

CHAPTER – 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

It is known that women constitute half of the population of the world. Hence, their equal participation in any development activities is not only desirable but essential to speed- up the development process. The slogan of development remains in paper only unless women participate equally in sharing the fruits of the development.

Women play a significant role in the development of a nation. In the past, women were considered as second graded citizen in most of the countries including Nepal. Nepali women were only daughters, wives and mothers but were not recognized as individual with their own identity despite the facts that they were as human as men. The mere difference in physical structure does not make it necessary for one sex to lose complete human identity and live in surrender to the other sex. Harmonious co-existence should be guiding principle in the relationship between men and women and not as one is a slave and another is master. A man is often impressed by and admires any intelligent dynamic women as long as she is not his own wife. The double standard exists in all classes of our society. Even educated men get irritated to hear expression like “feminism” and “women liberation” when in actuality all they are really concerned about “who will wash my socks” (Subedi,1993).

During the Vedic period a wide gap between the men and women was not seen. Women were also honored as men in academic, spiritual, and social life. Women equally participated in religious and social functions. They also took part in agriculture and in making war weapons like arrows and bows. The women who were academically qualified could teach and were called Acharya. Gagri, Atrai, Indrani, Sachi, Sulsha were some of the academically qualified women of that period (Lunia, 1986).

Gradually after Vedic period we find that with the development of the human society male have progressively attended dominance and the female have been pushed down to a second position (Jimee, 1996).

The situation was further strengthened by the institution of family after the primitive communism when the rise of sexual domination of men over women was brought about by an economic change, chiefly the growth of wealth and feelings of private

property. As a result men wanted to pass on their property to their own children. Hence they overthrew matrilinealism and instituted patrilineal descent. Thus monogamy was decided. In the family males and females had different specific roles to play. Men were required to protect their families while women were restricted to the household jobs (F. Engles, 1884).

In Nepalese context although women constitute more than 50 percent of the total population (CBS 1991), due to our conservative tradition and orthodox Hindu kingdom they are being treated as second class citizen. Subordination and discrimination of women start in the womb and continue to the tomb. There is discrimination even in rituals performed after death (Shrestha, 1994).

Women play a major role inside the household. In our country the goods produced in the households are remarked as none traded and we have no intention of giving monetary value to the services produced within household i.e. cooking, feeding, childcare, cleaning dishes, looking after agriculture are connected with women. So we can undoubtedly say that women's input in household chores is greater than that of men.

Women are generally with poor health, illiteracy, unemployment and overloaded duty. The birth of a baby boy brings prestige, identity and dignity to a mother in the Nepalese society. There, is a saying "let it be latter but let it be son." (Shrestha 1994) Nepal being a Hindu country and in its mythology also position of women have been different in ideology and in practices. In Hindu scripture women have been given very high position and they are thought to be the foundation of happiness. The religious text has also mentioned the name of many goddesses in the form of Shakti. They are worshipped in the temple but in practice women are not honored in accordance with the teaching of religious books rather there are practices of exploiting women on the basis of such religious traditions.

Nepal is described as a multiethnic society where we find different ethnic groups, religions etc. There are different cultural traits as well as different social customs within the groups. The role of women in human adaptations external as well as internal in all levels is seen prominent and crucial. But it is true that intensity and effectiveness of role can not be found equal in all caste groups. It varies as per caste groups. Women of Mongoloid race possess the capacity of being equal in many cases

such as decision of marriage, divorce, remarriage and widow marriage and they are treated as the respectable members of the family and community as men are supposed to be. The Hindu women especially in Aryan races have been found suppressed. They are supposed not to raise the voice of equality. In this sense mongoloid groups have been experiencing more liberal freedom than the Aryan groups. Women of high castes such as Brahmin and Chhetries are less empowered than the Rais, Limbus, Gurungs, Magars women as well as women of occupational caste groups. Even we found different ladder in the status of different caste women (UNFPA 1989). Although the status of women differs in different ethnic/caste groups the overall picture of Nepalese women remains more or less the same.

Women's household economic activities began to draw attention only in the early 1970's. The situation of women in Nepal project provides the first input to the planners and policy makers with substantial women data as well as policy recommendation which help them to design project that recognize and try to build up on the important roles in subsistence of rural household economy (USA/CEDA,1980).

The economic demographic and various social factors are founded as the most important factors which directly or indirectly affect the decision making process of a woman in Nepal. Women's involvement in the market economy leads them to greater power in terms of household decision making on important matters (Acharya, 1981).

This can be attributed to the contribution of women towards the household activities and household income. However, the confinement of women to the domestic and subsistence sector implies a low status giving women less power in terms of decision making process.

A study carried out by Lilawati Yadav in Dhanusha district find that the major factors influencing women's participation in decision making are : lack of opportunity, low level of education, lack of mobility, lack of income generation program, lack of property rights, patriarchal society, lack of information, unequal gender roles, social and cultural barriers and dependency on male (Yadav, 2008).

All these factors give the least decision making power to these women compared to their male counterparts. Whatever input they might contribute in this respect might be unimportant matter.

The progress of any nation and society depends greatly upon women participation in all fields of life. Generally in the developing countries, they are considered dependent. Women are encircled by age old customs, low literacy level underpaid labor and unbroken cycle of child birth and mostly in rural areas women are considered economically unproductive and their role in rural areas as well as in urban areas is not recognized. Therefore, women need to make more concerted efforts to get their role recognized. Education is the favorable factor in determining change in the role of female. The education level and socio-economic characteristics are more affected in decision making process in family matters. Women have different roles such as mother, wife, daughter and sister which she performs at different stages of her life. The women being a wife have the only duty of bringing up children and she is forced to do everything. These all duties are a carry-over of the feudal society wherein the women are considered as property.

In Nepal, as in most part of south Asia, women have less power and autonomy than men in making decision. Moreover, women often have unequal access to food, education, health care, limited opportunities to have income restricted access to and control over productive sources and very few legal rights. Women autonomy in decision making is associated with her ethnicity, deprivation urban/rural classification, education and number of living children. Nepalese women are further disadvantaged by lack of awareness of opportunities and their legal rights. Gender equity gives women both increased decision-making authority and more modern reproductive outcomes such as to reduce the desire for more children, increase contraceptive use and lower the level of 'Unmet need' for contraception.

Nepal Demographic Health survey (NDHS) shows that women are generally less educated than men. The survey reveals that 37% of currently married women participated in all four of the important household decisions that were investigated: their own health care, major household needs and visits to her family or relatives while 31% did not participate in any of these decisions.

The study has planned to explore the female participation in decision making in family matters particularly in the colony area of Hetauda Cement Industries Ltd. The objectives of the present study are to (i) study the effect of socio-economic characteristics of the respondents (ii) identify the types and extent various matters of family in which females involve and consult (iii) find out female participation in the

selection of family size and use of family planning measures (iv) suggest measures to improve the participation of women in decision making.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

No government can be silent spectator on the issue of “Women” constituting one half of the human population. As per 2001 census, women constitute 50.05% of the total population of Nepal. This vital section of the society has minimal access to resources, information and services both within and outside the household sphere. Women are overburdened and have low social economic and legal status. The productive roles they perform are overshadowed by their reproductive role and the tasks they perform inside the house are not even regarded as work.

Women contribute more labor to the economy than men do. Women generally works from sunrise to evening. Beside agriculture they have to perform many other house hold activities like child care, cooking, washing, cleaning etc. It was recommended by International Labour Organization (ILO), that women’s work in the household be also recognized as a productive activity (ILO,1982).

In the seventh-five year plan it was realized that the conditions of women was to improve. Similarly in 8th and 9th plan, it was decided and directed that women were to participate in the main stream of development and to increase their involvement in every sector of the development. In practice however, many discrimination till prevail especially concerning the equality of opportunities. There are still number of socio-cultural and traditional values which are less supportive to the advancement of women.

In our country, women’s decision making is considered unimportant especially by men. So they still remain excluded from important decision making. But at present it is being realized that if given opportunity, women are capable of performing activities effectively and can also make important household decisions because they are the main provider’s of basic needs of household sector.

Thus, if timely actions are not taken in this direction, women of the future generation will also suffer the same oppression as their predecessors. If women are endowed with the decision making power, they deserve a significant improvement in household setup and subsequently in the society at large.

This study aims at filling the partially gap by identifying the status trend and pattern of women's role in household making. Here in this study area, women of different ethnic groups are living. However, they all have similar types of social, economic and educational problem. Women are far more laborious, hardworking, honest and devoted to household works in comparison to men but still they are not being consulted or involved in decision making on important family matters.

Therefore, many policies and programs, should be designed to reach this exploited class of society and enable them to come to forefront with their productive power of effective decision making.

The present study is guided by different research questions relating women's household decision making. They are as follows:-

- a) What is the role of women in the household resource procurement and their use?
- b) What is the role of women on the adaptation of family planning measures, selection of family size and on educational aspects?
- c) What is the role of women in community activities and how far they get freedom to take part in community activities?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine women's role in household decision making in present situation. The specific objectives are:

- a) To examine the role of women in household decision making.
- b) To examine the role of women in the household resource procurement and their use.
- c) To analyze women's role on the adoption of family planning measures, selection of family size and on educational and social aspects.

1.4 Significance of the Study

After the international women year of 1975, many studies have been conducted in this field. But study of women's empowerment especially in household management as compared to their male counterparts is lacking. Hence this study has helped to find out the followings:

1. The gender identity and their differentiation in the community.
2. Show the status of women as well as their role in decision making process in household management.

3. Decision making capacity that would definitely measure the social and economic status of women as compared to their male counterparts in the family and community.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This proposal has been organized in six chapters. Chapter one contains background of the study, statement of problems, objective of the study and significance of the study. Chapter two includes the review of literature. Chapter three contains the research method which contains research design, nature and source of data, universe and sampling, method of data collection, data processing, analysis and presentation and limitation of study. Chapter four gives the brief information and background of study area. Chapter five highlights the data presentation and analysis. Chapter six contains the summary, conclusion and recommendation.

CHAPTER – 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In order to identify other research studies & publication containing relevant information for this study, review of literature is made. This study identified in this section is obtained from sources such as periodical, dissertations, books & published papers.

2.1 Theoretical Review

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resources, and political power, as well as their personal autonomy in the process of decision making. When Nepalese women's status is analyzed in this light, the picture is generally bleak. In the early 1990's, Nepal was rigidly patriarchal society. In virtually every aspect of life, women were generally subordinate to men.

Women's relative status however varied from one ethnic group to another. The status of women in Tibet- Nepalese communities generally, was relatively better than that of Pahari and Newari women. Women from the low caste groups also enjoyed relatively more autonomy and freedom than Pahari and Newari women.

