim parliament declared it as a religion neutral nation. Irrespective of this, Nepal has always been a place with religious harmony. Hindu and Buddhist are the major religious group in the nation. This fact has been seen in the present study. Of the total respondents, 86.3 % are Hindu and 13.7 % are Buddhist (Table 4.9).

Table 4.9: Distribution of Respondents by Religion

Religion	Total Number	Percentage
Hindu	69	86.3
Buddhist	11	13.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.2.5 Educational Status of Respondents

In the present study the educational status of the respondents is divided into three categories which are illiterate, under SLC and educated. Those who cannot even read and write are kept under the category "illiterate". Those who

have joined school but not passed SLC examination are kept under the category "under SLC" and those who have passed SLC or have attended higher education are kept under the category "educated". It is found that majority of the respondents are literate with 36.3 % in each category of "educated" and "under SLC". 27.5 % are found to be illiterate (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10 Distribution of Respondents by Education

Education Status	Total Number	Percentage
Illiterate	22	27.5
Under SLC	29	36.3
Educated	29	36.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.3 Economic Characteristics of Respondents

In this segment, economic characteristics of the respondents such as land holding, house ownership, fuel consumption, income generating activities, household income etc, have been analyzed. Economic activities can be indicator of the status of Shesh Naraya women and their decision-making power.

4.3.1 Land Holdings

Nepal is an agricultural country where more than 80 percent people depend upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. As shown in table 4.11, out of the total 80 household 70 of them (87.5 %) have their own land and the rest 10 households (12.5 %) do not have their own land.

Table 4.11: Distribution of Respondents by Land Holding Size

Land holding	Total Number	Percentage
Yes	70	87.5
No	10	12.5
Total	80	100.0
Size of land (in Ropani)	(N=70))	
Less than 1	13	18.6
1-5	33	47.1
5-10	10	14.3
10 +	14	20.0
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table 4.11 also shows the size of land owned by the respondents or their family. It is seen that most of the households (47.1 %) have land between 1-5 ropani. 20.0 % of households have more than 10 ropani, 18.6 % households have less than 1 ropani and 14.3 % have between 5-10 ropani of land.

Table 4.12: Distribution of Respondents by Land Ownership

Land Ownership	Total Number	Percentage
Self	6	8.6
Husband	16	22.9
Both	3	4.3
Others	45	64.3
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The study shows that only 8.6 % of the respondents whose family has its own land are the legal owner of the land. In 22.9 % cases husbands are the legal owner whereas, in 3.8 % cases both respondents and their husbands are the legal owner of the land in their family. In most of the cases 64.3 %, other

members in the family are the legal owner. The other members in all the cases are either father-in-law or mother-in-law of the respondents (Table 4.12).

4.3.2 Legal ownership of House

Basically there are three basic needs of human being which are food, cloth and house, though now-a-days education, health and human right are also considered as basic needs. Housing has great contribution in maintaining the quality of life of people. It emphasizes the standard of living. In this study, it has been observed if the respondents have their own house or are living in a rented one.

It is found that 16.2% of the respondents have living rented house in the study area and 83.7 % have own house (Table 4.13).

Table 4.13: Distribution of Respondents by the Nature of House They Live In

Nature of house	Total Number	Percentage
Rented	13	16.2
Own	67	83.7
Total	80	100.0
Legal Owner of House		
Self	14	20.6
Husband	43	64.1
Others	10	14.9
Total	67	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The study has shown that among the respondents who have their own house in the study area 20.6% women are the legal owner of the house. In 64.1% cases husbands are the legal owner and in 14.9% cases the house is in the name of

some other member of the family (father-in-law and mother-in-law in most of the cases) (Table 4.13).

4.3.3 Household Energy Consumption

In the study area all types of source of energy consumption (from traditional source of fire wood to the modern source of liquid petroleum gas) have been found. Only 81.3 % of the respondents use the traditional source of fire wood while 6.3% use the modern source of liquid petroleum gas. 12.5 % of the respondents use kerosene as the source of energy consumption (Table 4.14).

