

CHAPTER- ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is a small Himalayan country situated in south Asia between two big power country of Asia China and India. It is known as a country of Mt. Everest and the birth place of Lord Buddha. Politically it is declared 'The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal'. Geographically it is a landlocked country. It occupies 0.03% land of the total area of the world. It stretches about 885km east to west and north south varies in width 105-241 km and Nepal gives the total area of 1,47,181 sq km carrying 2,64,94,504 populations.(CBS 2011)

As women consist half of the world population, they have majority in their number in Nepal also (51.50% women in Nepal, population census 2011).It is said in least developed and patriarchal country like Nepal 'women are poorest among the poor's'. The female literacy rate of Nepal is 57.4 percent, according to population census report 2011, compared to male literacy rate of 75.1 percent. This vast difference exists not only in educational and economical sector but also in almost each sector. In the remote villages of Nepal, women take care almost everything of domestic drudgery. Despite their significant contribution in the family and society, they are mistreated and blamed for minor mistakes. Women are contributing more than 50 percent of the agricultural jobs which is considered as a backbone of Nepalese economy (Agriculture and Forestry contributes Nepal's total GDP by 35 percent Statistical Information on Nepalese Agriculture 2011\2012). They are the first teachers of their kids who are the source of future development of the country. They can make

much difference in the outlook of our current society. They must be encouraged and given opportunity to walk parallel with their male counterparts. To empower women continuous endeavor is essential with long term vision rather than making it a political issue for collecting votes. The empowerment of the women will be one big step forward to overall development of the nation. As Nepal has already been entered into a new age of change, equality between male and female should be one of the top most priorities for policy makers.

Women empowerment is the burning issue of the nation. Empowerment of women is much talked and debated issue at present context of Nepal. No society or nation can develop without materializing this valuable asset woman. Empowering women or to promote their status is essential for sustainable 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.

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 discussed 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 programme. It is evident that development of a country could not be possible without the right participation of women in every sector of development. It is therefore accepted that women's socio-economic status plays a vital role in the development activities of a nation.

Discrimination between men and women exist in developed as well as developing countries. Nepalese 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).

Empowerment is the ability to exercise power; in broader sense it is a process through which women and men in disadvantaged positions increase their access to knowledge, resources, and decision-making power, and raise their awareness of participation in their communities, in order to reach a level of control over their own environment. 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 and a process for realizing the ideals of human liberation and equal access for all.

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 and now Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) since 2008.

With the lesson learned from VDSHP, PDDP & DLGSP Government of Nepal has started a nationwide very big program known as Local

Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) since 2008 especially to increase, enhance the effective participation of women and disadvantaged group in development process and also to empower women and disadvantaged group through right based development approach (positive discriminatory social mobilization package and other proactive measures) for inclusive and gender equitable local development .The new program LGCDP is designed with the focus on socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged groups, women and their effective participation in governance system through transformational social mobilization process.

Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) is the biggest umbrella programmed of the government of Nepal in association with 14 Development Partners (DPs) including UN agencies, ADB, DANIDA, SIDA, DFID, GIZ, JICA, World Bank etc. The overall goal of LGCDP is poverty alleviation and to bring improvement in the living standard of the masses through local good governance based on a democratic value system and inclusive development effort.

The strategic goal of LGCDP is to promote inclusive and gender equitable local democracy, through local community-led development that enables the active engagement of citizens from all sections of society. LGCDP will support socially inclusive and gender and child friendly approaches in the design and implementation of its programmed. Affirmative action policies is introduced in favor of poor, women and disadvantaged communities to maximize their participation in local governance and community development, and benefits from the programmed intervention. Leadership and managerial skills of women and disadvantaged communities (Dalit, Janajatis and others) aimed to be improved through capacity building that leads to their empowerment. A

procedure for working with communities, and for targeting the poorest and most disadvantaged segments of these communities, is to be rationalized and harmonized in order to ensure greater equity and efficiency, and to reduce transaction costs for the communities themselves. The strategy for all activities is aimed at approaches which can be rapidly mainstreamed and scaled-up to national level, and not be “excessively resource intensive, NGO-type experiments” which have no hope of wider replication.

Community-led development is another goal of LGCDP where citizens and communities either individually or collectively, as active partners participate in the local governance process, priorities, implement or fulfill their basic needs through collective action.

Rights-based participatory approach of social mobilization is another and important goal of LGCDP which focus on demand responsive service delivery at local government level and to advocate for civil rights and to support the emergence and growth of Dalit, differently-able and women organizations which defend their rights at the local level.

The transformational social mobilization is the backbone of the program the success of which directly effects on the overall goal of the program. The prime aim of transformational social mobilization is empowerment and social transformation to improve people’s lives through livelihoods enhancing activities and through better service delivery. Social mobilization makes people more aware of their rights and responsibilities in society, and helps to break down social barriers especially for disadvantaged groups (DAGs) and women. It helps DAGs to develop linkages with local bodies and other service providers that can provide them with access to programmed, services and funds that addresses their specific issues, concerns and rights across all sectors.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gender discrimination created by society between men 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.

Men and women are treated equal 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.

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.

The present study has 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.

Therefore, the present study is focused in assessing the impact of TSMP run by LGCDP in empowering women. The more specific query becomes: Do transformational social mobilisation programme run by GON/LGCDP help increase in decision making power and income generation of the women? Have such Programmed brought awareness among the women? Are the women equally treated at household and community level and are they able to raise their common concerns to their local authorities to manage their specific issues? Are the women's participation increase in local level planning and decision making process? These are some of questions the present study will address through research at Devdaha village development committee (VDC) of Rupandehi district in Nepal.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this study is to find out the impact of Local Governance & Community Development Program (LGCDP) on women empowerment in study area. Some key objectives are given below.

1. To compare the status of women before and after the LGCDP launched.
2. To assess the women's participation in social/economic activities and in local governance.
3. To analyze the role of women in decision making in household and development activities.

4. To find out the impact of Local Governance & Community Development Program (LGCDP) on women empowerment in study area.
5. To find out the policy gap and loopholes in the existing policies regarding to women empowerment.

1.4 Significance 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 51.50% of the total population of Nepal in 2011. According to Hindu culture boys not only own on the family name, but also represent "insurance" for parents in their old age but now the situation change to some extent, girls are initiating to take those responsibilities which traditionally boys only do. Women face triple work responsibilities in Nepal like; reproduction, household work and employment. Nepalese women fall on the cycle of 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).

The present study has been important for investigating change of women status or empowerment scenario and activities in the area under study. Many studies may have been attempted to evaluate the socio-economic impact of LGCDP based upon its various objectives but current study attempts to analyze the LGCDP on women empowerment aspect only. 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. Therefore, it would be more important for recommending plan and policy maker to formulate appropriate plans for further empowerment of women for rural development.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is basically attempts to access the impacts of LGCDP on women empowerment at the local level of Rupandehi district. This study has been attempted to investigate to change of women status or empowerment scenario and activities in the study area. The finding of this study could be useful for policy makers to find out the policy gap and loopholes in the existing policies and may also very useful for extension of second phase of LGCDP all over the country, Nepal.

The current study may come up as a supportive guidance to both Government and non Government organizations. It can be helpful for policy implications also.

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

1. This study covers only Local Governance Community Development Programme(LGCDP) launched area in Devdaha Village Development Committee of Rupandehi District, Nepal.
2. This study doesn't cover the various objectives and outputs of LGCDP and only focus on the demand side of governance in terms of women empowerment.
3. This study has focus on Devdaha Village Development Committee where women are actively involved in local governance process.

1.6 Organization of the Study

Altogether five Chapters have been categorized in this study, the individual chapter comprises following topics:

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 highlights 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 highlights 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.

CHAPTER - TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are four separate part of the literature review. This chapter deals with literature regarding the theoretical framework related to international and Nepalese context about Women and Development issues, Development practice in Nepal, Review of Government policies and program on women empowerment, transformational social mobilisation and CAC/WCF concept of LGCDP program. Based on these aspects, available literature has been reviewed below.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 International Context

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 rational behind WID was that women are untapped resources that can provide and 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 of women were fully incorporated into the development process. In other work, 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.

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.

In India, affirmative action for women and disadvantaged groups has been enshrined into the constitution. The Constitution (73rd Amendment Act), enacted in 1992, calls for the reservation of a minimum of one-third of seats for women (both as members and as chairpersons) within all of India's locally elected governance bodies commonly referred to as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). More recently in 2009, the Government of India approved a 50 per cent reservation for women in PRIs; and many states, including Rajasthan and Odisha, have passed similar legislation. The same amendment also calls for PRIs to "prepare and implement plans for economic development and social justice." Affirmative action to ensure women's political representation is an important step in democratizing and engendering local governance. However, it has not been sufficient to ensure women's empowerment, leadership and their effective participation in local governance, as elected women representatives (EWRs), both members and Sarpanches continue to face several institutional and social barriers. At the institutional level, the capacity of local governance structures to implement reforms, institutionalize accountability systems, decentralize functions and facilitate women's active engagement plays a role in determining whether women are able to emerge as political agents and actors. Social barriers include lack of education, lack of respect for women in PRIs, physical violence against women in the public and domestic spheres, and oppressive patriarchal and caste structures. Traditional power hierarchies are tilted in favor of men and resist giving space or recognition to women's attempts to be part of the political scenario. Although there are

women Sarpanches who have taken the initiative and made remarkable changes on behalf of their constituencies, it is widely acknowledged.

