

CHAPTER–ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Women play a key role in the development of a nation. Women constitute a unique resource of a nation. It needs recognition that, women are the builders and molders of a nation's destiny. In rural areas, women perform a major part of agricultural operations like, breaking clods of earth, manuring, weeding, transplanting, harvesting and threshing. According to ILO estimation, women who constitute half of the world's population, perform two-thirds of the world's work, receive on tenth of its income and own less than one hundredth of its property. By the opinion of Panigrahy and Bhuyan (2006), Women are treated as second grade citizen in most of the countries but they have very low status in Nepal as well as in many countries of the world. People have started realizing the justification of women's participation in the economic and social development. In fact women have very strong character in every household, in many developed countries men and women are considered as two wheels of a cart.

Dhakal and Sheikh (1997) has expressed that in Nepal, women comprise of more than 50% of total population. Although the population female is larger than male, the status of female is subordinate to male. Nepal has male dominant society. We find a large gap between the status of men and status of women. In rural areas particularly, Nepali girls and women work more hard than boys and men and they spend 25 percent to 50 percent more time on household task and economic and agricultural activities.

The status of women in terms of social and economic aspect can be defined by the degree of equality and freedom enjoyed by them. Women's participation on equal terms with men in domestic decision-making, free expression of their views and participation in the community life help them in begin recognized in the society. Shyamalie & Saini, (2011) had focused that the economic, demographic and social factors are found as the most important factors which directly and indirectly affect the decision making process of women in market economy which tends to raise their strength in decision making power in important matters. In developing countries, women's participation in household works is proportionately higher than men's. They

have to work harder for their family, community and their country. The fruits of development could not be achieved without participation of women in a proper quantum and quality. So the role of men and women are interdependent. Their contributions are necessary to sustain life. Equality between men and women in such a situation cannot be neglected. When half of the population is deprived of the basic of life, it will be impossible to achieve the aim of prosperity and development in Nepal.

Ahooja (1982) claimed that the Hindu ideology discriminates against women to a greater extent Mongolian communities have been found to be relatively liberal than other casts in terms of women mobility and their access to decision within households. However, women are capable of making effective and important decision if the opportunity is given. If the opportunities are not timely given, women of the future generation might also be left in the same condition as their predecessors. Therefore programmes and policies should be designed to reach the disadvantaged class of the society to enable them to come to the forefront as the equal farmers of effective decision-making power.

According to the development sector of women Kabasakalarat, (2008) also asked that women's significance as an indispensable human resource was initiated only with the onset of the international wave on "Women in Development" which took all the South Asian countries including Nepal in its fold after the UN declaration of 1975-1985 as the UN decade for women prior to this. Women had been rendered statistically invisible by development practitioners. Women as the traditional producers and managers of the domestic and subsistence sector were highly undermined, their activities being automatically labeled as "non-monetized", "non-marketable" and "non-productive" such acute statistical bias reflected in national accounting further fed by traditional norms, values and perceptions can be held responsible for the shift in women's status to "non-status".

We find high involvement of male in buying agricultural goods, tools or selling them. Males decide paying labor wages, purchasing and selling livestock, fruits and vegetables. Male are paid more than females or women though they perform the same work outside the household which indicates that there is still biasness between male and female children. When a female child is born the mother

herself does not allow her to involve in various social activities. The mothers have a concept that the daughters after marriage have to go to other's house and the mother does not bother about her education and participation in social and economic activities.

In both developed and developing countries, there has been an increase in the number of female headed households. Mazumdar (1982) also defined that female headed households that do not have access to remittances from male earners are generally assumed to be poorer than male headed households. Male headed households are more vulnerable to increased unemployment and reductions in social and welfare spending.

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

It was only after the UN declaration of 1975 as the International Women's Year 1975- 1985 as the UN decade for women that a national committee on International Women's year in Nepal was formulated. This committee attracted considerable foreign funds for seminars and conferences on women issues needed by women laborers.

This study has been carried out in Devdaha VDC to find out the socio-economic condition of women where traditional views are prevailing. By studying the Devdaha VDC Profile 2068, in the community, we find less involvement if women in different community based programs like-ward meetings, school management, and community forest and various other programmes. Agriculture being the main sources of income of people of this area, women's participation is high in household farming. But outside the home various works like – business, official works are mostly handled by the male members. The role of men and women are interdependent. Men go outside and do household works. Both the works are necessary to sustain life. Men have started to feel if female will go to earn then the family can enrich the living

standard. But these equal opportunities for male and female can be seen in some of the urban places of Nepal.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Nepalese women are under pressure in terms of their socio-economic standard compared to their male counterparts particularly in the village. In the Nepalese context women suffer from poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and household burden. The status of women is an important factor that affects the socio-economic development in a country, without women's participation goals of the development activities cannot be fully attained so we can say that men and women are the pillars of development. Women's activities are generally connected with inside the house and men's in the outside sphere. Their role as managers of the subsistence sector is shunned off as unproductive, their opinion in important household matters is hardly considered, their freedoms within the household sphere is restricted, leave alone the outside sphere and are overall context the status of a weak a lot. The reasons for such a predicament may spring from gender biasness evident in the economic and political field, conventional social norms, values and perceptions and attitudes of the people themselves. But whatever the reason, the outcome remains the same, that is, the wide gap between the status of men and women.

Women constitute more than half of the total population in our country and no proper economic development can be achieved without the active participation of women in gainful activities. Women participation in development activities is required for the all round development of the country as well as for the international goodwill, understanding and peace. It would not be out of place to accept the socio-economic standard of women as an indicator of development of country. The study of women reflects that in a third world country like Nepal, the situation of women differs from the developed countries. In the context of Nepal, due to literacy, ignorance, conservative, traditions and poverty women are treated as a second class citizen and they are not able to make full contribution to the economy. The legal, social and economic status of women in Nepal is inferior to that of the men. The Nepalese women are not of homogeneous group. Their position differs from place to place and community to community, depending upon the socio-economic condition, geography

and a number of other variables imposed by the wider national society in terms of constitutional and legal frameworks.

In the context of Devdaha VDC, it seems that men are more independent than women. There are not only gender issues in decision making process, it is influenced by earning capacity, market access, ethnicity group, social, cultural and education level, family structure and economic status etc. There is still a large gap between male and female in every aspect of development activities. Though women's access to education has increased significantly but there is still weak participation of female in socio economic activities, household management and decisions in Devdaha VDC. It is felt necessary to study the women's involvement in household decisions.

1.3 Objective of the study

The general objective of the study is to analyze extent of women's involvement in decision-making process in household system. The other specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To evaluate the existing socio-economic situation of women
2. To examine the role of women in their household management.
3. To analysis role of women in household decision-making process.

1.4 Significance of the study

The study site chosen is one of the rural areas to visualize the real picture of Devdaha VDC in terms of socio-economic status as well as personal affairs of women of the village to a greater extent. Gender discriminating perceivers will be discouraged by the proper implementation of the related strategies designed. This study will be very important to all those who are interested to know more about women regarding their socioeconomic condition in the village. Besides, it equally helps governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies to have a clear understanding on the socio-

economic status of the Nepalese women. To sum up, this study is helpful to be very useful for policy makers, planners, teachers, students, researchers and sociologists, NGO/INGO in relation to the introduction expedition of development activities. Although Nepalese women have been empowered only in paper, they have not been wholly translated into real life.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is as follow:

- a. Purposed study has a micro study of Devdaha VDC. The conclusion derived may not equally valid on macro level.
- b. Research has only base on the sample information collected in short period of time so it may not cover the whole information regarding the women's role in household decisions.

1.6 Organization of the study

This study has been mainly divided into five chapters. The first chapter consists of the descriptive background of women status pertaining to world and Nepalese scenario with the problem statement, objectives, significance and limitations. The second chapter contains the review of literature dividing into two headings as theoretical framework and review of previous studies. The third chapter comprises the research methodology on which the research design, sample size, nature of data and collection procedure, data analysis and an analytical tool is explained. In chapter four, the role of women in household decision-making has been analyzed and interpreted statistically. And the chapter five summarizes and concludes the entire study with the optimal model of recommendations required to fulfill the gap found in analysis. At last, the bibliography, questionnaires and appendix pertained to the study have also been attached.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature consists of two sections as theoretical understandings of the topic and the review of previous studies. The researcher has separately studied the theoretical foundation to conduct research as per set objectives. The previous studies were also reviewed to find out the research gap in the related issues.

2.1 Theoretical Review

Decision-making is critical issue whether it is for men or women. It is different from nation to nation in terms of decision makers' multi-perspectives. Decision-making power of women is very much neglected in our countryside than in city area. The decision-making power of women should interfere by family status. There are a number of factors that determine the decision-making power for women in Nepal. The household decision-making autonomy to women is associated with their economic strata. The amount of dowry sets her marriage. Her income, earning ability, her age, demographic factor, educational level, status in the family etc. determine women's decision-making ability in the family.

By the opinion of Kantor (1999), recently the power has shifted to the question of equality in gender sensitiveness as male and female. Therefore the decision-making power of female in a household may be determined by these factors: independent sources of income, power of retaining income, power to use income at one's desire, power to save income. If the female is powerful to maintain these economic factors, definitely the power for decision-making is relatively higher. Likewise, women's personal autonomy is also influenced by the degree of female participation which consists of the household labor allocation, marriage partner selection, number of children and their gap year and freedom in mobility. And the decision-making on social affairs is determined by factors such as meeting, involvement in social works, public voice and educational status.

As such, individuals' higher income level, multiple sources of income, higher influences in using personal income as per will and saving power definitely enhance the power of women in a household. The components like the decision on home labor allocation, selection of marriage partner, having children (number and birth spacing)

and freely out going facility. Women in modern age are also involved in social affairs. The situation now has changed. The social factors for women are greatly interwoven with social works: public relation, educational affairs and involvement in social meetings.

Constitution of Nepal (1990) has guaranteed that there will be no discrimination against any citizen in the application of general laws, as well as in respect of political and civil rights, on the ground of religion, race, sex and caste. Hence, men and women are given equal rights under the constitution of votes; participate in government or inter-public services. However, the reality is different from all of those things.

Young wives rarely address their husbands in the presence of others and then only indirectly through a third party. If she has to talk with husband or him with her, an equally important part of husband/wife relationship-ideally in both public and private aspects – is the extreme respect, which a wife must show to her husband. Bennett 1983 also expressed that the most forceful expression of the wives deference is in the ritual in which the woman washes her husband's feet and drinks that water by splashing some of it into her mouth (*Goda Ko Pani Khane*). Village women, except when they are ritually impure through menstruation or childbirth, do this before every rice meal. They also eat off the unwashed plate from which their husband was eaten and consume whatever food he has left for them. Both the plate and the leftover food are considered *Jutho* (impure) or polluted; likewise, the water from washing the feet, an impure part of the body, is considered defile. The wife's consumption of her husband's foot water and his leftover food is high above her that he is so high above her that even his impurities are pure for her.