Table 4.14: Distribution of Respondents by the Type of Fuel for Cooking

Types of Fuel for Cooking	Total Number	Percentage
Fire wood	65	81.3
Kerosene	10	12.5
Gas	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.3.4 Engagement in Income Generating Activities

Engagement in the income generating activities has strong relationship with the household decision-making process. In the study area it has been found that majority of the respondents are not involved at any time in income generating activities and a few of them work themselves to generate income

Most of the respondents (38.7 %) among those who are engaged in income generating activities are involved in small business like hotel and shop keeping. 35.2 % work as labors and least of them (25.8 %) are in government or private services (Table 4.15).

Table 4.15: Distribution of Respondents by the Type of Income Generating Activities

Type of Income Generating Activities	Total Number	Percentage
Business	12	38.7
Labor Employment	11	35.5
Job/service	8	25.8
Total	31	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Income represents the economic status of people. In this study income level is classified into 1000-5000, 5000-10000 and 10000 plus in rupees. It is observed that among those who are involved in income generating activities 58.1 % have monthly income in the range of rupees 1000-5000. 29.0 % have monthly income in the range of rupees 5000-10000 and 12.9 % have more than rupees 10000 as their monthly income (Table 4.16).

Table 4.16: Distribution of Respondents by Monthly Income

Monthly Income in Rupees	Total Number	Percentage
1000-5000	18	58.1
5000-10000	9	29.0
10000 +	4	12.9
Total	31	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.3.5 Source of Family Income

Out of 80 households, agriculture has occupied the first position with 50.0 % as the source of family income. 28.7 % households depend upon labor employment for their income. It is followed by business (12.5%). Similarly, 7.5 % of the households have job/service and 1.2 % others as the main source

of income (Table 4.17). Although Nepal is an agricultural country the reason behind the least number of households having agriculture as the main source of income generation is that the study area is an urban site developing into a residential area.

Table 4.17: Distribution of Respondents by Source of Family Income

Source of Family Income	Total Number	Percentage
Agriculture	40	50.0
Business	10	12.5
Labor Employment	23	28.7
Job/service	6	7.5
Others	1	1.2
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

4.3.6 Possession/Keeping of Household Income

Both males and females need to have equal responsibility for household activities and they need to share equal benefits in the family at Shesh Narayan. In principle, both should have equal rights and duties. But in our society, males have dominant roles. Female have only supporting roles. They have to follow their male counterparts in decision-making. But in our study area we have found an interesting result that is in contrary to the general trend in the nation. Table 4.18 shows the control of women in keeping the household income.

Table 4.18: Distribution of Respondents by Keeping of Household Income

Keeping of Household Income	Total Number	Percentage
Self	34	42.5
Husband	24	30.0
Both	20	25.0
Others	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Out of 80 households, respondents, who are females, keep the household income in 34 households (42.5 %) compared to 24 households (30.0 %) by their husbands or males. In 20 households (25.0 %) both males and females keep jointly. Like wise, in very few cases (2 households or 2.5 %) the income is kept by other members of the family viz. father-in-law and mother-in-law of the respondents. This shows that female members have the control over the possession of the family income irrespective of who is responsible for the income generation.

4.4 Participatory Characteristics of Respondents

In this segment, participation of respondents in different community level committees such as Forest User Group, School Management Committee, Drinking Water Committee, Political Parties and Religious Institutions have been analyzed. Participation in these different social activities can be indicator of the status of women in the society and their decision-making power.

CHAPTER – V

WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

This chapter deals with the women's status in terms of decision-making in different aspects of household as well as other activities. Decisions regarding buying food products, buying clothes, using type of fuel for cooking, involvement in income generating activities, household expenditure, schooling of children, polling and participation in social and developmental activities are taken into account.

5.1 Decision-Making on Household Purchases

It is considered that male and female are equal in family and they have equal role and responsibilities. But most women are engaged in household chores. In this section we have analyzed the decision-making status of women in the household purchases.

5.1.1 Decision on Buying Food Products.

Table 5.1 shows the situation of women in decision-making process regarding the household purchase of food products. It is seen that majority of elder women with age greater than or equal to 30 years (50.0%) are in a position to make their own decision on buying food products than the women of younger age group (45.2%).