In South Africa Equal opportunity for all citizens, is enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa (1996), gender as one of the key areas of redress in the process of transformation of the state and its structures. Local government has been a focal area of policy transformation, ensuring gender equity and equality. The South African Women's Charter (1994), defines the rights and participation of women in governance as follows:

“Conventionally, democracy and human rights have been defined and interpreted in terms of men's experiences... If democracy and human rights are to be meaningful for women, they must address our historical subordination and oppression. Women participate in, and shape, the nature and form of our democracy” (Seidman, 1999:287).

Although the participation of women has increased significantly in the various spheres of government in South Africa, women are still marginalized whilst serving in their roles as elected members. It further reveals that women's participation in local government is full with problems, due to the patriarchal mindsets and organizational structures, which obstruct women's participation.

2.1.2 Nepalese Context

Due to social, cultural and religious belief, Nepalese women do not enjoy same status as men do. Although the provision of equal opportunity for all citizens and no discrimination depending on race, gender and culture is enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal - 2007 . In society women are less provided with productive resources in terms of education, health and productive asset, which could bring higher return to their labour.

The United Nations fourth world conference on women, September 4-15, 1995, country reports Nepal states that women constituted more than 50 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).

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 thirteenth plan also offers a variety of strategies for drawing the excluded into the mainstream of Nepal's development. These includes- Strengthening gender mainstreaming by enhancing remarkable and meaningful participation of women in every step and all cycles of development process of the governance system and Carry out programs for the eradication of all forms of violence, discrimination and exclusion against women. To obtain the strategy the gender friendly working policies are formed, which includes- protection and promotion of economic, social

and political rights of women, adaptation of gender responsive techniques during project formulation so as to ensure that projects generate more and more employment opportunities to women, giving priority to the programs raising the access, ownership and control of women in means and resources, identification and implementation of programs like income generation, empowerment and capacity building for strengthening the economic and social status of single women and widow etc. 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. 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 and indirect influence on economic and political empowerment (UNDP-2011).

Nepalese culture is rooted in discrimination based on religion, gender which has 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 cannot 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, Page, 31-32, Barriers of Empowerment).

Nepal faces complex social and economic problems based on diverse physiographic conditions, delicate ecological balances, open international borders, a multi faceted social structure and scenes 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, maintaining good governance, implementation of pro-poor policies, people's 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 the period of state led development strategy, meaningful result was seen after the introduction of democracy in 1950 when 104 years of 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 facilitators 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 development 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). Local Self Governance Act-1999 is a milestone to mainstream the participation of CBOs and various types of community organizations in local governance process. The LSGA provides the legal basis for the involvement of civil society organisations (CSOs) in formulating plans for the local bodies. Gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) policy -2010 is another achievement of ministry of local development and federal affairs in policy making level to institutionalize the gender issues in central level and grass root levels. Of governance process.

A planning approach to development in Nepal began in 1956 with the formulation of the first plan (1956-61). Twelveth periodic plans have been implemented and the thirteenth periodic plan (2013-2016) 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 basic 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 (IRDP) 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 as goals through the year 2000. The SAP bought 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 evaluation. Some of these programs are "Build Our Village Ourselves" (BOVO) 1995, Village Development and Self-Help Program, Local Governance Program (LGP), Bishwesor with Poor, Women Awareness (income generating) Program etc.

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 barriers to women's social/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 eighth 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 the review of the twelve plans, the government reported the following achievements in relation to women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming:

Interim Constitution of Nepal- 2007 has enshrined a policy of special arrangement for social security of women, persons with disabilities, children and senior citizens. Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has provision of 35 percent of the block grant disbursed to the village development committees (VDCs) that should be spent for the empowerment of children, women and disadvantaged groups. The VDCs accordingly have started to develop such efforts. The legal provisions discriminatory against women have been revised. An Act for the Amendment of some Nepal Acts, 2006 has already been enacted for

maintaining gender equality and political commitment has been made to ensure at least 33 percent of women's representation in State mechanisms. Pursuant to the policy of extending the women's development program (WDP) in all VDCs so as to create alternative opportunities for impoverished rural women who have lost regular chances of personality development, the program has now been expanded to 3570 VDCs of the nation by the FY 2011/12. The proportion of gender sensitive budget has reached 19.1 percent. Social mobilization for gender equality is gaining momentum and the participation of women in targeted programs has become an inalienable indicator.

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 as well as there is a provision of gender focal person at district development committee at district level. The women's contribution in the household income was recorded in National account in the process of census 2001 and also in 2011.

The Local Self-Governance Act-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. 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. There is also a mandatory provision of participation of 33% of women member in every User Committees under local bodies such that there should be at least one woman in one of the vital post (President, secretary and treasurer) of such committees. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has provision of 35

percent of the block grant disbursed to the local bodies (DDCs, Municipalities, and VDCs) that should be spent for the empowerment of children, women and disadvantaged groups. Local Body Resource Mobilization Guideline-2012 has made such provision clear. Further this clause is also tie-up with Minimum Conditions of Local Bodies. If this particular clause is failed to implement by the local body then extra capital grant of that local body is deducted for the next year from central government of Nepal.

An Act for the Amendment of some Nepal Acts, 2006 has already been enacted for maintaining gender equality and political commitment has been made to ensure at least 33 percent of women's representation in State mechanisms.

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). Considering social mobilisation as a tool of empowerment of Disadvantaged Groups (DAGs) and women and to strengthen the demand side of governance system, government of Nepal introduce a very big programme called Local Governance and Community Development Programme(LGCDP) since 2008 covering 75 district development committees, 58 municipalities and 3915 villages. LGCDP considers Transformational Social Mobilisation Programme (TSMP). LGCDP considers TSMP as the backbone of the programme. The main objective of TSMP is to increase the access of DAGs and women in local development process by enabling them more aware and empowered about their rights and responsibility so that they

can get benefit from the local resources and development and also able to improve their livelihood.

2.2 Transformational Social Mobilisation in LGCDP

Nepal has a long tradition of social mobilisation. It has become an integral part of many development programmes and it has been recognized in the 10th Five-year Plan and the 3-year Interim Plan as a means for contributing to the national poverty reduction goal. The aim of social mobilisation is empowerment and social transformation to improve people's lives through livelihoods enhancing activities and through better service delivery. Social mobilisation makes people more aware of their rights and responsibilities in society, and helps to break down social barriers especially for disadvantaged groups (DAGs) and women. It helps DAGs to develop linkages with local bodies and other service providers that can provide them with access to programmes, services and funds that addresses their specific issues, concerns and rights across all sectors.

In Nepal social mobilisation has largely developed as a process for organizing people into groups and supporting those groups. Such groups then become responsible for delivering services and mobilising resources (financial and human) for their members. This type of social mobilisation is sometimes called the transactional approach. It has been broadly successful in catering to the needs of group members and enhancing their livelihoods.

Poor and socially marginalized people have not always benefited from the transactional approach of social mobilisation. Specific barriers to their involvement in group activities and sharing of benefits have sometimes not been addressed. Now, since the Government of Nepal specifically aims to transform power structures and develop economic policies that favour disadvantaged groups (DAGs), including the poor, women, Dalits,

Madhesis and Janajatis, citizens rights have become a major focus of all development programmes. Consequently a different approach to social mobilisation is needed. The new focus for social mobilisation is on empowering all citizens to engage with the state, building their capacity to voice their views, to influence policy and development programmes according to their own priorities, to claim assets and services from government and to make local government and service providers accountable to them. This is called a transformational approach to social mobilisation (sometimes called citizen mobilisation). In some cases a combination of transactional and transformational approaches has been successfully developed.

Key differences between the 2 approaches to social mobilisation	
Transformational Approach	Transactional Approach
Focus: Empowering citizens to build their voice, claim assets and services and influence decisions procedures and policies of institutions in favour of citizens.	Focus: Group formation for service delivery, asset creation, fund flow, savings and credit and skill enhancement.
Process: Helping citizens to understanding their social, economic and political situation by undertaking analysis of the underlying causes of poverty and related REFLECT processes.	Process: Regarding the causes of poverty as being largely a lack of resources, it uses limited analytical tools for group formation such as social mapping and well-being ranking.

LGCDP is applying the transformational approach of social mobilisation. In LGCDP social mobilisation is used to enhance the voice and active participation of citizens, local groups and communities specially DAGs and women to influence decision-making and use of resources by local government. It will enhance their agency to help individuals in accessing resources and assets for their livelihood improvement. Hence, the three dimensions of transformation are used as the basis for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the social transformation programme in LGCDP.