Gender inequality has been a subject of much concern in recent decades. Since the 1975 UN conference on women (Mexico) the world community has acquired the situation of women worldwide and gain valuable insights into the process of development from a gender perspective (UN Report, 1997). Acharya 1997 asked that women are becoming conscious of their own situation and are active in bringing about gender perspective changes in the existing discriminatory social, economic and political structures. The demand for gender equality has pervaded all

shares of live including the design and content of development strategies, policies and programs.

Non-agricultural employment opportunities for women have expanded in absolute terms in the last decade. Relative to men, however, women are getting more concentrated in agriculture. With very few alternative employment opportunities, women are falling back to agriculture or are forced to earn their living through unwanted activities such as commercial sex work. Women wage/salary workers devote slightly less hours per day than men to non-agricultural income earning activities but work almost similar hours with men in agriculture. Overall, female headed household enterprise earn less return per enterprise than those that are men, women proprietors in the manufacturing sector have less access to capital, institutional credit, marketing information and appropriate business training and education .

To sum up, the question of autonomy in terms of household decision-making to women is different from nation to nation. But in Nepal an average men have higher autonomy than women in decision making power. The power in decision-making is higher with men in rural remote areas than in the urban areas. There are not only gender issues in decision-making power, rather it is also influenced by earning capacity, market access, ethnicity group, demographic, social, cultural, education level, dowry brought, modern family structure: nuclear vs. joint family structure and economic status.

2.2 Review of the Previous Studies

A number of significant studies have been done on women participation. Men alone cannot accelerate the pace of development unless women are given proper role in the society. Acharya and Bennet (1981) have conducted a number of studies relating to women status in Nepal. Firstly, they have revealed the time allocation pattern of men and women in household level that women perform almost all kinds of agricultural activities and their daily labor input is 9 hours against 5 hours for men. But the degree of individual varies considerably across ethnic groups and social classes. But their input decision-making in the household level is very low.

Economic participation and household decision-making in Nepal has highlighted that the women are the primary supporters of the domestic and substance sector (Acharya and Bennet, 1983). The decision-making data show women's major role in agricultural production both as laborers and managers of the production process. It has been singled out 'decision-making from multi-dimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamics of sexual stratification within the household. In the study, the village women were actively participating in the four activities: household domestic work, agriculture production activities, local market economy and shorter migration to employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

The dowry drawer has the greater influence in decision-making: small size of women has higher economic participation and greater decision-making power. According to the economic data, women from upper economic strata are earning activities. But women from bottom economic ground are involved in agriculture sector (72.9 percent out of total working day). Labor intensive work mainly covers the low caste women. Women also play role in decision on domestic expenditures but not as high as in farm such as caste groups Maithili, Tamang, Newar, Parbatiya, Baragaunle, Lohorung, Rai, Thaani and Khami Magar are captured in this study.

Ahooja (1982) highlighted in her article 'Another Development with Women: Development Dialogue' the need to bring women's issues into forefront of development strategies. Women constitute the highest number of food producers – approximately 50 percent in Africa, 30 percent in Asia and slightly less in Latin America. Least qualified jobs are filled by women. Women get low wages in comparison to the average men. Women are only engaged in reproductive system. One billion women in the third world countries cannot read. Besides, the female dropout rates increase as they move up the educational ladder from primary to secondary education. Their educational status psychologically dominates the power of autonomy in decision-making. She recommended establishing a pool between men and women as indispensable human resources to balance the development of a nation.

Women's representation at the highest levels of the national and international decision-making has not changed in the five years since the 1995 Fourth World Conference in Beijing. UDI 2000 also focused that women continue to be in the

minority in the national parliaments, with an average of 13 percent worldwide in 1999, despite the fact that women comprise the majority of the electorate in almost all countries. The Beijing Conference reaffirmed that “women’s equal participation in decision-making is not only a demand for justice or democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women’s interests to be taken into account. Without the active participation of women and incorporation of women’s perspectives at all levels of decision-making the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved”.

The platform defined to strategic objectives under this critical area to insure women’s equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making and to increase women’s capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership. At its forty-first session in 1997, the UN Commission on the status of women reaffirmed the need to identify and implement the measures that would redress the under-representation of women in decision-making. The removal of discrimination practices and the introduction of positive action programs were identified as effective policy instruments to that end.

In role of women in household decision, Shrestha (1999) reviews that the Brahmins / Chhetri community dominates over the other ethnic groups in their population distribution. Literacy rate among the women is negligible in comprising to male expect in urban area. Women are responsible for household chores and activities. In other words, men do no contribute at all in this particular sphere of activity. According to search, all kind of the facilities is not provided to the women. That is why their decision-making power remains weak. So opportunities should be given to the women for the strong decision-making power.

According to her, "the monopolies of economics and political power as well as access to knowledge are the three major instruments by which the present structure of inequality between and within nations is maintained. Mazumdar (1982) highlighted 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 contribution to the economy is closely associated with their inferior social status within the family. Mazumder also talks of non-socialist countries where the pretension of capitalism has further marginalized the economic and social roles of women. They have been projected as more consumers worthy of only social welfare

services but not as partners with equal say in building a new social. Such welfare intentioned is found to reinforce nation's forms of exploitation of these women.

Mazumdar concludes, saying that constraints of family illiteracy and all traditional barriers and attitudes present women's ability to influence vital decision-making. She suggests forming grass root level organization responsive to the needs of the poor, local women. Along with this is needed a new approach to study the social organizations i.e. families and households in a clearer perspective. Better knowledge of women both in the past and present can bring a lot of change to these perceptions.

The kabasakalarat (2008) focused that human rights are rights claimed against the state and society by virtue of being a human being. However, the human rights of most people have been continuously violated all round the world. Since all civilizations have been patriarchal, regardless of the overall human rights conditions maintained in a society. Women have been subject to more human rights violations than men. Women constitute the poorest and the least powerful segments of their communities. They are denied equal access to educational, job training, employment, leisure time, income, property, health care, public office, decision-making power and freedoms as well as control over their own body and life, cultural norms, laws and philosophies, including those that are considered progressive and emancipatory have usually discriminated against women.

Women are often faced with a 'double shift', performing both productive and reproductive work. Women in paid employment typically take on the main responsibilities in the home and continue to bear the biggest burden of domestic work, child care responsibilities, and care for older and disabled or sick family members. In most cases, men have not proportionately increased their share of domestic responsibilities where masculinity is currently defined through paid works and feminists is strongly associated with childcare and domestic work, the result can be a marginalization of men for family life. More equitable sharing of domestic responsibilities between women and men has been highlighted as critical to ensuring gender equality. There is wide recognition of the need to increase the participation of men in domestic work and family responsibilities by adopting family support policies and encouraging the reconciliation of family and working life for both men and women. Such policies can help to create conditions that allow women to participate in

the labor market under the same conditions as men- family-friendly measure, including part-time and flexible working conditions should be available to both women and men to create an enabling environment for women and men to share family responsibilities. Men need to be given the same opportunities as women to redistribute their time between productive and reproductive labor.

The challenge for gender equality policy is to present it as a positive project for men, encourage an active debate about change among men as well as women and create the means for continuing development of constructive approaches and the exchange of ideas, knowledge, experience and methods at the national, regional and global levels (UN 2008).

Nepalese Women and the Development

Gender issue has started a worldwide considerable concern since seventies. This has resulted in recognizing status and problems of women in different strata. At present everybody realized that one of the strategies which emphasize the development of the socio-economic life of the people is to raise the economic and social status of women and there should be paradigm shift to address gender issue in development policy. This is possible by exploring women's roles and status in economic development. In Nepal, women population covers slightly more than half of the total population. However their statuses are still low in society. Although they work very hard and participated in almost all of the development activities, their contributions are not fully recognized and they are considered only as co-partners of development.

The long term concept of the government as mentioned in ninth five-year plan (1997-2002) is the "creation of a developed society on the basis of women's empowerment and gender equality through main streaming women's participation in each and every aspect of national development."

In Nepal, women are being important role in various developmental activities of the country. There is a slow but perceptible change in women's life's options and opportunities. Increasing number of women are acquiring modern education and skills and getting absorbed in alternative avenues of employment other than agriculture. Yet there is a big gap in participation between males and females in every aspect of

developmental activities. Socio-cultural, legal and infrastructure factors of the country hinder women to come in front to take part in developmental activities other than household and farm field works. Women's access to education no doubt has increased significantly. But there is still differential in the male/female literacy rate.

All present more women are found economically active. Agriculture however is still the major source of employment for males and females and relatively larger portion of women is involved in agriculture. Nepalese women are contributing considerably in household income through conventional and expanded activities. They have extensive work loads, being responsible for farm/ field work out side home and domestic work are not recognized and they are considered a co-partner of development only. This indicates: - (a) the need to involved women in those activities which directly relate to the economic development of the country or (b) the need to recognize the indirect contribution made, by women in various development activities. This is possible by:(1) providing more educational opportunities to more females; (2) creating employment opportunities in organized sectors; and (3) encouraging and facilitating income generating schemes in which women may engage. At present, the government of Nepal is trying to involved women in the mainstream of national development activities to eliminate gender inequality and to empower women through various programs. (Shrestha, 2001).

CHAPTER - THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology is the most important part of the research work. Reliable and relevant study can be made possible only by applying scientific method. Hence, the main purpose of this chapter is to present the framework for the research design. Different procedures used to this study are as follows.

3.1 Research Design

This study is based on descriptive as well as exploratory research design. Descriptive research is fact-finding operation about the research topic and exploratory research design is used for explaining respondent's view and ideas about the issue and their problems. Women's experiences were also explained.

3.2 Sample Design and Sampling Procedure

According to VDC profile of Devdaha VDC (2068 BS), the total population of Devdaha VDC is 30416, among them 15,454 are males and 14,962 are females. The age group between 15 to 60 was selected as the target group. These women can easily understand all the things and can describe their household matter as well as household decision making process. Two wards were selected randomly for the study purpose they were ward no 1 and 4. There are 263 household in ward No. 1; and similarly the number of households of ward no 4 is 300. Among them 30 household women were selected from each ward for the study. Purposive and convenient method was used to collect the data. Since the decision making role has been taken by year 15 to 60 years' women were selected and defined as the population of this study.

3.3 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection

Primary source of information was used for the analysis of role of women in household decisions. For this HH survey with structured questionnaire was made on the basis of "Role of Women in Household Decision-making" among women (Aged 15-60 years). The questionnaire was prepared to collect the information in different dimensions of the role of women in household decision-making i.e. buying and selling of agricultural products, decision regarding education of the children, choice of crops to plant taking and giving loans, buying household things, serving/saving, landowning

etc. Similarly field observation and interview methods were also conducted as required.

3.3.1 Pilot Survey

A pilot survey was conducted to study the relevancy of the study. The questionnaire was administered for pilot study among 60 women of aged group (15-60) in Devdaha VDC, Rupandehi district for required modification to make them more understandable, simple, valid and socially acceptable.

3.4 Process of Data Collection

Pre-tested questionnaire had been administered to the sample population. The required information was collected by using purposive sampling method in ward no 1 and 4 of Devdaha VDC. Non-formal education workers were selected as enumerator for data collection. After proper counseling and training for administering questionnaire, door to door visit was made to collect information.

