

CHAPTER - ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Women have been significantly participating to the cultural and social development of the mankind throughout the history despite their roles often been seen as secondary to those of men. Women played important roles in the advancement of civilization since the pre-historic period by their unique character in accepting the coexistence of all living beings, which perhaps, led to the domestication of animals and the system of agriculture cultivation in the family or community unit. Since time immemorial female participation, whether from household viewpoint or in the out sphere have remained significant. even in this post modern era, the participation of women whether in economic or social and politicalares's have remained vital.

There have been growing concerns today on women rights, their empowerment and their economic condition. The literature on women and their socio-economic statuses has grown with the increasing awareness that women's development is vital for the overall development of the society. The phrase" overworked and underpaid" is a harsh but true description of women throughout the world. Women's labour accounts for two thirds of the world's work hour yet they receive only ten percent of income and less than one percent of property. (UN, 1980). In any society the roles and responsibilities of women and men vary. Women usually have less access to resources and benefits due to various socio economic constraints, this is more observed in developing countries where there is a clear demarcation of rules and responsibilities and more prominently male domination's. Women, in developing countries are merely respected as their role of mother and housekeeper.

As women do not have land in their name due to lack of other sources of income, they are dependent upon their husbands. Women have the accessibility regarding land resources but when it comes to control of benefits it is the male who still exercises the control because our society is male dominated where major decisions are taken by the

male household head. In Nepal unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits are legitimized by traditional society norms.

However Nepalese women statuses vary according to their socio-economic condition. Their problem role and responsibilities differ and cooperate in terms of their region in which they live in, their education and their economic dependency upon their male counterparts.

Women now have more influence than ever before in the world, but for all their gains they are still struggling for parity with men. Women still have fewer social options for survival other than marriage. According to culturally defined ideas, getting married and producing children are the ultimate goals for women. All other options including education and employment are only secondary (Acharya, 1997). Women are involved in politics but they still do not have an equal influence in policy making. Men continue to hold the majority of parliamentary seats and key government positions throughout the world.

The situation of Nepalese women is no different. Nepalese women are underprivileged and disadvantageous in terms of their socio-economic standing compared to their male counterparts. However, the universal declaration of Human Rights has crossed a half century along with the global call for Gender Equity. Nepalese women, who constitute even more than half of the population, are still confined within the four walls of their houses. Likewise the estimated literacy rate of men is 75.1 percent but that of women is only 57.4 percent (CBS 2012). Most literate women are situated in urban areas while majority of women are situated in urban areas while majority of them live in rural areas where choice of livelihood is limited to agricultural work in the fields which are mostly owned by their father, husbands, brothers or landlords.

The needs to uplift women in Nepal were realized lately and the steps to meet these needs were taken only recently. Various incentive programs have been launched along with the call for greater awareness to overcome prevailing stigma- attached social plight women. New schemes introduced to a new situation. Some of the major activities

are surveying of households, formation of groups, preparing village profiles and involving women in educational, health and income generating activities both at the district and field levels. Efforts are made to develop women's social prestige, self confidence and feeling of equality by educating them and aiming to set their commanding status over the society as well as their family.

As a result the women's role in decision making has increased today. It can be observed in political fields where few of them are in decision- making position due to allocation of percent of candidacy of women in parliamentary election by each political party.

Besides, women in Nepal work 10-13 hrs against 7.51hrs for men (CEDA 1981) and hence there is a growing need to provide them sufficient say in decision-making authority within or outside home affairs. Furthermore the importance of women's participation in household management are playing an important role for upliftment of their status in the society. Therefore this study will attempt to highlight the present role of working women (those women who are economically active, have a continual source of income and contributing economically to their family) and non-working women (house-wives) in their household decision making.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

At present Nepal faces many challenges in participatinon of women in decision making process due to illiteracy ignorance and traditional patriarchal systems that are deeply rooted in Nepalese society. Women's representation in terms of decision making is very poor in the whole of the south Asia especially in the countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

More and more interests are being diverted towards women to identify their involvement in decision making, considering them as a very integral part of development of country. But the expected outcomes regarding the women as a beneficiary has yet to be realized. In Nepal even educated and economically active women's decision making power is very low as compared to men because social norms define this activity as a male task.

Discrimination towards women still exists in society and in whole country. The rural women in Nepal could not have the access of decision making roles. In such case, Piple VDC of Chitwan district also can not be its exception. No past study had been conducted regarding women's role in household decision making process in the area. So, this study will address the following research questions:

1. What is the socio-economic condition of the women in the study area?
2. What is the role of job holder and non jobholder women in household level decision making process?
3. What are the problems faced by women in access of decision making role in the study area?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the role of women in household decision making. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To examine the socio - economic status of women of the study area.
2. To compare the effectiveness of job holder and non-job holder women at household decision making process.
3. To explain the problem of women in decision making process .

1.4 Significance of the study

This study has significance in both applied and theoretical levels. This study attempts to explore and describe women's role in household decision making. Number of research studies has been done on decision making process. Although Nepalese women have been empowered in paper, they have not been wholly translated into a way of life. Hence the result is that only a few women are in the decision making position.

Now a day, it is widely discussed among politicians, planners and bureaucrats that women are exploited, oppressed and isolated from the development main stream. The participation of women is very low in social, political and economic founds. This study,

by exploring and examining women's actual role in household decision making will be useful for proper identification of women's role in household decision making, for the planners and development participation so that they can make better plans, policies and implement them to uplift the Nepalese women's status and their role in the development of the country.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The Major limitations of this study are:

-) The sample size is small in comparison to the population hence it may not be generalized to the whole population.
-) It is the study of the women living only in Piple VDC hence it may not represent the decision making level of women of the whole country
-) Time and financial factor was also be a limitation of this study.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This section deals with how the chapters are organized hereby. Altogether this study is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with general background, statement of the problem, objectives, significance, and limitation and organization of the study, the second chapter is about literature review. Introduction to study site, nature of data, sample selection, questionnaire design, method of data collection, data processing.

CHAPTER – TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Role of women in decision making

Women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information. For a large proportion of women, the written word still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favour of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government service only 7 percent of gazetted officer and 5 percent of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10 percent of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decisions concerning activities are men. The study shows about 50 percent of decisions are made by men, 19 percent jointly and 31 percent by female, which shows very low percent of decision making power on the part of women. (UNICEF, 1990)

Women have very low participation in decision-making process, 70% household related and external decision are entirely made by male member of house (Acharya, 1995).

Women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. Their major role in agricultural production particularly, both in labourers and managers of the production process (Acharya and Bennett, 1983).

Tiwari (1995), found that women's decision making roles determines by household economic Status, independent entrepreneurs of religious celebrations, greater freedom of Choice at marriage, provide economic Support in the absence of sons in the family, self employment of women. Working in the household productive Sectors, the Status of women is represented by the level of education, occupation, political, attainment and

economical Condition. It is Categorized in the term of making food, Children future prospects, household work, agriculture and economic field and give Child birth.

