

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

#### 1.1.1 Property

The term 'property' is derived from the Latin word 'propertietal' which means a thing owned. Property refers to the assets and cash that are under authority of disposal of the person. Property is measured as an indicator of the living standard of the person. Property commonly includes house, land, livestock, jewelries, cash, bank deposits and shares. All of the legal rights of whatever description and theoretically; the life, liberty, reputation, all are also known as property of an individual (Lamichane, 2002).

Concept of property comes from philosophy of lock. According to lock when we mixed labor with natural things, then it is our property. According to Robert Nazi, when we are acquired natural property by possession that is our property or principle acquisition of justice.

The life, liberty and right to gain and dispose economic goods as services that are all considered as property (Ilchman, 1997). Moreover, the labor power of a person is also considered as property. Generally it refers to the economic goods and services, opportunities which can be exchanged. Similarly, the Nepalese law defines the term property, as immovable (Achal) and movable (chal). Immovable property includes land, house and other fixed assets and movable means includes the property except immovable property (Civil code 193 section 210).

Furthermore, the eleventh amendment of civil code, in 2002 ensure property rights to women and attempted to provide equal legal rights to a daughter as son. This rights does not seem to be the full- filled property rights, but just like an allowance to maintain the livelihood, because of the women who received property from her parents (or ancestors), has to pay back all property to her male shareholders if she gets married such a provision is not considered as property rights.

Interim Constitution 2063 was guaranteed the right of property. In our constitution 2072 also guaranteed the right to property "Article 25(1) has mentioned that "Every citizen shall, subject to the existing laws, have the right to acquire, own sell and otherwise dispose of property. But 25(2) also describe that the state shall not, expect in the public interest, acquire, requisition, or create any encumbrance on the property of any person. The right of women in the Constitution of Nepal, 2072 Article 38, has mentioned that every woman have equal right to lineage without any gender discrimination. 38(6) both the spouses shall have equal rights in property and family affairs.

### **1.1.2 Women Empowerment**

Empowerment (Autonomy) has been variously defined as 'the ability to obtain information and use it as the basis for making decision about one's private concern and those of one's intimates (Dyson and Moore, 1983). "The degree of women's access to, control over material resources (including food, income, land and other forms of wealth) and to social resources (knowledge, power and prestige) within the family in the community, and in the society at large" (Dixon, 1978).

Women's empowerment means reinforcing their capacity to participate as equal partners in cultural social, economical and political system of a society; without empowering women, actual and effective development is impossible (Baral, 2004).

The International Conference on population and Development (ICPD), 1994 has stressed on the need to enhance the status of women by empowering them. Women empowerment is burning issues of the developing countries. It is the process by which the powerless gain greater in economy, education, health, employment and child related issue in their lives. It includes resources (physical, human, intellectual, financial) and over ideology (beliefs, values and attitudes).

More important than the right to parental property issue to the idea of empowering women by quality education and skill oriented training which will enable them to generate self-employment opportunities and to involve them in wage employment. Land has been continuous to be the most significant form of property in Nepal, thus,

Land can be crucial important in promoting the well-being and empowerment of women. Economic accessibility plays a vital role to women empowerment.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The discriminatory practices against women from her parental property affect all the aspects of personal development, such as, health, education, political participation, employment and so on. Moreover, women's involvement in decision making is also affected by unequal and properties distribution. Regarding such a great issue it is better to enhance a scientific study in this issue of right to parental property and women empowerment. Women empowerment is not a new phenomenon. Constitution of Nepal 2072, give emphasis to make women empowered Nepal government has reserved 33 percent of seats for women in every sectors. The women's issues and problem are not a sectorial problem. It has concerned globally. The women in developing countries are more dominated than they are in developed countries. In the context of Nepal, According to National Report 2011, Female population consists about 51 percent which is higher than that of male. Female literacy rate is 57.4 percent which is lowest as compare to men. Female headed household in the country has 25.73 percent only. Furthermore national report 2011 also shows that female ownership of fixed assets 19.71 percent (National Report, 2011).

There are several basic inequalities faced by Nepalese women under existing property laws. First unless a woman has a large (documented) dowry, pewa or self-earned property her access to land is essentially dependent on marriage and chastity. Second, a women's right of disposal over that she inherits in restricted ways that men's is not. Third, a women can only obtain credit or make a binding financial transaction if she has some exclusive property or she has succeeded to a share in her husband's ancestral property through partition (in her husband's lifetime); or on widowhood. Empowerment is a process by which women can gain power to significantly reduce the forces of institutional deterrents to their development (Agarwal 1994; Bookman and Morgan 1988).

In developing countries, comparison to men, women have no equal opportunities. They are very few accesses to opportunities. In Nepal women also have no equal opportunities in many sectors. Women equal right on parental property is guaranteed by law only. Economic discrimination against women is the root cause of all kinds of backwardness. Women are deprived of all rights such as social, cultural, economic, legal and political.

Force participation rate of Nepalese women in the Nepalese economics is quite high however, employment of women are often confined to less productive sector of the economy. More often women's contribution to the national economy is ignored. The government commitment to gender mainstreaming and several other programs such as micro- credit are bringing women to the main stream of the economy."

In Nepal, the issues relevant to women's right are coming up mostly after the Beijing Conference in 1995. The voices for an equal opportunity and the equal rights are also rising now a day in each sector. As the parental property right to women results to generate other right inconsistent to the existing social system and religious practices, it is being an issue having a great debate. Therefore, Role of parental property and women empowerment has been considered as a central point of this dissertation.

Equality is achieved when women earn the capacity to challenge the existing power relations which place them in an inferior position to that of men. Gender equality is necessary to achieve social justice. The progress towards gender equality and empowerment can be greatly justified if women attain economic independence. Granting land titles to women can help them attain such economic independence. The demand for women's land rights is justified as it provides them with economic security and respectability in their marital relations. In absence of land rights, women can be badly treated by their husbands (Manimala 1983).