Table 5.1: Respondents by Decision on Buying Food Products

Age Group	Decision on Purchasing of Food Products								Total (%)
	Self		Both		Husband		other		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
30 years	19	45.2	7	16.7	12	28.6	4	9.5	42 (100.0)
> 30 years	19	50.0	5	13.2	13	34.2	1	2.6	38 (100.0)
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80 (100.0)
Education									
Illiterate	8	36.4	1	4.5	13	59.1	-	-	22 (100.0)
Under SLC	16	55.2	2	6.9	9	31.0	2	6.9	29 (100.0)
Educated	14	48.3	9	31.0	3	10.3	3	10.3	29 (100.0)
Total	38	47.5	12	15.0	25	31.3	5	6.3	80 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Analyzing education wise, the women having school level education only are in a better position to make their decision themselves than the illiterate and educated women. In 59.1 % cases of illiterate respondents, the decision on buying food is taken by their husbands. On the contrary, educated respondents have better decision-making power than their husbands or other family members.

5.1.2 Decision on Buying Clothes

Clothing is one of the important basic needs of human beings. Every household buys clothes. Table 5.2 shows the situation of women in decision-making regarding the purchase of clothes.

The study shows that 57.1 % of women less than 30 years of age decide on buying clothes while only 39.5 % of women greater than or equal to 30 years of age decide on it. 62.1 % of women with educational status "under SLC" decide on buying clothes themselves for their family. This is greater than the percentage of self deciding illiterate women (40.9%) and educated women (41.4 %) on the purchase of clothes.

Table 5.2: Respondents by Decision on Purchase of Clothes for Family

Variables	Decision on Purchasing of Clothes									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age Group										
30 years	24	57.1	9	21.4	9	21.4	-	-	42	100.0
> 30 years	15	39.5	14	36.8	8	21.1	1	2.6	38	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0
Education										
Illiterate	9	40.9	2	9.1	11	50.0	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	18	62.1	5	17.2	6	20.7	-	-	29	100.0
Educated	12	41.4	16	55.2	-	-	1	3.4	29	100.0
Total	39	48.8	23	28.8	17	21.3	1	1.3	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

5.1.3 Decision on Using Type of Fuel for Cooking

In Nepalese society, cooking is mostly related with women. In this study, we want to see if women have freedom to decide on the choice of the type of fuel used for cooking. Table 5.3 shows the situation of women in decision-making process regarding the type of fuel used for cooking. 63.2 % of women greater than or equal to 30 years of age decide themselves on using the type of fuel for cooking. On the contrary, only 28.6 % of women less than 30 years of age decide themselves solely. In 35.7 % cases, younger age group decides together with their husbands.

Table 5.3: Respondents by Decision on Using Type of Fuel for Cooking

Variables	Decision on Using Fuel for Cooking									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age Group										
30 years	12	28.6	15	35.7	11	26.2	4	9.5	42	100.0
> 30 years	24	63.2	9	23.7	5	13.2	-	-	38	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4.0	5.0	80	100.0
Education										
Illiterate	9	40.9	6	27.3	7	31.8	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	13	44.8	8	27.6	6	20.7	2	6.9	29	100.0
Educated	14	48.3	10	34.5	3	10.3	2	6.9	29	100.0
Total	36	45.0	24	30.0	16	20.0	4	5.0	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Analyzing education wise, women in each sub-category of illiterate, under SLC and educated are found with better self deciding power than other members of the family, educated women having the greatest freedom (48.28 %). Husbands of illiterate women also have strong influence on deciding in this case (31.82 %) in comparison to self decision-making power of their wives is 40.9% (Table 5.3).

5.2 Decision-Making on Economic Activities

5.2.1 Decision on Involvement in Income Generating Activities

Out of 80 respondents only 31 are found to be involved in income generating activities. Among them, 83.3 % of women more than or equal to 30 years of age and 69.2 % women of age less than 30 years decided themselves about their involvement in income generating activities.

Table 5.4: Respondents by Decision on Involvement in Income Generating Activities

Variables	Decision on Involvement of Income Generating Activities									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age Group										
< 30 Years	9	69.2	4	30.8	-	-	-	-	13	100.0
30 Years	15	83.3	-	-	2	11.1	1	5.6	18	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0
Education										
Illiterate	7	70.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	-	-	10	100.0
Under SLC	8	88.9	1	11.1	-	-	-	-	9	100.0
Educated	9	75.0	2	16.7	-	-	1	8.3	12	100.0
Total	24	77.4	4	12.9	2	6.5	1	3.2	31	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Education wise, women having only school education are found to be in better self decision-making position. 88.9 % of under SLC women, 75.0 % of educated women and 70.0 % of illiterate women decided themselves. In 20.0 % of illiterate women cases, husbands decided for them, while husbands alone had no role in decision-making among educated and under SLC women regarding the involvement in the income generating activities.