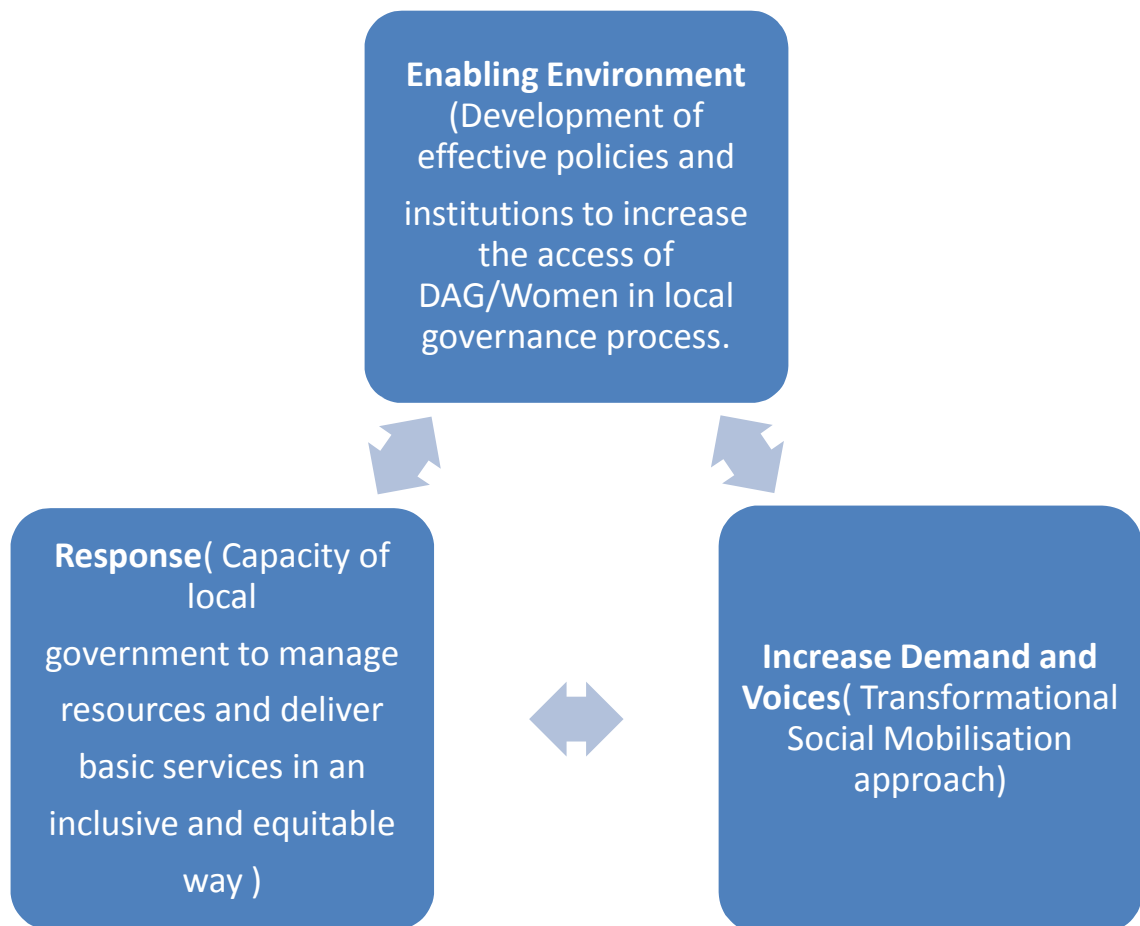


Fig 1: The three dimensions of transformation in LGCDP through TSMP

The expected outcomes from this transformational approach in LGCDP are:

- More influence of communities specially DAG and women on the equitable allocation and prioritization of the resources of local

government (including block grants) and those of other service providers.

- Strengthening engagement and understanding of the communities (especially DAGs) in local body processes.
- To hold local government and local service providers accountable for use of development funds to improve the livelihood of DAGs and women for inclusive development.

Ward Citizen Forum (WCF) is a ward level forum of maximum 25 members that are inclusive of all citizens, especially poor and excluded groups, women that can voice local level priorities and concerns/issues of DAGs, women and excluded peoples to the VDC-level Integrated Planning Committee (IPC) and to the VDC council. However the WCF does not include local level political leaders, so called elite groups in this forum. WCF ensures particularly that the voices and views of households who are not members of any local groups can be articulated in the ward citizen's forum. Further in the present context of no local elected representatives, WCF is given the authority of ward committee also.

A Citizen Awareness Center (CAC) is a group for disadvantaged citizens specially women who are normally excluded from previous development practices. It consists of maximum 30 members of a settlement. The settlement and the members is finding out based upon the various participatory tools like: village resource access mapping, social resource mapping, well being ranking of individuals etc. The social mobiliser hold REFLECT classes at the CAC every week for 2 hours where they facilitate DAG members and women on their rights and support them to act on identified issues and enhance their access to services in the community, VDC and DDC. The REFLECT process empowers DAG members and women to advocate and lobby for their own rights as well

as those of the whole community. This process facilitates the well-off and the poorest to support and understand each other's problems and issues.

REFLECT (Regenerated Freirian Literacy Empowering through Community Techniques) is a process of adult learning by which DAG members and women become awarded on their rights and responsibilities they really feel the various issues they have faced (barriers of their development) since long time and make them empowered and capable to eliminate such barriers and to demand for their rights.

The review of literature suggests that women empowerment programme is of different forms, but ultimate goal is to raise socio-economic status of women. Women of Nepal, particularly those in the villages, are less involved in socio-economic activities or their involvement in socio-economic activities is underestimated or not considered at all, which remains a contributing factor to poverty of women. Poverty alleviation targeted through the provision of socio-economic opportunities to the women is one of the ways for improving the women's status. Along the line of the women empowerment policy and activities of the governments of Nepal, the NGOs are involved in awareness raising, skill training, community development, technology transfer, social mobilisation for women, rights campaign etc. Theories suggest that empowerment can be measured through the ability of individuals to make strategic choices about own life, and again it refers to their decision making capacity or participation in every sector, and also it refers to the ability to control resources. The study further counts that empowerment works in a process which leads to a host of opportunities, increase in ability to exercise autonomy, a capacity to define one's goals and act upon them, enhancement in decision making, bargaining and negotiation capacity,

where Transformational Social Mobilisation Programme is an essential element to empower women by capacity development, access to resources, participation in local level planning process, to raise confidence, self increase awareness on their rights. In this study, the conceptual suppositions are TSMP Programmes of GON through a process lead to empowerment to enhance the voice and active participation of citizens, local groups and communities specially DAGs and women to influence decision-making and use of resources in local government. It will enhance the capacity of individuals specially women and DAG in planning and budgeting process of local government. It also enhance the capacity of DAG and women in accessing resources and assets for their livelihood improvement.

In this context this study focuses to find out the changes obtained by the program intervention of LGCDP on the status of women empowerment at local level of study area. In this regards, the current study may come up as a reference document for further study on women empowerment through transformational social mobilisation approach for the future.

CHAPTER - THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 General

The study is descriptive in nature. Since the study being diagnostic as well as descriptive, both the qualitative and quantitative data regarding the TSMP system and its practices in study area of Rupandehi district. The primary data were generated during research study and relevant secondary data were collected from literature review.

3.2 Research Design

The research study has been carried out on the basis of explanatory and case study research design because the study has focused to investigate the impact of Transformational Social Mobilization Program (TSMP) on women empowerment and analyze the role of women in decision-making. The study is based on primary and secondary information. The research has been conducted with the help of local male and female on the study areas who are participated either in WCF or CAC.

The study also attempts to describe various dimensions of women empowerment such as capacity development, access to local resources, social, economic and political awareness, knowledge of law, vocational training, skill development, involvement in community decision making process, participation of women in local governance and user committee formation as well as participation in various steps of project cycle of local government. The investigated, explored findings of this study have been described. Thus, this study is based in descriptive, exploratory and case study research.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

The universe of the study has been sampled in the TSMP program area of Devdaha VDC. The simple random sampling and quota sampling methods were used for household survey. There are altogether 9 WCF and a CAC in Devdaha VDC consisting 226 members among which 106 are female members. In total 226 universe 40 households were sampled from WCF of ward no.3, 5 and 8 and a CAC of ward no. 3 consisting 10 members from each sampled WCfs and CAC were chosen randomly using simple random sampling technique.

3.4 Rational for the Selection of the Study Area

Gender mainstreaming is the cross cutting issue of development in 21st century. Transformational Social Mobilization Program (TSMP) is introduced in Rupandehi district for the empowerment of marginalized communities as well as women in local governance system. Devdaha VDC wards No. 3, 5, and 8 of Rupandehi district was sampled for the study. In this area, the TSMP program was implemented for the first time in 2010. Sampling frame comprised those households who are directly involved in the ward citizen forum (WCF) and citizen awareness center (CAC) formulated by VDC. The particular area is chosen for the study because it is easily accessible and is heterogeneous in socio-economic and cultural structure.

3.5 Nature and Sources of Data Collection

This study aims to find out the impact of TSMP on women empowerment in study area. The primary and secondary sources have been applied for data collection. The primary data has been collected from study area in Devdaha VDC during field survey.

The secondary data has been collected from published and unpublished documents, from individual experts and organization report related to women empowerment, from program document of LGCDP. Other necessary secondary information's has been collected from VDC Devdaha and DDC Rupandehi.

3.6 Data Collection Techniques and Tools

Primary data are collected from the Devdaha VDC. To generate the primary data household survey, key informant survey and observation as well as focus group discussion techniques were applied. For the collection of primary data, structured questionnaire, Topic guideline, work schedule, checklist tools were applied.

3.6.1 Household / Questionnaire 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 WCF and CAC 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 key informants using the semi or unstructured interview

method. The interview has been taken as cross checking for data obtained from questionnaire.

3.6.2 Key Informants Interview

The key information interview method was used to collect additional information's about the impact of TSMP program on women empowerment. The interview was taken as cross checking for data obtained from questionnaire. Other Key related issues i.e. institutional 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 on individual basis.

3.6.3 Field visit and Observation

Each household selected in sampling was observed directly to women activities and their empowerment/entrepreneurship in study area. The participation of them in different programs was recorded in different data's which can be seen through this study.