Women comprised 50.1% of the total population of Nepal in 2001. Patriarchy pervades most of the country's castes and ethnic groups; Nepal has one of the highest indices of son preference in the world. Boys not only pass on the family name, but represent "insurance" for parents in their old age can carry out important rituals when parents die. Girls generally work at home and in the fields, considered too unimportant-and risky-to educate, given the high value attributed to virginity and the dangers that schooling in the company of boys and men outside the household might pose to virginity. By contrast, early marriage constitutes a kind of virginity insurance. (UNDP, 2004)

In spite of significant gains in female literacy –from a mere 12% in 1981 to 43 % in 2001 –women lag far behind men in literacy and educational attainment. In fact the difference between the male and female literacy rates between 1981 and 2001 remains the same: 22 percent. Only girls below 14 years seem to be catching up with boys of the same age cohort. The enrolment of girls decreases, as they get older; boys therefore predominate in secondary and higher education. (UNDP, 2004)

In many parts of the world, women are treated as second-class citizens whose value is often defined by their capacity to produce large families. Economic necessities and socio-cultural norms have entrenched this view of women. In most developing countries, women Labour between twelve to eighteen hours a day caring for children, caring wood and water, growing and preparing food, maintaining the home, caring the old and sick family members. In the case of Nepal, women have to access to parental property right, they have access to property only in their husband's household. In addition, women are victims of ill

health, malnutrition, inadequate education and illiteracy, poverty, unjust laws, landlessness and never ending duties of household and family. (Subedi, 2002)

A change in the status of women requires a change in both men's and women's attitude towards interpersonal relation and behavior. The harmonious partnerships between men and women improve the decision making power of women. An improved decision-making power results in higher gender equality and lower level of fertility. Men play a key role in bringing about gender equality. A better communication between men and women on all issues including sexuality and reproductive health ensues in the understanding of their joint responsibilities. Efforts to improve the state of equal partnership of men and women in public and private life would eventually improve the status of women resulting in desired demographic consequences. (UN, 1995)

During the United Nation's Decade for women (1976-1985), the economic role of women was suddenly "discovered," and in order to promote women's advancement, the WID approach was introduced. its purpose was to gain equity for women in the development process. The WID approach emphasizes participation and integration of women in development. It looks into women's role alone. In order to include women in development WID focused on women's projects, integrated projects, women's productivity and income, and women's ability to manage their household. Many feminists however rejected the goal of integration because they argued that women did not want to be integrated in an unequal and exploitative system, they wanted to change to prevailing system. (ICIMOD, 1997:4)

Women are given more priority in International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), 1994. The ICPD emphasized the gender equality, equity and empowerment of women. The conference calls on countries to empower women and eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root

causes of son preference; increase public awareness of the value of girl children beyond their potential for child bearing, and promote equal participation of women and men in all area of family and household responsibilities (Populi, 1994). Later Beijing Conference on Women held in China in 5-15 September 1995 also emphasized on the empowerment of women. Both conferences considered that uplift of women is a part of development and influence all section of development issues. In the 8th five ears plan of Nepal, programme was formulated to increase women's status (UNFPA), 1994). The Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), an action plan adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), for gender equality and women empowerment, identified 12 areas of critical concern: women and poverty; education and training of women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child. Nepal expressed her full commitment to BPFA because these were, and still are, pertinent issues in the context of Nepal. (Baidya, 2000)

Gurung (1999), traditionally women's responsibilities have been restricted to the home: Cooking, Cleaning, Child Caring, and looking after the house. Women are Considered to be weak, vulnerable and dependent on men, there are no discrimination between men and women.

UNESCO (1998), States that the level of women, education is low in Nepal and lowest in SAARC Countries. The adult female literacy is 34 percent for Nepal Compared to Srilanka, 94 percent, India 58 percent Bangladesh 53 percent and Pakistan 48 percent. The campaign for improving women's

Status has influenced the role of education. It is believed that education will bring about a reduction in the inequalities between sexes and uplift women's subjugated position in the Society. Education of women has a higher Social Status and Stable family Size.

The household can be divided into two types, intra household and inter household. I have used both households in the Study. Individuals women's struggles to acquire a share in family land would require interlinked, struggles outside the household area as well, such as struggles to legitimize women's need for independent rights in land and to mobilize economic, Social and political Support for the Cause. A Change in the law to make it more gender equitable, for instance, would require Contestation with the state establishing Social legitimacy for the Claim would require Contestation with the Community and so on gender differences in intra household bargaining power are thus linked with the Community and the State. This would be especially so in contestation over landed property. Since Control over arable land helps define wider access to economic, Social, and political power (Agrawal, 1994).

Ghimire (2009), women have less access to income, wealth, and modern avenues of employment. They have to Spend them much time in household work very little time is left for activities with potentially higher economy development of the Country. Their access to property in their husband households, their less access to income, wealth and employment are the main Cause of their low Social Status. It directly affects their decision making power.

Limbu (1995), Showed importance of education as key factor for Opening the door to women's life. Education is the most important tool to increasing aspirations, including economic development, awareness of rights and duties among the people that affect their education which permits the optional utilization of individual potential and enable women to reach decision making position in household as well as educational and administrative Structure in the Country. She further Showed that education provides employment opportunities for women on equal footing with men. So education is most important tools for household decision making power of women. Nepalese Society is regarded as the male dominated one. There is a wide gap between the Status of male and female in terms of education income. Decision making and health concerns.

Dahal et.al (1992) summarizes the information from the status of women in Nepal (CEDA, 1981) that among high cast groups. The authority structure is male dominated, women cannot make their own decision and they have no independent sources of income and property. Among the women for Baragaule, Loharung Rai and Kham Magar, they have liberal social structure, which permit in the accumulation of property. Likewise the Newar, the Tamang and the Tharu women can have their own independent source of property. Out of that, among the Newar of Kirtipur women cannot make her own independent decision to take her sick baby even to the hospital, without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family (Dahal.et.al 1992).

Acharya, (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities being performer under national and international aspires activities involving women in development process, status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving attention of such things as making specific studies about the economic, social and cultural activities of women in Nepalese societies. To provides similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students,

eliminating inequalities in inheritance right, family rights and all over legal rights involving the educated women in office and involving them into seminar and symposia from time to time.

Acharya (1997) states that conventional social custom is one of the major reason obstructing women from participation fully in economic development, which results low decision making power in women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception that only women are responsible for the reproduction of human beings, conception delivery and upbringing of child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons their status compared to male is very low.

Women's public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place severe limits on women's participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape the cultures worldview and governed individual self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision making position (Shtri Shakti, 1995).