The senior female members played a commanding role within the family by controlling resources, making crucial planting and harvesting decision and determining the expenses and budget allocation. Yet women's lives remained centered on their traditional roles taking care of most household chores fetching water and animal fodder and doing farm work. Their standing in society was mostly contingent in their husbands' and parents' social and economic positions. They had limited access to markets, productive services, education, health care and local government. Malnutrition and poverty hit women hardest . Female children usually were given less food than male children especially when the family experienced food shortages. Women usually worked harder and longer than men. Contrasting to it, women from high class families had maids to take care of most household chores and other menial work and thus worked far less than men or women in lower socio-economic groups.

The economic contribution of women was substantial but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. When employed, their wages normally were 25 percent less than those paid to men. In most rural areas, their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding and harvesting. In urban areas they were employed in domestic and traditional jobs as well as in the government sector mostly in low level position.

One tangible measure of women's status was their educational attainment. Although the constitution offers women equal education opportunities, many social economic and cultural factors contributed to lower enrollment and higher dropout rates for girls. Illiteracy imposed the greatest hindrance to enhancing equal opportunity and status for women. They were caught in a vicious circle imposed by the patriarchal society. Their lower status hindered their education and the lack of education, in turn, constricted their status and position. Although the female literacy rate has improved noticeably over the years, the level in the early 1990s fell far short of the male level.

The level of education attainment among female children of wealthy and educated families was much higher than that among female children of poor families. This class disparity in educational attainment was also true for boys. In Nepal, as in many societies education was heavily class biased.

In the early 1990s a direct correlation existed between the level of education and status. Educated women had access to relatively high-status positions in the government and private service sectors, and they had a much higher status than uneducated women in society. This general rule was more applicable at the societal level than at the household level. Within the family a woman's status especially a daughter-in law's status was more closely tied to her husband's authority and to her parental family's wealth and status than anything else (Encyclopedia of women's history- from John Johnson Lewis).

Women in Nepal as elsewhere hold the triple work responsibilities of reproduction house holding and farm work. However reproduction is not treated as work and house holding is not considered as productive work by society as well as government system. Women also suffer from discriminatory practices in opportunities for education, personal mobility, which is required among other for skill development and independent decision making (UNDP, 1995).

Gender inequality still permeates Nepalese life whereby women lag far behind men in economic, social and political positions. Women's traditionally disadvantaged status in the areas of education, health and economic participation has restricted their mobility and deprive them from the basic needs/tools necessary for political participation (Tewary,1995).

Nepali women are daughters, wife and mothers but not recognized as individual with their own identity despite the fact that they are as human as men. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there due to their maternal function. They are discouraged and prevented to take part in public life (Subedi, 1993).

Equality in society cannot be achieved either through slogans, demands and conflicts or through wishes and blessings along. Experience has also shown that laws and regulations are not adequate. What is indeed required is a climate of public opinion where a feeling of equality emanates from hearts of all. Women are bounded by socio-cultural norms of society. Even parents discriminate against the girl child. This is because of lack of knowledge, awareness and education. So if the nation wants to gain something from women their first duty should be given equal opportunity of education, health, empowerment etc. and control of family by the use of family planning measures, a drastic change would come in the nation automatically in every field like economic development, status of women, women's decision-making power etc.

In 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Right (UDHR) has emphasized the legal equality of all human beings, but could not represent the desire and demand of equality of women. All the sectors have not been equally developed and women have been weak, but it has mentioned men and women of full age, without any limitation of race, nationality or religion have the right to marry and to find a family and have entitled equal rights as to marriage and its dissolution. It has emphasized about the property rights of women.

The 1966 International Convent on Civil and Political Rights(ICCPR) states the equal rights of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights to ensure the women's participation in all sectors. Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right has been protected by law.

In 1966 International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) states the right of every one to the enjoyment of just and favorable conditions of work which ensure the participation of women in all sectors for fair wage and equal remuneration for work of equal values without distinction of any kind. It has also emphasized on the equality in the employment opportunity of higher and lower level.

The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) put forward condemnation, discrimination against women in all its forms and agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating Discrimination mainly social, economic and cultural to ensure full development and advancement of women. It stresses to eliminate the discrimination in sectors of political power, education employment, marriage and maternity field which ensure the development of women empowerment.

UNICEF has stated that research in women's studies is still in an embryonic stage, but is gaining impetus in Nepal. It has been intensified by two major comprehensive research studies which highlighted and affected women's role in Nepalese economy. The three year multidisciplinary on the status and role of a representative range of Nepalese women in order to support planning to facilitate the increased integration of women into the national development process, in 1978 confirmed the invaluable 80 percent input of women in household substance in the rural economy. Women contribute 50 percent of the total family income men 44 percent and children 6 percent in rural areas where production caters to sustaining requirements in the household. Women constitute an undervalued resource, labor capacity and managerial skills (UNICEF, 1992).

Lots of efforts were made to bring women into development process through their own decision making process. The first effort was to integrate women into the mainstream of development termed as Women in Development (WID). The second phase of WID termed as Women and Development (WAD) coined to stress on the contribution of women rather to treat them as beneficiaries needing help. The third phase of WID (1980s) emphasized more on the unequal distribution between men and women due to the gender biased social structure of patriarchal value system termed as Gender and Development (GAD). In this phase, the use of the term women was replaced by the term gender to make an understanding of the unequal gender

relationship as well as the social structure that constrained women's development (Ritzer, 2000).

Beside these development strategies, different feminist theories have been developed during this period. The liberal feminists aimed at bringing equality of opportunity among sexes which could lead women to achieve higher status through decision making process.

These all efforts have tried to raise the women's issues in the world arena. This study will also be an attempt to highlight the situation of women in term of decision making in general. While taking account into different theories emerging for addressing the issues of women, I have used the GAD approach for this study. GAD which is the alternative to WID approach was developed in 1980. GAD approach offers a holistic perspective looking at all aspects of women's lives. It does not exclusively emphasize female solidarity but welcomes the contribution of men and recognizes the contribution of women inside and outside of the household.

The women's movement and the discipline of the women's studies led to the development of the feminist theories that began to influence the way in which sociologists analyzed women's position in society. The major expression of gender inequality theory is liberal feminism which articulated the concept of WID argues that women may claim equality with men on the basis of essential human capacity for reasonable moral agency, that gender inequality is the result of a patriarchal and sexist patterning of the division of labor, and that gender equality can be produced by transforming the division of labor through the re-patterning of the key institutions , law, work, family educations, decision making power and media. (Ritzer,2000).

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

Regarding women's Socio-economic status, Nepal's country papers to SAARC on women & family health 1993 states that (1991 census) only little over one half of the population is economically active. The refined activity rates are higher for males than females with 69% of the males economically active in comparison to only 46% of the women. Among the 25-54 age groups, the male participation rate is more than 90% whereas the rate for female is below 55%. Unemployment is estimated to be about 42% in rural & 60% in urban areas. Approximately 80% of the women in urban areas

are without gainful employment in contrast to 53 % of their rural counterparts of the women who work 89% agriculture related work & only 8% non-agricultural work in comparison to 20% of male.

Nepalese people especially in rural areas spend long hours on body demanding labor. Rural women typically work more than 10 hours a day for fetching water, collecting fodder & firewood, cooking, caring the child, doing agricultural work & managing the household. In spite of the laborious nature of their lives, half of their populations survive below the poverty line, consuming less than 2250 calories a day. Women work longer hours than males. They eat only after they have fed their children, husband & in laws & they are the last to sleep. This is due to lack of knowledge, poor government policies, lack of skill, their poverty etc.

Over the last decades, there have been significant increases in literacy rate in Nepal, though rates remain relatively low. According to the census, (CBS-1991) the literacy rate for the general people was 39.6% in comparison to 14.3% in 1971. Though a gender gap in literacy continues to exist, this gap has narrowed significantly. In 1971 the male literacy rate was six times greater than female literacy rate. In 1991 male literacy was only twice than that of females. Over the past twenty years, female literacy rate has increased six fold from 4 percent in 1971 to 12% in 1981 and reached 26% in 1991, In 2001 census literacy rate of women in Nepal is 44.9% where as in urban areas it's about 62.8% and rural only 42.4%. There was significant increase in literacy rate of women within one decade (CBS 2001).

The status of women study series published between 1979-1981 by Center for Economic Development & Administrative (CEDA) taking sample of women from eight ethnic groups of different geographic area of Nepal is the main source of information on the status & roles of women. The study provides comprehensive information on eight different ethnic groups of Nepal, taking into account the socio-cultural religious & economic variable that influences the status & role of women in those ethnic groups. The study shows the aggregate patterns of differentiation of the status of women between different groups & regions & its linkage with the existing patterns of education, religion, work patterns, fertility & rate of decision making in order to understand the central role that status of women plays on society (CBS 1995).

Acharya and Bennet have undertaken several studies related to the status and role of women in Nepal

In first study, Acharya & Bennet is relating to the allocation patterns of women & men at the household level which reveals that except ploughing women perform almost all the agriculture activities and their daily labor input is nine hours against five hours by men. But the degree of involvement varies considerably across ethnic groups & Social classes. In fact, women are far more involved in farming activities than men. They also have to perform the domestic task of household (Acharya and Bennet)

The findings of the model show that in the first sphere women's participation in farming and domestic activities constitute 86 percent. Women's input accounts for 57 percent in agro-production in sphere second while their input in third and fourth sphere drop down to 38 percent and 25 percent respectively. Their total contribution to the household income remains 50 percent as opposed to 44 percent for males. The remaining 6 percent of income is contributed by children of 10-14 yrs. The aggregate analysis and summary of 8 villages' studies (1981) gives a wider overview of women's status in terms of decision making power with household.

Their first hypothesis reiterates from economic data in which we found that women from top economic stratum are participating in outside income generating activities. No woman from high economic stratum worked either in the domestic or the non organized service sector like sewing, working cleaning etc, but for women from the bottom economic strata agriculture sector provides the largest number of working days. The study shows that women from the communities with economic participation in the wider sphere of society will have a higher status vis-à-vis men than women in groups where their input is confined to non market production within the household units. And the women from the low strata spend 72.9% of their total working days in agriculture sector.

In the same study, they have given a wider review of women's status in terms of their decision making power within the household. The study reveals about status & decision making power in different communities, namely *Maithili, Tamang, Newar, Parbatiya, Tharu, Khammagar* and *Gurung Rai*. Since the decision making data are

found to be complex, the relative male, female input has been analyzed in different stages.

- a) The initiating role
- b) The consulting role
- c) Executing the decision
- d) In some cases expressing disagreement.