According to the ancient Hindu law, women at best could enjoy a lifelong interest in ancestral property only as a widow or as a daughter in a sonless family. Islamic law gives only partial recognition to women's inheritance rights to land but customary law prevents women from exercising their rights in agricultural land (Agarwal 1988).

This study focuses on what are the social changes and economic benefit to women? What are the situation of right of parental property to the daughters especially Brahmin community and how can they empowered?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

General objective of this is to examine role of parental property and women empowerment among Brahmin community in Gitanagar, Chitwan. Specific objectives based on the research questions are as follows:-

- ) To assess the socio-economic context of Brahmin married women aged 15 years and above.
- ) To examine parental property and women's empowerment and
- ) To examine role of parental property on women's empowerment.

#### **1.4 Significance of the study**

Parental property and women empowerment is closely related to economy, which is most important for the development. The discriminatory practices on women from her parental property affect all aspects of personal development. It affects health, education, employment, political participation and so on. It is useful to understand that how parental property affects the empowerment of women and her overall development Brahmin women. Following are the importance of this study.

- ) The study will facilitate for those who are working in the field of women's right in parental property.
- ) It will also be useful for planner, policy maker as well as for the number of NGOs and INGOs in the relevant field.
- ) The findings of the study will be helpful for the future researcher as a means of supporting materials for their study. This study can be helpful for the students of research who are interested to study in this field.

#### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

Limitation of the study controls the researcher to deviate from the content, sample and methodology. Limitations make study valid, systematic and specific. The study has the following limitations;

- ) The respondents are only female age 15 to 49 years especially Brahmin community.
- ) The study was carried out Gitanagar VDC, Chitwan, so the finding represents only this area.
- ) Conclusion drawn from this small sample representing a small area which can't be generalized to the other areas or whole.
- ) It's only to fulfill requirements of Academic degree so it's findings, scope is limited to time and resource.

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

This chapter reviews the literature on parental property and women empowerment. According to Nepali (1996), a sociologist, every society is an integrated system. He says, Nepalese society is not a unified society. Many traditional cultures are still prevailing in the Nepalese society. Their attitude towards women rights on parental property does not coincide with the spirit of proposed bill. Unless laws are made compatible with the existing social norms and values and rituals and constants, no change could be expected to do any good of the society (ILLR, 1996:26-27).

Shrestha is also in the similar opinion that despite constitution guarantees for equal rights for all women suffers injustice of all kinds of social, economic, religious, legal and political. The existing property rights laws are against the spirit of the constitution of Nepal which guarantees equal for women and the deprivation of rights of parental property one of the major causes of women's backwardness.

According to Saakha (1989:21), found that Nepalese women have very few rights regarding the property. This is not a traditional Nepalese view of the matter, because they would claim that head of the family just controls the property which the family owns. To the extent if we view Nepalese family as a collection of individuals each entitled to rights, the Nepalese system is very unfair particularly to women.

According to Sangroula (1996), with respect to guaranty equal property rights to women, the existing laws are silent about modalities of giving rights. The Hindu law in respect of property rights is different from other laws in the western countries. Flexible in nature there is sufficient room in the Hindu law for its amendment to address new social problem. In order to get rid of traditional, religious and cultural values of social thinking we should look into things objectively and better analyze the issue in a legal perspective (ILLR, 1996: 27).

According to Sen (1981) Property ownership generally refers to the legal authority of a person to gain, utilize and dispose the property (economic goods, services and opportunities), which the person has owned. Endowment refers to ownership of assets

and individual's labor power. However, entitlement is the command that an individual can exert over goods and services by two ways: using their own resources in direct production and or by using them to buy and sell on the market. Thus, a person can be entitled to a property ownership if she has the right to gain, utilize as well as dispose over that property. someone may have assets and have labor power but no entitlement if the assets cannot be sold or if paid employment is unavailable so the entitlement power of a person is considered as strong economic power and not only the power of utilize but both, power of the endowment as well as entitlement.

Thapaliya (1996), Women are deprived of all rights socio- cultural, economic, legal and political. Economic discriminations against women are the root cause of all kinds of backwardness. Existing laws are gender- biased and silent about women's property rights.

Malla (2000), The absence of property right to women and unequal and conditional right to property given to women creates the environment of complete lack of access to resources for them permission of daughters is not required for transaction of property that members are supposed to be heads of the family and they have very little share in the mobilization of husband resources and their participation in decision making process is negligible.

Subba (2001:5) expresses his opinion that women are suppressed by their male counterparts in the property right or in the name of gender equality. But women's backwardness is themselves responsible in many cases. So gender equality is necessary to eliminate the gap between men and women in every sector which is the obstacle for development while parental property right of women is one of the issues of gender inequality.

However, in a daily newspaper Dr. Aruna Uperety Writes that if daughters are given full fledged parental property ownership as equal as son, some of the evils may emerge. According to her boy's competition will be in search for daughters of rich parent. Self-development will be lacked behind and a lazy boy will follow the rich daughter to marry. (Kantipur Daily, 2053, Baisakh, 26).

Agrawal (1998), The links between gender subordination and property need to be sought is not only the discrimination of property between households but also in its distribution between men and women, is not only who owns the property but also who controls it, and in relation not only to private property but also to communal property. Further, gender equality in legal rights to own property does not guarantee gender equality in actual ownership, nor does ownership guarantee control. The distinctions between law and practice and between ownership and control are especially critical in the context of gender: For most South Asian women there are significant barriers to realizing their legal claims in landed property as well as to exercising control over any land they do get.

Kandel (2001), the status of Nepalese women legally seems to be strong but institutionally and practically it is very weak. There is discrimination against daughter, wife and widow. Both legal and practical discrimination between sons and daughters and between men and women should be immediately obliterated. The daughter, wife and widow should be guaranteed equal economic, political and social rights as male but the equality between men and women will be based co- operation. It should be necessary to provide equal right of property to women to uplift their status and position.

CEDA, one of the leading research centers about women's property right has clearly stated that though the women have some property as golden silver ornaments and other forms of property they have no real control women don't largely hold the authority of property even legally registered to them (Paneru, 1979:27).