3.5 Data Processing and Tools of Analysis

The collected data and information have been processed manually in a master table. Description are made separately simple statistical methods were required. Percentage and bar diagram were used to make the analysis easy and meaningful.

CHAPTER - FOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter focuses some demographic and socio-economic characteristic of the respondents and methodologically analyzes the responses. It mainly illustrates the role of women in household decision-making especially in five occasions of decision making i.e. buying and selling of agricultural products, education of the children, crops to plant, taking and giving loans and buying household things. The project aims at bringing out in focus the role of married women in decision making.

4.1 Introduction of study area

After reviewing all the concerned books, articles and previous theses, it is needless to say that women haven't got the full autonomy in decision-making process except in some major cases. The references maintained in the previous pages confirm that women's decision-making power is influenced by many factors. In Nepalese contexts, women are observed as heading weak decision-making power of women. Therefore, the issue of women empowerment would not be fulfilled till the women attain decision-making process rights for their own households. The nonparallel discrimination between male and female could not be undermined. But in speech everywhere we may find that men and women are equal but there is bridgeable gap between them. Therefore, this study focused the women's decision-making power in households in Devdaha VDC Rupandehi district.

4.1.1 Profile of Devdaha VDC

Devdaha VDC is one of the villages directly touched with black top highway. It has linked with Butwal directly. It has located at sloppy hill and terai area of Rupandehi district. Main sources of income of this VDC are agriculture, trade as well as stone and sand quarry.

Table 4.1 Profile of Devdaha VDC

Title	Description
Area	10254 Hector
Population	30416
Surrounding	Butwal Municipality, Palpa district, Nawalparasi District and Kerwani VDC
Administrative center	Ward no 5
District center	Bhairahawa
Main crops	Rice, wheat, Maize
Main vegetables	Tomato, potato, cabbage, broccoli, cucumber, ladyfinger etc.
Education service	Available
Telephone service	Available
Security service	Available
Road service	Available

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Devdaha VDC is located northern part of Rupandehi district. It lies on the eastern part of Butwal Municipality. It's neighboring village is Sunawal, Kerwani and Butwal Municipality. Rohini river lies western direction, Ghodaha river lies middle direction and Kajarar river lies eastern part of Devdaha VDC. Its main crops are paddy, wheat, maize and main vegetables are cabbage, tomato, potato, onion, garlic, carrot etc.

It has two higher secondary school, three secondary school, one lower secondary and one primary school serving to local citizens to enlighten with the education.

Electricity facilities are available at this VDC. 90 percent of villagers are using telephone service that is land line and mobile phone. It has lots of pitch and gravel road to transport goods, people and services.

Devdaha VDC has banking facilities, three banks are providing banking service to people. Co operative institutes are also providing services. Small farmer co operative, Milk co operative and 5 saving co operative is having in Devdaha VDC.

According to key informant Mr. Tikaram Chapagain, Devdaha, this name of our VDC has kept in the name of Lord Buddha's Mawali. The name of Devdaha is famous for Lord Buddha's maternal uncle (Mawali) in National and international level also. Gradually with the increasing population settlement was also increased at this area and a well developed village is established.

4.1.2 Social and cultural status.

Out of total household, 41 percent of household are Brahmin, 33 percent of households are Janajati, 16 percent of households are Chhetri and 10 percent of households are Dalits. Brahmins are the majority caste at study area. Other minority caste are Chhetri, Newar, Tharu, Magar, Sarki, Kami, Damai and Gurungs. Among these ethnic groups, Newar and Tharu are speaking mother language, rest of other ethnic groups are speaking Nepali language. Among those ethnic groups, there are Hindus and Buddhists religion. Some Magar and Newar follow Buddhism and others follow Hindu religion. Hindus celebrate Dashain, Tihar, Chhat, Janai Purnima, Saraswati Puja etc. festivals. Buddhists celebrate Losar, Buddha Jayanti, Maghe Sakrati etc. festivals. All of the religion has their own birth, marriage, death, custom perform on their own traditional way.

4.1.3 Natural resources.

Devdaha VDC is a Terai and some hilly area village. Its main natural resources are agriculture, land, forest, river and other natural resources like stone, sand, wood etc. Most used natural resources are water, forest and agriculture land. Some water resources are used for irrigation. Forest is used as timber and non timber product.

4.1.4 Economic sources of Devdaha VDC

Agriculture is the main source of income of Devdaha VDC. Relating to agriculture, animal husbandary, gram grinding and expelling industry are established at village recently. Nowadays villagers started to cultivate off season vegetables and agro product to increase income. These agricultural products are increased the interaction of villagers with market centers. Increasing production activity with some hotels, primary goods and services business are running at Devdaha VDC to supply daily needs of village.

4.2 Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics

Literary and educational attainment, level of annual income and occupational status are discussed. Demographic data may include analysis of the population on the basis of age, parentage, physical condition, ethnicity, occupation, and civil position, giving the size and density of each composite division. Levels of education economic and social statistics, especially those relating income level and occupation matter in decision making.

4.2.1. Literacy and Educational Attainment

Education always plays important role in the all round development of a nation. It is a crucial indicator of civilization of society. Literacy means the ability to read and write. Education plays an important role in decision-making process. People having higher education status are more likely to have independence than the people with low educational level. According to the age factor of women, if divided the total women by age 15-30 to 30-60, then it could be get better understanding of different sector so researcher were categorized total women in to two group ,aged 15-30 and 30-60. The educational level of the respondents and their age profile shown in the following table:

Table 4.2 Educational Status of the Respondents on the basis of age

Education	Age (15-30)	%	Age (30-60)	%	Total	%
Illiterate	2	3.33	5	8.33	7	11.67
Literate (only read and write)	12	20.00	7	11.67	19	31.67
Primary	20	33.33	4	6.67	24	40.00
Secondary	7	11.67	3	5.00	10	16.66
Total	41	68.33	19	31.67	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

In the table 4.2, illiterate respondents are 11.67 percent and literate respondents are 31.67 percent. Educational developments are going to increasing. The table shows that primary level of education is 40 percent. Secondary level is 16.66 percent. It shows that educational activities should be held in that VDC.

4.2.2 Educational Level and Decision Making

Education has been accepted as the primary means of country's all round development; 60 household women can play an effective role in household decision making. The involvement of women in household decision making according to their educational status is shown in the following.

Table no. 4.3 Educational Level and Decision Making

Level of Education	Role in Household Decision				
	Final decision	%	Suggestive role	%	Total
Illiterate	2	3.33	5	8.33	7
Literate (only read and write)	15	25.00	4	6.67	19
Primary	16	26.67	8	13.33	24
Secondary	8	13.33	2	3.33	10
Total	41	68.33	19	31.67	60

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Above table 4.3 shows that the level of education is higher than illiterate women in comparison so that it can affect to make a decision making. On the basis of above data out of 60 respondents, 41 hands replied that they could decision themselves. 31.67 percent could not have taken any decision regarding household. This data reveals that the respondents who have higher education level they have strong decision making power.

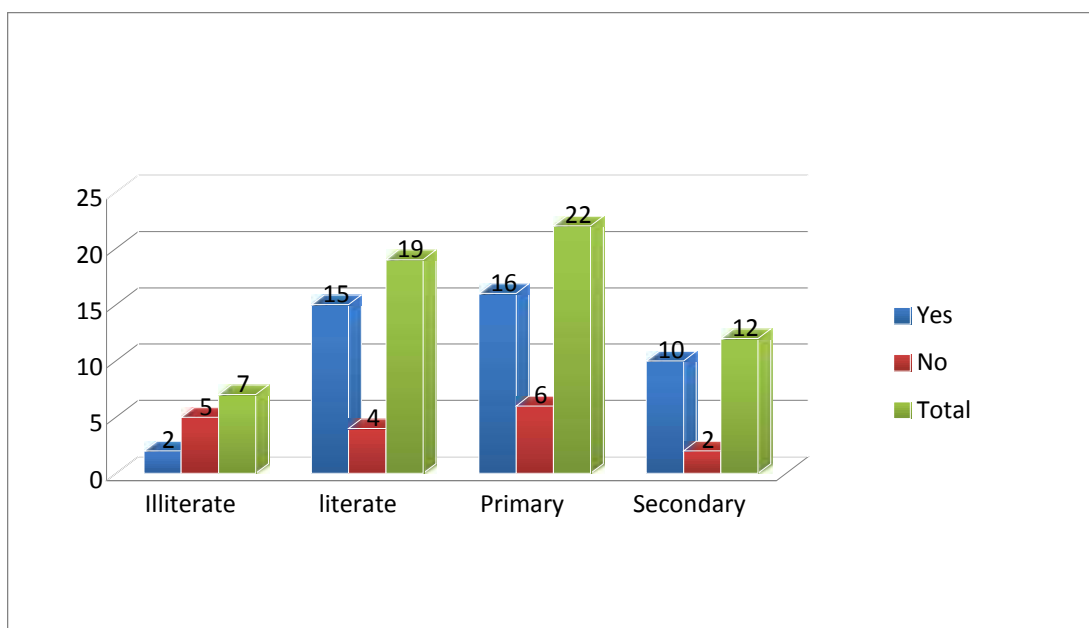


Figure: 4.1 Taking house hold decision in number

4.2.3 Occupational Status of the Respondent

Occupational status of the respondent strong relationship with the household decision making process. Many empirical studies have shown that people who have received higher educational attainment are involved mainly in service and similar kind of business work. The occupational status of the respondents is shown in the following table.

Table no. 4.4 Occupational Status of the Respondent

Occupation	Age (15-30)	%	Age (30-60)	%	Total	%
Service (govt., non govt.)	12	20.00	3	5.00	15	25.00
Agriculture	20	33.33	10	16.67	30	50.00
Business	8	13.33	2	3.33	10	16.67
Other (labors)	4	6.67	1	1.67	5	8.33
Total	44	73.33	16	26.67	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Above table 4.4 shows that 50 percent of the total respondents are engaged in agriculture. And second occupation of the respondent is service which is 25.00 percent. Age group (15-30) respondents are more involved in service in comparison to

age group (30-60). Relatively lower rate of participation is found in the field of business.

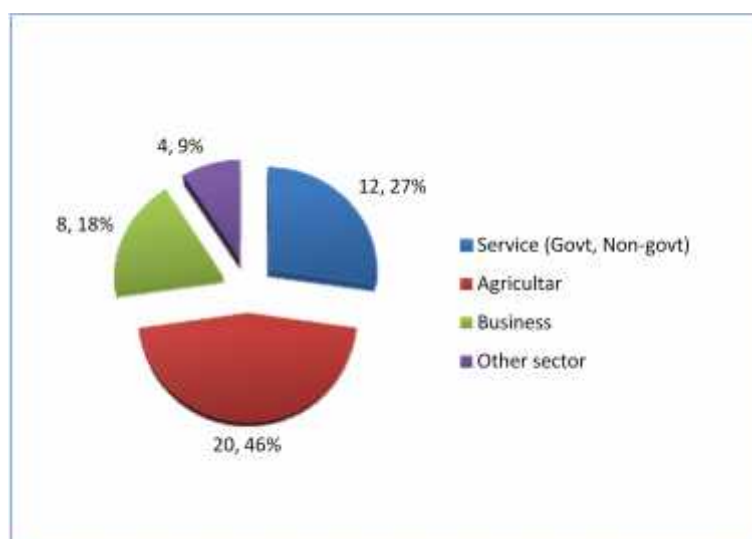


Figure: 4.2 Occupational Status of the Respondents age between (15-30)

4.2.4 Household Head of the Respondent

In the sample household, the household head was found to be a male unless there were not elderly males in the household. The female headed households are assumed to be those households in which there are no elderly male (husband, father-in-law/son) and all the important decisions are made by the female. Female takes the responsibility to the entire family in all respects.