Further areas covered for decision making:

- 1) Farm management
- 2) Domestic expenditure
- 3) Other household activities

As a whole, women from these communities showed a greater contribution on suggestion & initiation of decision making which is 53%. However their role as consultant was low or 18.5% & disagreements were also very low constituting only 3.3%. Area wise women input are greatest in farm management reflecting their active role in agriculture production process. Women also play role in decision making for domestic expenditure but not as high as in farm management. Their lowest input is in disposal of household production & major capital transaction reflecting their general lack of ownership of property.

Male dominance is clearly depicted in the household decision making of Hindu communities like *Parbatiya, Newar, Maithili*. But equal male & female input or even distinct female pre-eminence is found among the communities like *Lohorung Rai, Tamang, & Khammagar* etc.

According to Acharya & Bannet, aggregate data on the distribution of decision making responsibility between the sexes for certain important steps are the agriculture production process. Nepalese women are not just silent workers who take direction from men, on the contrary, their managerial role in agriculture production appears to be commensurate with the labor input sphere. The area covered for decision making are farm management, resources collection & domestic expenditure. There is variation between the communities regarding the male/female input into the farm management decisions. In *Rai, Gurung, Tamang* Communities the decision making of women is high compared to *Parbatiya & Newar* communities. *Newar & parbatiya* show equal decision making power in farm management. The women of *parbatiya, Newar,*

Maithili communities whose works are largely confined to domestic & subsistence sector have less responsibility of decision making than *Rai, magar & Tamang* where women participate actively in the market economy. (Acharya & Bennet 1981)

In the second Sector Acharya & Bennet have observed that women are primary supporters of the domestic & subsistence sector. The decision making data shows women's major role in agriculture production both as laborers and as managers of the production process (Acharya & Bennet 1981).

Another interesting patterns that Acharya & Bennet highlight upon is the different degree of female participation in the market economy in different communities which subsequently is related to their decision making power within the household. Women from Hindu Communities have greater concentration in domestic & subsistence production display a much less significant role in major household economic decision than those in the market economy.

Acharya & Bennet 1983, Claim that economic factor affects women's role in household decision making directly & indirectly. If a woman has greater economic participation, she has a greater power of decision making. Small sizes of children imply higher economic participation & consequently greater decision making power for a woman. They also reveal that reduced fertility rate imply higher economic participation & consequently greater decision making power for women. Similarly, fewer social & traditional restrictions barriers mean greater willingness for education, greater involvement in the market economy & again greater decision making power for them.

But the overall emphasis is upon drawing women in the market economy as the most effective means to improve their status in term of their input in all aspects of household decision making.

The Movement for improving women's status all over the world has emphasized the role of education. It is believed that education will bring out a reduction in the inequalities between sexes & uplift women's subjugated position in the Society. In general, educated women have higher status in the society and the family size becomes smaller as the education level of the mother rises. In fact women's education is low in Nepal and lowest in SAARC countries that is adult female illiteracy is 88% in Nepal compared to India 71% Pakistan 81%, Bangladesh 78%. (World Bank 1990)

Kaur(1987) emphasis on the female decision making especially in the areas of home & farm affairs among the rural families. She goes on to emphasis education of women as an important factor as the matter of decision making process. In her words "Educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterparts".

She has reported that she has never seen women as final decision makers in many household matters except the cases for food & nutrition of children. The financial activities are solely done by the male members of the family. She claims that woman has greater input in household decision making if they are from medium status. She also claims that the socio-economic status is closely linked with women power of decision making.

In his book the Role of Family in Development, Safilios (1984) writes that the consequences of intra household and social gender inequalities that lead to women's lesser access to food, healthcare and education as well as the skills for productive employment are far reaching in terms of poverty creation and perpetuation in the present as well as in the next generation. Chronically malnourished rural women have probably more chances for illness and shorter survival chances. Illiterate women have limited access to income and cannot take good care of their children. Due to less income & overload, women use their daughter's labor for survival and thus deprive them of a chance to acquire education and training for escaping the vicious cycle of poverty.

Age of marriage is an important demographic variable that determines the status of women. In 1981, the age of marriage was higher in urban areas (18.5 years) than rural areas (17.1 years). During 1981-1991, the age of marriage increase was larger in the urban areas (1.1 years) compared to the rural (0.8 year) for female. Comparing the data of Nepal fertility survey (NFS, 1976) with those of demographic sample survey (DCS, 1986) data, it is found that the mean age at marriage for terai women declined slightly from 14.3 years to 14.25 yrs although this increased for the mountains was 15.77 to 15.8 yrs and for hill 15.79 yrs to 15.8 years (CBS, 1995).

Dahal (1989) indicates that the mean age at marriage among the females was highest (18.8 yrs) in kathmandu because of higher literacy and employment rates whereas it was lowest (15.8 yrs) in the terai where the child marriage is more common among the terai Hindu caste groups. The comparable figure of mountain/hill was 18.5 years

where the ethnic groups like Sherpa, Gurung, Tamang, Manange and Bhote reside and their society is relatively open and less segregated than Hindu caste Society.

The study of Centre for Women & Development on migration and economic participation of women in Nepal (1994) has observed, if the women migrate to new place they get more decision making power. The study shows that women involvement in decision making has increased in most activities except farming & social ceremonies. Women who migrated from their original places have more power in decision making in the activities like child education, household necessities (consumable goods, household expenditure, clothing and fooding etc). It is not the sex but the situation which makes the differences relating to whether a woman is confined to tradition or exposed to a new world of work and responsibilities. The migration study also shows that women's decision making role does not change much in case of family migration or out migration.

Dahal (1989) summarizes the information from "The status of women in Nepal Study" that among the high caste groups (Brahmin & Chettri) the authority structure is male dominated, women cannot make their own decision and they have no independent sources of income & property. Among the women of Tamang, Laharung, Rai and Kham Magar, they have liberal social structure which permit them to have their own choice of marriage residence, and in the accumulation of property. Like wise the Newar, Tamang & the Tharu women can make their own decision within family and have their own independent sources of property. In contrast to this point Martel (1988) points out that among the Newars of Kritipur women cannot make her independent decision to take her sick baby even to the hospital without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family, (Ibid 1989).

In Nepal gender variation found in excess or people themselves categories in different step, they put man in higher position than women. Similarly, they give more priority to son than daughter in the society. Even in Nepal a woman becomes a woman only when she performs her role as mother & her status is fully validated only after the successful birth of many children especially sons. Thus, in many communities sonless women have low status. According to Karki, the main reason for son preference is economic contribution made by sons, social & old age security for the parent's socio-psychological and cultural reason of continuity of patriarchal line of descent,

performance of religious rituals, social status & parented happiness and satisfaction (karki ,1988).

In her article mazumdar (1982) speaks of the Asian women who have been subjected to acute social economic & political prejudice and oppression in the past and continues even to this day, may be to lesser degree. According to her, “the monopolies of economic & political power as well as access to knowledge are the three major instruments by which the present structure of inequality between & within nations is maintained”. The majority of the women in the world especially the Asian women are excluded from these instruments. Their position is further belittled by the fact that their work is considered as ‘non-productive’. This under valuation of women’s contribution to the economy is closely associated with their inferior social status and also the relative loss of individual freedom & status within the family. Mazumdar also talks of non socialist countries where the extension of capitalism has further marginalized the economic & social roles of women. They have been projected as more consumers worthy of only social welfare services but not as partners with equal position in building a new society. Such welfare policies no matter how well intentioned are found to reinforce various forces of exploitation of these women (Ibid, 1982).

Mazumdar(1982) has also highlighted upon the fact that in Asia, women constitute the single largest group engaged in agriculture & food production. Some Asian tradition even claims that women discovered agriculture. Yet very few of them control the basic asset-land. Although they participated actively in the labor process, they are often excluded from the decision making process.

Further women in agriculture attach higher priority to food crops as it becomes responsibility to feed their families. Therefore their greater control on agriculture decision could be made instrumental in reducing the areas under food crops.

Mazumdar concludes saying that constraints of family illiteracy and all traditional barriers and attitudes prevent women’s ability to influence vital decision making. She suggests for forming grassroots level organizations responsive to the need of the poor local women. Along with this a new approach is needed to study the social organization. i.e, families and household in the clearer prospective. Better knowledge

of women both in the past and present can bring a lot of change to these perceptions (1982).

Jiggins (1989) speaks of the sub-saharan African women who are involved in almost all household based agricultural activities which support rural livelihoods. An overall 30 % of rural household are estimated to be headed by women who contribute 80% of agriculture labor mainly as unpaid labors. They produce 60% of the food consumed by rural households and contribute over one third of the household income via small business, trading and casual labor. But despite this major input to household food and economic security, patriarchal family and social structures deny women's real property rights in land limit, women's access to control over the proceeds of their own labor and constrain their decision making roles (Ibid, 1989).

Government incentive provision for services and market support has been low for these women with increasing responsibilities to be fulfilled. Within the household on the one hand, and meager resources, on the other their activities are increasingly under stress. This probably can be associated with their high mortality rates than in other developing countries besides the inadequate health care provided for women.

The Counting male dominance & unequal household responsibility further worsens the position of these women. Although informal sector provides for female entrepreneurship especially in trading or small scale agro-industry, they are facing many problems such as interference and manipulation by men, raiding of cash to meet domestic expenditure and competition with licensed state enterprises.

However Jiggins also suggests various micro level interventions which would strengthen women's position "in the labor process within the household and as independent wage and income earners" (1989). Such intervention would be supportive to the expansion of income generating opportunities and activities for women which would stop further deterioration of their livelihoods.

Timisina submitted his dissertation in Nov. 1999 on study in Batulechaur in kaski finds that female member have comparatively less power of decision making than male counterparts. This is because of male dominated society, lack of education, Impact of religion. However, literate women showed grater confidence in decision making.

Saiju in her dissertation in 1991 on social economic status of women in Lalitpur Nepal states that illiteracy and absence of income generating activities have greater impact on decision making process.

Gender discrimination is the rule among Maithili community rather than an exception. Yet most of the problems associated with women are of their own making. Women are more jealous of the women than men. It is the mother-in-laws who torture the daughter-in-laws. It is mainly the women who are against remarriage, divorce, inter caste marriage and widow marriage. It is the women who do not like girls to have husband of their choice. But most of the problems are due to illiteracy and ignorance of the women(Jha,1997).

Samiddha Pokharel in her study on “Societal Discrimination: Women’s Perspective” at Ichangu Naranyan VDC of Kathmandu District" funded by SIRF reveals different types of women discrimination at societal and household level. Nevertheless, societal level discrimination is found to be higher than household level. Both male and female, are equally responsible for prevalent discriminatory practices. Married women perceive discrimination in mobility, property, occupation, and education. Similarly, unmarried women perceive discrimination in mobility and way of behaving. The study finds gender and customary practices as major factors responsible for discrimination. Likewise, the study identifies interlink between discrimination in Nepalese society and its traditional culture and misbelieves. The study concludes that both men and women along with societal norms are equally responsible for the discriminations (2007).

