

**DECISION MAKING ROLES OF WOMEN IN
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS
IN BAITADI DISTRICT**

(A Study in CARE Nepal's Community Support Program Working Area)

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Sociology/Anthropology for the

Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree

in *Sociology*

By

Hansh Raj Joshi

Roll No: 259/2065

Symbol No: 480458

Registered No: 9-2-404-102-2004

Tribhuvan University

Prithvi Narayan Campus

Pokhara

2014

**DECISION MAKING ROLES OF WOMEN IN
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS
IN BAITADI DISTRICT**

(A Study in CARE Nepal's Community Support Program Working Area)

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Sociology/Anthropology for the
Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree
in *Sociology***

By

Hansh Raj Joshi

Roll No: 259/2065

Symbol No: 480458

Registered No: 9-2-404-102-2004

**Tribhuvan University
Prithvi Narayan Campus**

Pokhara

2014

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. Hansh Raj Joshi has completed this thesis entitled, "Decision Making Roles of Women in Community Based Organization: A Study in CARE Nepal's Community Support Program Working Area" under my supervision. This is an original work. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

.....

(Netra Narayan Poudel)

Research Supervisor

Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Prithvi Narayan Campus

Pokhara

LETTER OF APPROVAL

We hereby certify that the thesis entitled "Decision Making Roles of Women in Community Based Organization: A Study in CARE Nepal's Community Support Program Working Area" submitted by Mr. Hansh Raj Joshi to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master's of Arts in Sociology has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the mentioned degree.

Members of Thesis Evaluation Committee

Netra Narayan Poudel

Research Supervisor

Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Dr. Lekha Nath Bhhatrai

Associate Professor of Economics

External Expert

Mrs. Shanti Bhusal

Head of Department of Sociology/Anthropology

T.U., PNC, Pokhara

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Netra Narayan Paudel, Lecturer of Tribhuvan University, Prithivi Narayan Campus, Department of Sociology/Anthropology for granting me an opportunity to study on the topic "Decision Making Roles of Women In Community Based Organizations" in Baitadi District: A Study in CARE Nepal's Community Support Program Working Area" and acceptance of this dissertation.

Specially, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Shanti Bhusal, Head of Department, Sociology/Anthropology, Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, for her inspiration and encouragement to accomplish this study. Similarly, I am grateful to the lecturers of same department for their regular guidance and support for making this study success.

I would like to thank to all staff and executives of Women Right Forum Baitadi and all staff of Community Support Program of Baitadi district for their support and cooperation to accomplish this study effectively.

I am also grateful to Mr. Govinda Rimal, Team leader, CARE Nepal, CSP Dhangadhi and entire CARE Nepal CSP family for their support, encouragement and providing sufficient reference materials.

I am also highly indebted to my class mates who inspired and motivated me to accomplish this study in time and for their support in making available some reference materials during the study. I would also like to thanks all the staff of CARE Nepal for providing me reports and data relevant to this study.

At last but not the least, this study would not have been a success without regular support and cooperation of my family members. My parents, my elders brothers and my spouse have supported me and their blessings have energized me during this study. I am in debt to those all.

Date:

Hansh Raj Joshi

ABSTRACT

National Population Census 2011 shows that 52 percent population is of females'. So having more than half of total population, their contribution in nation making and development of society is considered vital. Interim constitution of Nepal, 2063 has also ensured the equal rights and responsibilities of both man and women but there is distinct disparity in the application of laws and bylaws. In each level of the society, there is disparity in socio economic and political activities. In few years of time, the paradigm has been shifted and some improved lifestyle can be observed and also improved in level of participation of women in socio economic and political discussion and responsibilities. Government and Non Government development agencies have been intensively involved in making it out success. Gender and women issue has been occupied as main element of advocacy and service delivery.

Though the socio economic status of women has been improved but is still not satisfactory. Now, it should be a common agenda to eliminate the gender disparity prevailed in Nepalese society.

Development of whole nation is not possible without eliminating gender disparities and bringing women in mainstream of development. To eliminate such disparities, participation of marginalized women in every decision making process either in household activities or in community level decision making activities is most important. Likewise, to strengthen their socio economic and political capacity and will, their engagement in CBOs and income generation activities plays substantial role.