Table 4.5 Household Head of the Respondent

S.N.	Sex	Number	Percentage
1	Male	50	83
2	Female	10	17
Total		60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.5 shows out of total respondents 83 percent were male headed and the remaining 17 percent households were headed by females.

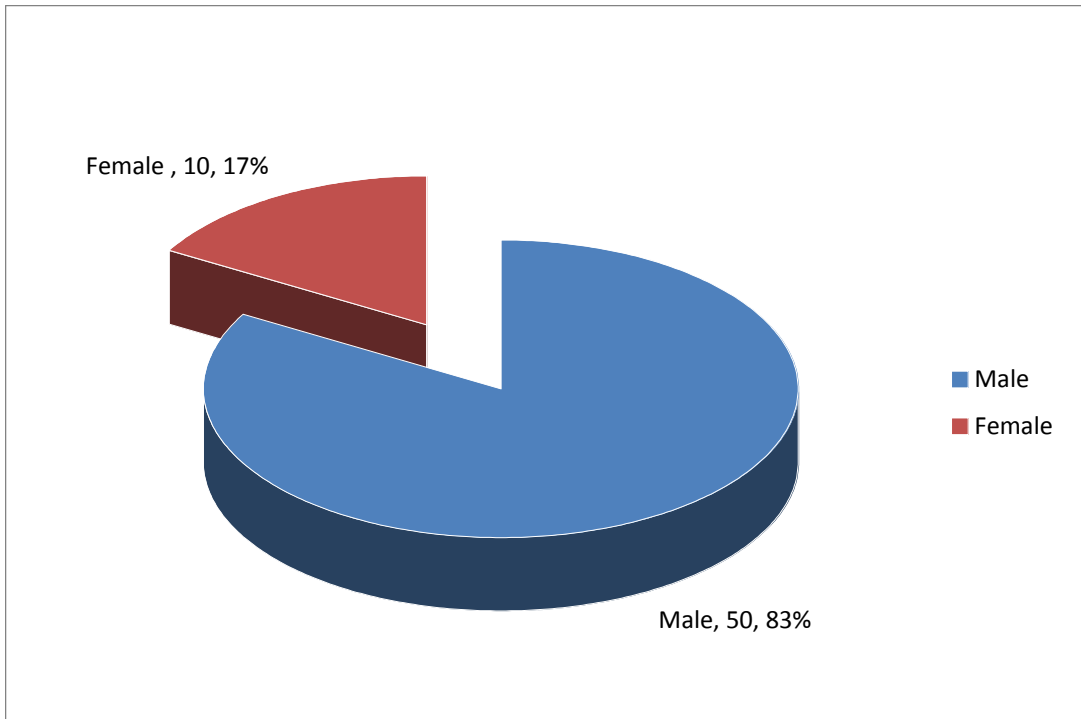


Figure: 4.3 Household Head

4.2.5 Family Types of the Respondents

The types of family and current marital status of women are important socio-cultural variables. In our society, marriage is taken as an universal phenomenon that takes place in human life.

Table 4.6 Family Types of the Respondents

Family Types	Number	%
Nuclear	38	63.33
Joint	22	36.67
Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table shows higher of the respondents are nuclear family and only 36.67 percent of the respondents are joint family. It shows that the structure of the family is also influenced by the decision making power of woman.

4.2.6 Caste and Religion of the Respondents

The study area reveals a marked diversity in the ethnic composition. The decision-making issue seems also to be affected by the religion and caste they belong to. As some religions and castes are more liberal in nature, women who belong to a bit more liberal caste and religion might have more access to make decision in family matters. This study reveals by the following caste and ethnic composition.

Table 4.7 Caste and Religion of the Respondents

Caste	No. of household	Percentage
Brahmin	24	40.00
Chhetri	15	25.00
Magar	5	8.33
Newar	3	5.00
Iron-Smith	5	8.33
Damai(Tailor)	5	8.33
Sarki	3	5.00
Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Out of total respondent households the major fraction of the sample households in from Brahmin ethnicity (40%), Chhetri (25%). The share of remaining are 8.33%, 5%, 8.33%, 8.33%, 5% position in term of caste and ethnicity distribution in the study Magar, Newar, Iron-smith, Damai, Sarki respectively constitutes relatively a low percentage in the population composition.

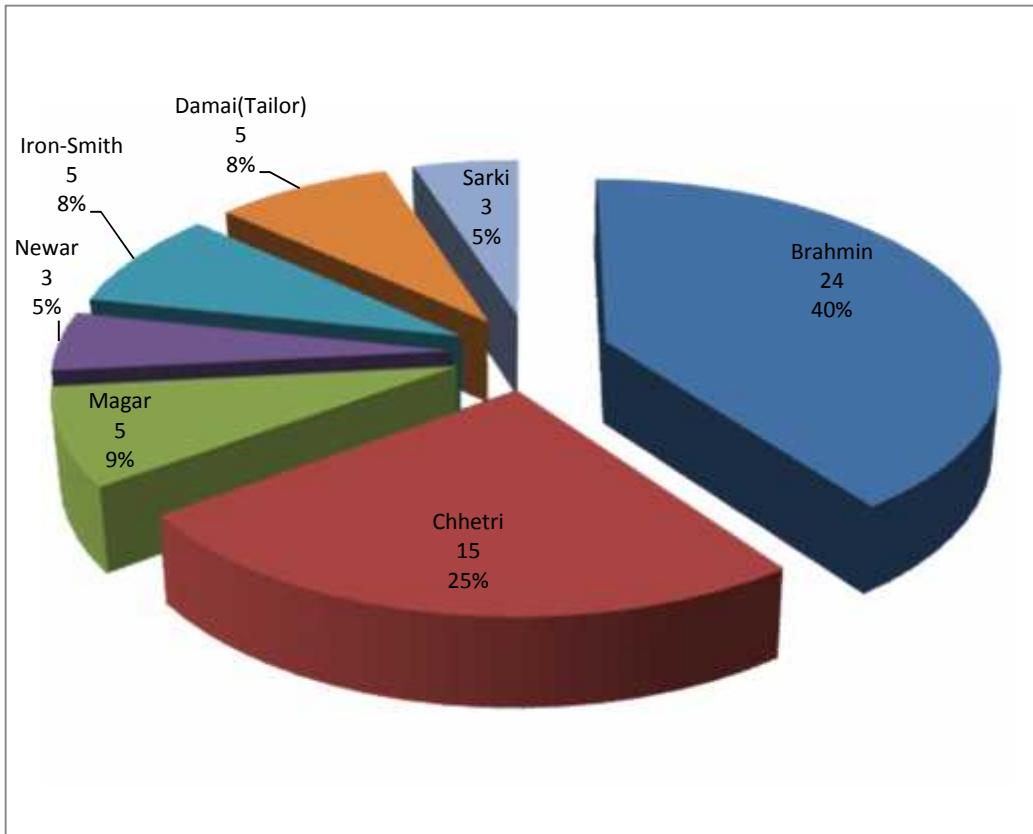


Figure: 4. 4 Castes and Religion of the Respondents

4.2.7 Household Decision Making by Caste

In many societies of Nepal, castes are prevailing issues. The tradition of caste plays a defining role in different social and communal activities including the household decision making. According the castes to which women belong also, the issue of decision making differs.

Table 4.8 Caste-wise Household Decision Making

Caste	Taking household decision	
	Yes	No
Brahmin	7	17
Chhetri	5	10
Magar	2	3
Newar	2	1
Iron-Smith	1	4
Damai	3	2
Sarki	1	2
Total	21	39

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.7 infers that high caste women were found less involved in household decision making than so called lower caste women. Thus we can scrutinize the result that higher caste family women are more dependent on their husband than lower caste family women.

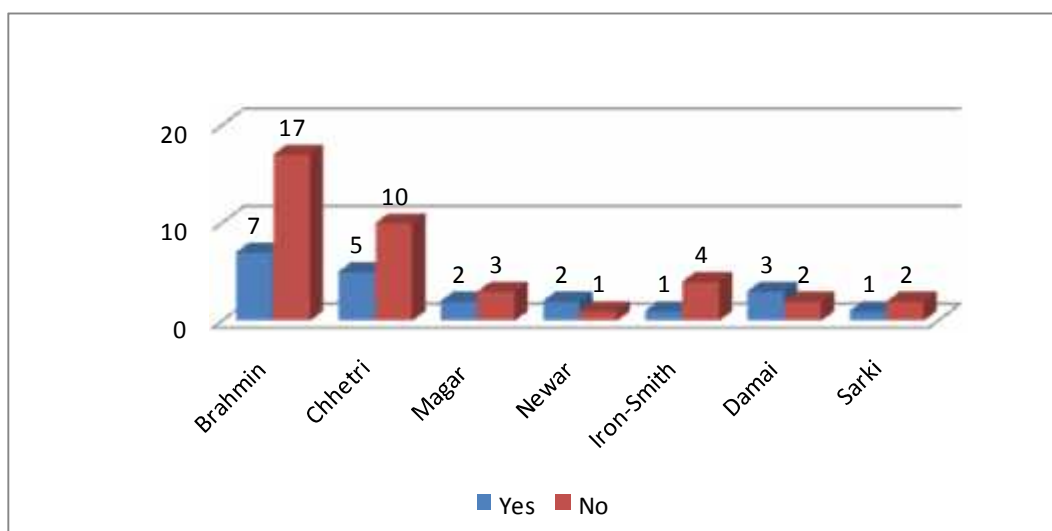


Figure: 4.5 Household decisions making by caste

4.3 Information Regarding Household Decision Making

Even-though women make up more than half of the total population, their involvement in decision making level is not satisfactory and their participation in such activities in rural areas is even more disappointing. In this study, the areas of household decision-making are categorized in different topics;

Buying and selling of agricultural products

Education of the children

Decision on giving and taking loans

Decision on buying household items

Decision on planting of crops

4.3.1 Decision on Buying of Agricultural Products

In this topic, agricultural products like, rice, pulse vegetables and milk were taken as major agricultural products. All the respondents were living in the same area but they had different buying and selling capacity result is reproduced below:

Table 4.9 Decision on Buying of Agricultural Products

Agri. Products	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	Not applicable	%
Rice	8	13.33	13	21.66	8	13.33	32	53.33
Pulse	6	10.00	32	53.33	5	8.33	17	28.33
Vegetables	4	6.66	10	16.66	2	3.33	44	73.33
Milk	5	8.33	10	16.66	3	5.00	42	70.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.9 shows the decision made by males and females on buying of agricultural products. As shown in the table 13.33 percent of male, 20 percent of female and 13.33 percent of both of them made decision regarding purchase of rice. 10 percent of male and 53.33 percent of female and 8.33 percent of both male and female made decision to purchase pulse. Similarly, the decision to purchase vegetable is made by 6.66 percent of male, 16.66 percent of female and 3.33 percent of both the male and female. Likewise, 8.33 percent of male, 16.66 percent of female and 5

percent of both of them made decision to purchase milk. Therefore, as shown in the table, the decision to purchase rice is mostly made by women. In the same way the decision to purchase other agricultural products like pulse, vegetables and milk is also made by women.