For a study on “Gender Dimension of Nepalese Crop and Vegetable Production System: Evidence of Change Across Ethnicity and Generation in Chitwan” Durga Devkota selected ethnic groups of Tharu and Brahmin/Chhetri from Khairhani VDC of Chitwan district. The study highlights the changing role and female worker in passage of time. The categorization of agricultural works into male and female is slowly phasing out and joint involvement has come into practice. This incidence is more prominent in Tharu community than in Brahmin/Chhetri. Further, young generation is more supportive toward joint involvement. So the study concludes that the gender role is slowly changing in agriculture production (2008).

Lila Adhikari on her study “Women’s Perception on Gender Discrimination in Education” conducted research survey between 120 Urban women of Kathmandu valley. The study finds that the family custom is the root of discriminatory practice against women’s education. Particularly, parents and husband discourage women’s education and bound women in household work which consequently affect the women psychologically and socially. Further, the prevalence of poverty fuels such discrimination practice.

Nevertheless, women have acknowledged that there is marginal improvement against discriminatory practice in last few decades. But, such improvement doesn’t substantially enhance women inclusion in education (2008).

Lilawati Yadav on her study “Analytical Study on Women’s Self Perception on Discrimination of Household Decision Making in Dhanusha District” carried out a study in Gidha VDC and Janakpur Municipality of Dhanusha district. Field survey was conducted between 100 household women.

Among the sample of 100 respondents, married women share 89% followed by unmarried with 6% and with widow 5%. Further, 60% respondents are illiterate; 29% respondents have their own bank account and the most women’s work responsibility is day to day housework. Specially, the study finds that the major factors influencing women’s participation in decision making are: lack of opportunity, low level of education, lack of mobility, lack of income generating program, lack of property rights, patriarchical society, lack of information, unequal gender roles, social and cultural barriers and dependency on male.

Likewise, most of the respondents are not aware of existing government policy on women and human rights. Thus, the study concludes that the women’s participation in household decision making limits only up to daily household level activities (2008).

In light of above review of literature we find out that Socio-economic status is closely linked with women's power in decision making. The educated women have high status and are expected to reduce fertility rate while opposite to them non-educated women. In communities, which encourage women to participate in economic gainful employment, women would have a higher status as compared to where those activities are restricted. Decision making role is solely confined to household head. This is because of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of

planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labor and input contribution and consultants but as active change agents at the concerned level of income.

Nepal is also victim of such unpleasant situation. Over last three decades from the 1960s to the focus of development policies and objectives have shifted from being growth oriented to people oriented. Although the main emphasis is now on the poor, the deprived and people from the lowest economic strata, women, however, have remained excluded from all development activities. The People centered approach has now become the "men oriented approach". It is always the men who interact with the outside world and the women unquestioningly slip back into her traditional role as housewives within the farm household sphere.

The focus of the Nepal women's organization established in 1960 was directed towards livelihood activities like knitting, sewing and weaving. Although its interest was not purely in the uplift of women, nevertheless, its efforts to initiate an interest and concern for women and their development cannot go unappreciated.

The international women's year witnessed several other women related institutions both government and non government such as regional women's training centers and a mother's club in 1975. The business and professional women's club in 1976 and women's services coordination committee in 1977 within the 'Social Services National Coordination Council' are a few other examples. The monumental work "Status of Women in Nepal" carried out by CEDA/TU speaks of the academic efforts on women's development.

In male dominated society it could be found a large gender inequality. Male are given preference in many socio-economic activities. Dominant involvement of males is found in district as well as in national level programs rather than women. Many opportunities are given to males than females from the family to community and national level activities. Women's participation is minimum in every decision making and in job opportunities.

Women of city are living in a normal condition. Their living condition is not that much worse as that of rural women in different parts of Nepal. Regarding the educational aspects most of the women are literate and a few have managed to forward their study up to the certificate, Bachelor and master level (Acharya 1995).

Women of this study area are mostly involved in household affairs and very few in services and teaching profession. There is still less involvement of women in other economic activities like business and services in different government and private sectors. On contrary to this, males are involved in business and government offices. Women do not have their own and clear concept to elaborate various economic programs to enhance their financial condition. While doing business they are mostly dependent on their husband and other family members.

Economically, women are contributing greater share in business .Besides, they have to take care of their children and manage family in preparing foods and serving males. In other words, they cannot escape from their domestic drudgery as it is their primary and prioritized sector. Thus, they do not get chance for involvement in other economical activities due to the time constraints and their various roles in society such as reproductive community roles.

Decision making skills and ability to envision a better life are also the concerns of men as they are the ones who will need to share power with women. This study directly illustrates the roles and holding of women in the family. In light of the findings many new dimensional things can be identified to accelerate and enhance the participation of women in development sector. So, this study aims at filling the partially gap by identifying the role of women in household decision making in colony area of Hetauda Cement and also to identify the major issue why only the males are involved in major decision making have been carried out in this study.

In this study the status of women is defined and measured by selecting socio-economic indicators. Dependent variable is status of women and independent variables are education, employment, economy, political participation, ownership of assets, policies and programs, awareness of society and NGOS, INGOS & programs of other agencies.

CHAPTER – 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the various methods applied in order to complete the research work. Here are some reasons for selecting the field area and reason for selecting the topic, research design, universe and sampling methods of data collection, data analysis procedure and limitation of the study.

3.1 The Study Area

The area selected for study is colony area of Hetauda cement Industries Ltd. where almost 200 employees' families are living in the staff quarters of the industries. This selected area is situated at ward No 9, Lamsure of Hetauda Municipality. In this colony area the families of various grades of employees varying high level staff to low graded staff of Hetauda cement are residing. Not only this, the residents of this colony are the combination of different ethnic/caste groups. These caste groups are mainly *Brahmin, Chhettri, Newar* of hilly region and *Madheshis* of different caste groups of terai region. Me, the researcher is from terai region and living in the colony area. So this area is familiar, accessible and money saving. It is hoped that study area as selected has great importance to know the status of women in the factory worker's family as well as their participation in household decision making process.

3.2 The Research Design

A research design is an extensive pre plan on the basis of which research work is being carried out effectively and systematically. The research design that we have adopted for our study is exploratory. This research tries to explore and investigate the socio- economic and other familiar issues of our study area with special emphasis on decision making process of women as compared to men. However this research design will be presented in descriptive Analytical form which is also utilized during our data analysis procedure.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

The study is based on primary as well as secondary data. The primary data are collected from field survey to be conducted in quarter's area of Hetauda Cement.

Secondary data has been collected from books, essays, dissertations, CBS, UNDP, publications of the research organizations.

Likewise both qualitative and quantitative data are equally used in analytical part. Qualitative data includes observation, records, notes, interview transcripts, recording notes which cannot be quantified. And, quantitative data is helpful for examining the variables like age, salary, income, expenditure and other socio-economic demographic variables.

3.4 Universe and Sampling

First of all 200 households residing within the colony area of Hetauda cement have been selected. In these 200 households about 50% are from terai community comprising of different caste groups & 50% from hilly area like Brahmins, Chhetri, Newar etc. 20 households from Terai and 20 households from hilly community have been selected. Those 40 households are selected by using lottery method of random sampling. We have taken care of the aspects like age, status, education of household of both communities so that study can represent the universe.

3.5 Methods of Data Collection

Data collections have an important role to give a final shape of research work. There are different methods to collect the data on the basis of objectives of study, study area, capacity, available resources etc.

a) Survey Questionnaire/ Interview

Primary data has been collected with the help of Survey questionnaire (see annex 1) concerning the decision making in household affairs such as farm management, domestic expenditure, income, education, sales/purchase, lending/borrowing, investment, labor utilization and so forth. Besides, questions pertaining to the socio-economic characteristics of respondents have been included. Therefore the questionnaire were designed, in such manner so as to give an overall picture of the relative status of women in household decision making and socio-economic status of the selected households. The questionnaire were distributed to members who were above 18 years and they were wives, mothers, daughters, and daughters- in-law.

b) Observation

Observation of the study area can provide so many information which can't actually be obtained through the survey questionnaire technique of data collection. Observation has been carried out to obtain information about settlement, physical facilities available & provided by Hetauda Cement, education etc. A field diary has been maintained to record the events observed in the field.

c) Key Informants Interview

All information is not possible only from questionnaire and observation so, friendly and co-operative relations have to be established with some key informants. These informants were helpful to know the internal feeling, emotions and general views regarding the subject matter.

3.6 Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

The data collected in this study has been analyzed descriptively based on tabular form. The simple statistical tools like Percentage ratio & average will be used during the analysis.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

Some ethical norms and values have been used in this study which helped simply for unbiased study. Some of them are as follows:

1. In this study, all the personal and private information of respondents are kept secret.
2. During the research period, all respondents were well informed to its purpose and objectives.
3. During the study period, all the respondents were motivated as per the objectives and no compulsion was created to reply.
4. No any data were manipulated during the study period. All the collected information were used for specific purpose.

3.8 Limitation of the Study

Every research has it own limitation and this research is no exception either. The limitations of this study are as follows:

- a) The study has been conducted as a case study of colony area of Hetauda cement for the partial fulfillment of Master's Degree of Arts in Sociology. Therefore it is not feasible for detailed intensive research due to lack of sufficient resource within such short period of time.
- b) This study has been carried out in a small area of Hetauda Municipality so the findings of study in respect of women's participation of household decision making may not hold truth of the women in general. It is applicable only as the micro level not at macro level of the whole women.
- c) This study is limited to only household decision making and therefore we would be analyzing the role and status of women as compared to their male counterparts in the same household.

CHAPTER 4 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

It is very important to know about social, economic, physical and natural conditions of the study area for deep study of subject matter. We know that environment of the specific area has specific effect on human behavior and cultural activities of such area. I have selected the colony area of Hetauda Cement Industries as survey area which is in ward no 9 of Hetauda municipality. Hence I have included some brief information about Makwanpur district, Hetauda Municipality including Hetauda Cement Industries Ltd. (HCIL).

4.1 General Information about Makwanpur District

This district covers an area of 2426 sq km. In the east, west, south and north part of the district, there are Bagmati River, Lothar River, Churiya range and Chandragiri hill respectively. This district ranges in the altitude from 166 m to 2584 m from the sea level. Three types of climatic conditions namely sub-tropical, tropical and temperate can be found here. Three fourth part of the district is covered with hills whereas rest consists of Terai plains. Hetauda is head quarter of district which is linked with Highway. People are engaged in different occupations to earn their living. Most people, about 80 percent are engaged in agriculture. We can find a combination of different castes and religion in this district. Most of the people of this district are Hindus though there are Muslims and Christians as well. Of the total land, 67.3% is covered with natural forest where valuable timbers are found. There are many rivers and out of Kulekhani River, hydro-electricity power having the capacity of 90 MW in two stages is generated.