Women are more apt to say that their husbands make decision alone than to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husbands or those they have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approved to accepting their husbands decisions without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly; simply because they express their opinion does not mean that they make a decision. The ideas that women express disagreement because they have an increased sense of their own value and an increase in the level of their confidence in voicing their opinions (Strir Shakti, 1995).

Early marriage is another serious problem that some girls must face the practice of giving away girls for marriage at the age of 10 to 14 after with they must start

producing children is prevalent among certain ethnic groups. The primed reasons for the practice are the girls virginity, the prize and the luck awareness and education. Early marriage for many girls in Nepal to high rates of maternal and infant mortality. Early marriage robs girls of here childhood time necessary to develop physically emotionally and psychologically in fact early marriage inflicts great emotional stress as the young women is removed from her parents home to that of her husband and in laws. Her husband who will invariably be many years seniors will have little in common with a young teenager. It is with the strange non that she has to develop an intimate emotional and physical relationship. She is obliged to have intercourse although physically she might not be fully develop (UN,1980).

Ahooja focuses on the women's participation on development. He presents the statistics about the women's contribution in various sectors. The women constitute the largest number of food producers (i.e. approximately 50 percent) in Africa, 30-40 percent in Asia, then in Latin America. The least qualified jobs are filled by women. Women get low wages in comparison to men counterparts. One billion women in the third world countries are illiterate. Education is one of the major factors of determining the decision-making role (Ahooja: 1982). This study focuses on the contribution of women in various sectors but does not analyze their role in decision-making in these sectors.

UNICEF Report (1987) depicts, that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information which the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women, the written world still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favour of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government service only 7% of gazetted officers and 5% of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less then 10% of decision making position at the national and local level. Most of the decisions concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50 % of decision are made by men,

19% jointly and 31% by female, which shows very low %age of decision making power on the part of women.

Ghimire had further emphasized on the importance of female education. He had mentioned that a boy is to education as individual, but to educate a girl is to educate the whole family and society. Education is therefore essential for women and girls to become self-dependent, more productive, skillful, creative and to recognize their right place in the society and to enter the mainstream of development of the nation (Ghimire, 1997).

Satnam Kaur (1987) in a case study carried out in Haryana state, emphasizes upon the need to give due recognition of female decision making especially in the case of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She claims that women are never found as final decision- maker in many matters except for cases of food and nutrition of the children. Ironically women are not even free to decide about participating in women's organization such as Mahila Mandals. Financial decisions are found as solely manipulated by husbands except in few cases. She concludes saying planned, programs should be designed which support women's potential as capable and worthily decision makers.

Kaur goes on to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's input in the decision making process. She observes as "educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterpart" (Kaur 1987: 120).

Discrimination between males and females start in their family. Females are not included in the decision making process, and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women's participation in socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of their husbands/ father/ parents/ male relatives. (UNDP, 2003)

Acharya and Bennett (1982) have singled out "decision making" from the multi dimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household they developed some model from the study of eight different village committees from the status of women in Nepal. In this model, the village were more

conceived to be operating in much four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labour market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

Nepalese women also play managerial role for decision making i.e. form management, resources allocation and domestic expenditure. There is variation between the communities regarding the male/female input into the farm management decisions.

According to Acharya and Bennett . (1982) women's role in household decision making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. A women have a greater economic participation and will have a greater power in decision making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women .

Even where women have been successful at decision-making at the community level and at certain aspects of household decision-making, the overall control of household, land, capital, and other valuable resources is still male-dominant in much of South Asia. The grassroots women's groups create space for women to come together and discuss immediate problems, and to seek help. The local level organizations are more aware of the local social relations and social hierarchies that determine one's access to resources. Although patriarchal views and structures oppress women all over the world, there exists a class hierarchy even among the women and not all women share identical interests. Organizing women's groups at the grassroots level has been most effective for empowering women at the local level and for bottom-up development. (Gurung, 2004)

According to Shrestha (1994) decision making power of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labour an input contribution and consultants but as active change agent at the concerned level. It does not mean the involvement of one or two women or the wives of the leaders, but the involvement of women and man in the sample proportion in decision making as their proportion in the communities at large.

It can be concluded from the above studies that females have low decision making power due to lack of proper socio-economic status of females. Nowadays the access fo female of resources has been increased but their status has slow motion to forward. Either one way or other females have more responsibilities in household chosen, agricultural activities and other but they have less chance to decide freely. So, it should not be forgotten that without equal participation of male and female in all spheres of households or other activities, there is less chance to be developed societies. Therefore, women should bring in to the mainstream of development activities not by only their physical presentation but by providing fully role of decision making power .

CHAPTER - THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study is based on exploratory and descriptive research design. The study focuses on investigating the role of women in household decision making process. Various kinds of data collecting techniques like observation, interview and focus group discussion were applied to collect data from the field. This is the comparative study which uses both qualitative and quantitative methods.

3.2 Selection of the Study Area

Piple Village Development Committee (VDC) of Chitwan district was selected for the study. Researcher has selected this area because of the proximity from my village in Chitwan. Similarly, women are much backwarded in this VDC in the district. So, the study would find out the reality of the housewives in decision making process.

3.3 Sample size

The universe of this study was women participation in household decision making process of Piple VDC. Out of total households of 3107 and 17130 population, there were 8739 male population & 8391 female. Researcher selected 54 household's women as respondents from this area. The samples were selected by using simple random sampling method from lottery method to acquire the objectives.

3.4 Nature of Data

This study was conducted on the basis of both primary and secondary data. The source of primary data were obtained from field work and through observation, unstructured questionnaire and interview. Similarly information processed through the

secondary resource also helped to complete this study. The secondary sources of secondary data will be collected from subject related books, journals, reports, institutional publication and website, Member groups, stakeholders, Social workers, NGOs, and women groups of Piple VDC.

3.5 Method of Primary Data Collection

3.5.1 Household survey

This study depends on both primary and secondary data. The primary data will be collected from the fieldwork conducted during household survey, key informant interview and observation using following techniques. The secondary data will be collect from subject related books, journals, reports, institutional publication and website, Member groups, stakeholders, Social workers, NGOs, and women groups of Piple VDC and Piple VDC profile.

3.5.2 Observation

Direct observation was applied in order to get additional information of the activities of women for the study.

3.5.3 Interview

During the field study, informal interactions with a number of people were made. They were asked about role of women in household decision making process.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion is most essential tool for collection of qualitative information. Altogether four focus group discussions were carried out for this study. Different issues associated with role of women in household decision making process were forwarded to the group for discussion.

3.5.5 Data processing

Collected data collection were described qualitatively and descriptively. The purpose of data collection was to obtain information to keep on record to make decision about important issues, to pass information onto others. Primarily data were collected to provide information regarding a specific topic. Various techniques like table, graph, charts, statistical tools, computer software etc employed to present the data.