To ensure women's equal access to economic resources including land property, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, community and markets as a means to further advancement to their capacity to enjoy the benefits of equal access to these resources interrelated by means of international co-operation (UN, 1995).

Even in the countries where women have the right to land ownership and property, women have little chance for ownership due to high costs and women's lack of a business practice or knowledge of their right. In a subsistence economy, land offers a place to live and to grow foods. Pressure on the land owner women's ability to



maintain better and feed their families. Women pushed in to marginal parental properties must struggle for survival and face eviction (Seaforth, 1995:20-27). The Beijing Platform of Action 1995 and the Istanbul Habitat Agenda of 1996 (Habitat-11) were powerful landmark agreement of women rights. However, the inequalities they addressed between men and women have roots in societal norms and values that do not change as a result of international agreements or even legislations. Two specific inequalities are control to the concern of the Habitat Agenda: ownership and control of property in women has been addressed by now legislation in the number of countries yet, International discussion in 2000 reveals that it takes more than legislation to bring about equality in women's property rights (Smith, 2001).

As Nepalese women are living under male domination for a long, they are not well educated. Most of the women living in rural areas are even not aware about the rights which are given by existing laws. In this condition if an equal right to partition is given to daughter in parental property, the possibility of being cheated by their support act is also found (Gnayanwali, 1999).

Women empowerment is the center piece of overall empowerment process, worldwide women are the most disadvantaged and excluded group of population, women by and large are the first victim of social, economic, political, legal and cultural barriers. And women's empowerment is the process of main streaming women in all spheres of social, economic, political, legal and cultural activities. Women empowerment can be defined as building capability of women enriched by political, economic, social, legal and cultural power so that they utilize their potentiality for optimum well- being (Pokhrel, 2009).

Women empowerment means reinforcing their capacity to participate as equal partners in cultural, social, economical and political system of a society; without empowering women, actual and effective development is impossible (Baral, 2004).

According to World Bank (2002), advocates empowerment as "the expansions of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable institution that affect their lives." This definition has promoted the voice of those who are disadvantaged and marginalized.

Access to and control over economic resources opportunities such as right to property and employment, non- economic resources such as education, knowledge and technology, increase decision making power both inside and outside the domestic domain, strengthening women's political power and access to positions of power are important to consider empowering the beneficiaries (Tuladhar, 1997/98).

Kabeer (1999) argues that women's empowerment is the outcome of important critiques generated by the women's movement, particularly by third world feminists. They clearly state that women's empowerment requires the challenging of patriarchal power relations that result in women having less control over material assets and intellectual resources. Women participate in their own oppression so they must first become aware of the ideology that legitimizes male domination. The empowerment process starts from within but access to new ideas and information will come from external agents. With new consciousness and the strength of solidarity, women can assert their right to control resources and equally participate in decision making. Ultimately, women's empowerment must become a force that is an organized mass movement which challenges and transforms existing power relations in society.

In rural development, this concept of women's empowerment is central to an understanding of their participation and mobilization, which automatically brings with it the development of leadership for addressing and removing the many forms of gender discrimination which presently leave women oppressed and marginalized in many countries of the third world. It is impossible for us to talk of women's participation in rural development, without facing out to the process of empowerment which enables and utilizes this participation (Bhattarai, 2004).

Empowerment has been defined as the process by which the powerless gain greater control over the circumstances of their lives. It includes both control over resources (physical, human, intellectual, financial) and over ideology (beliefs, values, and attitudes). It means not only greater extrinsic control, but also a growing intrinsic capability greater self-confidence and an inner transformation of one's consciousness that enables one to overcome external barriers to accessing resources or changing traditional ideology (Batliwala, 1994).

In the context of empowerment, Nepalese women have made limited gains in the last couple of decades. Women's educational status and visible economic participation have improved in absolute terms. But on the other hand, gender disparity in access to modern resources and power structure is also increasing (Acharya, 1997).

Labor force participation rate of Nepalese women in the Nepalese economics is quite high. However, employments of women are often confined to less productive sector of the economy. More often women's contribution to the National economy is ignored. The government's commitment to gender mainstreaming and several other programs such as micro-credit are bringing women to the mainstream of the economy (CBS, 2007:157).

The empowerment and self-sufficiency of women, and the improvement of their political, the conglomeration of all this factors further determine the development among women. There should be full participation and partnership of both women and men in productive and reproductive life including maintenance of the household (ICPD, 1994).

Women education is sometime used as a general measure of women's status. We believe education may measure exposure to western idea (Caldwell, 1982).

# **CHAPTER THREE**

## **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter gives the details of the procedures adopted for the research study. It begin by dealing with topics like research design, data collection procedures and tools, sources of data, sample size and sampling techniques, questionnaire design and data processing and technique of data analysis.

### **3.1 Research Design**

Descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the current situation of right to parental property which is guarantees by our constitution.

### **3.2 Data Collection Procedures and Tools**

This study is based on primary data in Gitanagar VDC among women. Data was collected by using structure and semi- structure interview and observation. For collecting the information, a two staged interview was carried out in the Gitanagar VDC Brahmin women's community. In the first stage, the questionnaires were prepared to obtain the basic information of the household such as family size, their demographic, socio-economic and educational status. In the second stage, the detailed investigation was focused on the aspects needed to meet the objective of the study. The information was collected from the respondents. The questionnaires were prepared to obtain general information, socio- economic and demographic condition mobility freedom and decision making process, which mainly explore their empowering conditions.

For this research, the sets of questionnaires and observation were the basic tools of the study. During the study, the data were collected with the help of both structure and semi structure questionnaires.

### **3.3 Sources of Data**

Data has been obtained by using primary source of data. The data had been obtained from the field survey through individual survey, observations and informal interview.

Quantitative types of data have been collected for the purpose of this study. From the field of the survey, primary data has been collected from women in Gitanagar VDC. Secondary data has also been used whether necessary.