4.2 Geographical Condition of Hetauda Municipality

Hetauda municipality lies in Makwanpur district of Narayani zone. It is surrounded by hills: Mahabharat range in the north and Siwalik range in the south. Hetauda, which ranges in an altitude from 300-390 meters from sea level has the total area of 44.50 sq km. The river Rapti, Samari and Karra run through this area and flow southwest to meet Narayani river. Hetauda is linked to capital city Kathmandu by both existing highways i.e. East-West Highways and Tribhuvan Highway.

Hetauda is popular for its industries. Hetauda Industrial District which boasts for big and medium scale industries is the biggest among the industrial districts in the nation.

Ward No 9 lies in the southwest of Hetauda municipality. Hetauda cement Industries has been constructed in the same ward on the bank of Kukhreni river in the west and at the bottom of Lamsure hill. It is spread in the area of 149 bighas of land and within this area and adjacent to factory area, there remain colony areas where almost 200 staff of different grades are living in the staff quarters. The area is surrounded by compound wall. It is 3 km far from the main town area.

4.2.1 Social Condition of Study Area

This town has diversification in social life. As this is an industrial town, I have tried to outline the brief description of social conditions of this town through introductory subheading

4.2.1.1 The People

Hetauda is the Headquarter of Makwanpur district as well as an industrial town. Hence people living here are from different localities and culture. They are from different ethnic/cast groups of high mountains, hilly areas and terai. People from some indigenous group and dalit also live in the town.

Table 1 : Distribution of Population by Caste

Castes	Population	Castes	Population	Castes	Population
Bahun	21339	Magar	1880	Damai	449
Chhetri	9169	Danuwar	1489	Muslim	248
Newar	8327	Gurung	577	Sarki	275
Tamang	5320	Kami	735	Others	1472

Source: CBS 2058

So from the above table we can see that Population of Brahmin .Chhetri,, Newar and Tamang are in higer side. We find the population of Terai community like Brahmin,Rajput etc.and Bhote Thakali of Himali area. The total population of ward No.9 is 8746 out of which Population of male and female are 4524 and 4222 respectively. As per 1958 Census, the total household of this area was 1939 which at present is increasing rapidly.

4.2.1.2 Religion

Religion is the belief on supernatural power/force. It is also a set of belief, symbols and practices which is based on the idea of sacred and profane. It is a means of social integration. Every society has the sense of hell and heaven, sin and religion. Religious norms and values enforce to develop collective behavior in society. So, religion is a part of society that contributes to maintain social structural as a whole. Large population of Hetauda is based on Hindu varna system. However, population of other religion is also significant. Distribution of population on the basis of religion is as follows:

Table: 2 Distribution of Population by Religion

Religion	Population	Percent
Hindu	58406	85.28
Bouddha	8364	12.21
Muslim	1078	1.57
Christian	470	0.68
Kirat	41	.05
Jain	14	0.02
Shikh	2	0.002
Others	107	0.15
Total	68482	100

Source: CSB, 2058

People perform their rituals as per religious tradition. Large populations are Hindus but other religious populations are also found. In the present time, we find that due to conservative tradition of Hindus, people of different castes tend to convert into Christian. Thus, we find the diversification in population based on religion.

4.3. Economy

People in this study area are engaged in different kinds of economic activities like agriculture, industries, trade and other service related occupations etc.

4.3.1 Agriculture

Agriculture is main occupation of Nepal. In this area also 47.24 % people are engaged in agriculture. Out of total available land, 45% land is used in agriculture sector and cultivation of land is mainly done in ward no 5, 6, 7 and 11. However in other wards

also paddy and maize are grown. In addition to cultivation of land poultry, fisheries and livestock farming are also done. Table no 3 shows households engaged in agriculture.

Table : 3 Distribution of Population by Farming and Herding

Agricultural Sector	Household	Percent
1.Farming & Cultivation	2408	16.88
2.Livestock	454	3.18
3.Poultry farming	169	1.18
4.Cultivation & livestock	2676	18.75
5. Cultivation & poultry	249	1.75
6.Livestock & poultry	131	0.91
7.Cultivation,livestock & poultry	659	4.61
8.Household not involved	7529	52.75
Total	14271	100%

Source: CSB2058

4.3.2 Industry

Manufacturing industries and its allied industries have greater role in the development of the country. The country whose majority of the manpower is engaged in industrial sector has greater economic growth and high standard of living. Hetauda is an industrial town where a lot of industries have been established. In the south of town and north of churiya hill, a big industrial area has been built. This industrial area is called Hetauda Industrial District (HID) where different kinds of industries have been established. In this area, the first industry, Nepal Tobacco Industry was established in 2024 B.S. and presently there are 55 industries out of which 33 industries are in operation as per industrial survey 2059. There are altogether 41 big industries inside and outside Hetauda Industrial district (HID). The big industries are like Hetauda Cement, Asian Paints, Diary Development Scheme, National Shop, Mahashakti Soap etc.

Hetauda textile industries inside HID, was a big industry which was generating a big employment to the country as well as reducing import of cotton clothes .But due to non- diversification of cotton quality and instability in the country, this industry could not sustain and was closed .However, Many other Government and private industries are under operation .

Among the big industries in Nepal Hetauda Cement Industries Ltd. a fully government owned industries was established in 2033 B.S. on the bank of kukhreni river in the west and at the bottom of lamsure hill in the east. It was constructed with loan assistance of Asian Development Bank & international commercial banks. It started its commercial production in 2042. It has the production Capacity of 260000 MT (52 lakh bags in 50 KG bag) cement Per year.

In the beginning there were about 1100 employees working but presently there are 650 employees working there. Due to its quality and goodwill .in the market the cement produced by this industry is like a hot cake in the market. Thus these industries have greater effect on social and economic life of the people of Hetauda as well as they are contributing directly to the economy of the country.

4.4 Education and Educational Institution:

Education is important factor for the development. Literacy and education are the important components of the society because they do not only uplift the social status but increase the earning potential of an individual. .At the same time, education attainment is one of the aspects of social characteristic of the population.

There are many educational institutions where different levels of education are given. In this study area, Makwanpur Campus affiliated to Tribhuvan University is the older Community Campus for higher education. The table No4 shows the details of the educational institutions in Hetauda .

Table : 4 Details of Educational Institution

Institutions	Government	Private	Community Based	Total
1.Primary	12	22	1	35
2.Lower Secondary	3	2	1	6
3.Secondary	5	12	1	18
4.Higher Secondary	5	2	-	7
5.Campus	1	2	3	6
Total	26	40	6	72

Source: Municipality Information Center, 2065

Makwanpur Campus and Hetauda School of Management are two Campuses where Higher education up to Masters Level in Humanities and Social Sciences and in Commerce is being run. There is a Forestry institute where up to Bachelor level of

forestry is taught. There is no technical institution here, hence people have to go outside for technical education.

As per CBS, 2058, Literacy rate of the area is 73.80 % out of which female literacy rate is 64.44% and Male literacy rate is 82.43 %.

4.5 Medical Facilities:

Public health and sanitary habit of the people is major indicator of human development. The institution providing medical facilities always give a positive impact in the overall projection of the society. The Society as well as economic status is interrelated to the health status. Here in Hetauda there is one hospital, one Ayurvedic hospital, 2 Community Health centers and one eye hospital. These medical institutions are not capable to diagnose the major diseases. Hence, people are bound to go outside for better treatment. Some private health centers and drug shops are facilitating medical treatment from specialized doctors who come from outside on weekly or monthly basis. In industrial sector almost every industry has its own arrangement of basic medical needs. Hetauda Cement Industries has its own health centre in its Premises and it has own ambulance The health center is providing first aid facilities to employees, their families and other people living in vicinity .

At last, the part of study area is Colony area of Hetauda cement where about 200 families are living there in different categories of staff quarters provided by the industries.

CHAPTER- 5
ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING

5.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Nepalese society is the outcome of the long historical process under which people of different ethnics groups, races, language and cultures are united. Even to this day the multi-racial and multi-linguistic characteristics are quite visible in the population of Nepal.

This is well known that socio-economic characteristics of the people explain many aspects of their lives. In this first half, an attempt has been made to highlight some of the socio-economic characteristics of sample respondents.

5.1.1 Distribution of Respondents by Ethnic Composition

It is observed that people of different caste/ethnic groups are living in the staff quarters facilitated by Hetauda cement Industries Ltd. All the castes including ethnic groups are considered as the ethnic composition.

Table 5: Ethnic composition

Caste/Ethnic Groups	No. of Households	Percentage
Brahmins	12	30
Newar	5	12.5
Chhetri	3	7.5
Bahun Madhesi	10	25
Mandal	2	5
Kayastha	2	5
Dev	2	5
Bhumihar	1	2.5
Koiri	3	7.5
TOTAL	40	100

Source: Field survey, 2068

The Brahmins *Pahadiya* community is seen as a large number (30%) which is followed by Brahmin *Madhesi* (25%), *Newar* (12.5%), *chhetri* (7.5%), *Koiri* (7.5%), *Mandol* (5%), *Kayastha* (5%), *Dev* (5%), and *Bhumihar* (2.5%). The total of Brahmin community (*Pahadiya*+*Madhesi*) is found to be more than 50% which depicts the

Brahmins domination over other communities far above the ratio of their total population.

5.1.2 Age and Sex Structure of Population

The total populations of the sampled household (40) are 206 which include 47.9 percent (97) males and 52 percent (109) females. Table 6 shows frequency and percentage distribution of family members by age group and sex.

Table 6: Age and Structure of Population

Age Group	Male	Percentage	Females	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Less than 15	32	32.99	38	34.86	70	33.98
15-59	59	60.82	64	58.72	123	59.71
60 and above	6	6.19	7	6.42	13	6.31
Total	97	100	109	100	206	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Age and sex distribution of the sampled population shows that the child population in the colony is little bit higher for female (34.86) than male (32.99) of the total population while the active population is higher for male (60.82) than for female (58.72). Similarly, the old age (60 years and above) population is higher for female (6.42) than for male (6.19).

5.1.3 Family Structure of the Survey Households

Family structure plays significant role in women decision making process. In this study, family structure indicates the typification of family. Distribution of respondents by their family type is given below:

Table 7: Distribution of Respondents by Their Family Type

Family Structure	No. of households	Percentages
Nuclear Family	24	60
Joint Family	16	40
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Among 40 household, the structure of the family of 24 household is nuclear and 16 household is joint i.e. 60 percent and 40 respectively. The table projects that

traditional joint family system is declining whereas nuclear family system is in increasing trend. The disintegration of joint family system is apparent due to socio-economic change in the society.