5.2.2 Decision on Household Expenditure

Most women are engaged in household chores and spend more time for these activities. In the present study we want to see the status of women in the decision-making process regarding household expenditure. Table 5.5 shows the situation of respondents according to the decision they make in household expenditure. Women of age less than 30 years are in better self deciding position than the women of age greater than or equal to 30 years. 45.2 % of younger age group women take self decision and 14.3 % of them consult with their husbands. In case of elder age group women 39.5 % make the self decision and 36.8 % consult with their husbands before making decision regarding household expenditure. In both sub-groups, husbands have significant decision-making position. In 35.7 % cases of younger age group women and 23.7 % cases of elder age group women, husbands take the sole decision in the household expenditure.

Table 5.5: Respondents by Decision on Household Expenditure

Variables	Decision on Household Expenditure									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age Group										
< 30 Years	19	45.2	6	14.3	15	35.7	2	4.8	42	100.0
30 Years	15	39.5	14	36.8	9	23.7	-	-	38	100.0
Total	34	42.5	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0
Education										
Illiterate	10	45.5	-	-	12	54.5	-	-	22	100.0
Under SLC	14	48.3	5	17.2	8	27.6	2	6.9	29	100.0
Educated	9	31.0	15	51.7	4	13.8	-	-	29	100.0
Total	33	41.3	20	25.0	24	30.0	2	2.5	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Education wise also percentage of women taking decision about the expenditure is comparatively low. In 54.5% cases of illiterate women, the decision is made single by their husbands. But the situation is different in the case of household expenditure. 31.0% of educated and 48.3% of under SLC women make self decision about the household expenditure in their house with together their husbands (Table 5.5).

5.3 Decision-Making on Schooling of Children

The table 5.6 shows the situation of women regarding decision-making on schooling of their children. Among 80 respondents only 62 have children. Among those 62 respondents only 16.0 % of women under 30 years of age and 13.5 % of women of age greater than or equal to 30 years decide themselves about the schooling of their children. Majority of the women (48.0 % in the younger age group and 56.8 %) in the elder age group) make decision together with their husbands.

Table 5.6: Respondents by Decision on Schooling of Children

Variables	Decision on Schooling of Children									
	Self		Both		Husband		Others		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age Group										
< 30 Years	4	16.0	12	48.0	8	32.0	1	4.0	25	100.0
30 Years	5	13.5	21	56.8	10	27.0	1	2.7	37	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0
Education										
Illiterate	2	10.5	7	36.8	9	47.4	1	5.3	19	100.0
Under SLC	3	13.0	11	47.8	8	34.8	1	4.3	23	100.0
Educated	4	20.0	15	75.0	1	5.0	-	-	20	100.0
Total	9	14.5	33	53.2	18	29.0	2	3.2	62	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Education wise also percentage of women taking sole decision about the schooling of their children is comparatively low. In 47.4 % cases of illiterate women, the decision is made singly by their husbands. But the situation is different in the case of educated and semi-educated women. 75.0 % of educated and 47.8 % of under SLC women make decision about the schooling of their children together with their husbands (Table 5.6).

This study shows that the situation of women regarding the self decision-making capacity on the schooling of their children is not good irrespective of their age group, educational and migration status and caste/ethnic group. Majority of women take help of their husbands in making the decision in this respect.

5.4 Decision-Making on Polling

Constituent of Nepal has given equal right to vote for both men and women of age above 18 years. Table 5.7 shows the decision-making status of women in polling. It is seen that out of 80 respondents only 42 participated on polling in the last election. Among them women less than 30 years of age are found in better decision-making position than the women of age 30 or more years. 90.9 % of younger age group women selected themselves the candidate of their choice.