### **3.4 Sample Size**

This survey was conducted in Gitanagar VDC. There were 375 female population, among them 200 females were selected for the study purpose that have married women aged 15 to 65 and above years. Therefore, to calculate sample size using Slovin's formula which as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where,

n= Sample Size

N= Population Size= 375

e= Margin of error= 0.05

1 is constant value

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

$$n = \frac{375}{1 + 375 * 0.05^2}$$

$$= \frac{375}{1 + 375 * 0.0025}$$

$$= \frac{375}{1 + 0.93}$$

$$= \frac{375}{1.93}$$

$$= 194.$$

By considering the possibility of non response and refusal error sample size has been infected to 200 where 97 percent of responses and 3 percent are non response found in the total sample size.

### **3.5 Questionnaire Design**

Questionnaire design is very crucial part of any research study. The questionnaire design is such a way to meet the objectives. Data will be collected by preparing precise questionnaire sets. The structured and semi structured questionnaires asked to 200 households of Brahmin women aged 15 to 49 yrs at Gitanagar VDC ward no 6 and 9.

Questionnaire includes: Household Information

1. Family size
2. Literacy status
3. Types of family
4. Land status
5. Occupation
6. Source of income

### **3.6 Research Method**

The research will be based on both doctrine and non- doctrine research methodology. Primary and required secondary sources such as articles, expert opinion, books, and government document are collected and received through libraries and database and the analysis in the processes. The primary data is obtained through both interview and questionnaire method.

### **3.7 Data Processing and Analysis**

The data were collected through various tools, instruments and sources. To simplify the data analysis, the entire completed questionnaires had been edited for accuracy and completeness after completing each day's interview. Coding and editing had been done properly to make data entry and analysis easy. All responses were assigned to a numeric code. After that the collecting data had been processed using SPSS and EXCEL software, which is popular and reliable in analysis of social science research. Based on the software, the collected data were analyzed and statistically interpreted by using approved methods such as simple frequency distribution, percentage distribution, cross tabulation wherever necessary.

### **3.8 Organization of the Study**

Researcher is divided the whole thesis into six chapters. The first chapter talks about the general concept of property and women empowerment. The second chapter discuss about the literatures that are mostly based on parental property and women empowerment. The third chapter is based on research methodology. The fourth chapter is concerned with household characteristics of the study population. The fifth chapter describes woman's role in decision making and the sixth chapter discuss on summary, conclusions and recommendations.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY POPULATION

This chapter represents the demographic and socio- economic characteristics of the household population.

#### 4.1 Age-Sex Composition of the Household Population

The age and sex composition of a population is important in demographic analysis. Age and sex composition is considered as a map of demography history. The various demographic events differ in different age and sex. So, age-sex composition is important in every sector.

The information on age and sex of each household member are obtained from all the age and marital status of women.

**Table 4.1: Age and Sex Distribution of Household Population**

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-14	109	21.6	81	17.8	190	19.8
15-64	355	70.5	349	76.5	704	73.3
65 and above	40	7.9	26	5.7	66	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.1 shows that three categories of the age and sex group of 200 households. Out of 200 sampled of households, highest percent of population are in age group of 15-64 (73.3%) and the least percentage is in 65 and above (6.9%). Among them highest percent of males belong to the age group 15-64 (70.5%), which is followed by age group 0-14 years (21.6%). Similarly, highest percentage of females is in age group 15-64 (76.5%), which even higher than males. The lowest percentage of women are 65 years and above.

## 4.2 Educational Status of Household

Education enhances the ability and capacity of human beings. Education is the most important for the development of people, the nation and the world. Education plays the vital role to bring changes in socio-economic status of people, the nation as well as the world. Education enhances the ability and capacity of human beings. Education level of family also determine the well being of respondent.

**Table 4.2: Educational Status of Household**

Education level	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	37	8.1	96	22.3	133	14.9
Primary	141	30.9	118	27.4	259	29.2
Secondary	116	25.4	113	26.2	229	25.8
Higher	163	35.6	104	24.1	267	30.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.2 shows the distribution of the population by educational status. There were 960 populations in the study area. Among them 72 people were not go school. 14.9 percent have illiterate meaning that 84.1 percent are literate, 29.2 percent have completed primary level, 25.8 percent completed secondary and 30.1 percent completed higher education. The literacy rate is much higher among males (91%) than females. Education by gender is found unequal among the study population. Female education level is lower than that of males that percentage of males is much higher than females at each level of education.

## 4.3 Types of Family of the Household

Family is the basic primary unit of all human beings. All forms of groups, family is the most important primary group. There are two types of family found in the field survey, nuclear family and joint family.

**Table 4.3: Types of Family of Respondents**

Types of Family	Number	Percent
Nuclear	138	69.0
Joint	62	31.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015



From table 4.3 it is observed that 69 percent of respondent belong to nuclear family and the remaining 31 percent belong to joint family. The finding clearly indicates that tendency of nuclear family is growing these days among the Brahmin community in Chitwan.

#### 4.4 Types of Houses

There are three types of houses are found in the field survey. Table 4.4 shows the types of houses of the total sample household, highest percentage of respondents are living in Ardha Pakki house (48.5%), closely followed by those living in Pakki house (46.5%).

**Table 4.4: Types of Houses of Respondents**

<b>Types of Houses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Kachhi	10	5.0
Ardha Pakki	97	48.5
Pakki	93	46.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

#### 4.5 Own Land

Land is the most important indicators of woman empowerment.

**Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondent by Own Land**

<b>Own Land</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	91	45.5
No	109	54.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.5 it is shows the respondent own land. Most of the respondent have own land. 45.5 percent of respondent have own land, 54.5 percent of respondent have not own land.

#### 4.6 Main Occupation

Occupation can also be taken as the important variable that determines socio-economic status of the households. It may also affect knowledge of the whole family members. Basically, occupation is based on the level of education. Table 4.6 shows

that agriculture is the main occupation of the household population in the study area (69%). There are also significant proportions of households that are engaged in service (18.5). The remaining households are engaged in business and other occupation.