3.6 Data Analysis

Data were analyzed with the help of computer program simple statistical tools like tables graphs will used for data analysis. Descriptive methods was used for qualitative data analysis.

CHAPTER - IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The data and information collected from the samples are presented, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in this chapter for attaining the stated objectives of the study. In particular, this section includes the analyses and interpretation of various variables.

4.1 Socio Economic status of the respondents

4.1.1 Age Distribution

Age is an important demographic characteristic. It determines the social status of people and it makes difference in working hours, types of work, decision making roles, social relation and responsibilities. Therefore it may influence the decision making capabilities of women. For the purpose of analysis the age of the sampled respondents are categorized into four groups which is presented in the following table:

Table 4.1: Age Distribution of the respondents

Age	Jobholder women		Non-jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
16-25	7	25.93	5	18.52	12	22.22
25-46	13	48.15	8	29.63	21	38.89
46-59	6	22.22	9	33.33	15	27.78
60 and above	1	3.70	5	18.52	6	11.11
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

The above table shows the age distribution of the sampled respondents selected for this study. The data showed that 25.93 percent of working women are between 16-25 years of age. 18.52 percent of non-working women belong to this group. Similarly, 48.15 percent of working women and 29.63 percent of non-working women belong to 26-46 years of age. Moreover, 22.22 percent of working women and 33.33 percent of non-working women belong to age group 46-59 years where as the remaining 3.70 percent of working women and 18.52 percent of non-working women are at the age group above 60.

4.1.2 Ethic Composition

Nepal is a multi - ethnical country where there are different caste/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic group has there own language , culture and tradition . Nepal is full of cultural diversity. Caste is also main factor in society and it plays important role in terms social activities. In Nepal, Brahman and Chettri play dominant role then other castes.

The following table reveals ethic composition of the respondents in the study area:

Table 4.2: Distribution of household by ethnic composition

Caste/ Ethnicity	No. of household	Percentage
Brahman	25	46.29
Chettri	18	33.33
Janajati	5	9.27
Others	6	11.11
Total	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Above table shows ethic distribution of respondents. Among the total respondents Brahman were the highest. Brahman contain 46.29% , followed by chettri (33.33%). The third position is occupied by Janajati (9.27%) which is slightly greater than others (11.11%). It was due to the large population of Chettri and Dalit in the study area.

4.1.3 Marital Status

Marriage is the single most important event in the life of men and women . According to Hindu tradition marriage is the compulsory for the all whether man are woman .A man’s life is not considered complete without a wife and a woman has no option but to get married . In Nepal of both men and women are marred before 25yearas of age (Acharya , 1995). Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In our society marriage determines the social roles and responsibility of people . It is essential for legitimate birth. Females’ role also increases in family only after marriage. It enhances there decision making power.

The following Table shows the marital status of the respondents:

Table 4.3: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital status	Jobholder Women		Non-Jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Married	16	59.26	21	77.78	37	68.52
Unmarried	11	40.74	6	22.22	17	31.48
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Above table shows the marital status of respondent. In fact, out of 54 respondents, 37 respondent are married, among them 16 are jobholder and 21 are non-jobholder. 17 respondent are unmarried, among them 11 are jobholder and 6 are non-jobholder.

4.1.4 Education Status

Education is an important element of life. It plays an important role for the development of people, nation and economy as a whole. It is a principal mechanism of fulfilling an agent for awareness and change. Therefore it is central to the process of empowering both men and women. The table below depicts the educational status of the women chosen in this study.

Table 4.4: Educational Level of the Respondents

Educational level	Jobholder women		Non-jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Illiterate	-	-	3	11.11	3	5.55
Literate	-	-	5	18.52	5	9.26
Secondary level			12	44.45	12	22.22
SLC passed	5	18.52	5	18.52	10	18.52
Intermediate	15	55.56	2	7.4	17	31.49
Graduate	5	18.52	-	-	5	9.26
Masters	2	7.4	-	-	2	3.70
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Table no. 4 shows that the women in the Jobholder category are more educated than non-jobholder women. In total number of 18.52 Percent of jobholder women are SLC passed, 55.56 percent are intermediate, 18.52 percent are graduate and 7.4 percent are at the master's level where as 11.11 percent of non-jobholder women are only illiterate, 18.52percent are literate, 44.45 percent are educated till secondary level 18.52 percent of them are SLC passed, 7.4 percent of them are intermediate. It is seen from the above table that jobholder women are more qualified in terms of education than non-jobholder women.

4.1.5 Family Structure

Family structure also has an impact on the responsibilities of both male and female in their household activities. Nuclear family structure is mostly seen in urban areas where as more families in the rural areas trend to be a joint family. Women in the nuclear family structure are more liberated than in the joint family structure and have less responsibility. The following table shows the family structure of the sampled household.

Table 4.5: Family structure of the household

Family structure	Jobholder women		Non-jobholder working		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nuclear	20	74.07	15	55.55	35	64.81
Joint	7	25.93	12	44.45	19	35.19
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

The above table shows that 74.07 percent of the jobholder women's household has nuclear family structure where as only 55.55 percent of non-jobholder women's household has nuclear family structure. It depicts that the women in joint family tend to be more engaged in household work than in outer activities.

4.1.6 Distribution of the Respondents by Religion

Religion is a kind of belief or faith on gods or worshiping system by the people. So, it is an extreme faith on gods. There are many people having different faith on god. It is, therefore, an agnostic faith on the existence of gods. The society exists on the beliefs on religion.

The following table presents the distribution of religion. The people having belief on different religion are presented on the table given below:

Table 4.6: Distribution of the household by Religion

Religion	No. of household	Percentage
Hindu	30	55.56
Muslim	8	14.81
Christian	4	7.41

Buddhist	5	9.26
Others	7	12.96
Total	54	100

Source: Field survey, 2014

Above table shows the distribution of the respondents by Religion. Among the total respondents, Hindu is the highest. Hindu contains (55.56%) , followed by Muslim (14.81%). The third position is occupied by Christian (7.41%). It was due to the large population of Hindu.

4.1.7 Occupation and source of income

Occupation or source of income is a vital factor influencing household activities. Household in which both the members earn income tend to be more affluent than the household where earning the bread for the family rests on one person. However, the households whose main source of income is their own family business then it is found that all the family members including the children provide a helping hand in running at the following table however shall the occupation of the sampled working women of this study.

Table no. 4.7: Distribution of Households by Occupation & Source of Income

Occupation	No. of Household	Percentage
Agriculture & Livestock Farming	7	12.96
Business	8	14.82
Services	27	50
Wage- earning	12	22.22
Total	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Occupation and source of income represents the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as main source of income. Out of the 54 household, services have occupied the first position as the source of income 27 households are dependent upon services for their income. It is followed by wage earning 12 household. The wage

earning category has higher proportion as main source of income because most of civil castes have no other alternatives except work as wage labour. Similarly, 8 household people are engaged in business, while only 7 household people are in agriculture and livestock farming and they earn from their agriculture & livestock farming.