5.1.4 Marital Status of the Respondents

Marriage is a social contract for the satisfaction of physical, biological, psychological and spiritual needs of males and females leading to formation of a family to bear children and live together. Rather social contract of two opposite sex is called marriage which is sanctioned by society according to cultural values and traditions.

Table 8: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Married	34	85
Unmarried	6	15
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Out of total 40 female respondents, 34 are found to be married, 6 are unmarried daughters. As seen in the table 8, the married women therefore, constitute a large majority (85 %). The unmarried constitute 15 percent

5.1.5 Age at Marriage:

In Nepal with parental consent, legal minimum age at marriage for both girls and boys is 18 years. If the boys and girls want to marry on their own then the minimum legal age at marriage for both is 20 years. In some societies, girls are still married at younger age.

Table 9: Distribution of Respondents by Age at Marriage

Age at marriage	No. of Respondents	Percentage
10-14	non	-
15-19	17	50
20-24	13	38.24
25-29	4	11.76
Total	34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Women who get married between the age 15-19 years are found to be maximum as shown in table 9. They constitute 50 percent and are followed by women who get married between the ages of 20-24 (38.24 percent). The women who get married between the ages of 25-29 years constitute 11.76 percent scoring the lowest. None found married between the age of 10-14 years. Thus we can conclude that early marriages are still practiced however, trend at early marriage is getting down. Majority of women married at the age of 15-19 which lead than early marriage due to Hindu culture as well teenager dominant characters.

5.1.6 Child Birth- Age Composition

Though the maximum numbers of respondents get married between the age of 15-19 years age group. Table 10 shows a greater percentage of women (50 percent) who fall between the age group of 20-24 year give birth of their first child. The age group of 25-29 years ranks second with 29 percent and the age group of 15-19 years follow with 21 percent. There are no respondent found in the category for 30 and above age group as the age of first issue.

Table 10: Distribution of Respondents by Child-Birth Age Composition

Age of first issue	No. of Respondent	%	Age at last issue	No. of Respondent	%
15-19 years	5	21	15-19 Years	-	-
20-24 Years	12	50	20-24 Years	3	19
25-29 years	7	29	25-29 Years	9	56
30-34 years	-	-	30-34 Years	4	25
35 + years	-	-	-	-	-
Total	24	100		16	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Similarly, for the age at last issue the age group of 30-34 years rank first with 56 percent. The age group of 25-29 years ranks second 25 percent. 20-24 age groups rank third (19 percent) while there is least number of respondents in the category for 35 plus years and 15-19 as their last issue. Thus, we come to know that the time gap between the first and last issue is short though gap is in increasing trend.

5.1.7 Educational Attainment of the Respondents

Education is a mirror which reflects every aspect of society. Education is the most important factor for development of any society. It gives a vision, skill and a way to make an advanced society.

Table 11: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Attainment

Education	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	10	25
Literate	-	
1.Primary Education	4	10
2.Secondary Education	8	20
3.SLC & Equivalent	10	25
4.IA & Equivalent	4	10
5.BA & Equivalent	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The educational attainments of respondents are in moderate trend out of 40 respondents, 10 are illiterate which constitute 25 percent.

The literate women are 30(75%) out of 40 respondents the primary education is completed by 4 women. About 8 have secondary education 10 have S.L.C and equivalent 4 have I.A and equivalent and 4 have B.A and equivalent.

5.1.8 Occupation of Respondents

Occupation is one of the important indicators to indicate economic status of women. Table 12 depicts the occupation of Respondents.

Table 12: Distribution of Respondents by Occupation

Occupation	No. of respondent	Percentage
House wife	18	45
Teacher	5	12.5
Business	6	15
Employee in factory\office	3	7.5
Agriculture	3	7.5
Others	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The survey finds out that 45 percent of the women are housewives followed by employed in business sector 15 percent, teacher 12.5 percent, factory /office employees 7.5 percent and other 12.5 percent. This data shows that most of the women are still engaged in household activities and do not go outside for earning. Hence, women are still dependent on their male counterpart.

5.1.9 Use of Energy

Energy is essential for cooking as well as burning light at house. Traditionally firewood was the only source of energy in Nepal. Even to this day, in rural areas, firewood only is used for cooking where as kerosene is used for burning light in the house. Presently the LP gas, kerosene, electricity and firewood are used as sources of energy.

Table 13: Distribution of Use of energy

Fuel	No. of Household	Percentage
Heater	40	100
L.P Gas	24	60
Kerosene	10	25
Firewood	5	12.5
Total	79	197.5

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Out of 40 households almost all are found to use heater as their main source of fuel. Though the electricity is expensive, Hetauda cement industries Ltd. has made electricity available to their employees living in quarter area in subsidized rate. Kerosene and LP Gas are also used widely as the alternative sources. Although we have taken 40 households as sample size, the table shows total number of 79. It is because most of households are found to depend on more than two sources of energy.

5.1.10 Land Holding/Ownership

Women's access to land and property has not increased in 20-25 years as their legal rights over property and inheritance has not changed much in this period. Even the recently promulgated amendments to the law on property rights of women have not changed access to parental property substantially. The law however, does provide easier access to property to her final household.

Table14: Land Holding/ Ownership

Ownership of Land	No. of Household	Percentage
Own	10	25
Jointly with husband	9	22.5
Jointly with someone else	21	52.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

There has been considerable interest taken recently in the context of women ownership in land. Here in this survey it shows the status of women in terms of their ownership on land. 52.5 percent of women do not have their land where as 25 percent of women said that they have their own land alone and 22.5 percent told that they have land jointly with husband. This data reveals that still majority of women do not have their own property or they are far from their property right

5.1.11 Beliefs on Medical Treatment

Everyone has his/her own perception regarding curing diseases. Some people believe in *Dhami/Jhakri* and some do believe on doctors. It is generally seen that people who live in villages on traditional way and those who are uneducated fully depend on *Dhami/Jhakri* during their illness to solve their problem. But in urban areas and in educated society, they believe in *Dhami/Jhakri* as well as on doctors for their medical treatment. We can find both kinds of behaviors in the study area.

Table15: Distribution of Respondents by Belief on Medical Treatment

Beliefs in	No. of household	Percentage
Doctor	34	85
Dhami\Jhakri	1	2.5
Both	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Although a high Percentage of household believe on doctors (85%), a small majority (2.5%) still believes in traditional witch doctors called *dhami/jhakri* and 12.5% of

total believe in both of them. This clearly indicates that people in the survey area have been transferred from traditional superstitious beliefs to modern thoughts.

5.1.12 Polygamy in Family

Polygamy is a kind of marriage where one man with two or more women (polygyny) or one woman with two or more men (polyandry) is practiced. In Nepal, this type of marriage was practiced by men where marriage with two or more wives was widely accepted in the past. But at present this practice is being restricted by law as well as by socially.

Table16: Distribution of Respondents by Marriage Type

Monogamy		Polygamy	
No.	Percent	No.	Percent
35	87.5	5	12.5

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Polygamy is found among 12.50% of the total households. We find the cases that husbands with more than one wife are higher than that of wife having more husbands.

5.2. Role of Women in Household Decision Making

In this section, efforts have been made to analyze women's status within the households with special emphasis on their decision making power as compared to their male counterparts. The information included is in consonance with our methodology which is collected from different castes in the area.

In analyzing the role of women as household decision makers, attempts have been made to cover all relevant aspects which would reflect their degree of decision making power within the households. Accordingly, we have divided the chapter into 4 different categories.

Further the concept of decision making has been divided into three different stages namely.

- The initiator- one who first think of idea.
- The person consults to that particular idea.
- The final decision maker to execute this idea.

The “Three stage process” has been utilized as and when necessary to measure the degree of input by household members (esp. women) in each stage of decision making process. Our analysis may reveal that women might have a stronger hold over one stage but less over the other. This of course, applies to other members of the household as well in the decision making process. Corresponding to these findings comparison has also been made to indicate how and where women stand vis-à-vis the other households members (Esp. men) in terms of decision making within the household sphere. Tables have also been designed to support our analysis.

5.2.1 Cropping Pattern of Vegetables

The quarter area of Hetauda cement has a plenty of unused land. So, approximately every household has acquired 01-2 ropani of land for cropping seasonal vegetables for their own consumption. The table below shows at what degree different household members contributes in the decision making of growing vegetables.

Table17: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Decision Making in Vegetable Cropping.

Decision maker	No. of household	Percentage
Husband	1	3.03
Respondent herself	21	63.63
Male member	2	6.06
Female member	6	18.18
Joint	3	9.10
Total	33	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

It is clearly evident from the above table that respondents of households have a greater input in decision making of cropping pattern scoring a 63.63% of total. The female members then followed with 18.18%, joint decision and male members however ranked third and fourth with 9.10% and 6.06% respectively. The husband of the household scores the least with 3.03%. So from the above table we can see that total input of female members together with respondents scored much more i.e. 81.81 percent than 9.09 percent of total male members together with husbands. This depicts that women's participation in decision making of cropping pattern of vegetable is vital and is in increasing trend.

5.2.2 Energy Procurement & Use

Energy (Fuel) is the most essential substance for cooking & lightening of each household. So the arrangement of fuel for daily use is to be considered as major household activities. We find that these activities are mostly covered by the women in comparison to men.

5.2.2.1 Firewood Procurement & Use

Table 18: Fire Wood Procurement

Source	No. of HHS	Percent	who brings	No. of HHS	Percent
1 Forest	1	20	Husband	1	20
2 Land around them(Bari)	1	20	Respondent	1	20
3 Bought	3	60	male member	-	-
-	-	-	Female member	3	60
Total	5	100		5	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Among 40, 5 households are found to use firewood also out of which 20% of them collect from forest and 20% of them from the land around and remaining 3(60%) households are buying from the market. Uses of firewood by some households are done as alternative source and by those who can bring and arrange fire wood easily.

Table19: Firewood Use

Quantity required per month	No. of households	Percentage
1-2 Bhari (bundle)	2	40
2-3Bhari (bundle)	2	40
3-4 Bhari (bundle)	1	20
4-5 Bhari (bundle)	-	-
Total	5	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Out of 5 households 2 (40%) are found to use 1-2 bundle. 2 (40%) use 2-3 bundle and 1 (20%) found to use 3-4 bundles. However, the monthly requirement does not exceed 3-4 bundles in a month. We see that the use of fire wood is decreasing because availability of fire wood is becoming scarce as area of forest has gone drastically

diminished. So people are gradually transforming to use other sources of energy like kerosene and LP gas.

5.2.2.2 Kerosene Procurement & Use

Table 20: Kerosene (procurement)

Decision maker	No. of Households	Percentage
Husband	2	20
Respondent	4	40
Male Members	1	10
Female members	3	30
Total	10	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that only 10 households (40%) appear to use kerosene as alternative source of fuel. The female members including respondents of the households score the highest percentage (70%) in kerosene procurement from market.