**Table 4.6: Main Occupation**

<b>Main Occupation</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Business	17	8.5
Agriculture	138	69.0
Service	37	18.5
Others	8	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

#### 4.7 Decision for Marriage

Decision for marriage in this study is grouped into two categories: (1) parents (2) self. Further information given below:

**Table 4.7: Decision for Marriage**

<b>Decision for Marriage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Parents	175	87.5
Self	25	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.7 shows the percentage of Parents decision for marriage is 87.5. The percentage of self-decision for marriage is 12.5. In this study area parent decision for marriage is higher than self.

#### 4.8 Types of Marriage

Marriage is the universal. Marriage determines the social roles and responsibilities of the people. Therefore, it is called social institution to promote the family.

**Table 4.8: Types of Marriage**

<b>Types of Marriage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Arrange Marriage	172	86.0
Love Marriage	27	13.5
Court Marriage	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.8 indicates that 86 percent of them are arranged marriage, 13.5 percent are love marriage and 0.5 percent respondent found court marriage.

#### 4.9 Education Level of Respondents

The study area is during urbanized process. So that most of the respondent are literate. The main idea of this study is to get general views of literate respondents regarding the equal property right through the help of the survey method where structured questionnaire is used.

**Table 4.9: Educational Level of Respondents**

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	73	36.5
Primary	40	20.0
Secondary	54	27.0
Higher	33	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.9 shows the educational level of the respondent. There are 36.5 percent are illiterate. Most of the respondents have completed secondary level of education (27.0%). 20 percent have completed primary level of education followed by 16.5 percent have completed higher education.

#### 4.10 Educational Level of Husband

Education is one of the means of human development. It is a core stone for the national development. Higher the level of education in the society as a result the country is developed. Education level of husband also affects the families well beings.

**Table 4.10: Educational Level of Husband**

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	17	8.5
Primary	40	20.0
Secondary	75	37.5
Higher	68	34.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.10 shows the educational level of husband. There are 8.5 percent are illiterate. 20 percent are complete primary level, 37.5 percent are complete secondary and 34 percent are complete higher education. Most of the respondent husbands are literate. It is also help the purpose of the study.

#### 4.11 Occupation of Husband

Economic condition of a person depends on his/her occupation and the other economic sources. The following table shows the occupation of husband.

**Table 4.11: Occupation of Husband**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Business	19	9.5
Agriculture	83	41.5
Service	64	32.0
Others	34	17.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.11 shows the occupation of husband. There are four categories found in occupation of husband in the study area. 9.5 percent are engaged in business, 41.5 percent are engaged in agriculture, 32 percent are engaged in service and 17 percent are engaged in others occupation. It is indicate that most of the respondent husband engaged in agricultural sector.

#### 4.12 Have a Child

In our society lack of reproductive right most of the women don't enjoy the right to decide about their children. In this study area most of the respondents have a child.

**Table 4.12: Have a Child**

<b>Have a Child</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	189	94.5
No	11	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.12 shows the child of respondent. There are 94.5 percent respondent have a child, 5.5 percent respondent don't have a child.

### 4.13 Having Bank Account

Following table shows the having bank account of respondent.

**Table 4.13: Having Bank Account**

<b>Bank Account</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	148	74.0
No	52	26.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.13 shows that respondents bank account. 74 percent of respondent have bank account and subsequently have access in banking services. 26 percent of respondent don't have bank account which indicates that majority of the respondents have bank account and access to fulfill their financial needs.

### 4.14 Father's Education

Education is very important for every human being. Father education plays the vital role to enhances the families well being. If father is educated there may be higher chance to educate the whole family. Education of father is also important for daughter empowerment.

**Table 4.14: Father's Education**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Illiterate	105	52.5
Primary	55	27.5
Secondary	28	14.0
Higher	12	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.14 shows the education level of fathers. In the study area 52.5 percent fathers are illiterate, 27.5 percent fathers are complete primary education. 14 percent fathers are complete secondary level and 6 percent fathers are complete higher education. Therefore, most of the respondent fathers are literate.

### 4.15 Mother's Education

Mother education is also one of the most important variables of women empowerment. If women are educate in a family whole family also educated.

**Table 4.15: Mother's Education**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Illiterate	156	78.0
Primary	37	18.5
Secondary	5	2.5
Higher	2	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.15 shows the level of Mothers education. 78 percent mothers are found illiterate in the study area. 18.5 percent mothers are complete primary education. 2.5 percent mothers are complete secondary education and 1 percent mother complete higher education. Most of the respondent's mothers are found illiterate in the study area.

#### **4.16 Father's Main Occupation**

Occupation is one of the important sources of income. Basically, occupation is based on the level of education. Nepal is an agricultural land and most of the population of Nepal depended upon agriculture. Father main occupation also affect the families well being.

**Table 4.16: Father's Main Occupation**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Business	21	10.5
Agriculture	150	75.0
Service	20	10.0
Others	9	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 4.16 shows the respondent father's main occupation. 10.5 percent father's are engaged in business, 75 percent father's are engaged in agriculture, 10 percent father's are engaged in service and 4.5 percent are engaged in others sectors occupation. Most of the respondent father's are engaged in agriculture sector.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### WOMEN DECISION MAKING PROCESS

This chapter analyzes about the women's decision making factors such as mobility, health and family formation, households property and also compare the parental property and women's decision making power.

#### 5.1 Mobility

Mobility is also indicators of decision making power. Certain level of mobility freedom determines the women's empowerment level.

##### 5.1.1 Mobility Freedom

Mobility freedom is also one of the important factors of women empowerment.