3.6.4 Focus Group Discussion

The focus group discussions were held in all selected WCF and CAC. In the discussion, the researcher was tried to participate all female member of concerned WCF and CAC as for as possible. The major issues of discussion was focused on active participation of women activities of WCF and CAC i.e. participation of women in local governance and local level planning process of VDC, presence in the community meeting, rate of decision making in household and community affairs and overall impact of program on women empowerment.

3.6.5 Checklist

Checklist was prepared for the collection of primary data that has been used for Key informant interview and group discussion.

3.7 Justification of WCF AND CAC's selection

The selection of WCF and CAC is on the basis of the activeness of women in WCF and CAC. Among 9 WCF and a CAC, WCF of Ward No. 3, 5, 8 and CAC of ward No. 3 have been taken as sample. In these WCF and CAC women have taken the major positions and they have been actively engaged in developmental issues in comparison to others.

3.8 Methods of Analysis and Presentation of Data

The collected primary data from various sources were edited and digitized. The digitized data were processed by using simple computer technique. 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.

CHAPTER - FOUR

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

4.1. Brief Introduction of the Study area.

Rupandehi District, a part of Lumbini Zone, is one of the seventy-five districts of Nepal, a landlocked country of South Asia and very famous place as it is the birth place of Lord Buddha. The district, with Siddharthanagar municipality as its headquarters, covers an area of 1360 Sq. Km. Devdaha is a small and historical village lies eastern Part of the Rupandehi district. The village covers an area of 96.36 Sq. Km. The Sunwal VDC of Nawalparasi district lies in the east, Butwal municipality lies in the west, Palpa district lies in the north and Kerbani, Makrahar VDC in the southern direction.

In Rupandehi district there is a vast diversity of backgrounds, beliefs, customs and cultures. All the people live and work in harmony and cooperation. In this small district many ethnic groups and different casts lives. According to the last national survey the population of Rupandehi is 880,196. The number of household is 163,916 with population density of 647 per sq. Km. the population growth rate is (3.01%). The largest portion of the population of the district consists of Hindus (86.5%), Buddhists (4.3%), Islam (8.3%), Christian (0.6%) and other (0.4).The total population of study area Devdaha VDC is 28214 in which male are 12836 and female are 15378. The number of total households is 6435 having population density 294/Sq.Km.(DDC\VDC Rupandehi)

4.2 The Devdaha VDC

Devdaha is a small V.D.C. of eastern Part of the Rupandehi district. It is marital Place of lord Buddha. The famous ancient capital of Koliya Kingdom Devdaha is located in the eastern Terai of Rupandehi district of Nepal. It is 35 km east of Lumbini, The scared birth place of Lord Gautam Buddha. It is lying in the lap of Chure Mountain just south of Mahabharata Range. Far north of these minor mountain ranges lie the beautiful snow peaks of the Himalayan Mountain Ranges of the Dhaulagiri and Annapurna. The east west highway passing through the evergreen forest areas has offered an easy access to Devdaha. It is both the maternal home and the In-laws home of prince Siddhartha after his marriage with Yashodhara, the daughter of King SupraBuddha of Devdaha. It lies 245 km south west of Kathmandu. It is also the home town of Mayadevi the mother of Prince Siddhartha and his step mother Prajapati Gautami. it is also again the home town of princess Yashodhara, the consort of Prince Siddhartha.

Devdaha village is situated at an elevation of 100 m. above the sea level. The daily maximum temperature is in between 4⁰C and 42.4⁰C in winter and summer respectively. The annual precipitation is about 1391 mm of which 90% falls in the monsoon time.(Devdaha VDC)

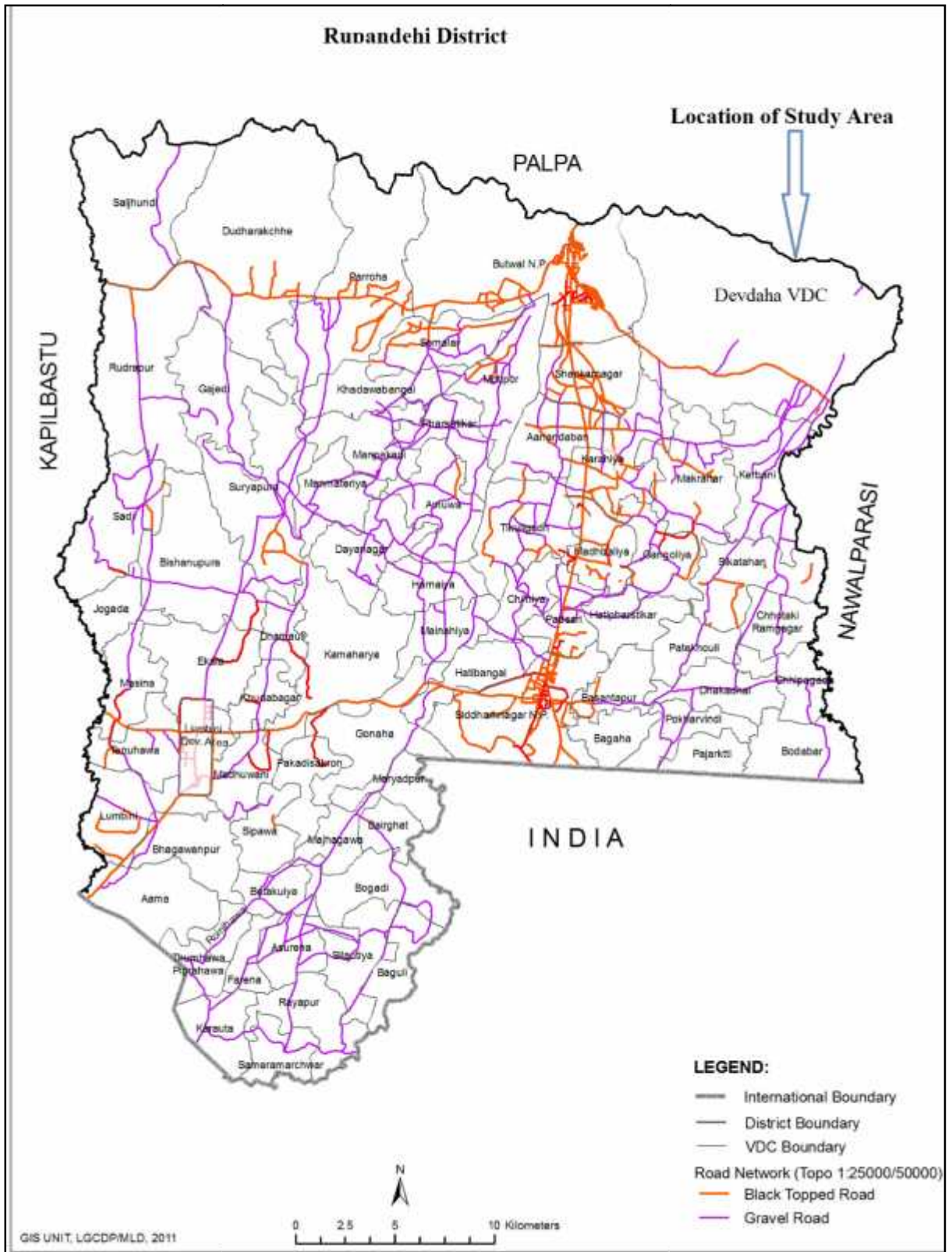


Figure: 2 Rupandehi District

4.3 Institutional Building and Women Participation of TSMP in Nepal

Mobilization of communities especially women and DAG is undertaken to increase the social capital by increasing the awareness level of the member through REFLECT process and by capacity development in various issues for developing the practice of good-governance. Building awareness and increasing the access of members in local resources and decision making is a fundamental component for successful implementation of TSMP activities.

4.3.1 WCF/CAC Formation

Community organization is the vehicle for development through which desired changes can be accomplished. All planned programmes activities should be carried out through a local organization, which is owned and controlled by the beneficiaries themselves. Organization becomes essential strategy in order to create an effective demand structure to voice community interest and needs. One of the pre-requisites for the good governance system is the existence of effective and efficient institution at different level of governance responsible and accountable towards community. These institutions should comply the decentralization principle that is a guidepost for good-governance. Therefore TSMP have initiated the process of forming the community organization (WCF and CAC) beyond the electoral units that could organize the citizens to participate effectively and transparently in local governance. The WCF and CAC provide lowest level institutional apparatus aimed primarily at strengthening local governance and channeling resources for the benefit of DAGs at grassroots level. At least 33 percent of women represent in WCF and CAC and priority is given to women for more participation in

CAC. TSMP emphasizes to convince community, especially men, to provide preference to women to be the member of WCF and CAC.

The success of TSMP depends upon the increased access of women/DAGs in decision making and local level resources, which is almost started and seen a glimpses of result to a certain extent in the programme areas. The TSMP under LGCDP activities implemented till 15 July January 2012 have reached to all 3915 VDCS of 75 districts 400 wards of 58 municipalities in the country.