4.1.8 Access of Land

Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80 percent dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measures the economic status of people. The question has been asked regarding the possession of land (as cultivated and household). But both types of land is combined due to which every household has their own land .

The following table shows the possession of land by respondents.

Table no.4.8: Possession of Land by Household

Land (Gaththa)	No. of Household	Percentage
0-5	33	61.11
5-10	10	18.52
10-15	7	12.96
15+	4	7.41
Total	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Out of the total 54 household most of the household have less than 5 gaththa of land, 33 household have only 0-5 gaththa, 10 household possessed 5-10 gaththa of land .Similarly 7 household possessed 10-15 gaththa and only 4 household have land more than 15 gaththa. Thus, it can be concluded from the finding that most of the respondents have small land holding.

4.1.9 Alternative Source for Fulfillment of Deficit of Food Production

It was found that 36 household have food deficit . They have to face the problem of food though it is essential for sustaining life. They fulfill their need for food by different alternatives as service, business, livestock farming, wage earning and debt. The following table show the way to fulfill the deficiency of food production.

Table no. 4.9: Distribution of Households by coping with deficit Food Production

Activities	No. of Household	Percentage
Services	9	25
Business	6	16.67
Livesock farming	6	16.67
Wage-earning	12	33.33
Debt	2	5.55
Other	1	2.77
Total	36	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Above table show the various alternative way of fulfilling the food deficiency due to low production in agriculture sector. The main means of compensation for deficit production is wage earning which cover 12 household, following by services 9 household. The third position is business and livestock farming is equal 6 household for coping with the deficiency of production. About 2 household are talking debt to fulfill their needs. It show the miserable condition abut people. Other category occuppies 1 household out of total food deficient household.

4.2 Participation level in Household Decision Making

In every household there are certain responsibilities for both male and female members. However it is observed that female member tend to look after the household activities and male members on the other hand are concerned with the responsibilities outside the house i.e. to earn money. Similarly whenever there is any decision to be made the final say is from the male member and the women play only the subsidiary role. There are various household decision to be made that could range from small bazaar

expenditure to serious investment, looking after the children and other many such activities. The research thus presents the participation level of women in household decision making which are shown in the tables below:

4.2.1: Saving of Amount

Saving is a way of thinking for future. The people save for future so that they could live happily. That is the reason why the people save some amount from their income. The income should be higher than the expenditure so that there is a possibility of saving. Each person thinks for saving. In this regard, this study also outlines the saving of the target informants.

The following table presents saving amount of the target informants:

Table no. 4.10: Saving of Amount

Household members	Jobholder women		Non-Jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	17	62.96	9	33.33	26	48.15
No	10	70.04	18	66.67	28	51.85
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2014

The table shows the saving of amount for respondents . Among total money saver, 17 respondents household were jobholder people & 9 household are non-jobholders.

4.2.2: Total Authority to Mobilize Saving

Generally the female member of the household has the task to keep and saving money but to use the money is a totally different thing. It is observed that women usually have to take permission from men to handle female saving.

Table no. 4.11: Authority to Mobilize Saving

Household members	Jobholder women		Non-Jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	6	35.29	2	22.22	8	30.77
No	11	64.71	7	77.78	18	69.23
Total	17	100	9	100	26	100

Source: Field Survey 2014

This table shows the authority to mobilize saving of respondents. Among total money saver, 26 respondents were household working people. Less than 35% uses of saving, above 65% household leading the male member of saving of amount.

4.2.3 Possession of Household Income

It is an important issue in every household. Generally the female member of the household has the task to keep money but to use the money is a totally different thing. It is observed that women usually have to take permission from men to use household income where as men are free to do so without even consulting anybody. Hence for this reason women play the role of managers while men are controller of everything in the households.

Table 4.12: Distribution of households by possession of household income

Household members	Jobholder women		Non-Jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Myself	15	55.56	6	22.22	21	38.89

Male	-	-	7	25.93	7	12.96
Both	12	44.44	14	51.85	26	48.15
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2014

The above table shows that in most of the sampled household income is possessed by both the member. Myself passes household income in 55.56 percent of jobholder women's household and 22.22 percent of non jobholder women's household. While in 25.93 percent male of non-jobholders and both the members have control over the household income. But in most cases, according to the survey women have to take permission from men or male member to use it.

4.2.4: Saving of Household Income

Income is a key factor of happy life, and saving is more prominent for living happier life. Thus, each and every family wants to save. The saving is crucial to control the family disputes. Similarly, the family can satisfy with the needs and necessities only if there are saving in the family. So, it is very important to save at least a bit amount from their income. This study analyses the income of each family –job holder or non-jobholder.

The following table presents saving of household income of the target informants:

Table 4.13: Saving of Household income

Household members	Jobholder women		Non-Jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Myself	8	29.63	6	22.22	14	25.92
Male Members	15	55.56	21	77.78	36	66.67
Both	4	14.81	-	-	4	7.41

Total	27	100	27	100	54	100
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Source: Field Survey 2014

The above table shows the data on saving of household income. There were 25.92% women are self keeping for household income (in 29.63% jobholder & 22.22% are non-jobholders). Were 66.67% household for male decide and keeping for household income and then 7.41% both male and female are keeping the household income.

4.2.5 Household Expenditure

Women are considered to be main initiator for the expenditures in food and clothing in both the rural and urban areas mostly in developing countries. The decisions regarding these kinds of expenditures have to be made in a daily basis in every household and which involves less amount of money. Men normally leave it to their wives to make these kinds of decisions and do not want to be bothered by it. The following table shows the decision maker on household expenditure in the sampled household.

Table 4.14: Decision maker of household expenditure (Bazaar Purchase)

Household decision maker	Jobholder women		Non-jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male	6	22.22	2	7.41	8	14.82
Female	14	51.85	21	77.77	35	64.81
Both	7	25.93	4	14.82	11	20.37
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Table 14 shows that in where as in 22.22 percent of jobholders household and 7.41 percent of non non-jobholder women's household. 51.85 percent of the jobholders women's household and 77.77 percent of the non-jobholder women's make the decision regarding small household purchase expenditure is (51.85 percent jobholder women and

77.77 percent of non-jobholder women make the final decision the decision is made by male household head while in 25.93 percent of jobholder women and 14.82 percent of non -jobholder women's household, the decision is made jointly by both the member.

4.2.6. Decision for Medical Treatment

Women in most of the developing countries are quite unconscious or careless regarding their health. They are more concerned regarding the welfare of their children or their spouse. Moreover women in countries like Nepal do not want to spend extensive amount of money on their own ailment and ignore their pain for the luxury of other member of the family. The following table shows the participation level of women in the decision making regarding treatment of household member.