**Table 5.1: Distribution of Respondents by Decision on Mobility Freedom**

S.N.	Mobility Freedom	Have Freedom (%)	Don't Have Freedom (%)
1	To go to market	99.0	1.0
2	To go to health center	99.5	0.5
3	To go to friends/relatives	99.0	1.0
4	To go to out of work	95.5	4.5
5	To stay out of home	86.0	14.0
6	To go out of home for entertainment	80.5	19.5
7	To go to join political parties meeting	72.0	28.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.1 shows mobility freedom. In the study area 99 percent have to go to market mobility freedom. Similarly, 99.5 percent have to go to health center, 0.5 percent don't have to go to health center freedom. 99 percent have to go to friends/relatives. 95.5 percent have to go to out of work, 4.5 percent don't have to go to out of work. 86 percent have to stay out of home freedom, 14 percent don't have to stay out of home freedom. 80.5 percent have to go out of home for entertainment, 19.5 percent don't have to go out of home for entertainment freedom. 72 percent have to go to join political parties meeting, 28 percent don't have to go to join political parties meeting.

## 5.2 Decision Regarding Health and Family Formation

### 5.2.1 Decision on Health Related Issues

According to WHO "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of diseases and infirmity in all matters related to reproductive health and it is function and system." From this definition health is also important factors in the human life. So decision on health related issue plays vital role to achieved healthy life. Health status is taken as a quality of life of the people.

**Table 5.2: Distribution of the Respondents by Decision on Health Related Issues**

Health Related Issues	Have freedom (%)	Don't have freedom (%)
To check up with doctors	99.0	1.0
To expenditure on medicine	94.5	5.5
To antenatal check up	82.0	18.0
To delivery check up	82.0	18.0
To postnatal check up	65.0	35.0
To safe abortion	15.0	85.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.2 shows the decision on health related issues. There are 99 percent have freedom to check up with doctors. 94.5 percent have freedom to expenditure on medicine. 5.5 percent don't have freedom to check up with doctors. 82 percent have freedom to antenatal check up and 18 percent don't have freedom to antenatal check up. 82 percent have freedom to delivery check up and 18 percent don't have freedom to delivery check up. 65 percent have freedom to postnatal check up and 35 percent don't have freedom to postnatal check up. 15 percent have freedom to safe abortion and 85 percent don't have freedom to safe abortion.

### 5.2.2 Knowledge on Family Planning

Family planning is also plays the vital role to determine the quality of life of people. Family planning also helps to reduce maternal mortality, unsafe abortion etc. It is also helps to reduce the rapid population growth rate.



**Table 5.3: Distribution of the Respondents Knowledge on Family Planning**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	92	46.0
No	108	54.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.3 shows the knowledge on family planning. 46 percent have knowledge on family planning and 54 percent don't have knowledge on family planning. Most of the respondents don't have knowledge on family planning.

### **5.2.3 Decision on Family Planning**

Decision on family planning also determines the level of women empowerment. In our society women decision on family planning is very poor.

**Table 5.4: Distribution Decision on Family Planning**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Husband	27	29.5
Self	36	39.0
Both	29	31.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.4 shows the decision on family planning. In this study area majority of family planning decision depends upon respondent self (39%). Husband decision on family planning is 29.5 percent. It indicates that most of the respondent allowed to take decision on family planning which helps to get women's empowered.

### **5.3 Decision Regarding Property**

#### **5.3.1 Decision to Buy Daily Utility**

To buy daily utility things is also important the women empowerment. Following table shows the Decision to buy daily utility things.

**Table 5.5: Decision on Buy Daily Utility**

<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Yes (%)</b>	<b>No (%)</b>
Parents	8.5	91.5
Husband	31.5	68.5
Self	79.5	20.5
Others	1.0	99.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.5 shows the decision to buy daily utility things. There are 8.5 percent parents have decision to buy daily utility things and 91.5 percent parents don't have right to buy daily utility. 31.5 percent of husband decision to buy daily utility and 68.5 percent of husband don't have decision to buy daily utility. 79.5 percent self decision to buy daily utility and 20.5 percent don't have decision to buy daily utility. 1 percent have decision to buy daily utility and 99 percent don't have decision to buy daily utility. The majority of self decision is higher than others to buy daily utility.

### 5.3.2 Decision to Buy and Sell Household Property

Higher the participation of women in decision of buy and sell household property, higher the chance to get women empowerment.

**Table 5.6: Decision to Buy and Sell Household Property**

Decision Maker	Yes (%)	No (%)
Parents	26.5	73.5
Husband	52.5	47.5
Self	46.5	53.5
Others	1.0	99.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.6 shows the decision to buy and sell household property. There are 26.5 percent parent's have decision to buy and sell household property, 73.5 percent decision parent's don't have decision to buy and sell household property. 52.5 percent husband decision to buy and sell household property, 47.5 percent husband don't have decision to buy and sell household property. 46.5 percent self decision to buy and sell household property, 53.5 percent doesn't self decision to buy and sell household property. 1 percent self decision to buy and sell household property and 99 percent decision to buy and sell household property are found in the study area. Majority of decision to buy and sell household property are found in husband decision.

### 5.3.3 Dowry or Pawa

Dowry system is the very traditional system in our society. It is one of the most controversial issues. Since this system has been passed on from generation to generations, it does not seem possible to eradicate even the people in today's generation. It's creating major problem in our society. Regarding this study this variable is also very important to analyzing the issue of property right.

**Table 5.7: Dowry or Pewa**

<b>Dowry or Pewa</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	91	45.5
No	109	54.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.7 shows the respondent dowry or pewa. In the study area 45.5 percent have dowry or pewa and 54.5 percent don't have dowry or pewa. The majority of respondent found don't have dowry or pewa. In other hand dowry or pewa also found there.

### 5.3.4 Property Ownership

Own name property is also one of the most important indicators of women's empowerment. If a woman is empower. She can do everything for the family, society as well as the nation.

**Table 5.8: Property Ownership**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	85	42.5
No	115	57.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.8 shows the respondent own name property. There are 200 respondents 42.5 percent have own name property and 57.5 percent don't have own named property.

### 5.3.5 Owned Property Distribution

There are three types of property found in the study area. Following table shows the distribution of own named property.

**Table 5.9: Owned Property Distribution**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Home	9	10.6
Land	75	88.2
Others	1	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.9 shows the respondent own property distribution. Among 200 respondents, 9 respondents have home. 75 respondents have land and 1 respondent is others types of property.