Table No.1
Number of VDCs Covered
(As of July- 2012)

SN	VDC	Total H/H	WCF Members			CAC Members		
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	PASCHHIM AMAWA	2,192	90	48	138	0	28	28
2	AMA	1,615	110	55	165	2	28	30
3	ANANDABAN	2,814	98	51	149	0	30	30
4	ASURAINA	1,051	100	50	150	6	23	29
5	BAGAHA	707	125	67	192	7	22	29
6	BAGALI	1,429	108	58	166	3	27	30
7	BAIRGHAT	742	110	67	177	2	25	27
8	BASANTAPUR	1,205	115	75	190	1	27	28
9	BETKUIYA	713	135	90	225	3	27	30
10	BHAGAWANPUR	1,584	90	65	155	4	26	30
11	BISHNUPURA	2,231	85	65	150	2	27	29
12	BODABAR	1,277	112	78	190	0	25	25
13	BOGADI	1,473	112	81	193	0	29	29
14	CHHIPAGADH	858	151	88	239	0	30	30
15	CHHOTKI RAMNAGAR	873	111	91	202	2	28	30
16	CHILHIYA	960	118	87	205	1	29	30
17	DAYANAGAR	1,769	110	86	196	2	25	27
18	DEWDAHA	6,435	113	84	197	7	22	29
19	DHAKADHAI	1,104	91	53	144	1	29	30
20	DHAMAULI	840	90	51	141	2	25	27
21	EKALA	1,394	120	75	195	7	22	29
22	GAJEDI	2,517	111	80	191	3	25	28

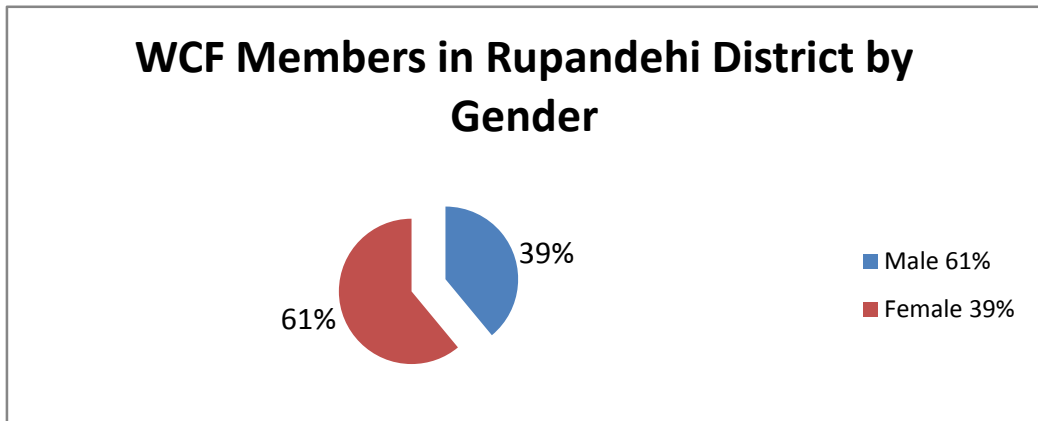
23	GANGOALIYA	635	102	79	181	0	25	25
24	GONAHA	2,517	112	88	200	0	29	29
25	HARNAIYA	1,172	151	87	238	0	30	30
26	HATIPHARSATIKAR	805	111	90	201	2	28	30
27	HATTI BANAGAI	1,247	118	76	194	1	29	30
28	JOGADA	892	110	79	189	2	25	27
29	KAMHARIYA	2,779	120	106	226	7	22	29
30	KARAHIYA	4,267	109	88	197	1	29	30
31	KARAUTA	1,487	111	87	198	2	25	27
32	KERWANI	3,132	120	90	210	7	22	29
33	KHADWA BANAGAI	1,555	111	76	187	3	25	28
34	KHUDABAGAR	687	151	79	230	0	30	30
35	LUMBINI	1,371	111	106	217	2	28	30
36	MADHAWALIYA	2,278	118	77	195	1	29	30
37	MADHUBANI	1,073	110	67	177	2	25	27
38	MAINAHIYA	1,125	120	69	189	7	22	29
39	MAJHAGAWA	851	109	67	176	1	29	30
40	MAKRAHAR	3,479	111	67	178	2	25	27
41	MANMATERIA	1,450	120	65	185	7	22	29
42	MANPAKADI	1,148	111	67	178	3	25	28
43	MARYADPUR	819	112	66	178	0	25	25
44	MASINA	787	112	59	171	0	29	29
45	MOTIPUR	2,259	105	85	190	0	30	30
46	PADASARI	1,988	111	51	162	2	28	30
47	PAJARKATTI	776	118	53	171	1	29	30
48	PAKADI SAKRAUN	731	90	37	127	0	28	28
49	PARROHA	5,731	90	79	169	2	28	30

50	PATKHAULI	916	98	56	154	0	30	30
51	PHARENA	635	95	49	144	6	23	29
52	POKHARBHINDI	935	101	57	158	7	22	29
53	RAYAPUR	1,568	108	45	153	3	27	30
54	ROHINIHAWA	642	105	65	170	2	25	27
55	DUDHARAKSHA	4,342	115	50	165	1	27	28
56	RUDRAPUR	4,567	105	65	170	3	27	30
57	SADI	950	90	46	136	4	26	30
58	SALJHANDI	2,319	101	81	182	2	27	29
59	SAURAHA PHARSATIKAR	1,992	91	65	156	0	25	25
60	SEMARA	972	103	60	163	0	29	29
61	SEMALAR	2,176	90	67	157	0	30	30
62	SHANKARNAGAR	5,355	55	40	95	2	25	27
63	SIKTAHAN	1,843	101	51	152	0	29	29
64	SILAUTIYA	1,294	102	65	167	3	27	30
65	SIPAWA	977	98	50	148	4	26	30
66	SURYAPURA	3,212	75	45	120	2	27	29
67	TENUHAWA	1,435	76	45	121	0	25	25
68	THUMHA PIPRAHAWA	592	99	55	154	0	29	29
69	TIKULIGADH	2,592	120	82	202	0	30	30
	Total	121,503	7414	4746	12160	149	1836	1985

Source: DDC Rupandehi-2014

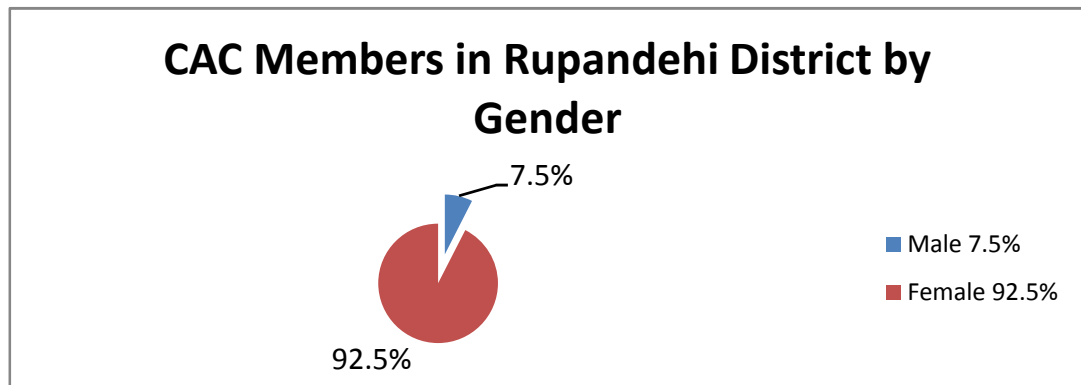
There are 12,160 members in WCF out of which 4746 (39.03%) members are female in Rupandehi district. Similarly there are 1985 members in CAC out of which 1836 (92.5%) members are female. In an average there is more than 46 percent of WCF and CAC members are female. Increase in trends of participating in WCF/CAC has been observed in different VDCS. This information shows in below figure.

Figure -3



Source: DDC Rupandehi-2014

Figure -4



Source: DDC Rupandehi-2014

Above two figure shows the there is active participation of female in WCF and CAC. In WCF 39% is female member but in CAC there is 92.5% is female member. Thus TSMP programme is going to increase the women participation at local level institution.

4.3.2 Women Participation in TSMP in Study Area

Transformational Social Mobilisation Programme (TSMP) is a major component of Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP).

There are total 9 WCF and a CAC in study area. Among them 3 WCF and a CAC of ward no.3, 5 and 8 is taken as a sample. In each WCF there is one coordinator, one assistant coordinator and one member secretary (Social mobilizer). The major role and responsibility of keeping meeting records goes to the member secretary although the decision is made by the thorough discussion and attendance of all members once a month. Similarly in CAC there is there is a CAC conduction committee of maximum seven members which consists of one coordinator from CAC group, one assistant coordinator and one member from respected person of village and remaining members from CAC. The social mobiliser acts as member secretary and helps to keep the records of every REFLECT discussions

WCF\CAC and Women participation in Devdaha VDC

Table No. 2

	Ward No.	Coordinator	Asst. Coordinator	Remarks
1	1	Male	Female	WCF
2	2	Male	Male	WCF
3	3	Female	Male	WCF
4	4	Male	Female	WCF
5	5	Female	Male	WCF
6	6	Female	Female	WCF
7	7	Male	Female	WCF
8	8	Female	Female	WCF
9	9	Female	Female	WCF
10	3	Female	Male	CAC

Source: TSMP, Devdaha VDC, Rupandehi Report-2014

Above table shows status of women in vital posts of WCF/CAC at local in Devdaha VDC. In Nine WCF and a CAC six female are in vital posts.. But still there is more opportunity remains to work female in vital post.