Still, more or less, it is found that there is man dominancy in each functions in the society. This dominancy pushing women in exclusion and deprived from resources and are compelled to bind them in household types of activities.

The present study, "Decision Making Roles Of Women In Community Based Organizations", in Baitadi District (A Study in CARE Nepal's Community Support Program Working Area)" illustrates findings based on the primary data collection and some qualitative practices and understandings collected during the study. This study was carried out to identify the socio economic status of women, their level of participation in community based organizations, their functions in making decisions in CBOs, support of their man counterpart in their roles and their access to community resources etc.

As this study is conducted to explore women's participation in decision making process. It was found that independently women's have low decision making power in comparison to their man counterparts though women's have started to participate in decision making process to some extent. In overall, man dominancy in decision making process in community organizations is seen however taking consent of women's in some cases are also found. Major causes behind this are the socio cultural and traditional beliefs. Women are considered as sub ordinates of man and are not much encouraged by their family to participate in social activities or outdoor activities. If encouraged, they have to seek support and get full consents in each level of decisions. Low literacy rate and lack of economic opportunities are also pushing women in exclusion. Presence of different NGOs and development agencies has also played vital roles in empowering women to their fullest. Is it found that those women engaged in some CBOs even in minor position are more empower than of not engaged or in engaged in household activities.

Now, it is crucial to empower women to make them able to intervene in decision making process in community based organizations and in household level as well. Unless women's participation is increased in decision making process, it is difficult to improve their socio economic status. So, providing income generating opportunities, engagement in social campaigns and in social functions, providing opportunities for formal and non formal education, enhancing their knowledge about service providers and their rights could be major instruments to make them able to lead CBOs independently. Far from these, it is also found that exposure opportunities to passive but potential members has also changed their socio status and reputation drastically. Thus need to mainstream such functions in the community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLES OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
ACRONYMS	viii
ABSTRACT	ix
CHAPTER-ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-7
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Objective of the Study	5
1.4 Significance of the Study	5
1.5 Limitation of the Study	6
1.6 Organization of the Study	7
CHAPTER- TWO: REVEIEW OF THE LITERATURE	8-24
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Theoretical Review	8
2.2.1 Community Based Organizations	8
2.2.2 Gender Theory	10
2.2.3 WAD, WID and GAD theory	11
2.2.4 Feminist Theory	14
2.2.5 Theory of Participation	14
2.2.6 Understanding Women	16
2.3 Review of Previous Studies	17
2.3.1 Global Context	17
2.3.2 National Context	19
2.4 Conceptual Framework of the Study	24

CHAPTER –THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 25-28

3.1	Rational of the Site Selection of the Study Area	25
3.2	Research Design	26
3.3	Universe and Sampling	26
3.4	Nature and Source of Data	26
	3.4.1 Primary Data Collection Tools	27
	3.4.2 Secondary Data Collection Tools	28
3.5	Data Analysis Methods	28

CHAPTER- FOUR: PHYSICAL SETTING AND SOCIAL SITUATION 29-41

4.1	Introduction of the Study Area	29
4.2	Location of the Study Area (5 DVCs)	30
4.3	Demography and Socio Economic Features of Study Population	31
	4.3.1 Age Composition of Respondents	31
	4.3.2 Caste/Ethnicity Composition	32
	4.3.3 Marital Status	33
	4.3.4 Family Structure	33
	4.3.5 Types of House	34
	4.3.6 Educational Status of Respondents	35
	4.3.7 Occupation and Source of Income	36
	4.3.8 Source of Communication	37
	4.3.9 Land Holding	37
	4.3.10 Hear Names of Different Service Providers	38
	4.3.11 Invitations in Trainings to Hhs Members	39
	4.3.12 Medical Treatment	39
	4.3.13 Discuss with Man about Women Rights	40

CHAPTER-FIVE: ANALYSIS OF WOMEN IN DECISION MALING

PROCESS IN CBOs

42-51

5.1	Women's Participation in CBOs	42
5.2	Consensus Taken During Decision Making in Respective CBOs	43
5.3	Practice of Inviting Women in CBOs Meeting	44
5.4	CBOs with Woman Chair Person	45
5.5	Frequency of Women Participating in VDC Council	45