Table 4.15: Decision for medical treatment

Decision maker	Jobholder women		Non- jobholder women		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male	9	33.33	5	18.52	14	25.93
Female	8	29.63	18	66.66	26	48.14
Both	10	37.04	4	14.82	14	25.93
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Table 15 shows that in 33.33 percent of jobholder women's household and 18.52 percent of non-jobholder women's household, the decision regarding medical treatment of household members is made by the male household lead. Likewise in 37.04 percent of jobholder household and 14.82 percent of non-jobholder women's household the decision is made by both the members. Where as 29.63 percent of jobholder women and 66.66 percent non-jobholder women are the decision makers in their respective households regarding seeking medical treatment.

4.2.7: Family Planning

Rapid growth of population is creating big problem at present in must of the developing countries rapid population growth has caused degradation of the quality of life as well as environment.

The family planning is got popular recently to maintain the small family. People don't like to create burden having large family, so they are attracted toward FP. FP is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people. In developing countries the food production is low & there is a lack of proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning measure is essential to balance & manage population & environment properly. The following table shows the knowledge about FP of respondent.

Table 4.16: Decision on Family Planning.

Household decision maker		Jobholder women		Non-jobholder women		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
No		–	–	6	22.22	6	11.11
Yes	Husband	9	33.33	18	66.67	27	50
	Wife	5	18.52	2	7.41	7	12.96
	Both	13	48.15	1	3.7	14	25.93
Total		27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

The question had asked to the respondent regarding the knowledge about FP. Of the total 88.89 percent respondent gave in positive answer & 11.11 percent in negative answer.

4.2.8 Determination of No. of children

Family is the basic unit of the society and it is an institution, which plays important role in building society. Family size has dominant role in decision-making

process. There were found female of small family or nuclear family has higher responsibilities for decision making than big or joint family.

Table 4.17: Decision maker of child Determination

Household Decision Maker	No. of Household	Percentage (%)
Husband	29	78.38
Wife	4	10.81
Both	4	10.81
Total	37	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Regarding the number of children to be had, the strongest of husband decisions (78.38%) among the 37 women who responded to this question. While decisions of the husband & wife both are also seen as significant (10.81%) 4, the wife 4 (10.81%) show the least contribution in this particular decision making process.

4.2.9 Decision on Registration on Government Record

Decision making plays vital role in the family. The family needs to be clear about who takes responsibility on different kinds of decisions. The family members should be more responsible for registering and leading according to the responsibility. Thus, the decision maker is known as having lead role in the family.

The following table presents the existence of decision maker of registration in government record:

Table 4.2.18: Decision on Registration on Government Record

Household member	Jobholder women's	Non-working women's household	Total

	Number	percentage	Number	percentages	Number	Percentage s
Male	8	29.63	15	55.56	23	42.59
Female	5	18.52	3	11.11	8	14.82
Both	12	40.74	4	14.81	15	27.77
Other family member	3	11.11	5	18.52	8	14.82
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

This table show the decide to households government registration so birth, death, migration etc. registration. Therefore 29.63% males and 18.52% females jobholders women & 55.55% males and 18.11 females non-jobholder household decide the government registration activities. Males and females both decision maker of 12 jobholder, 5 non-job holder household both are engage the government registration activities and 3 jobholder, 5 non-jobholder are other family member decided it.

4.2.10 Education of children

Education today is considered as a primary need of every human being. Education of children is an important decision to be made⁴ in every household. However discrimination exists regarding education of girls. The following data reveals the decision maker regarding children's education.

Table 4.2.19: Decision maker of children's education

Household member	Jobholder women's		Non-working women's household		Total	
	Number	percentage	Number	percentages	Number	Percentage s
Male	6	22.22	12	44.45	18	33.33
Female	4	14.81	6	22.22	10	18.52
Both	17	62.97	9	33.33	26	48.15
Total	27	100	27	100	54	100

Source: Field survey 2014

The above table shows that 14.81 percent of jobholder women and 22.22 percent of non-jobholder women make the final decisions regarding education of children in their respective households while in 22.22 percent of jobholder women's household and 44.45 percent of non-jobholder women's household it is decided by the male household head. And in 62.97 percent of jobholder women's household and 33 percent of non-jobholder women's households the decision is made by the joint efforts of both male and female.

4.2.11 Attending social ceremonies

There are festivals, weddings and various other social ceremonies in Nepali households. The table below shows the decision maker regarding these social ceremonies i.e. who shall attend or whom to invite, preparation to be made etc.

Table 4.20: Decision maker to attend/ invite in social ceremonies

Household decision maker	Jobholder women's		Non-jobholder women's		Total	
	Number	percentage	Number	percentages	Number	Percentage s
Myself	11	40.74	5	18.52	16	29.63
Husband	6	22.22	10	37.04	16	29.63
Both	3	11.11	3	11.11	6	11.11
Other Family Member	7	25.93	9	33.33	16	29.63

Total	27	100	27	100	54	100
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Source: Field survey 2014

As the above table says, in 40.74 percent of the jobholder women's household and 18.52 percent of the non-jobholder women's household the decision regarding attending social ceremonies or inviting others is in the hands of the myself household head. In 22.22 percent of the jobholder women's household and 37.04 percent of the non-jobholder women's household decision making is done by the joint effort of husband where as 25.93. percent of jobholder women and 33.33 percent of non-jobholder women have the other family members say in attending social ceremonies or inviting others in their respective households.

4.2.12 Household Activities

In Nepal more females are engaged in household activities while very few males are engaged in these activities. Females spend more time in household chares than males. In study area also, it was found that more females are engaged in household chores than males. Females are mainly engaged in cooking activities, caring children, cleaning house, washing clothes, collection fuel, welcoming & serving guest and other household activities.

Table 4.21: Decision Makers by Daily Household Activities

Household Daily Activities	Sex	All Time	Mostly	Sometime	Never	Total
Caring Children and Disable Member	Male	5	5	3	5	18
	Female	22	9	5	–	36
	Total	27	14	8	5	54
Cooking for Family	Male	3	–	8	1	12
	Female	36	4	2	–	42
	Total	39	4	10	1	54
Cleaning House	Male	10	6	9	3	28
	Female	12	5	7	2	26
	Total	22	11	16	5	54
Washing cloth for Family	Male	9	3	10	5	27
	Female	12	6	7	–	27
	Total	21	9	17	5	54
Collection of	Male	16	3	11	1	31

Fuel	Female	13	2	7	1	23
	Total	29	5	18	2	54
Welcoming and serving Guest	Male	7	5	3	–	15
	Female	27	8	4	–	39
	Total	34	13	7	–	54
Other Household Activities	Male	10	10	3	3	26
	Female	12	8	6	2	28
	Total	22	18	9	5	54

Source: Field survey 2014

In the total 54 sampled household 18 males & 36 females are engage the charring children and disable member daily household activities, however in 12 males & 42 females cooking for family. Males and females are equal 50 percent engage the cleaning house and washing clothes for family. Collection fuel are engage the 23 males & 31 females respondent household, more then 50 percent female are engage the welcoming and serving guest activities. In the sampled respondent 26 household male are engage the other daily household activities and 28 female.