Table No. 3

Number of Male and Female involed in WCF and CAC in Devdaha VDC

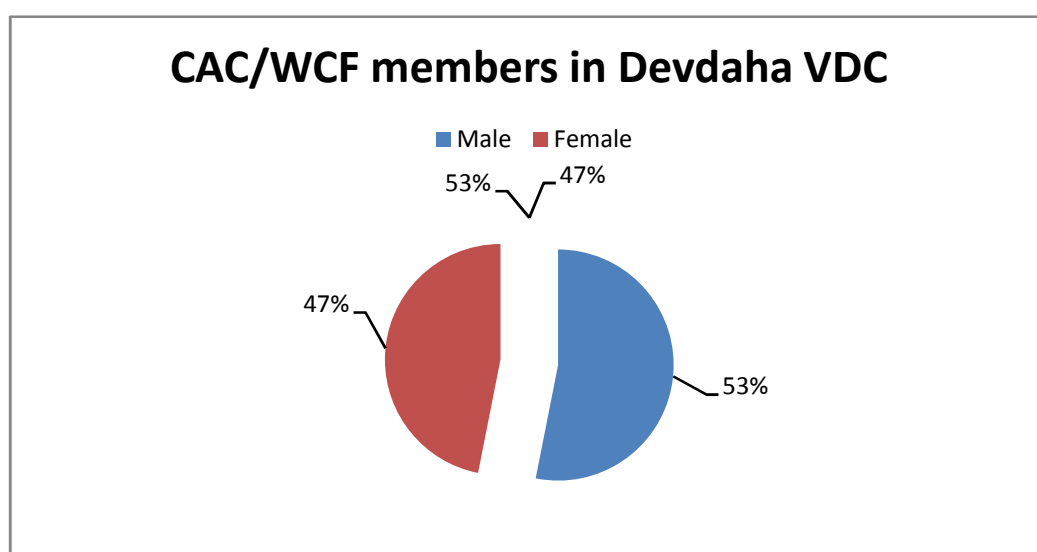
Ward No.	Number of Members in WCF and CAC			Remarks
	Male	Female	Total	
1	13	9	22	WCF
2	15	7	22	WCF
3	11	11	22	WCF
4	11	11	22	WCF
5	11	11	22	WCF
6	13	8	21	WCF
7	12	10	22	WCF
8	12	10	22	WCF
9	15	7	22	WCF
3	7	22	29	CAC
Total	120	106	226	WCF/CAC

Source: TSMP, Devdaha VDC, Rupandehi Report-2014

Above table shows the participation of male and female in WCF and CAC. Out of 226 participants 120 are male and 106 are female members. In CAC out of 29 members there are 22 female. There is still need of more participants of female in WCF.

Table 3 shows in figure

Figure- 5



Source: TSMP, Devdaha VDC, Rupandehi Report-2014

Above figure shows that in Devdaha VDC women participation in TSMP programme is slightly lower than male.

4.4 Social Status

4.4.1 Ethnic Composition of the Respondents

Most of the study sites are belonged to the Brahmin, Chhetri, Ethnic Group, and DAG. Among them 45% percent are Brahmans. It clearly indicates that significant numbers of Brahmans are actively involved in WCF and CAC. Table below shows that the DAG (Dalit) are the second and then Ethnic Group (Aadibasi Janajati) are the third.

Table No. 4
Distribution of Respondents by Ethnicity

Cast	No. of persons	Percent
Brahman	18	45
Chhetri	6	15
Ethnic Group	5	12.5
DAG (Dalit)	11	27.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

Above table shows that the Brahman are actively involved in TSMP programme. The DAG and ethnic group participation is increased to 40% but this figure need to be increased.

4.4.2 Respondents by Age

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

Table No 5
Age Group of Respondents

Age group	No. of persons	Percent
20-30	6	15
30-40	23	57.5
40-50	4	10
Above 50	7	17.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

The above table shows that the respondents from study area were mainly from the age group of 30 to 40 followed by group of 20 to 30. 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 No 6

Distribution of Family Members

No. of Family Members	No. of persons	Percent
1 to 5	23	57.5
6 to 10	13	32.5
above 10	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

The above table presents the data of family member in which we can set that out of 40 Men/women respondents, 57.5% family have 1 to 5 family members and 32.5% family have 6 to 10 family members.

4.4.4 Family Structure of the Study Area

What is the status of women in family?

Generally Nepal is considered as a male dominant or patriarchy society. So women are dominating by social norms, value and attitude but in study area, female dominant family structure is found higher than male which we can be seen from given table.

Table No. 7

Family Structure of Respondents

Structure	No. of persons	Percent
Male dominant	7	17.5
Female dominant	17	42.5
Equal	12	30
Don't know	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC

The above table shows that female dominant family structure is 42.5 percent. 30 percent of households are give equality and 17.5 percent are male dominant and 10 percent are unknown about their role and family structure.

4.4.5 Educational Status of the Respondent Family Members

What is the Educational status?

Education is a major tool to empower both men and women. The majority illiterate population of Nepal is women. Educated women can have better communication with the family rather than illiterate one. Table No. 8 shows the literacy percent of the male, female and child in respondents household.

Table No 8

Education of Respondents Household

Education	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Literate	98	82.4	109	80.7
Illiterate	21	17.6	26	19.3
Total	119	100	135	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

Above table shows the educational status of Respondents household. There are 80.7 percent female literacy rate in study area.

4.4.6 Toilet in Households

The people in Devdaha VDC seem more aware in toilet construction due to Open Defecation Free (ODF) movement of the Village. Among the total respondents, all households consists at least general water seal toilet, with at least 62.5 percentages owns general water seal toilet and 37.5 owns modern cemented with septic tank. The below table shows the details.

Table No 9

Toilet System in households

Type	No. of persons	Percent
Temporary	0	0
General Water Seal	25	62.5
Modern cemented with septic tank	15	37.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.Devdaha VDC

4.4.7 Energy Consumption pattern of HHs

Women spent more time in kitchen if they are able to do kitchen work in easier way it reduce their workload. Energy consumption pattern shows women health and social status also. Table below presents the energy consumption pattern of respondent HHs.

Table No. 10

Energy Consumption Pattern of HHs

Type	No. of persons	Percent
Firewood	20	50
Biogas	-	-
LP Gas	20	50
Kerosene	-	-
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

The above table shows that half of the respondents' household use LP gas and remaining half use firewood for daily household use. 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

What is the women's employment situation?

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. The major sources of family income consist of faming,

agriculture/live stock, Business, enterprises and labour work at Golf countries.

Table No.11

Distribution of Women by their Income Sources

Occupation	No. of persons	Percent
Agriculture and Livestock	11	27.5
Job /Labour	18	45
Business	11	27.5
Enterprises	-	-
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

Among the total respondents 27.5 percent of respondents said that the major source of income is Livestock such as goats, chickens and buffalos, similarly 45 percent of women are involved in Job/ Labour, 27.5 percent are involved in business.

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. 2.5 percent of respondents are unknown about their household income.

Table No. 12
Distribution of Women by their Families' Annual Income

Income in (RS)	No. of persons	Percent
Unknown	1	2.5
25000-50000	-	-
50000-75000	-	-
75000-100000	-	-
100000-1,25,000	6	15
Above 125000	33	82.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

It shows that 15 percent respondents income ratio is 1, 00,000 to 1, 25,000 and 82.5 percent respondent's income ratio is above 125000 so income level of respondents is high after WCF, CAC and other community activities.

4.5.3 Consumption Pattern of Income

Is there women's Decisive role?

The consumption pattern of income shows the women's decisive role in family or society. Income is an essential element in household livelihoods, and those who control it have considerable power.

Table No.13
Distribution of Respondents by Decisive Role of Consumption Pattern

Decisive role	No. of persons	Percent
Oneself	25	62.5
Husband	13	32.5
Father/mother	2	5
With co-operation	-	-
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

Above table proved that the accessibility of income and their decisive role is increased after TSMP program. In study area, most of the women consume their own income by their own decision, 32.5 percent of women

spend their income by their Husband's decision and 5 percent of women spend their income by their father/mother decision.

4.5.4 Ownership of Land

Land is the fixed asset, the table below shows the increased access of women in fixed asset after TSMP . Only 32.5 percent women have ownership of land, Still there is need of increased access of women in fixed asset to increase their decisive role from household.

Table No.14

Distribution of women by ownership of land

Description	No. of persons	Percent
Own self (Female)	13	32.5
Husband	25	62.5
Landless	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

4.5.5 Group Saving

TSMP program doesn't provide loan for community organization member or the members of WCF/CAC for income generating activities. But due to the effect of group awareness and some level of self empowerment some members of WCF/CAC were involved in group saving. Due to the raised awareness they demanded DDC Rupandehi through VDC to support their livelihood training of Mudha/Dalmoth making and succeed to get NRs. 50,000.00 as a grant and the saved amount is mobilised to ultra poor of CAC for income generation activities like Mudha/Dalmoth making etc. It can be describe in table.

Table No. 15

Distribution of Women by their Monthly Saving

Monthly Saving (Rs.)	No. of persons	Percent
No saving	26	65
10-50	14	35
50-100	-	-
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

As per the above table 35% respondents were engaged in monthly saving activities due to self awareness.

4.6 Political-Status

4.6.1 Women Participation in Local Level planning and other Program Meeting

Transformational Social Mobilisation program is based on empowerment of Disadvantaged group (DAG) especially women and ultra poor to increase their access towards local resources making them aware about their rights. It was focused on women and disadvantage group in community level. In study area, TSMP focus on enhancing the socio-economic status of rural communities. Besides their regular meetings of WCF (a meeting in every month) and CAC (four meetings in every month), some of WCF/CAC members also ensures their active participation in Integrated Planning Committee (IPC) meeting and in Village Council meeting for the approval of next year annual village plan. Besides these meetings they are frequently called by VDC to ease the decision making since WCF members are working as the role of ward committee in a situation where there is no presence of elected people's

representatives in local bodies. In Devdaha VDC has found maximum level of women participation in VDC meeting, IPC meeting, TSMP meeting and other programs. This can be shown in the given table.