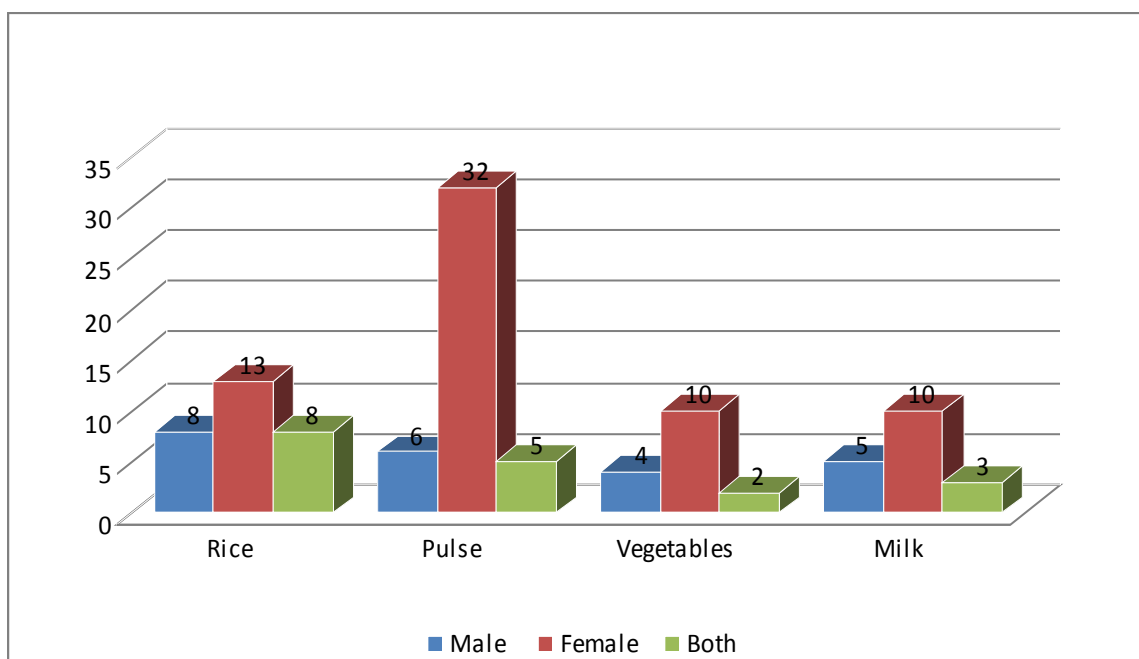


Figure 4. 6 Decision on buying of agricultural products

4.3.2 Decision on Selling of Agricultural Product

In this section decision on selling agricultural products like, rice, pulse, vegetables milk and fruits is presented in the table.

Table 4.10 Decision on Selling of Agricultural Product

Agri. Products	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%
Rice	38	63.33	12	20.00	10	16.66
Pulse	8	13.33	40	66.66	12	20.00
Vegetables	10	16.66	35	58.33	15	25.00
Milk	12	20.00	38	63.33	10	16.66
Fruit	18	30.00	27	45.00	15	25.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.10 shows the decision made by male and female on selling of agricultural products. As shown in the table 63.33 percent of male and 20 percent of female 16.66 percent of both of them made decision regarding selling of rice, 13.33 percent of male and 66.66 percent of female and 20 percent of both male and female made decision to sell pulse. Similarly, the decision to sell vegetable is made by 16.66 percent male, 58.33 percent female and 25 percent of both of them. Likewise, 20 percent of male and 63.33 percent of female and 16.66 percent both of them made decision to sell milk. In this way, 30 percent of male and 45 percent of female and 25 percent of both of them made decision to sell the fruit.

Therefore, as shown in the above table, the decision to sell rice is mostly made by male. In same way, the decision to sell all other agricultural products like pulse, vegetable, milk, fruit is overwhelmingly made by female.

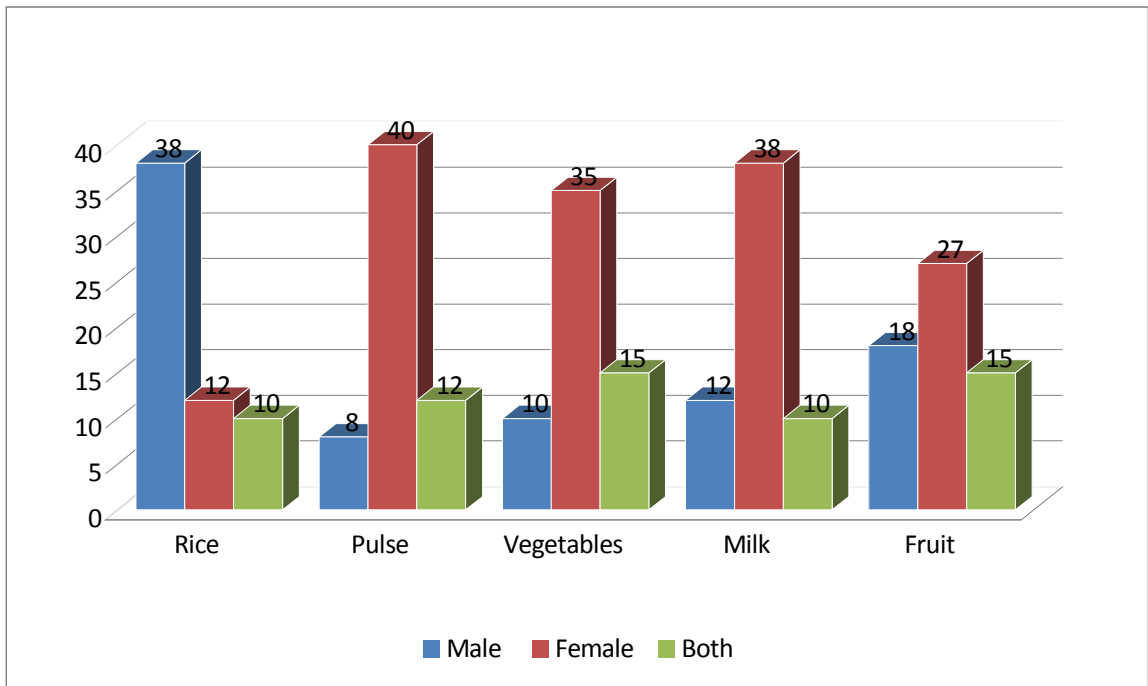


Figure. 4.7 Decision on selling of agriculture products

4.3.3 Decision on Education of the Children

Better educated women may have more status in the household and have greater authority to speak openly with their husbands about their children's educations. In the present study all the respondents (N=60) were asked about who decides to take admission of their children to school, buy books, uniforms and payments of fees. The responses are presented in table.

Table 4.11 Decision on Education of the Children

Particular	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	Total
Books / copies	28	46.66	18	30.00	14	23.33	60
Uniforms	12	20.00	39	65.00	9	15.00	60
Payment of fees	35	58.33	17	28.33	8	13.33	60
Admission in school	25	41.66	15	25.00	20	33.33	60

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.11 shows, the decision of males and female regarding education of the children. As shown above 46.66 percent of male, 30 percent of female and 23.33 percent of both of them made decision to buy books and copies for children. Similarly, to buy their uniforms, the decision is made by 20 percent of male, 65 percent of females and 15 percent of both of them. Likewise, 58.33 percent of male, 28.33 percent of female and 13.33 percent of both of them made decision to pay the fees of children. 41.66 percent of male, 25 percent of female and 33.33 percent of both of them decided regarding selection of school regarding their children admission. According to the table, it is clear that most of the decision regarding education of the children, purchase of their books and copies, payment of their fees and selection of school for admission is made by males whereas female made the decision regarding the uniform of their children only.