4.2.13: Causes of Household Dispute

A family is a bond of relations. There are various kinds of relations in a family. As the family is larger, there are more hurdles and disputer in a family. Therefore, a family link is a kind of thread. If the thread is turn, everything is over. Thus, this study finds out the causes of household disputes in the family.

The following table presents the causes of household disputes:

Table 4.22: Causes or Types of Household Dispute

Causes of Dispute	No. of Household	%(Percentage)
Self decision of Male only	33	61.11
Discrimination of Male	18	33.33
Other	3	5.56

Total	54	100
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Source: Field Survey 2014

According to the above table 4.14 dispute are family is a bond of relations. There are various kinds of relations in a family. Self decision of male 33 household main causes of dispute. 18 household disputes for discrimination of male with 3 respondent household are other causes of household dispute.

Moreover, the following table presents the decision making process to control household disputes:

Table 4.23: Decision maker to the Dispute Control

Decision by	No. of Household	Percentage (%)
Male	29	53.70
Female	11	20.37
Both	14	25.93
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey 2014

According to the table no.4.15, show the dispute control therefore 54 respondent household, 29 household male decide to HH dispute control and 11 household female decide with 14 respondent household both male & female control the household dispute in study area.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONNAIRE

4.3:Problems faced by women in household decision making process of study area:

4.3.1 Factors affecting Decision making of women in household activities

Like other developing countries, in Nepal also the women are lagging behind men in many aspects. The fact may be fewer opportunities that they receive in life. Early marriage, lower literacy rate, social norms are many other factors due to which women are dominated. This influence is also seen in the role played by women in household decision making. The women were asked about their opinion regarding the factors affecting decision making that is presented in the table below.

Table 4.24: Factors affecting decision making

Influencing Factors	Respondent Women	
	No.	Percentage
Education	4	40
Economic status	2	20
Ownership of property	-	-
Social & traditional culture	4	40
Other	-	-
Total	10	100

Source: Field survey 2014

Data included in table 10 shows the opinions of the sampled respondents regarding the factors that influence their decision making. According to the table 40 percent of women consider education as the most influencing factor. 20 percent of women consider economic status to be the most influencing factor. If they contribute economically in the household then they gain more power to make decisions regarding investment and selling of property and other serious money related matters. They are thought as inferior to men and society demands them to be less efficient than men and take a backward seat in every decision to be made in the households. Similarly 14.82 percent of the women believe all the factors equally influence their decision making regarding other household issues.

CHAPTER -V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. Summary

True human development is possible only when in every community everyone is respected equally for what they are and for the gift and potential within them. Inspire of this, women in all over the world especially in developing countries, are lagging behind and dominated by men in every aspect of life. Women are also excluded from most of the development activities. It is usually the men who interact with the outside world and the women slips back into her traditional roles as housewife within the household.

Nepal is no different in this matter. The majority of Nepalese women live in rural areas where the choice for livelihood is limited to agricultural work on the farms, which are owned in most cases by their father, husband, Land lords or brothers. Since women in Nepal are deprived of property rights, they have to work on men's land from dawn to dusk for supporting them self and their family member. Hence the right for survival for women is laid on the hands of men not only in outside affairs, but also in their own household matters which constitute an integral part of their lives.

This study analyze the women's participation in decision making process, particularly in Piple VDC of Chitwan district . This study is based upon the primary data collection from the field survey. There are 3265 household in Piple VDC among these household 54 are taken as sampled household to collect on formation. This study is an attempt to analyse the socio – economic status of females and their role and participation in decision making process. This study is mainly focused upon the women participation in decision which is taken from the household survey & other techniques. The major findings of the study are presented below:

- Among the 54 respondent 50% are jobholder & 50% are nonjobholders Majority of sample respondents for this study are married. So most of them have a status of wife and daughter-in-law in their household. .
- Majority of jobholder women are more qualified in terms of education than non-jobholder women.
- Majority of the jobholder women are Government job holders engaged in teaching & administration work.
- Majority of respondent are Brahman & Chettri but Brahman are the dominant caste or ethnic group in the study area.
- With regard to religion of 55.56% are Hindu, 14.81% Muslim, 7.41% Christian, 9.26% Buddhist & Others are 12.96% in the study areas respondent.
- All the respondent are literate of the total 31.49% are intermediate pass and only3.70% masters degree.
- With regard to family structure, 64.81percent are nuclear family & 35.19percent household have joint family. The family structure of most of the jobholder women is nuclear74.07% in nature where as non-working women 44.44% have joint family structure. It is also found that in joint families women have more responsibility and less mobility and freedom and hence women are confined mostly on household work than in outside affairs.
- Of the total 90% household are pakki (in 15%percent concrete & 75% are slate).
- Most of the 36 household are facing the problem of food deficiency and they are fulfill their food deficiency of by involving in 12 household in wage earning, 9 household service, business & livestock farming are equal to 6 household, debt are 2 household and 1household are other then fulfill the food deficiency.
- Mostly female involved in wage earning of non-jobholder women for 12 household & followed by business & agriculture livestock farming for 8 & 7 households.

- Males & females both are found control the household income. In 48.15% household income was kept by both and 38.89% female (myself) and 12.96% by male member keep the household ncome.
- With 66.67percent males are saving the household income , 25.92percent myself & 7.41percent males and female are saving the household income.
- Mostly males are control the household dispute. In 29 household male, 11 household female and 14 household both member control the household dispute.
- More then 50% decision for household expenditure is taking by female. The women in majority of both the jobholder 51.58% as well as non-working women's 77.77% household are the decision maker regarding expenditure on household purchase. It is found that men do not like to be bothered by these matters.
- Men and both (male & female) the households have an equal say in the expenditure related to medical treatment. Then higher decided or responsibility female for 48.14% in respondent household.
- 88.89% household listen about family planning. Than decide for 50% husband &only 12.96% decide for wife
- Women & both (husband & wife) equal 10.81% decide for child production in 37 marriage respondent household. Than maximum decide for husband 78.38%.
- Among the 54 respondent 23 household male are decided to government registration, 15 household both male & female and 8 household equal Female and other family member decided for government registration so birth, death, migration etc.
- Education of children is a priority in most of the households of both working and non-working women. The decisions related to children's education is jointly made by both the parents i.e. men and women after knowing the desires of their children. It is found that jobholder women's household have more power in deciding about their children's education than non-jobholder women.