Table N.16

Distribution of Respondents participating in LLP and Other Program Meeting

	Yes	%	No	%
Participation in Local Level Planning(Ward, IPC and Village Council meetings)	34	85	6	15

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

Above table shows the women are actively participate in LLP and other programme meeting.

4.6.2 Role of the Women in WCF and CAC Group

After the TSMP program, the role of women is increased in development activities. 20 percent of respondents are taking major role in WCF/CAC, community organization group. And 80% of respondents are only limited as the member. Table 17 shows the figure about the role of women in WCF/CAC and group.

Table No. 17

Position of Women in WCF and CAC

Description	No. of persons	Percent
Chairman/Vice-chairman	4	10
Secretary/Treasurer	4	10
Member	32	80
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

This table shows there is need to give more opportunities to women in the vital post so that it increase their decisive role in community level and also it helps to address their own problems and agendas.

4.6.3 Control over Household Products

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

Table No.18

Decisive control over household products

Control by	No. of persons	Percent
Son /daughter	4	10
Husband	15	37.5
Father / Mother	3	7.5
Own self	16	40
With cooperation	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC

The above table shows that among the informants, 40 percent of women have control over household product. Maximum 37.5 percent respondents reported that they are depending on their husband.

4.7 Women Empowerment and Impact of TSMP

Women's empowerment has direct relation to rural development. The Transformational Social Mobilization program (TSMP) has played vital role in women empowerment. The TSMP has focused to increase the voice of DAG and poor women and make aware them in the right they owned as a citizen of a country through the regular REFLECT circle discussions of CAC and through regular WCF meetings. REFLECT circle discussion of CAC supports the members to find out and solve the issues that are the major social/economic barrier of their livelihood and development. It doesn't directly supports on any saving and credit and training opportunities but it indirectly supports how to increase their access to the local resources as a result the members of CAC are now increasing their access to VDC resources and also get benefitted from DDC also for the livelihood activity of Mudha making they have started. TSMP is supporting the members to aware in the issues that are the major barrier of their livelihood and make them felled that these barriers are the cause of their poverty and make them integrated and empowered to solve the issue of poverty by making action plan through the regular REFLECT discussion every week. TSMP program in Devdaha VDC has been able to mobilize people from poor communities especially Dalits, disadvantages groups and women's to increase their socio-economic access towards different service providers of local level. Basically in the process of women empowerment and awareness creation, TSMP has been played a significant role indirectly by giving them different, kinds of training

awareness program, Infrastructure development, income generating activities and enterprises development.

The table below shows the increased access and general knowhow of poor women and DAG towards capital grant of VDC:

Table No. 19

Distribution of Respondents on Knowledge of Target Group Budget

	Yes	%	No	%
Knowledge of capital budget that should be mandatorily allocated by VDC for the development activities of Target Group like women/DAG.	36	90	4	10

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

Above table shows the CAC/WCF access towards the local resources available in village. 90% members are known about the target group budget allocation at local level.

Table No. 20

Selection and allocation of budget on Projects prioritized by WCF/CAC by VDC council

	Yes	%	No	%
Plans prioritized by WCF/CAC are selected and allocated budget by VDC council.	25	62.5	15	37.5

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

Above table shows that 62.5% projects selected and prioritized by WCF\CAC are approved allocated budget by VDC council.

The table 21 illustrates the justification of above two table No. 19 and 20.

Table No. 21

No. of Projects prioritized by WCF/CAC and their approval

S.N	Project/Activity details of VDC council FY 2070/71	No.
1	No of project of demanded by WCF/CAC.	528
2	No. of total approved projects by VDC council	139
3	No of approved WCF project by VDC council	139
4	No. of projects demanded in the sector related to women	29
5	No. of approved project by VDC council in the sector related to women empowerment.	20

Source: Office of the Village Development Committee, Devdaha, and District Development Committee Rupandehi.

Above table clearly illustrates the increased access of women\ DAG in local resources and local level decision making process. They are benefited by the target group capital budget of VDC and successful to approve their prioritized 20 projects out of 29.

4.7.1 Problem of Women Participation in WCF and CAC

In Nepal female population are more than male but their participation in social, economic 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 participate

in development activities. So that, in the period of TSMP lunched, women have not got permission to participate in WCF and CAC.

Table No. 22

Distribution of respondents who are Facing Problems to participate WCF/CAC

Description	No. of persons	Percent
Facing problem	7	17.5
Not facing Problem	33	82.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC.

The above table shows that 17.5 percent women's were facing problem to participate in WCF and CAC.

4.7.2 Impact of TSMP on Knowledge Skill Development and Social Attitude

The main objective of the TSMP programs is to increase the awareness of women, DAG and enable them empowered so that there access will be increased in local level decision making and local level resources and planning process making women self confidence and free from dependence. Such program has been giving positive result.

Table No. 23**Distribution of Respondents by the Impact of TSMP on Knowledge, Skill and Social Attitude**

Trends	Increased		Decreased		Constant	
	No. of persons	Percent	No. of persons	Percent	No. of persons	Percent
Confidence to raise the owns' voice	39	97.5	-	-	1	2.5
Participation in local level planning process	34	85	-	-	6	15
Participation in community development activities	34	85	-	-	6	15
Collective effect in decision making of women targeted capital budget in VDC council.	25	62.5	-	-	15	37.5
Legal awareness	25	62.5	-	-	15	37.5
Social Responsibility	30	75	-	-	10	25
Income Generation of Family	16	40	1	2.5	23	57.5
Family responsibility	29	72.5	-	-	11	27.5
violence against Women	1	2.5	36	90	3	7.5
Social discrimination	1	2.5	30	75	9	22.5
Employment opportunities	22	55	-	-	18	45

Source: Field Survey, 2014, Devdaha VDC

The above table shows that the impact of TSMP 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 TSMP and the constant level is low than that the increased level. The TSMP program also impacts the violence and social discrimination is decreased and women also feel high social and family responsibility. This Table shows that women's collective effort is also increased in local level planning and decision making for their common benefit by 62.5%, it shows their increased access towards local resources and decision making at community level.

CHAPTER –FIVE

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 Devdaha VDC-3, 5 and 8 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 Transformational Social Mobilisation Programme: A Case Study of Devdaha VDC ward no-3,5 and 8, Rupandehi" is to find out the impact of the TSMP 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, LGCDP and other articles, newspaper, journal related to women and empowerment. The primary data has been collected using structured questionnaire with different WCF and CAC groups in Devdaha 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 9 WCF and a CAC out of them 3 WCF and a CAC group were selected and 40 WCF and CAC 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 four samples consists 40 respondents, majority of the respondents (57.5%) belong to the age group 30 to 40 years, major castes are Brahman and DAG (Dalit). Most of the respondents are found involved in Job/Labour and agriculture.
- Among respondents household education shows that female literacy rate is less than male. The family structure of the respondents is found to be female dominated i.e. 42.5 percent, 17.5 household are male dominated and 30 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 57.5 percent household size is 1 to 5.
- Out of total 40 respondents 62.5 percent respondents have consumed their own income by oneself decision, 32.5 percent depends on husband decision and rest other depends with other family members.
- Among the sampled women only 32.5 percent women have ownership of land. Maximum ownership of land have found on husband name. Decisive control over household products is shown 40 percent have controlled by own self, 37.5 percent have control by husband, 5 percent have controlled by cooperation and 10 percent have controlled by son/daughter.

- Among the 40 respondents 90 percent of women know about allocation of the target group of budget of VDC for women empowerment activities. Among the 40 respondents 90 percent takes part in local level planning meetings also.
- According to the source of Devdaha VDC and Rupandehi DDC, the annual planning process of Devdaha VDC shows the following facts :
 -) No of project of demanded by WCF/CAC : 528
 -) No. of total approved projects by VDC council : 139
 -) No of approved WCF project by VDC council : 139
 -) No. of projects demanded in the sector related to women empowerment : 29
 -) No. of approved project by VDC council in the sector related to women empowerment : 20

The data clearly illustrates the increased access of women/DAG in local resources and local level decision making process.

Education, access to community resources, equal participation in politics/community activities/planning process of local body, increase involvement of decision making process in local level, income, income generating activities and access of assets etc are important factors for women empowerment. The TSMP has focused in these factors to empower women.

5.2 Conclusions

Empowerment of women has become a global issue. If women become socially and economically active and financially independent, their social status also will change automatically. So efforts have been made to empower on the basis of social, economic, and political components. Raised awareness in social/economic issues, education, access to community resources, equal participation in politics/community activities/planning process of local body, increase involvement of decision making process in local level, income, income generating activities and access of assets etc are key indicator of empowerment focused by TSMP.