### 5.3.6 Sources of Income of Parents Home

Sources of income of parents home are classified in to four categories. In this study following information are found.

**Table 5.10: Sources of Income of Parents Home**

Sources	Yes (%)	No (%)
Business	17.0	83.0
Agriculture	88.5	11.5
Service	27.0	73.0
Others	19.0	81.0

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.10 shows the sources of income of parents. 17 percent sources of income of parents are found in Business. 83 percent sources of parent incomes are not found in business. 88.5 percent are found in agriculture, 11.5 percent are not found in agriculture. 27 percent are found in service, 73 percent are not found in service and 19 percent are found in other sources of income of parents home, 81 percent are not found in other sources of income of parents. Majority of respondent's parents sources of income are found in agriculture.

### 5.3.7 Controls the Family Income

In our society most of the females have not decision making power. Control ability of family income also determines the women empowerment.

**Table 5.11: Controls the Family Income**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Father	155	77.5
Mother	5	2.5
Self	12	6.0
Brother & Sister	28	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.11 shows the control the family income. 77.5 percent of family income control by father. 2.5 percent of family income control by mother. 14 percent of family income control by brother and sister. Majority of control of family income are found in father. Most of the respondent father's control their family income. It helps to determine the parental property and level of decision making power in the family.

## 5.4 Parental Property and Women's Decision Making Power

### 5.4.1 Education Level of Father and Own Land Distribution

<b>Father's Education</b>	<b>Own Land</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
Illiterate	42.3	57.7	100.0
Primary	49.1	50.9	100.0
Secondary	42.9	57.1	100.0
Higher	66.7	33.3	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.12 shows the fathers education and respondent own land. If fathers are illiterate there may be daughter or respondent have lower chances to be own land. The majority of educated fathers daughters have own land.66.7 percent. Illiterate fathers daughters have own land 42.3 percent.

### 5.4.2 Fathers Occupation and Mobility Freedom

**Table 5.13: Fathers Occupation and Mobility Freedom**

<b>Fathers main occupation</b>	<b>Freedom to go market</b>	<b>Freedom to go to health centre</b>	<b>Freedom to go to friends/ relatives</b>	<b>Freedom to go to out of work</b>	<b>Freedom to stay out of home</b>	<b>Freedom to go for entertainment</b>	<b>Freedom to join politics</b>
Agriculture	37.2	37.1	37.2	36.0	36.5	34.6	36.9
Non agriculture	62.8	62.9	62.8	64.0	63.5	65.4	63.1

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.13 shows the father's occupation and mobility freedom of respondent. Higher the majority of non agriculture occupations of father's daughters have found mobility freedom in the study area. Non agriculture occupations father's daughters has freedom to go to market is 62.8 percent. Similarly agriculture occupation of father's daughters

has freedom to go to market is 37.2 percent only. Therefore higher percentage (65.4%) of non agriculture father's daughters has freedom to go to entertainment.

### 5.4.3 Fathers Education and Decision for Marriage

**Table 5.14: Fathers Education and Decision for Marriage**

<b>Father's education</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Self</b>	<b>Total%</b>	<b>N</b>
Illiterate	88.7	11.3	100.0	106
Primary	92.6	7.4	100.0	54
Secondary	75.0	25.0	100.0	28
Higher	83.3	16.7	100.0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
<b>N</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>200</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.14 shows the father's education and decision for marriage. Higher the majority of primary level father's decision for marriage (92.6%) is found in study area. Followed by illiterate father's also have decision for marriage (88.7%). Self decision for marriage is slightly higher secondary level of education than that of others.

### 5.4.4 Fathers Education and Main Occupation

**Table 5.15: Fathers Education and Main Occupation**

<b>Father's education</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total %</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Illiterate</b>	3.8	77.4	15.0	3.8	100.0	106
<b>Primary</b>	16.7	59.3	22.2	1.8	100.0	54
<b>Secondary</b>	7.1	71.5	10.7	10.7	100.0	28
<b>Higher</b>	16.7	33.3	50.0	0.0	100.0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
<b>N</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>200</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.15 shows that father's education and their main occupation. The majority of illiterate Father main occupation is Agriculture (77.4%) followed by primary education completed father engage in Agriculture (32%) and also engaged in other sectors such as Business (16.7%), Service (12%) and others. The higher education completed parents occupation is higher in Service sector (50%) as compare to other services. This indicates that increase the level of education of parents decrease the occupation of agriculture and their involvement in other sector increases slightly.

#### 5.4.5 Education Level of Respondent and Dowry or Pewa

**Table 5.16: Education Level of Respondent and Dowry or Pewa**

Respondent's Education	Dowry or Pewa		Total%	N
	Yes	No		
Illiterate	36.5	63.5	100.0	74
Primary	46.2	53.8	100.0	39
Secondary	55.6	44.4	100.0	54
Higher	48.5	51.5	100.0	33
<b>N</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>109</b>		<b>200</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.16 shows that education level of respondent and dowry or pewa. The majority of secondary level completed respondent have found higher dowry or pewa (55.6%) in the study area. Higher education completed respondent have found lower dowry or pewa (16%). Illiterate respondent have also found dowry or pewa (36.5%).

#### 5.4.6 Main Occupation and Own Land

**Table: 5.17 Main Occupation and Own Land**

Main occupation	Own Land		N
	Yes	No	
Business	13.1	28.4	17
Agriculture	63.8	23.7	138
Service	17.5	37.0	37
Other	5.4	18.2	8
Total (%)	100	100	
<b>N</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>200</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.17 shows the relationship of main occupation and own land. The highest percentage of respondent engaged in agricultural sector and they have own land.