Table 5.7: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Polling

Variables	Self		Both		Husband		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age Group								
< 30 Years	10	90.9	1	9.1	-	-	11	100.0
30 Years	22	71.0	3	9.7	6	19.4	31	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0
Education								
Illiterate	6	75.0	-	-	2	25.0	8	100.0
Under SLC	8	66.7	1	8.3	3	25.0	12	100.0
Educated	18	81.8	3	13.6	1	4.5	22	100.0
Total	32	76.2	4	9.5	6	14.3	42	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Education wise, educated women are in the better self deciding position. Table 5.7 clearly shows that, 81.8 % of educated women, 75.0 % of illiterate women and 66.7 % of under SLC women decided in their own while making the selection of their candidate to vote.

5.5 Decision-Making on Participation in Social and Developmental Activities

Table 5.8 shows the situation of the respondents on decision-making about the participation in social and developmental activities. It is seen that out of 80 respondents, only 31 have ever participated in the social and developmental activities. Among them respondents of age less than 30 years are found to be in better deciding position (80.0 %) than the women of age more than or equal to 30 years (76.2 %). In both the cases it is found that majority of respondents decide themselves about their participation in the social and developmental activities.

Analyzing education wise, illiterate women are in better position than the women with some school level education and educated women. 80.0 % of illiterate respondents decide themselves about the participation (Table 5.8). Next to them are educated respondents with 78.9 % and then come under SLC respondents with 71.4 % deciding themselves in this issue. What ever be the educational status, majority of women decide themselves about participating in the social and developmental activities.

Table 5.8: Decision on Participating in Social and Developmental Activities

Variables	Self		Both		Husband		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age Group								
30 Years	8	80.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	10	100.0
> 30 Years	16	76.2	2	9.5	3	14.3	21	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0
Education								
Illiterate	4	80.0	-	-	1	20.0	5	100.0
Under SLC	5	71.4	1	14.3	1	14.3	7	100.0
Educated	15	78.9	2	10.5	2	10.5	19	100.0
Total	24	77.4	3	9.7	4	12.9	31	100.0
Caste/ethnicity								
Chhetri	10	45.4	8	36.3	4	18.1	22	100.0
Damai	-	-	-	-	1	100.0	1	100.0
Tamang	2	40.0	1	20.0	2	40.0	5	100.0
Brahmin	2	100.0	-	-	-	-	2	100.0
Giri/Sanyasi	1	100.0	-	-	-	-	1	
Newar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Total	15	48.3	9	29.0	7	22.5	31	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Among caste/ethnicity wise, cent percent Brahmin and Sanyashi women are seen to be in better self deciding condition than others (Table 5.8). The percentage of self deciding women in case of Chhetri and Tamang are respectively 45.4% and 40.0%. Newar women respondents can not self decide about their participation. Chhetri women, the native inhabitants of Shesh Narayan, are not seen in good status for making self decision regarding the participation in social and developmental activities compared to others.

5.6 Cause of Deprivation of Women

In Nepal females are found deprived from their rights and responsibilities. They have low access to education, employment and decision-making. They are dominated by males in each and every step of life. The respondents were asked what they think to be the main cause for the deprivation of Nepalese women. The main reasons as given by them are presented in Table 5.9.

Table 5.9: Respondents by the Reasoning in Cause of Deprivation of Women

Cause of Deprivation of Women	Total Number	Percentage
Lack of education	42	52.5
Lack of awareness	15	18.8
Low economic status	10	12.5
Tradition and culture	13	16.3
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

As reported by the respondents, the main reason of female's backwardness is lack of education (52.5 %) followed by lack of awareness (18.8 %). The stated third reason, which makes female as backward is tradition and culture (16.3 %). Only few respondents (12.5 %) believe low economic status as the reason behind deprivation of women (Table 5.9).

5.7 Involvement of women in Household Decision by Caste/Ethnicity

Table 5.10 shows of the situation of woman in decision making process by caste/ethnicity. It is seen that majority of Brahimans, Giri/Sanyasi women are strongly involved in the decision making process. Likewise the women belongs to Damai are week in decision making process. They are depended on their husbands.

Table 5.10 Involvement of women in household decision by Caste/Ethnicity

Caste	Self		Both		Husband		other		Total %
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Chettri	7	13.46	17	32.69	24	46.15	4	7.69	100
Damai	1	10	2	20	6	60	1	10	100
Tamang	1	12.5	4	50	2	25	1	12.5	100
Bhramins	3	60	1	20	1	20	-	-	100
Giri/Sanyasi	1	33.33	1	33.33	-	-	1	33.33	100
Neewar	-	-	2	100	-	-	-	-	100
Total	13	16.25	27	33.75	33	41.25	7	8.75	100

Field Survey 2013

CHAPTER – VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The purpose of this chapter is to summarize the major findings of the study related to women's role in household decision-making in Shesh Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district. It was also including conclusion of the study.