Table 21: Kerosene Use

Quantity required per month	No. of Households	Percentage
Up to 2 ltrs.	4	40
2 ^{1/2} -3 ltrs.	3	30
3 ^{1/2} -4 ltrs.	2	20
4 ^{1/2} -5 ltrs.	1	10
Total	10	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The above table shows that kerosene requirement for more households (40%) are up to 2 Ltrs. Per month. However, monthly requirement does not exceed 5 liters per month. Kerosene is used as alternative source of energy because factory is providing electricity on subsidized rate. So Kerosene is used firstly when power is not available and secondly to minimize the working hour in kitchen.

5.2.2.3 LP Gas Procurement & Use

24 households (60% out of 40) use LP gas as an alternate means of fuel. There are many brands of LP Gas available in market and the dealer gives delivery of LP Gas to

the house when required. So in this section we find that there is no specific decision making either by respondent or family members for procurement process of LP Gas.

Table 22: LP Gas Use

Quantity required per month	No. of households	Percentage
Upto ¼ Cylinder	15	62.5
½ - 1 cylinder	9	37.5
1+ cylinder	None	-
Total	24	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Most household 62.5% required ¼ cylinder of gas per month. It means they use one cylinder for four months. However there appears that no household required more than 1 cylinder of gas per month. LP gas is used as alternative source of energy because electricity is the main source of energy facilitated by factory in subsidized rate. we find that majority of household require ¼ cylinder of gas per month. It is because that LP gas is used only when power is not available.

5.2.2.4 Energy Use- Decision making

Corresponding to the pattern of energy (firewood, kerosene & LP gas), we now analyze the degree of input from different household members in decision making of this pattern.

Table 23: Energy Use- Decision Making

Decision maker	No. of Households	Percentage
Husband	1	2.5
Respondent	32	80
Male Members	-	-
Female members	5	12.5
Joint	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Respondents are found to be largely responsible for decision making of energy use. They constitute 80% of total with female members falling well behind at 12.5%. The male members including husband however appear to have least input into the decision making process (2.5%). From the above table, we find that respondents together with

female members have control over decision making of energy use. Husbands including male members have little to say in the use of energy use.

5.2.3 Control Over Household Cash/Expenditure /Transaction

5.2.3.1 Control Over Household Cash

Table24: Control Over Household Cash

Person	No. of Households	Percentage
Husband	10	25
Respondent	23	57.5
Male Members	3	7.5
Female members	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The respondent including the other female members make up the higher percent (67.5%) as compared to male members including husband of the households (32.5%) which shows that women have more access to keep the household money. So this data also proves that in our society usually, women keep control over earned money.

5.2.3.2 Control Over Bazaar Purchase

Table 25 : Control Over Bazaar Purchase

Person	No. of Households	Percentage
Husband	12	30
Respondent	22	55
Male Members	2	5
Female members	4	10
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

As shown in the household cash, here also respondents alone have a greater control over purchase required from Bazaar as compared to other members of the households. While the husband including male members make up a considerable 35% as the one who controls over Bazaar purchase. This is about half of the combined control of both respondents and other female members which constitute 65 percent.

5.2.3.3 Control over Family expenditure

i) Food Item

Table 26: Food Items

Decision Maker	Who 1 st thought No of HHS	%	Who was consulted No of HHS	%	Final decision maker No of HHS	%
Husband	-	-	18	45	13	32.5
Respondent	32	80	8	20	17	42.5
Male Members	1	2.5	4	10	3	7.5
Female Members	7	17.5	4	10	5	12.5
Joint	-	-	6	15	2	5
Total	40	100	40	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

As Shown in the table 26 above, respondents appear to have greater input as initiators (80%) and as final decision maker (42.5%) but husbands appear to have the most input as person consulted (45%). Husband and joint decision makers have no input as initiator but has scored second position as final decision maker (37.5%)

ii) Small Gift/ Loan to Friends

As in table 27, out of 40 households, 38 (95%) have expenditure on small gifts and loans to friends.

Table 27 : Small Gifts \ Loans to Friends

Decision Maker	Who 1 st thought No of HHS	%	Who was consulted No of HHS	%	Final decision maker No of HHS	%
Husband	-	-	17	44.74	14	36.84
Respondent	32	84.21	9	23.68	16	42.11
Male Members	-	-	4	10.53	2	5.26
Female Members	6	15.79	3	7.89	4	10.53
Joint	-	-	5	13.16	2	5.26
Total	38	100	38	100	38	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Among 38 households, the respondents reveal the greater input as initiator (84.21%) and final decision makers (42.11%) for such expenditure, followed by other female members (15.79%) and male members (none) as initiators but husband score (36.84%) as final decision maker and they are consulted the most (44.74%) in these matters. Respondents together with female members have greater input (52.64%) as final

decision maker in comparison to husband including male members which score 42.10% only.

iii) Clothing

Table 28: Clothing

Decision Maker	Who 1st thought No of HHS	%	Who was consulted No of HHS	%	Final decision maker No of HHS	%
Husband	2	5	20	50	16	40
Respondent	29	72.5	6	15	15	37.5
Male Members	2	5	4	10	3	7.5
Female Members	7	17.5	2	5	3	7.5
Jointly	-	-	8	20	3	7.5
Total	40	100	40	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Almost all 40 households are found to spend on clothing as shown in table 28. Among them, respondent reveal the greatest input as initiator (72.5%) followed by other female members (17.5 %). Other male member and husband score the equally (5%) on this matter. But the husband score the highest as person consulted (50%) and final decision maker (40%). While respondent reveals the second position (37.5%) as final decision maker followed by other male members and female members appear to have equal input (7.5 %).

iv) Children's School Fee

Table 29: Children's School Fee

Decision Maker	Who 1 st thought No of HHS	%	Who was consulted No of HHS	%	Final decision maker No of HHS	%
Husband	3	9.38	16	50	14	43.75
Respondent	21	65.62	6	18.75	10	31.25
Male Members	2	6.25	3	9.37	3	9.37
Female Members	6	18.75	2	6.25	3	9.37
Jointly	-	-	5	15.63	2	6.25
Total	32	100	32	100	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Table 29 shows that only 32 out of 40 household are found to spend on children's school fee. Among them respondents score the highest percentage as initiators (65.62%) but second position as person consulted (18.75%) as well as final decision maker (31.25%). In opposite to this, husbands occupy first position as final decision maker (43.75%) and person consulted (50%). The other male members and female members have equal score (9.37%) as final decision makers. Husband together with male members counted 53.12% where as respondents including female members scored 40.62% as final decision maker.

v) Medical Treatment

Table 30: Medical Treatment

Decision Maker	Who 1 st thought No of HHS	%	Who was consulted No of HHS	%	Final decision maker No of HHS	%
Husband	2	5	20	50	14	35
Respondent	31	77.5	7	17.5	16	40
Male Members	1	2.5	2	5	3	7.5
Female Members	5	12.5	3	7.5	4	10
Jointly	1	2.5	8	20	3	7.5
Total	40	100	40	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

As shown in 30, respondents are again seen as the primary initiators and final decision maker for expenditure on medical treatment among 40 households. Such decision making depicts the greater concern for health of the family members. The husband

however are consulted the most in such matters as they score the highest (50%) in the second stage of the decision making process. The other female members also have a greater input as the male members in all stages of decision making. The joint decision appears to be least in this matter.

vi) Social/Religious Ceremonies

Table 31: Social/Religious Ceremonies

Decision Maker	Who 1st thought No of HHS	%	Who was consulted No of HHS	%	Final decision maker No of HHS	%
Husband	2	5	20	50	18	45
Respondent	27	67.5	7	17.5	10	25
Male Members	2	25	3	7.5	6	15
Female Members	7	17.5	1	2.5	2	5
Jointly	2	5	9	22.5	4	10
Total	40	100	40	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

As in table 31 husbands are mainly responsible for two stages of decision making process namely person consulted and final decision maker for expenditure on social / religious ceremony. But their contributions as initiator are less than respondents. While the female members show greater input as initiator than the other male members the latter show greater input as person consulted and final decision maker. Joint decision score more over female members in decision making.

Vii) Investment

Table 32: Investment

Decision Maker	Who 1st thought No of HHS	%	Who was consulted No of HHS	%	Final decision maker No of HHS	%
Husband	6	20	14	46.67	15	50
Respondent	15	50	5	16.66	4	13.33
Male Members	4	13.33	2	6.67	6	20
Female Members	3	10	1	3.33	2	6.67
Jointly	2	6.67	8	26.67	3	10
Total	30	100	30	100	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Only 30 out of 40 households are found in some kind of investment. Although respondents have greater input as initiator (50%) however the husband appear as the main person consulted (46.67%) and final decision maker (50%) as well. The other male members have higher contribution in all three stages of the decision making process while joint score the least as initiator (6.67%) has greater input as person consulted (26.67%) and final decision maker (10%) which is more than female members (6.67%).

5.2.4 Decision Making in the Choice of Bridegroom

Table33: Decision Making in the Choice of Bridegroom

Decision Maker	No of households	Percentage
Husband	6	15
Respondent	4	10
Male Members	3	7.5
Female members	-	-
Jointly	27	67.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

As shown in table 33, out of 40 household in 27 households, the decision in the choice of bridegroom for their daughters/sisters are done jointly. The input of husbands, respondents and other male members as decision maker in the choice of bridegroom is

in decreasing order. We should note that the other female members including the bride have nothing to say in the choice of the bridegroom.

5.2.5 Attitude and Decision Making in Dowry

Table 34: Attitude towards Dowry

In case of fewer Dowries, are women looked down upon?		Yes % (out of 40)	No % (out of 40)
Yes	No	50	50
20	20		

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Dowry system is observed to be practiced among all the 40 households. Respondents were asked whether taking less dowry with them during their marriage meant condemnation from their in-laws. It is found that half of respondents said yes and half said no. All madhesi families were found to ask for dowry during marriage while in Bahun/Chhetri of pahadiya community half of them denied it.

Table 35: Making Decision in Dowry

Decision Maker	No of households	Percentage
Husband	6	15
Respondent	2	5
Male Members	7	17.5
Female members	-	-
Jointly	25	62.5
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Joint decision in households appears to have a greater authority (62.5%) to decide the dowry to be given away for their daughters. Husbands including male members have also comparatively strong authority (32.5%) in these matters. The respondents have low authority (5%) in these matters.

5.2.6 Decision Making of Family Planning (FP) among Households

Table 36: Use of Family Planning (F. P.) Measures

Yes	No	Total	% of yes		% of No.	
			of 34	of 40	of 34	of 40
24	10	34	70.59	60	29.41	25

Source: Field Survey, 2068

General observation reveals that women of all 40 household are well known about family planning measures from friend and or through media.