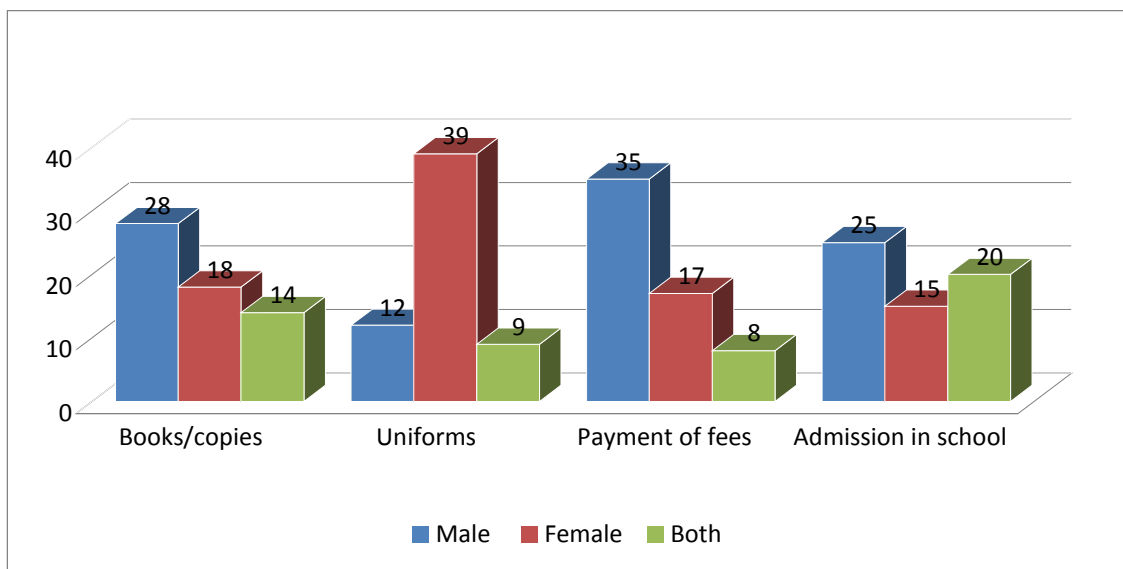


Figure: 4.8 Decision on Education of the children

4.3.4 Decision on Taking and Giving Loans

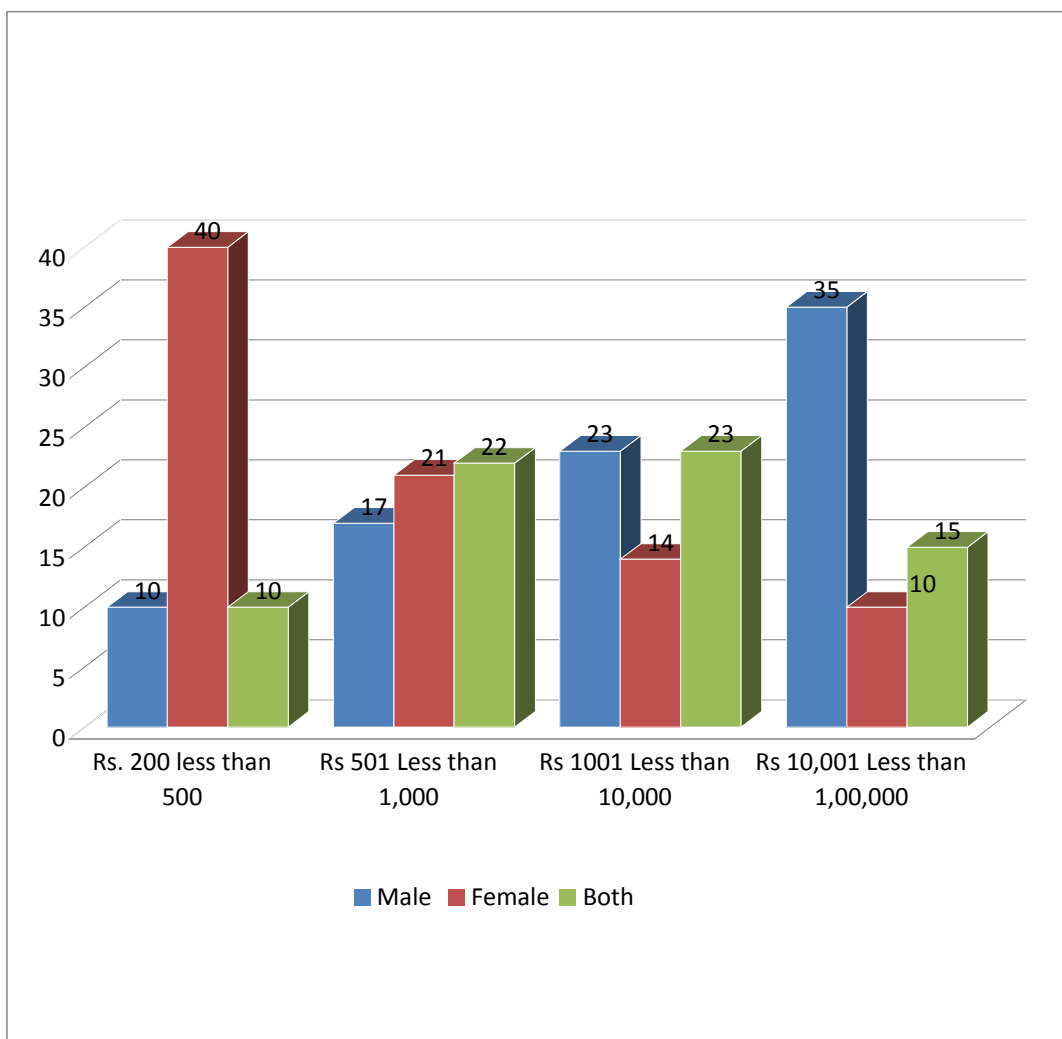
Different sources of taking loans were wealthy people agricultural bank, mother groups etc. Women's decision on taking and giving loan is given in the table No. 4.12.

Table 4.12 Decision on Taking and Giving Loans

Amount	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	Total
Rs. 200 less than 500	10	16.66	40	66.66	10	16.66	60
Rs. 501 Less than 1,000	17	28.33	21	35.00	22	36.66	60
Rs. 1,001 Less than 10,000	23	38.33	14	23.33	23	38.33	60
Rs. 10,001 Less than 1,00,000	35	58.33	10	16.66	15	25.00	60

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.12 shows that, the decision regarding the giving and taking of loan amounting to Rs. 200-500 is made by 16.66 percent of male, 66.66 percent of female and 16.66 percent of both. For amount ranging from Rs. 501-1000 is made by 28.33 percent of male, 35 percent of female and 36.66 percent of both. Similarly the amount ranging from Rs. 1001-10000 is made by 38.33 percent of male, 23.33 percent of female and 38.33 percent of both. For giving and taking of loans above Rs. 10,000 to 1,00,000.00 the decision is made by 58.33 percent of male, 16.66 percent of female and 25 percent of both of them. Therefore, it is clear from the table that the females mostly decided for giving and taking of loans for small amounts ranging from Rs. 200-1,000. But the decision of giving and taking of loans of larger amount like more than Rs. 10,000 and up to Rs. 1, 00,000 is made by both of them. However, in comparison, male mostly decided the giving and taking of loans of larger amount.



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Figure: 4.9 Decision on taking and giving loans

4.3.5 Decision on Buying Household Things

In this section, radio, T.V., furniture and utensils were categorized as household things. The responses from the respondents are shown in the table 4.13.

Table 4.13 Decision on Buying Household Things

Topics	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	Total
Radio	36	60.00	16	26.66	8	13.33	60
Television	40	66.66	10	16.66	10	16.66	60
Furniture	25	41.66	22	36.66	13	21.66	60
Utensils	15	25.00	37	61.66	8	13.33	60

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.12 shows, the decision of male and female and both of them on buying of household things as shown in the table. 60 percent of male and 26.66 percent of female and 13.33 percent of both of them made decision on purchasing radio, 66.66 percent of male and 16.66 percent of female and 16.66 percent of both male and female made decision to purchase television. Similarly, the decision to purchase furniture is made by 41.66 percent of male, 36.66 percent of female and 21.66 percent of both of them made decision to purchase of furniture. Likewise, 25 percent of male, 61.66 percent of female and 13.33 percent of both of them made decision to purchase utensils.

Therefore, as shown in the table, the decision to purchase radio, television, furniture were found to have relatively more say of male. In the same way the decision to purchase utensils is made by woman.

4.3.6 Decision on Planning of Crops

Large number of women in that VDC had participated in agricultural that had empowered them to decide which crops such as paddy, wheat, maize and vegetables. The table shown the frequency and percentage of decision related to planting of crops

Table 4.14 Decision on Planning of Crops

Crops	Male	%	Female	%	Both	%	Total
Paddy	25	41.66	25	41.66	10	16.66	60
Wheat	30	50.00	17	28.333	13	21.66	60
Fruits	38	63.33	20	33.33	22	36.66	60
Maize	40	66.66	17	28.33	3	5.00	60
Vegetables	30	50.00	20	33.33	10	16.66	60

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.14 shows the decision of male and female on planting of crops. As shown in the above table equal (41.66 percentage) of male and female and 16.66 percent of both of them made decision regarding planting paddy, 50 percent of male and 28.33 percent of female and 21.66 percent of both of them made decision to plant wheat. Similarly, the decision to plant fruits is made by 63.33 percent of male and 33.33 percent of female and 36.66 percent of both of them, 66.66 percent of male and 28.33 percentage of female and 5 percent of both of them made decision to plant

maize. Likewise 50 percent of male and 33.33 percent of female and 16.66 percent of both of them made the decision on planting of vegetables.

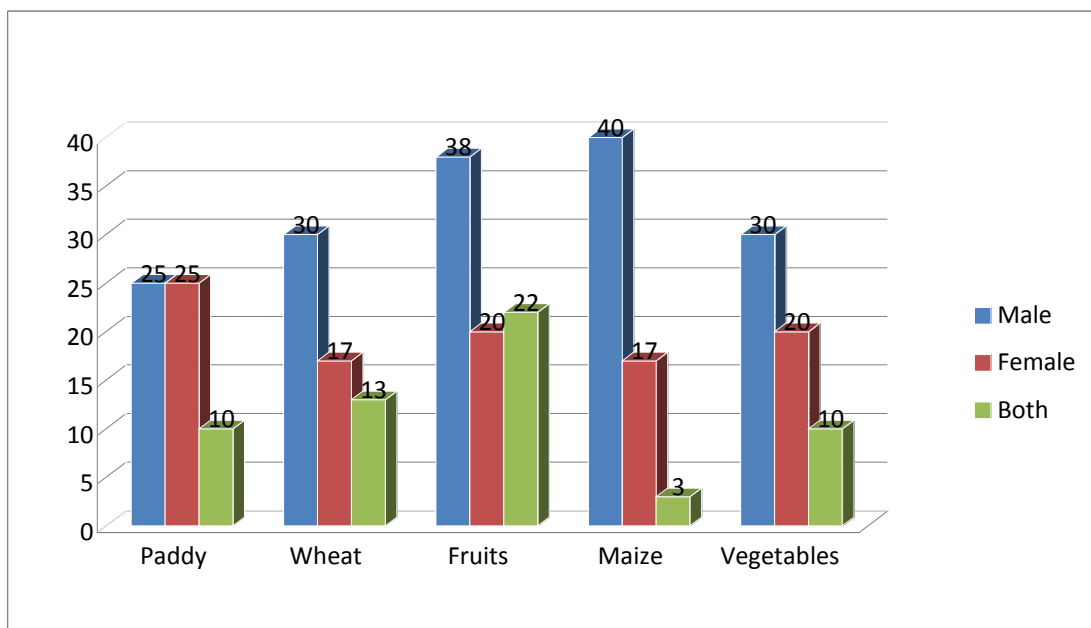


Figure: 4.10 Decision on planting crops

4.4 Supporting factors relating to Household Decision-Making

In this section some supportive information's were interpreted related to household decision-making. Supportive information are subdivided in the following categories.

Service Holder Women

Among 60 respondents only 18 respondents were involved in service besides farming while represent 30.00 percent of the total respondents. But 70.00 percent of the respondents do not hold any job. The respondents are shown in table 15.

Table 4.15 Service Holder Women

S.N.	Variables	No. of respondents	Percent	Total
1	Women doing job	18	30.00	18
2	Jobless women	42	70.00	42
	Total	60	100.00	60

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.15 shows the number of jobholder women. Out of the sample size of 60 only 30.00 percent of women are found to be holding job. This table shown that most of the women are jobless.

4.4.1 Monthly Income of the Respondent from Any Economic Activities

In the Devdaha VDC, among the people engaged in economic activities, some of them produced crops, vegetables, fruits, milk and some of them are businesswoman who earned money by undertaking business. Some of them are service holder. They are earned money by providing service, which is presented in the table.

Table 4.16 Monthly incomes of the Respondents

S.N.	Amount (in Rs.)	No. of women	Percentage
1	Above 5,000	5	8.33
2	1,001 to 5,000	16	26.67
3	501 to 1,000	19	31.67
4	Up to 500	20	33.33
	Total	60	100

Source: Total Household Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.16 shows that monthly income of the respondents from any economic activities. As shown in the table, 8.33 percent of women earned above Rs. 5,000 monthly. Similarly, 26.67 percent of women earned from 1,001 to 5,000 monthly, 31.67 percent of women earned from 501 to 1,000 monthly and 33.33 percent of the women earned up to Rs. 500 monthly. This table clearly shows that a large majority of the women monthly earned between Rs. 1000-500.