6.1 Summary of Findings

This study analyzes the women's roles in household decision-making process in Shesh Narayan VDC of Kathmandu district. It is lies on sourthern part of the Kathmandu district. There are 80 households in the selected wards of the study area. Among those households 80 have been taken as sample households by census method and to collect information. This study is mainly focused on the role of women in household decision-making process as well as in other social activities. The major findings of the study are as follows:

In 80 households, the total population is 320, among which 168 are males and 152 are females. Majority of people in the study area are in the age group 25-29 years. Excluding the infants of age group 0-4 years, there are more married people than unmarried. The highest proportion of the population has attended just the school level education but not passed SLC.

The study area is inhomogeneous with respect to the occupational status of the population, highest proportion of the population being that of students. All the respondents are married women of age from 15-49 years. Majority of the respondents (26.3 %) are in the age group 25-29 years and 42.5% had married in the age from 15-19 years.

About 83.8 percent of the respondents have nuclear family where majority of the respondents (86.3 %) are Hindu. Majority of the respondents are literate

with the percentage of "educated" and "under SLC" each being 36.3 percent. Though Shesh Narayan is the native land of Chhetri, in the study area majority of the respondents are Chhetri, Damai and Tamang.

Out of 80 sampled households, 70 of them possess their own land, majority of them having 1-5 ropanies. Majority of the respondents (87.7%) are living in their own house and only 13.3% of the respondents' are rented. As in the case of land, in most of the cases, elder members of the family are the legal owners of the house their family possess. Only 8.6% of the respondents themselves are the legal owners. Majority of the respondents (65.0 %) are using fire woods source of energy. The study has shown that majority of the respondents (61.3%) are not involved in any type of income generating activities whereas only 38.8% are generating income themselves, most of them being involved in their own business. About 58% of the respondents involved in income generating activities earn, on the average, 1000-5000 rupees per month. Only about 4% of the respondents have their monthly earning more than 10000 rupees.

The main source of income of about 50.0% of the respondents' family is agriculture. The study has shown that majority of the respondents (42.5%) keep themselves their household income.

It is found that only 6.3% of the respondents take regular participation in forest user committee meeting where only 3.8% of the respondents are involved in School Management Committee regularly, 2.5% in Drinking Water Committee are as regular members, 3.8% are the regular members of Political Parties, and 16.2% are as the regular members of Religious Institutions.

Regarding the purchase of food products 47.5 % of women make their own decision and 15.0 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder age group women (50 %); and education wise, under SLC women (55.2 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.

The study has shown that 48.8 % of women make their self decision and 28.8 % make decision together with their husbands while buying clothes for their family. Age wise, younger age group women (57.1 %); and education wise, under SLC women (62.1 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.

While making decision on using the type of fuel for cooking, 45.0 % of women make their self decision and 30.0 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder age group women (63.2 %); and education wise, educated women (48.3 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.

Regarding the involvement in income generating activities, 77.4 % of women make their own decision and 12.9 % make decision together with their husbands. Age wise, elder age group women (83.3 %); and education wise, under SLC women (88.9%) are seen in better self decision-making position.

The study has shown that 42.5 % of women make their self decision and 25.0 % make decision together with their husbands in the case of household expenditure. The exception is illiterate women group. In majority cases of illiterate women (54.5 %), husbands make the sole decision. Age wise, younger age group women (48.9 %); and education wise, under SLC women (62.1%) are seen in better self decision-making position.

In the case of schooling of children, only 14.5% of women make their own decision. In majority of cases (53.2%) they jointly make decision with their husbands. 29.0% of husbands make their single decision. Age wise, younger age group women (16.0%); and education wise, educated women (20.0%) are seen in better self decision-making position.

It has been found that majority of the women (76.2 %) made their decision themselves on polling. In 14.3 % cases, husbands decided for them and only in

9.5 % cases women made decision jointly with their husbands. Age wise, younger age group women (90.9 %); and education wise, educated women (81.8 %) are seen in better self decision-making position.