Out of 34, 24 respondents (past/currently) use F.P. measure. They constitute 70.59% while the women who do not use any F.P. measures constitute only 29.41% among 34 women and 25% among the total households.

Table 37: Types of F.P. Measures Used

Types	No of Households	Percentage
Permanent	28	82.35
Temporary	6	17.65
Total	34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Since all the respondents have heard about F.P. measures, the numbers of women who use them dominate over the women who do not. Among 34 women (85% of 40 households) who practice F.P. measures, a large majority are found to use permanent measures (82.35%).

Table 38: Decision Making in the Use of F.P. Measures

Decision Maker	No of Households	Percentage
Husband	14	41.18
Respondents	12	35.29
Joint	8	23.53
Total	34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Out of these 34 respondents, their husband reported that their decision for its use as being the strongest. Their inputs in this process constitute 41.28% of total percent. The respondents ranked second (35.29%) followed by joint decision (23.53%).

5.2.7 Decision Making in the Selection of the Family Size

Table 39: Decision Making in the Selection of Family Size

Decision Maker	No of Households	Percentage
Husband	10	29.41
Respondents	6	17.65
Joint	17	50
No one/Tradition	1	2.94
Total	34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

Regarding the number of children to have the joint decision of husband and wife appear to be the strongest (50%) among the 34 women who responded to the question. While the decision of the husband alone and respondents alone are also seen significant 29.41% and 17.65% respectively.

5.2.8 Decision Making in Children's Education

Table 40: Enrollment of Children in School

Yes/No	No of households	Percentage
Yes	26	92.86
No	2	7.14
Total	28	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

A large majority of 26 households (92.86) are found to send their children to school while only a small majority of 7.14% out of 28 households do not.

Table 41: Decision Making in Sending Children to School

Decision Maker	No of Households	Percentage	
		of 28	of 40
Husband	6	21.42	15
Respondents	7	25	17.5
Jointly	15	53.58	37.5
Total	28	100	70

Source: Field Survey, 2068

The Joint decision between wife and husband in sending their children to school are found to be the strongest 53.58% among the 28 households who professed to have sent their children to schools. However the decisions of respondents alone as well as husbands are found to have significant contribution in this respect 25% and 21.42% respectively.

5.2.9 Community Activities

Participation on social activities indicates women stating with reference to their literacy and involvement in different sectors. Education plays significant role in taking part in community activities. Women who have higher education have more knowledge about different sectors than women who have only primary education.

Table: 42 Women’s Participation in Community Activities

Yes/No	No of households	Percentage
Yes	12	30
No	28	70
Total	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2068

As shown in table 42, we see that 12 women out of 40 households participate in community activities. They score only 30% as opposed to 70% of the women who do not participate in such activities.

Similarly, we found that most women have greater freedom to participate in the community activities; however, their participation in community activities is found less because of their low level of education as well as their overload of household activities.

CHAPTER 6

Summary, Conclusion & Recommendation

This study has made an attempt to look into the role of women in household decision making with reference to quarter area of Hetauda Cement Industries Ltd. in Hetauda based on a literature review, a survey and friendly discussion with the employees and their families.

In this chapter, an attempt is made to relate the key findings and issue to draw relevant conclusion and make recommendation to future improvements. These suggestions we hope, will initiate planners, policy makers and local development officers to design appropriate and effective policies and programmes regarding the upliftment of women and their status within household.

6.1 Summary

Our entire analysis focuses upon the relative status of women in terms of their household decision making powers as compared to their male counterparts. Household decision making is strong indicator of the different powers and positions held by the different members within the household.

Our study includes different caste, ethnic communities consisting of Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar and madhesi of different castes. However our issue in question has been limited only within households irrespective of caste ethnic groups and interclass relationships.

Within these prescribed limits, women's role in decision making have been perceived mainly from different aspects of household affairs viz. cropping pattern in acquired land, household resource procurement and its use and control over household cash/expenditure Transaction and community activities etc. Further the three stage decision making processes comprising of initiators, persons consulted and final decision makers, have been utilized to provide a simplified yet a wider overview of decision making.

We find a distinct pattern of women (respondents) as the main initiators and final decision makers of many aspects of the household affairs. This can be attributed to their role as the basic providers and managers of the domestic sector. But a point to be

considered here is that women may have a greater say but which may be of lesser importance for example, decision making in matters like food, clothing, small gifts etc. They have also a significant contribution in the decision making of many important issues, but they heavily depend upon the approval and consent of their husbands for the execution of both important as well as less important matters. On the other hand, husbands are found to be final decision makers regarding only crucial issues such as household investments, choice of bridegroom for the daughter, decision making in the selection of family size etc.

Another important and interesting pattern which emerged from our investigation is that female members have comparatively less power of decision making than their male counterparts. This is due to different factors'. One of the main factors is male dominated nature of society. Further, lack of education and impact of Hindu religion (Which is more conservative than any other religions) also enhances the less power of decision making of female members within the family.

Some major findings from the detailed analysis are summarized below:

- 55% of the women are from Brahmin community who are from both Pahadi and Madhesi background.
- The population of the surveyed households shows that child population (below the age of 15 years) and (60 years and above) are little bit higher for female than male
- 60 percent households surveyed have nuclear family System.
- A large majority of women surveyed are found to be married followed by unmarried girls.
- Early marriage still prevails among women.
- The gap between the first and last issue is short though gap is in increasing trend.
- Illiteracy rate is 25 percent. Higher education among the literate women is found to be very low.
- A large portion of respondents are found to be home wives followed by services in school and factory/office.
- Ownership of land by women is found to be low.

- 100 percent households use heater as their main source of energy. LP gas and Kerosene are used as alternative sources.
- Most of the households believe in modern medical sciences, however 12.5 percent believe in both treatment (doctors and *dhami/jhakri*)
- Polygamy is practiced by 12.5 percent of the households among which men with more than one wife are only observed.

Study reveals that the literate women showed greater confidence in their approach and seemed to command a greater power within the households as compared to the illiterate respondents.

6.2 Conclusions

Many factors affect the ability of women to take part in the decision-making process in the household. Some of these factors are related to the background of the women. Within the prescribed limits, women's role in decision-making has been perceived mainly from different aspects of household affairs. The survey found a distinct pattern of women as the main initiators and final decision makers of many aspects of household affairs. This can be attributed to their role as the basic providers and managers of the domestic sector. Women have greater control over many issues which are of lesser importance e.g. decision making in mundane matters like food, clothing etc. They might have a significant contribution in the decision making of important issues, but they heavily rely upon the approval and consent of their husband for the execution of both important as well as unimportant matters. On the other hand, husbands are found to be the final decision makers of crucial and important issues.

The conclusions derived from the analysis of women's role in household decision making process are as follows:

1. The respondents and other female members have greater input in the decision making for cropping pattern as compared to husbands and other male members.
2. The respondents have a highest contribution in decision making regarding fuel energy use followed by female members and husbands respectively.

This may be due to the responsibility of the respondents and other female members to utilize energy/fuel.

3. The respondents have a greater control over holding and spending of household income.
4. Regarding family expenditure in different activities, the consultative role of husband and respondents is comparable. But final decision making power lies more with husbands. Husbands are the final decision makers for crucial issues. The other male members usually have either a higher or equal input to that of other female members in the three stages of the decision making process. This indicates that these female members are considered to be incapable of making any effective decisions.
5. Joint decision occupies the highest positions in selection of bridegroom for their daughters including the amount of dowry to be given away followed by husbands & respondents respectively. Female members including bride have nothing to say in such crucial issues.
6. The husbands have greater contribution regarding the use of family planning (F.P.) measures as compared to respondents, the joint decision of both husband and wife also appear to be quite strong. But joint decision has greater contribution regarding the selection of family size followed by husbands and respondents.
7. Joint decision has greater contribution regarding the decision in sending children to schools compared to respondents or husbands separately.
8. Only Small population of respondents participates in community activities however, survey revealed that 80% of women have freedom to take decision for participation in community activities.

In general women's decision making is very high at initiation and consultation level but they are placed in back seat when final and crucial decisions are made. Among the respondents belonging to the age group of 30-45 years have greater power of decision making than the younger ones. This is due to their upper level status as mother and mother-in-law. Educated women have been found in strong position with regard to decision making than the illiterate women.

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Women who contribute half of the total population play an important role in every society. Women's involvement of household decision making is significant in each & every sector but even to this present day, women are lagging far behind than that of men. Hence equal opportunities and participation of men & women are must for the development of the country. Thus on the basis of conclusions and findings of this study some recommendation are listed here to make significant steps towards improvement of decision making power of women within the households.

1. To increase the participation of women in decision making and other matters, women are needed to be made aware. For this, education is important factor. It is necessary to encourage greater enrollment of girls in school to increase literacy rate. It is suggested with view that educating women implies them and confers them a greater status within the household. Their educational attainment will enhance their decision making power on important matters since they would then be thought capable of making effective decision by their male counterparts.
2. Bringing the women in market economy is another step to increase their decision making powers. Policies & programmes intended to increase entrepreneurial skills among women should be promoted. These women could then be mobilized to engage in income generating activities such as poultry farming, vegetable production, small Scale business cottage industries etc. The income added by them into the overall household income would earn them the respect and the power to decide upon expenditure on important matters like investment and so forth.
3. Late marriages among the women should be encouraged with the aim of reducing their child bearing age thereby consequently lesser confinement to their reproductive roles. Such a demographic factor directly implies encouragement of their productive role through greater economic participation and consequently a greater status in terms of decision making within household.
4. Women should be given skillful trainings and vocational education so that they can raise their earning capabilities and decision making power within the household.

5. Certain quotas should be fixed for women at the government services and special arrangements should be made to provide loans to poorer women for income generating activities. Therefore it is necessary to give compulsory education to girls. Guardian should also be convinced about girl education.
6. Family planning should be promoted for greater practice and adoption of these measures by both men & women is necessary. Again the purpose is to reduce the domestic limitations and encourage for economic participation of them.
7. Steps should be taken to make men and the society itself aware regarding the capability of women as effective decision makers on important issues as well.
8. Mobility and freedom of women to take part in income generating and community activities should not be restricted by male members of the family.
9. Joint decisions by both male as well as female members seem more favorable to reach at effective decision. So, promotion of joint decisions within the household should be stressed via informal educational programmes.
10. The concept of gender equity and attitude towards women need to be modified in patriarchal society to boost up the women's status in family as well as in society.
11. Discriminatory Act/ laws and practices in all sectors such as legal, political, social and economic should be addressed carefully to enhance women's participation not only in household decision making but along with in all multi- dimensional areas.