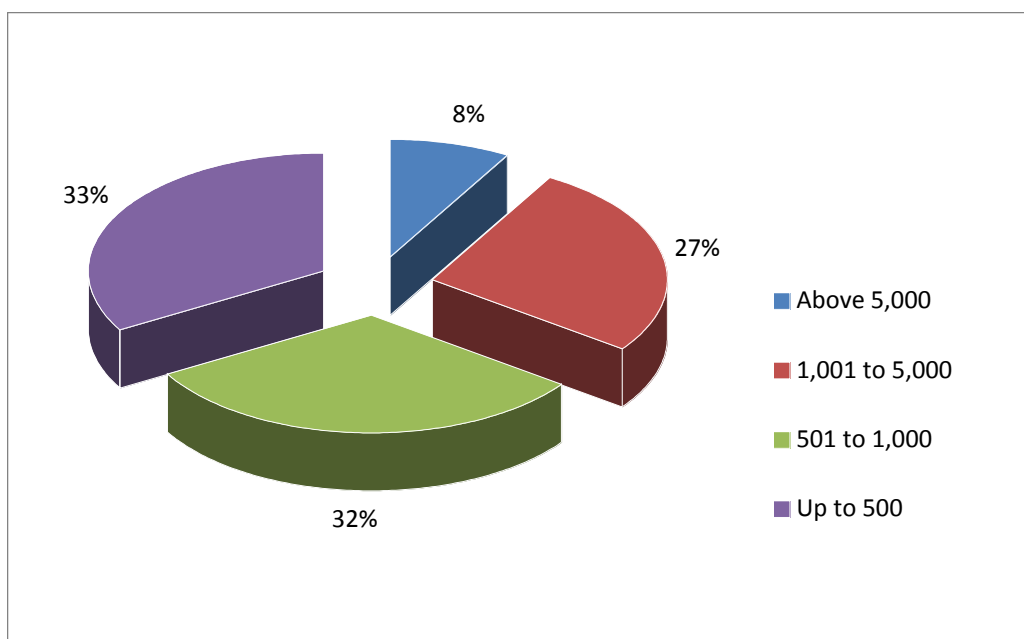


Figure 4.11 Number of Women in monthly income

4.4.2 Decision on Retaining Income

How many women in the village can retain their income coming from whatever economic activities they perform can an indicator to analyze the access of women in decision making in their family. The table below shows the number of respondents who have access in retaining income themselves and who do not have the access.

Table 4.17 holding Income status

S.N.	Keeping income	No. of women	Percent
1	Herself	8	44.4
2	Her husband	5	27.77
3	Father-in-law	3	16.67
4	Mother-in-law	2	11.11
	Total	18	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.17 shows the percentage of decision makers on keeping the income of jobholder women. It is shown in the table that 44.4 percent of the women kept their income with themselves. Similarly, the husband of 27.78 percent of the women decided for utilizing the income. Likewise, the decisions regarding the utilizing the income of 16.67 percent of women was in the hand of their father-in-law. In the same way the mother-in-law of 11.11 percent of jobholder women had the

authority to utilize their income. It is therefore clear from the table that maximum percentage of women had the authority to decide about the utilization of their income.

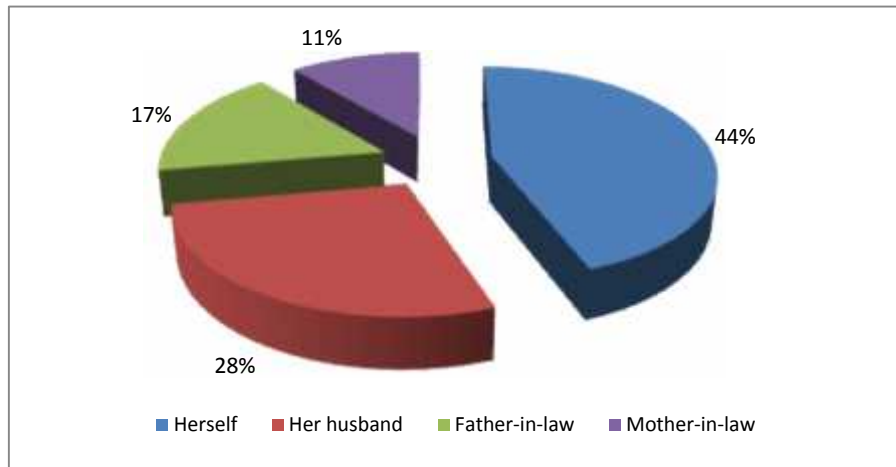


Figure: 4.12 Decision on retaining income of women

4.4.3 Monthly Saving of the Respondents

The portion of disposable income not spent on consumption of their goods but accumulated invested directly in capital equipment on in paying off for different purpose like buying land or house, education, health and security etc. The household women who could make a decision to save and spend themselves for the different purposes; it is on below table:

Table 4.18 Saving Pattern of the Respondents

S.N.	Response	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Yes	18	30.00
2	No	42	70.00
	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Only 18 respondents out of 60 reported that they could have saved money by their own decisions. The above table shows that saving pattern of the sampled. It is shown above that 30.00 percent of women saved their income while 70.00 percent of women did not saved their income. Thus, it is clear from the table that most of the women did not save their income.

4.4.4 Monthly saving of the Respondent on the basis of amounts.

Out of 60 respondents, it seems that 35 respondents have saved money by their income. Women's have engaged in economic activities, some of them produced crops, vegetables, fruits, milk and some of them are businesswoman who earned money by undertaking business and some of them are service holder also.

Table 4.19 Monthly saving of the Respondent on the basic of amounts.

S.N.	Amount (in Rs.)	No. of women	Percentage
1	Above 1,000	3	5
2	501 to 1,000	8	13.33
3	101 to 500	11	18.34
4	Up to 100	13	21.67
5	Non saving respondents	25	41.66
	Total	60	100

Source: Total Household Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.19 shows that monthly income of the respondents from any economic activities. As shown in the table, 21.66 percent of women saved up to Rs. 100 monthly. Similarly, 18.34 percent of women saved from 1, 01 to 5, 00 monthly, 13.33 percent of women saved from 501 to 1,000 monthly, 5 percent of the women saved above Rs. 500 monthly, and 41.66 percent of women none saved any amount. This table clearly shows that a large majority of the women monthly saved between Rs. 100-100.

4.4.5 Land Ownership and Decision-Making

The trend of land ownership in Nepal is in favor of husband but study revealed that 33.33 percent of the respondent had a piece of land in their own name. But 66.67 percent respondents had no land in their own name. The pattern of land ownership is presented in the following table.

Table 4.20 Land Ownership

S.N.	Response	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Yes	20	33.33
2	No	40	66.67
	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Therefore, it is clear from the table that most of the women 66.67 percent of women did not own land.

Table 4.21 Land Ownership Pattern

S.N.	Land	Respondent	Percentage
1	Above 2 Kattha	5	25.00
2	1 katha to 2 katha	7	35.00
3	10 dhur to 1 kattha	6	30.00
4	Up to 10 dhur	2	10.00
	Total	20	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Among 20 landowner respondent, 25 percent had more than 2 Kattha land, 35 percent respondent had 1 katha to 2 katha land, 30 percent had 10 Dhur to 1 katha and 10 percent had up to 10 Dhur land. So we can say that those who have more land in their own name should actively participate in household decision-making.

Table 4.21 Decision on Buying Land

S.N.	Particular	No. of women	Percentage
1	Herself	5	25
2	Her husband	10	50
3	Father-in-law	3	15
4	Mother-in-law	2	10
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

Above table 4.21 shows that 50 percent respondent had bought land by the decision of their husband. Only 25 percent had their own decision. This study reveals that they had land in their own name but they did not have self-decision capacity.

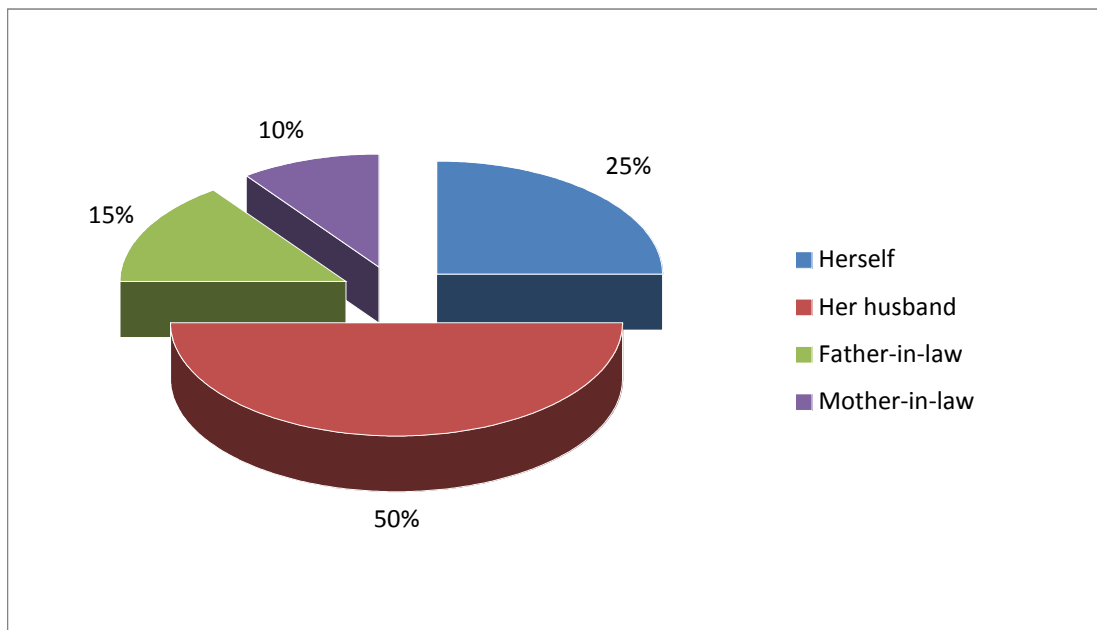


Figure: 4.13 Decision on buying land

4.4.6 Community Group Membership

Community groups are widespread in country. Likewise, Devdaha VDC is not an exception. Respondent were found participating in different community groups. Major community groups found in the VDC are mother group, community forest group and agricultural groups respectively. Responses from the respondents are shown in the following table.

Table 4.22 Membership Pattern

S.N.	Response	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Mother group	40	66.67
2	Community forest users	15	25.00
3	Micro credit users group	5	8.33
	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above 4.22 table shows the percentage of women having some kind of membership. It is shown in the table that 66.67 percent of respondents were the members of mother group. Similarly, 25 percent women were involved in community forest users group. In the same way 8.33 percent of women were involved in user's group. Therefore, it can be concluded that most of the women i.e. 66.67 percent were involved in mothers group.

4.4.7 Role of Women in Community Group

In Devdaha VDC, women's were involving in different community groups. Major of the respondents are in common membership and some women's are involving in executive membership which are shown in the following table.

Table 4.23 Types of membership in community group

S.N.	Response	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Common membership	40	66.67
2	Executive membership	15	25.00
	Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above 4.23 table shows the percentage of women having some kind of membership. It is shown in the table that 66.67 percent of respondents were involving in executive membership. Similarly, 25 percent women were involved in common

membership of community group. Therefore, it can be concluded that most of the women i.e. 66.67 percent were involved in common membership group.

4.4.8 Training and Decision-Making

The study revealed that women from Devdaha VDC are involved in different types of training like cutting/sewing, weaving sweater, computer training, and agricultural training. The following table shows the situations of trainings related to women in study area.