While making decision on the participation in social and developmental activities, 77.4% of women make their self decision whereas only 9.7% make decision together with their husbands. In 12.9% cases, husbands made the sole decision. Age wise, elder age group women (80.0 %); education wise, illiterate women (80.0 %), and cast ethnicity wise, Brahmin and Giri/Sanyasi women (100.0%) are seen in better self decision-making position.

In the view of majority of the respondents (52.5%), lack of education is the main reason for the backwardness of female.

6.2 Conclusion

Economically, respondents are not found in a better situation. Very few of them have the legal ownership of land and less than 40% of the respondents are engaged in income generating activities. However, the situation is better in case of house ownership. Majority of the respondents living in their own house are the legal owners. Majority of the respondents are also found in better situation in terms of the possession of household income. The participatory approach of respondents is not satisfactory.

Decision-making status of women has been studied under ten different categories. They are –purchasing of food products, purchase of clothes for family, purchase of fuel for cooking, involvement in income generating activities, household expenditure, and schooling of children, polling and participation in social and developmental activities. The study has shown that elder age group women have better self decision-making power than younger age group women. Likewise, under SLC women are found to be in better

decision-making position than educated women and illiterate women. Caste/ethnicity wise, Brahmin and Giri/Sanyashi women are in better decision-making position than other caste/ethnicity group.

Though women are lagging behind in terms of land ownership and income generating activities, they have satisfactory access in terms of using the modern resources and household income possession. Their participation in social activities is in the bottom line. Married women of the age group 15-49 years are well involved in making decision on choosing the proper decision method. Age wise, women of age greater than or equal to 30 years; education wise, women with under SLC level of education; and caste/ethnicity wise, Brahmin and Giri/Sanyasi women are found in a better self-decision-making position regarding the household activities.

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Annex-I

**"Women's Role in Household Decision Making Process", Survey
Questionnaire**

**Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, 2013**

Date:

Name of the respondent:

Address:

Caste:

Religion:

Family type:

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION:

S.N	Name of Family Members	Relation with Household Head	Sex	Age	Education	Marital Status	Age at marriage	Occupation
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

1. How much of land do your family have?

.....Ropani

2. Who is land owner?

i) Self

ii) Husband

iii) Others (specify).....

3. Which type of Fuel do you use for cooking in your family?
 i) Wood ii) Kerosene iii) Gas
4. Who makes decision on using the type of fuel in your family?
 i) Self ii) Husband iii) Both
 iv) Others (specify).....
5. What is the type of your house?
 i) Own ii) Rented iii) Others but not rented
 If own, who is the legal owner of this house?
 i) Self ii) Husband iii) Others (specify).....
6. Who decide in the household activities works?

7. What is the main source of your family income?
 i) Agriculture ii) Business iii) Labor/employment
 iv) Job/Service (position ...) v) Others
8. What is the secondary source of your family income?
 i) Agriculture ii) Business iii) Labor/employment
 iv) Job/Service v) Others (specify)
9. Who keeps the household income?
 i) Self ii) Husband iii) Both iv) Others (specify).....
10. Who decide the household expenditure?

11. Who decided on your involvement in income generating activity?
 i) Self ii) Husband iii) Both iv) Others (specify).....
12. Do you have children?
 i) Yes ii) No
 If yes, do they (at least one) go to school?
 i) Yes ii) No
13. Who makes decision on going/not going and type of children's school?
 i) Self ii) Husband iii) Both iv) Others (specify)...

14. How is your participation in the activities of the following social activities?

S.N	Name of Social Institution	Regular	Sometime	Never
1	Community development committee			
2	Drinking water committee			
3	Local mothers committee			
4	School development committee			
5	Political parties			
6	Religious institutions			
7	Others.....			

15. How is your participation in above social activities and who is decide for activities?

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

16. Who decide on polling on decision making?

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

17. Who decides on buying of clothing and food?

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

18. Do you have knowledge on any of the legal rights of women? and, who domain in legal rights?

.....

19. What do you think is the cause of women being deprived?

- i) Lack of education ii) Lack of awareness
- iii) Low economic status iv) Tradition and culture

Time at the end of interview:

Thank you very much.