5.6	Women Provided Opportunity for the Speech in VDC Council	46
5.7	Priority Given to Women in Teacher Selection	47
5.8	Status of Man and Women in Society	48
5.9	Making Decision to Participate in CBO Meetings	49
5.10	Decision to Participate in Social Activities	49
5.11	Reasons of Women's Backwardness	50
5.12	Problems Faced by Women in Decision Making Process	51
CHAPTER-SIX: ANALYSIS OF QUALITATIVE INFORMATION		52-57
6.1	Interview of Key Informant's and Community Leaders	52
6.2	Researcher's Observation	54
6.3	Findings of Focused Group Discussions	55
CHAPTER-SEVEN: SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION		58-63
7.1	Summary	58
7.2	Findings	59
7.3	Conclusion	62
7.4	Recommendations	63
REFERENCE		
APPENDICES		
APPENDIX -A	: Household Survey Questionnaire	
APPENDIX -B	: Key Informant Interview Schedule	
APPENDIX-C	: Focus Group Discussion Checklist	

LIST OF TABLE

		Page
Table 4.1:	Population of Selected VDCs Including Male and Female	30
Table 4.2:	Distribution of Respondents by Age	32
Table 4.3:	Distribution of Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity	32
Table 4.4:	Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status	33
Table 4.5:	Distribution of Family by Types	34
Table 4.6:	Distribution of Respondents by Types	34
Table 4.7:	Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status	35
Table 4.8:	Distribution of Respondents by Occupation and Source of Income	36
Table 4.9:	Distribution of Respondents with Different Source of Communication	37
Table 4.10:	Distribution of Respondents by Land holding	38
Table 4.11:	Distribution of Respondents by Hearing Names	38
Table 4.12:	Distribution of Respondents by Invitations and Takes Part in Trainings	39
Table 4.13:	Distribution of Respondent by Medical Treatment	40
Table 4.14:	Distribution of Respondent by Man's Engagement in Women's Issues	41
Table 5.1:	Distribution of Respondent by Man and Woman's Participation in Different CBOs	43
Table 5.2:	Distribution of Respondent by Taking Consensus During Decision Making in CBOs.	43
Table 5.3:	Distribution of Respondent by Inviting Women in CBOs Meeting.	44
Table 5.4:	Distribution of Respondent by Having CBOs Chaired by Woman	45
Table 5.5:	Distribution of Respondent by Participating in VDC Council by Woman	46
Table 5.6:	Distribution of Respondent by Getting Chance of Speech in VDC Council.	47
Table 5.7:	Distribution of Respondent by Giving Priority to Women in Teacher Selection.	47
Table 5.8:	Distribution of Respondent by Showing Status of Man and Women in Society.	48
Table 5.9:	Distribution of Respondent by Making Decision to Participate in CBOs Meetings.	49
Table 5.10:	Distribution of Respondents by Decision to Participate in Social Activities	50
Table 5.11:	View towards Women Backwardness	50

ACRONYMS

CIDA	-	Canadian International Development Agency
CARE	-	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (An INGO)
CBOS	-	Community Based Organizations
COS	-	Community Organizations
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CFUG	-	Community Forestry Users Group
DDC	-	District Development Committee
ECD	-	Early Childhood Development Centre
FCHV	-	Female Community Health Worker
FGD	-	Focused Group Discussion
GDI	-	Gender Development Index
GEM	-	Gender Empowerment Measure
HHS	-	House Holds
I/NGO	-	International/Non government Organizations
LGCDP	-	Local Governance & Community Development Program
NDHR	-	Nepal Human Development Report
PPC/CAC	-	Peace Promotion Centre/Civic Awareness Centre
PTA	-	Parents Teachers Association
SHP/HP	-	Sub Health Post/ Health Post
SLC	-	School Leaving Certificate
SMC	-	School Management Committee
UC	-	Users Committee
UN	-	United Nations
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
UNIFEM	-	United Nations Fund for Women
V/WRF	-	Village Women Rights Forum
VDC/DDC	-	Village Development Committee/District
NCBON	-	National Community Based Organization Network.
WID/WAD/GAD-		Women in Development/ Women and Development/ Gender and Development
USAID -		United States Assistance for International Development