- Women are the main decision maker regarding social ceremonies to attend other's ceremonies or inviting other people for celebration. It is found that jobholder women are mostly consulted or given more responsibility in the decision related to attending or organizing social ceremonies than non-jobholder women. It may be because of the social relation that a jobholder woman have outside the house. Therefore 40%jobholder women decide then 29.63%non-jobholder women.
- Women take the sole responsibility of all the household activities like charring children, cooking, welcoming & serving guest etc. The men only offer a helping hand in some cases. It is found that men in the jobholder women's household participate more in household activities than non-jobholder women.
- Education is the most influencing factor that affects the decision making power of women. Educated women whether jobholder or non-jobholder are more consulted and have more authority to make decision in the household.
- Economic status of women i.e. their contribution to the household economically also has a positive effect on their level of household decision making. Since they also share the economic burden of the family they are more consulted while making monetary decisions and they participate more in such decisions than non-jobholder women.
- Social norms and tradition is also an important factor that affects women's decision making. It usually acts as a constraint in the decision making power of women. Non-jobholder women are found to be more pressurized by social norms, tradition, superstitions than jobholder women.
- Comparatively jobholder women household are more in favour of educating women and property right for women than non-jobholder women's households.

5.2 Conclusion

As the study is concentrated to analyze the decision making power of women in terms in social as well as household activities. It can be concluded that females have lower decision making power and they have sub-ordinate role in family and in society. They are deprived from their right & responsibility. They have lower decision making power than their male counterparts. In major household activities men played a dominated role in decision making. The females who have higher educational background and employed have higher decision making power than merely literate & illiterate women..

It can also be concluded that females have low socio-economic, status & thus lag behind men in household decision making power. So it is essential to improve their ability & capacity to participate in major the decision making process . Unless females are brought into the main stream of development process, it is impossible to develop society as well as the nation. For this education & empowerment plays a important role. This study shows that females have to work more in household having less decision making. They have to report their male partners decision in most of the cases. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it. If there is any difficulty to complete their work, They cannot decide at that moment

Although women are responsible for performing all the household activities, decision making regarding household affairs however is in the hands of male household head of the family. Women have a greater participation in the decision making of only small household purchase like food, clothing & other small purchase, general medical treatment which have in most cases lower expenditure. In these decisions also men play the role of an advisor. Women mostly have the possession of household income but its allocation needs the approval of the male member of the family.

There is some difference between jobholder women and non-jobholder women. Jobholder women are more confident about their status in the household. Their participation level is more in serious matter like investment and selling than non-jobholder women. Jobholder women are more consulted and their opinions are more valued than non-jobholder women. Especially the women who are in government

services enjoy more freedom and more power in handling household affairs and making household decisions. It thus indicates that economic status of women does have a positive effect in their decision making power and their level of household decision making.

Though economic status helps the women to have a strong position in the household, the most influencing factor in their decision making is education. Educated women even though non-jobholder have more power and consulted in every decision making in the household.

Social norms and traditional culture are also the factors that are holding back the women to move forward. Superstitions are a major drawback Nepalese society. Women have always been considered as an inferior sex. The girls found to have been taught to remain as silent spectator from their childhood. Gender bias lesson rings in their ears since their childhood which leads them to loose their confidence and self esteem and eventually they are compelled to think themselves as weak and unfortunate sections of the society.

To conclude, we can say that though women still suffer from the discriminatory practices in their households and society, if they are educated and economically independent then they can make their position strong in terms of decision making in their household and in the society as a whole.

5.3 Recommendations

- More education opportunity should be provided to women as educating them implies empowering them and conferring them a greater status within the household. This educational status would earn them the household decision making power on important matters since they would then be thought capable of making effective decision by their male counter part.
- The encouragement of the cooperative forms of social organization such as credit should be destabilized in social area societies, marketing cooperatives and mother's club in order to mobilize women should be employed.
- Steps should be taken to make men and the society to self aware regarding the capabilities of women as effective decision maker on important issues as well. The male member of the family should not restrict the mobility and freedom of women to take part in income generating and community activities.
- Employment opportunities should be made available for the educated girls and women who would encourage their economic participation and hence elevate their status within their respective household.
- Reforms should be made regarding various women related government policies and programs. The existing laws, customs regulation and practices should be abolished which are discriminatory against women to establish adequate legal protection for equal right of men and women.

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- (a) Services (b) Business (c) Livestock Farming (d) Wage Earning
- (e) Debt (f) Other

6. What is your main occupation ?

- (a) Service (b) Business (c) Agriculture & Livestock Farming (d) Wage Earning
- (e) Other

D: Level of Jobholder & non-jobholder women in household decision making process of study area:

7. Do you have saving of amount ?

- (a) Yes (b) No

8. Do you have total authority to mobilize saving ?

If No, why ?

.....

9. Do you know the income of your husband or other members of your family ?

- (a) Yes (b) No

10. Who decide to allocate & spend the household income ?

- (a) Myself (b) Male (c) Both

11. Who keep your saving ?

- (a) Myself (b) Husband (c) Both

12. If working , how do you spared the money you earn ?

- (a) Give to the family (b) By food item (c) Children education
- (d) For myself (e) Other

13. To whom you consult to spared your income ?

- (a) Own decision (b) Male member (c) Both

14. Do you have household dispute ?

- (a) Yes (b) No

15. Who decide to control the dispute ?

- (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

16. Who decide to purchase goods for market ?

- (a) Husband (b) Wife (c) Both

17. Who take response for treatment if any member are suffering from ?

- (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

18. Do you listen about family planning ?

- (a) Yes (b) No

19. Who decide it ?

- (a) Husband (b) Wife (c) Both

20. Who decide to determine of NO. of children ?

- (a) Husband (b)Wife (c) Both
21. Who makes decide to select school for your children ?
 (a) Male (b) Female (c) Both
22. Who decide registration about government record ?
 (a) Husband (b)Wife (c) Both (d) Other family member
23. Has your family attended / organized any social ceremonies ?
 (a) Yes (b) No
24. Who decide ?
 (a) Myself (b) Husband (c) Both (d) Other family member
25. How do you make decision about your family's daily household activities ?

Household daily activities	Sex	All time	Mostly	Sometime	Never
Charring children & disable member	Male				
	Female				
Cooking for family	Male				
	Female				
Cleaning for house	Male				
	Female				
Washing clothes for family	Male				
	Female				
Collection fuel	Male				
	Female				
Welcoming & serving guest	Male				
	Female				
Other household activities	Male				
	Female				

Focus Group Discussion Question

E: Problem faced of women in household decision making process of study area :

26. What are the factors do you think affects your decision making regarding household issue ?

- (a) Education (b) Economic status (c) Ownership of property
(d) Social & Traditional culture (e) Other

27. What can be done to improve to decision making power of women ? give your advice.

.....

APPENDIX-II

FGD of study area



Picture no. 1

Interview of responded of study area in piple VDC



Picture no.2