In Nepal various programs have been launched since decades of 70s to empower women, among them LGCDP through TSMP 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, TSMP focuses on enhancing the socio economic and political status of rural communities. The main procedure of LGCDP in demand side is to make DAGs and women self empowered so that they can able to raise their voices to fulfill their demands. The procedure of the programme in supply side is to make service providers capacities for effective service delivery and make a good policy environment which supports the empowerment of DAG and women in grass root level for their inclusive development. This program has been giving positive change of women in knowledge, social attitude, norms and value. They become more awarded about their rights and known about the resources provided them for their empowerment. Positive change is also observed in planning process, income, education and other participation in development activities. In Nepal women have very limited access to the social and economic

activities and lack of ownership or control over the land and other domestic properties they own. Women in Nepal however face multiple barriers for their empowerment particularly in their participation of various social and economic activities. But TSMP has focused on the five main aspects of development methods for the empowerment of women which are:

- DAG/Women's engagement in local governance
- Increase access on Resources and services.
- Voice influence on decision making.
- Supportive policies towards DAGs.
- Training and Capacity development.
- Gender equity, social inclusion and equitable budget allocation.

Organization, capacity building for empowerment, influencing decision making are the three approved tools which can play vital role in uplifting the socio-economic condition of DAGs and Women.

Increased participation of women in decision making of local body, institutional development of CAC/WCF to influence the local level decision and raised awareness and access of CAC/WCF members on local level resources is satisfactory but needs to increase more access of women on local level planning process of village which is not sufficient. Women should be made more capable and strong to express their voices and also need to enable them to fulfill practical as well as strategic gender needs. The beauty of TSMP is that sufficient participation dalits ethnic groups are insured in CAC and WCF.

Thus in overall TSMP has become successful in improving women socio-economic condition through the techniques of transformational approach of social mobilization (Right based approach of development). Increased awareness of Women/DAGs and raised train to influence the decision making at local level for their agendas has benefited a lot of women but much attention is needed for the sustainability of mobilisation otherwise CAC members may not sustain their level of empowerment in the absence of support from LGCDP. So that continuous support to some years in the field of REFLECT learning process, capacity and leadership development is needed for the sustainability of the programme. A special programme of livelihood improvement is needed to link with every CAC of LGCDP so that the increased awareness of each member is utilized to transform their present socio-economic conditions. Otherwise increased level of empowerment creates so many demands at local level, if the local body (VDC) is not able to fulfill their demands there is possibility of frustration among the members under CAC/WCF. Therefore livelihood activities should be needed to link with regular CAC/WCF activities for the sustainability of the programme.

5.3 Recommendations

On the basis of findings of this study, some recommendations and suggestions have been made. It is hoped that this suggestion will be able to add a milestone to planer, policy makers and local bodies and LGCDP to design appropriate and effective policies and programs regarding the upliftment of women and their status in the broader sphere.

The fact that targeted programs are often unsustainable, leading to tensions within the community, suggests that targeted programs should be built into holistic social mobilization efforts. This kind of approach

complemented by horizontal and vertical linkages covering the entire country can become the most effective medium for empowerment at the grassroots level. It is also essential to strengthening the decentralization process because it integrates grassroots initiatives with micro and macro level policies and institutions.

The thirteenth plan makes comprehensive commitments for improving the status of women through various programs like mainstreaming in the development activities through the strategy of positive discrimination and target group benefit programme. The thirteenth plan makes clear the importance of women's empowerment for the achievement of poverty reduction goals in national level. Inclusive development of women and DAG is given the maximum priority for sustainable development in the thirteenth plan.

Focusing on the gender discrimination and its impacts on women, the program aims at empowering women through enhancing their decision making in household level and in community level. Increasing their voices and access to resources both at the public and private realms and its utilization have been pointed as the key areas for taking women at the mainstream of development.

From the entire study, certain recommendations are made:

- In both policy making and institution building process, women are generally bypassed; they need special treatment to protect them from social and economic insecurities and to ensure the equitable representation of women in their groups of state and local organs.
- Fair representation of women in parliament and in local bodies should be guaranteed to mainstream them in political process.

- The socio-economic empowerment of women must be enhanced by the provision of training opportunities, coupled with livelihood improvement and skills increasing trainings so as to promote awareness about education, health, and sanitation, environment human right and legal protections.
- The programme's main focus seems on empowerment activities, it might increase the demands but to fulfill the small demands it is not better to ask for other agencies it might develop the dependency of the member so that small livelihood improvement activities should be link with regular activities of TSMP.
- The capacity development training organized by DDC, VDC and other agencies like Suaahara programme is basically getting members who are in vital post or in executive committee; it should be equalized to the whole members of WCF/CAC so that the women and other members would give the equal opportunity.
- Although the process of TSMP is based on right based development approach but all the members in CAC are not in situation to create their demands and to ask about their rights to the concern agencies therefore the development of advocacy mechanism and continuous support of social mobiliser is needed until their self empowerment level. Regular follow up and supervision from DDC/VDC/LGCDP staff is most important for successful performance of the programs and regular research study and feedback is essential to find out the weakness of the program.
- Need of orientation and training of local level political leaders, elite groups in the concept of right based development approach and transformational social mobilisation model to create an

environment so that so called high class people in local level may support the activities of WCF/CAC.

- The access of CAC/WCF member is reached to VDC level therefore It should be needed to establish linkage between WCF/CAC and other service providers like health post / service center of agriculture and livestock etc. to enable them to get more benefit from other agencies also.
- The study findings also reaffirm that gender specific constraint still remain in our society but the trend is in decreasing order. As more and more woman aspire to take their rightful place within governance bodies and local institutions, it is important for all institution (Government, Civil society, family and community) to respond to woman specific needs such as bridging gaps in education, capacity development, probable opportunities and addressing biased attitudes. This coupled with a dialogue to stimulate institutional and operational frameworks to place strategies gender interests at the core of the governance's process will go a long way in exploiting the potential of local governments as spaces of democracy and equitable development.

APPENDIX - I
Questionnaire for Household Survey
Women Empowerment through Transformational Social
Mobilization Programme
Under

Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP)

(A case study of Devdaha VDC of Rupandehi District Nepal)

Q. No. 1 General Information

Name -----caste -----Group Name-----Year-----
 Gender -----Occupation -----Religion -----Address-----
 VDC/VDC -----ward No -----ToleEducation.
 Family membermarried/unmarried/single/other.....

Q. No.2 Give Family Information.

2.1 Family Education Information.

	Male	Female	Children	Total
Literate				
Illiterate				

2.2 What is your family structure?

Male dominant Female Dominant
 Equality Don't Know

2.3 How much land does your family have?

2.4 Do you have any land in your name?

Bigaha / Kattha/Aana -----

2.5 What type of energy does you to cook in your family?

Gas Kerosene
Firewood Other

2.6 Do you have toilet in your house?

Yes No

If yes, mention the type

Modern Safety Tank General

2.7 What is the major of income source in your family?

Agriculture business Job/Labor Other

2.8 How much is the average income of your family?

Monthly Rs.Annual Rs.

2.9 How much is the annual expenditure of your family?

Monthly Rs. Annual Rs.

Q.3. Do you know about LGCDP?

Yes No If Yes, mention.

Q.4. Are you a member of WCF/CAC?

Yes No if yes when...

Q.5. Do you take any training from TSMP/LGCDP/VDC?

Yes No If yes mentions:

Q.6. Have you taken any benefits or loan from TSMP/LGCDP/VDC?

Yes No

Q.7. Have you ever been become a chairman/manager/Treasure of your organization or become in a vital post?

Yes No

Q.8. Who encourages you to participate in WCF and CAC?

Family Husband Own self TSMP

Q.9. Have you face any problem to participate this program?

Yes No If yes mention

Q.10. Are you involved in planning process of local body in VDC?

Yes No If yes mention

Q.11. Are you know about the capital budget to be compulsorily allocated by every VDC for the development activities of target group like women, children and DAG?

Yes No If yes mention the % of Capital

Grant:

Q.12. Are the plans prioritized by WCF are selected and allocated budget by VDC council of FY 2070/71?

Yes No If yes mention

No of project of demanded WCF:

No. of approved projects by VDC council:

No of approved WCF project by VDC council:

NO of projects in the sector related to women empowerment:

No of approved project by VDC council in the sector related to women empowerment:

Q.13. Have you established any Enterprises?

Yes / No If yes before or after TSMP launch.....

Q.14. Do you have found any difference in your family and social attitude towards you after participating in WCF/CAC?

Positive negative equal other

Q.15. Are you ever before involved in other program meeting beside WCF/CAC?

Yes No

Q.16. Do you have any change in your Knowledge skill and social attitude after TSMP lunched?

Activities/Trends	Increased	Decreased	Constant
Confidence to raise the owns' voice			
Participation in local level planning process			
Participation in community development activities			
Collective effect in decision making of women targeted capital budget in VDC council.			
Legal awareness			
Social Responsibility			
Income Generation of Family			
Family responsibility			
violence against Women			
Social discrimination			
Employment opportunities			

Q.17. Are you involved in income generating activities?

Yes No If yes mention

Q.18. whose decision is given more priority in your income?

Own self husband

Father/mother other

Q.19. Who has decisive control over household products?

Husband son daughter

Father mother own self other

Q.20. Do you have found any change after the TSMP launched in your family and village?

Yes No If yes mentions the change.....

Q.21. Have you taken loan from TSMP or WCF and CAC?

Yes No if yes, mention.....

Q.22. Do you have saving activities in your group?

Yes No If yes, How to mobilize.....

Q.23. Do you feel access of social/economic activities after making WCF and CAC?

Yes No

Q.24. Are you feeling empowered after participating in this program?

Yes No

Q.25. Give your opinion, How to increase women's accessibility and control over social/economic activities?

1)

2)

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