Table 4.24 Type of Training

Type of training	No. of women	Percentage
Cutting/sewing	14	23.33
Weaving	16	26.67
Computer training	7	11.67
Agricultural training	8	13.33
Without having any training	15	25.00
Total	60	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.23 shows that 23.33 percent of the respondents were involved in sewing and cutting training and 26.67 percentage of the respondent were involved in the weaving. 11.67 percent of the respondents were involved in computer training. 13.33 percentage of the respondent were involved in agricultural training. 25 percent of the respondents were not involved in any type of training which shows that majority of the women in that village still remain out of the main stream of women development.

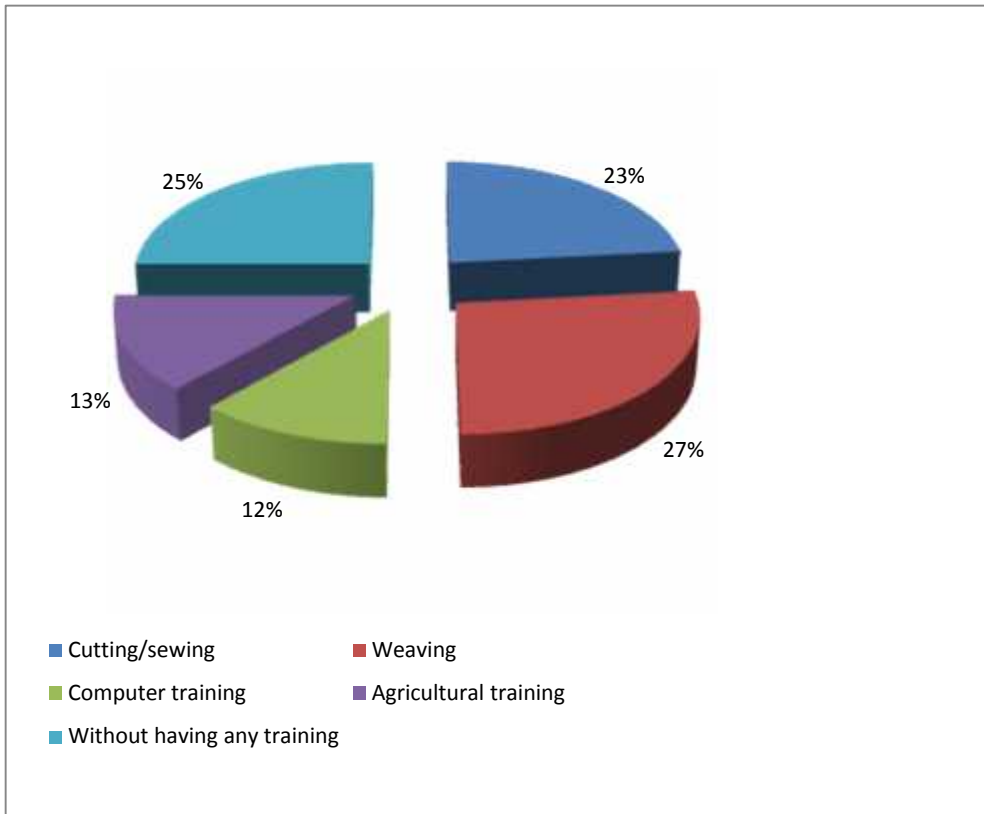


Figure: 4.14 No. of Women in training and decision making

4.4.9 Decision Regarding the Training

Out of 60 respondents, it seems that 45 women's are involved in different types of training in study area like cutting/sewing, weaving sweater, computer training, and agricultural training. For to take all of these training, some women's have decide herself and some women's have taken training decided by their family members The following table shows the decided part of trainings related to women in study area.

Table 4.25 Decision Regarding the Training

Decision taken by	Number	Percentage
Herself	15	33.34
Her husband	12	26.67
Mother in law	5	11.11
Father in law	7	15.55
Friends or any other	6	13.33
Total	45	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014.

The above table 4.25 shows that 33.33 percent of the respondents were involved in training by their own decision, 26.67 percentage of the respondent were involved by their husband's decision. 11.11 percent of the respondents were involved in training by mothers in laws suggestion. 15.55 percentage of the respondent were involved in training by their fathers in laws decision and 13.33 percent of the respondents were involved training by their friends suggestion .The above table shows that majority of the women are involving in the training by their self decision.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The present study entitled "Role of Women in Household Decision-Making: A Case Study of Devdaha VDC, Rupandehi District" is based on the women aged (15-60) years scattered within 1 and 4 wards of the VDC with the objective to analyze the extent of women's involvement in decision making process in household level. To carry out the study effectively household survey with structured questionnaire related to household decision-making were implemented.

The major objective of this study was to investigate and describe the process of decision-making of women in Devdaha VDC and to identify the participation of women in different household decision focusing on autonomy of Devdaha VDC in Rupandehi and lastly find out the factors determining the household decision-making. The study found that women are involved in most activities and decision-making relating to household and other activities. As majority of women do not have the land title and lack of their sources of income, they are dependent upon their husbands. Thus, when it comes to using access to land resources the women lack accessibility. However, when it comes to control of benefits of the resources makes still exercise the control because our society is male dominated society where major decisions are taken by the male household head.

Majority of the respondents depend upon agriculture. The finding shows 40 percent of respondents were Brahmin and followed by cherty 25 percent. Women were found to be actively participating in buying agricultural products but they were found weak in selling decisions. The analysis indicates that when the size of loan is bigger, decisions are mostly made by male. Majority of the respondents were found to be nuclear in type. Relating to the decision on participating in training programs, majority of the respondents stated that they themselves decided to join the training. Some of them said that the final decision was made by others (husband and father in laws). Women from higher family were found weaker in decision making power than lower caste women. Chhetri women were found more decisive than others, it may be the reason that their husband mostly remain out of village side in search of jobs. Study shows

that most of the women from higher caste family found literate and well educated than others but they were found weaker in decision-making process.

5.2 Conclusion

It is concluded that women's in Devdaha VDC are found to be positively involved in communication about household matters, conversely there was low participation of women in household decision making.

The study found that most of the household head were male. The status of women is gradually improving. The status of daughters, daughter-in-laws and mother-in-laws has significantly been changed. Similarly their roles have also been changed. The perception of society towards the roles and status has also been consequently changing. The recent scenario indicates that women have been actively participating in the political and social aspects. The adult age of respondents have strong decision power than young age group. It might be the reason of their maturity and experiences. In such a way women from higher family seems weaker in decision making power. The study found that most of the respondents have got primary level education.. In the context of buying and selling household things male have dominated to female in an average. Such a way, in the context of giving and taking loan, when the size of loan is going bigger, decisions are mostly made by male. Although most of the respondents decided to take any types of training themselves, the respondents who have no land were found weak decision power. Most of the respondents have not involving in job/services. The majority of the respondents have not ownership of land so we can say that most of the respondents cannot take easily decision in the case of buying and selling of land and other property.

In order to promote women's role in household decision-making with gender equality they should be provided with adequate knowledge and skills on these matters. After this study, recommendations are made regarding various educational, managerial measures and future areas of research for promoting women's role in household decision making issues.

5.3 Recommendations

In order to promote women's role in household decision-making with gender equality they should be provided with adequate knowledge and skills on these matters. After this study, recommendations are made regarding various educational, managerial measures and future areas of research for promoting women's role in household decision making issues.

- 1 To achieve better literacy status of women, literacy program should be implemented.
- 2 To provide employment opportunities to the women, proper management should be made to increase girl's enrollment in educational and training activities.
- 3 Women's participation in household decision-making issues must be encouraged.. They should be further motivated to have such decisions even in the matters of all round development of the family.
- 4 To support women in decision making, there should be access to guidance and counseling program in the community.
- 5 To empower women in decision-making issues women should have access over land and property.
- 6 Educating mother-in-law and father-in-law is necessary to overcome women's fear, shyness and hesitation regarding decision-making issues.
- 7 It should be better to more study about the role of women in house decision making process of devdaha VDC focus by caste and geographically.

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APPENDIX-I

Questionnaire for the Survey on Role of Women in Household Decision-Making

Household Questionnaire

1. Information of the Respondent Name:.....

2. Ward:..... 3. Tole:.....

4. Name of Household Head:.....

Occupation:.....

5. Type of Family: Nuclear nuclear Joint

6. Total no. of Family Member: Male Female

Caste:.....Religion:.....Marital Status:.....

Educational status.

a. Illiterate Primary

b. Literate (Only read and write) Secondary

c. Schooling

Occupation: Service Agriculture

Business other Tertiary

Relationship of Respondent with Household Head:.....

Age

Taking household decision. a. Yes b. No

1. Information's Regarding Household Decision Making

I. Who decides buying/selling of agricultural products?

Buying

	M	F	B
Rice			
Pulse			
Vegetable			
Milk			
Fruit			

Selling

	M	F	B
Rice			
Pulse			
Vegetable			
Milk			
Fruit			

II. who decides about education?

Buying

	M	F	B
Books/copies			
Uniforms			
Payment of fees			
School to admit			

III. Decision regarding the cropping pattern.

Crops	Male	Female	Both
Vegetables			
Paddy			
Wheat			
Fruits			
Maize			

IV. Taking/ Giving Loans

Taking Loans Borrowing Giving Lending

Amount	Male	Female	Both
Rs. 200 less than 500			
Rs. 501 to 1,000			
Rs. 1,001 to 10,000			
Rs. 10,001 to 100,000			

V. Buying Household Things

Buying Things	Male	Female	Both
Radio			
Television			
Furniture			
Utensils			

2. Do you have any other job besides farming

a. Yes

b. No

3. If yes, who has decided to do this job?

a. Yourself

b. Your husband

b. c. Mother-in-law

d. Father-in-law

4. How much do you earn Monthly?

a. Above 5000

b. Rs 1,001 to 5,000

c. Rs 501 to 1,000

d. Up to 500

5. Who keeps your income?

a. Yourself

b. Your husband

c. Mother-in-law

d. Father-in-law

6. Do you save some part of your income?

- a. Yes b. No

7. If yes, how much saving Monthly?

- a. Above 1,,000 b. Rs 501 to 1000
c. Rs 101 to 500 d. Up to 100

8. Do you have fixed property in you own name?

- a. Yes b. No

9. If yes, what percent of your whole family's property?

- a. Up to 10 dhur b. 10 dhur to 1 katha
c. 1 katha to 2 katha d. Above 2 katha

10. Who has decided to buy that land in your name?

- a. Yourself b. Your husband
c. Mother-in-law d. Father-in-law

11. Are you a member of any community group?

- a. Mother group b. Users group
c. Community forest d. Other (specify)....

12. What type of membership have you got in your community group?

- a. Common membership b. Executive membership

13. Have you taken any type of training?

- a. Yes b. No

14. If yes, which types of training have you taken?

- a. b.

15. Who does have decided to take part in the training?

- a. Yourself b. Your husband
c. Mother-in-law d. Father-in-law
e. Friends or any other

APPENDIX-II



The researcher visit to Devdaha VDC



The researcher with VDC Secretary for information



The researcher with respondent

APPENDIX-III