#### 5.4.7 Education Level of Father and Freedom to Stay out Home

**Table 5.18: Education Level of Father and Freedom to Stay out Home**

Father's education	Freedom to stay out home		N
	Yes	No	
Illiterate	51.1	64.2	106
primary	27.3	25.0	54
Secondary	14.5	10.8	28
Higher	7.0	0.00	12
Total (%)	100	100	
<b>N</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>200</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.18 shows the education level of father and freedom to stay out home. Majority of illiterate father's gave freedom to stay out home. Similarly, primary education completed respondents 27.3% have freedom to stay out home than others.

#### 5.4.8 Education Level of Respondent and Own Land

**Table: 5.19: Education Level of Respondent and Own Land**

Education level of Respondent	Own land		N
	Yes	No	
Illiterate	37.4	36.9	74
primary	21.7	18.3	39
Secondary	24.1	29.3	54
Higher	17.7	15.5	33
Total (%)	100	100	
<b>N</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>200</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 5.19 shows the education level of respondent and own land. Most of the illiterate respondent have own land (37.4). Increase the level of education decrease the own land capacity found in the study area.



## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This chapter presents the summary of the study of findings of the study. It is also includes conclusion and recommendation.

The women empowerment is the current debate where many researchers involve in research to show that there are certain factors that have an impact on women's empowerment. The property is vague issues which is not only important in case of empowerment but also equally profitable for development of women. The 21<sup>st</sup> century issue in gender is equality and equity, and the problem as faced by the women was comes in count in the society. Nepal is a developing country, where a lot of issues such as poverty, unemployment of the youth, illiteracy of the people etc. directly affect empowerment of women. But, the data as obtained from the various secondary resources show that the level of women empowerment is increased day by day. The researcher on this thesis is concentrated on the western part of Nepal, Gitanagar VDC.

The questionnaire was designed to meet the objective of the research. Among the objectives, the socio-economic context of Brahmin community is found high than the other community. The level education, having own land, own property, having bank accounts, mobility of freedoms in the society, and other knowledge are high in the Gitanagar community.

#### **6.1 Summary of the Findings**

- a) The education status of the women in the Gitanagar VDC shows that nearly the females, literacy is 22%, primary level of education is 27%, secondary is 26% and higher is 24%. This shows that the higher education level is minimum at the VDC.
- b) Majority of households belong to nuclear family (69%).
- c) The respondents who have their own land are 45 percent and those who do not have land are 54.5 percent. But the land is taken as the important source in case of women empowerment.

- d) The majority of the households rely on agriculture (69%) but a significant proportion is also engaged in service (18.5%).
- e) Decision of marriage is one of the empowerment indicators. The proportion of women respondents are relatively lower for those who themselves involved in deciding their own marriage. The data shows that 87.5 of the respondent's marriage were decided by the parents without the consent of the daughters and only 12.5 percent women decided their own marriage by themselves.
- f) Freedom in mobility is another indicator of women's empowerment. Freedom in mobility is mainly the decision to join in politics, making entertainment, and self decision on other various household activities. The women who decide to join in politics are 25 percent and involvement in entertainment is 19.5 percent. This means that level of freedom in mobility of women is relatively low.
- g) Regarding knowledge of family planning, majority of women do not have idea about the family planning (54%). Still, about 46 percent of women have knowledge of family planning but its use is decided by the husband.

## **6.2 Conclusions**

Traditionally, land was considered as the parental property which related to women's sustainable livelihood, prosperity, social status, economic security and political power in Nepal. Since women's rights to property have been incorporated into various national and international legal and political documents as significant element of human rights, women's access, ownership and control over land remains largely limited or absent in actual practices. This study had tried to find whether and how there is a mutual relationship between the parental property and women empowerment, and it had tried to answer some other questions such as: how, what kind of, and through which process did women own land in Nepal? What are the factors that determine women's access to and control over parental property? The study had confirmed that many normative and empirically based arguments that parental property ownership would play crucial role in women's empowerment in many ways. But it also had found that land ownership alone has not only be sufficient tool for women's empowerment in Nepal, thus other supplementary factors had a relevant factor. Land especially arable land is considered as major property

(productive assets) in agrarian economic like in Nepal. Traditionally, it is being a divine because of its association with sustainable livelihood, prosperity, social status, economic security and political power in Nepal. However, much of these arable lands in Nepal are in private hands and especially with very limited people (male) and access to these lands are possible mainly through inheritance. The Government of Nepal (GON) has taken initiation on women's sustainable empowerment by favoring women's right to property.

The parental property right is very crucial for women who are poor and illiterate in Gitanagar VDC. Because women's right in, access to and control over land is the most critical factor in women's empowerment and gender equality. Land as property can be kept as collateral to secure loans and credit and used for further investments, education which has been lead to better opportunities and advance in better life. Women's land status has been one of the fundamental areas of women's empowerment process because property rights as land is perceived for its inalienable wealth, empowerment and dignity. Nepal is facing severe challenge to raise the number of rural women on property ownership and has highlighted the need of further studies on rural women's access to land, that challenges also touched this village development committee. Women's access to parental property boosts bargaining power of women at home, enhances confidence, makes legal awareness, strengthens their competence to tackle social and political gender discrimination and augment their autonomy, which has increased the power of women and secure their future. It is because parental property could be kept as collateral and used for further investment, education, loan, which leads to better opportunities resulting in better life. Thus, the parental property has an important role in women empowerment. The Parental property empowers the women on self decision of their life carriers, have good level of primary, secondary and higher quality education, economic prosperity, family income, and other social status in the community.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

Based on the major findings and conclusions, some recommendations are made to improve the empowerment of women in Gitanagar VDC.

- a) The education status should be improved in the Gitanagar VDC in order to enhance the empowerment level of women. The state should be focused on women education to empower.
- b) The women should be equally participated in partition of the parental property. If the parental property is equal, the women can be empowered.
- c) In order to empower of women, the job opportunities should be ensured by the government.
- d) The mobility of freedom for the women should be high in order to empower them. The mobility on the perspectives that the women participation in politics, i.e., political freedom and individual freedom should be ensured in the VDC.
- e) The women should have knowledge of family planning, for the government health related activities should be improved and at the same time the knowledge should be enhanced by the NGOs.

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# APENDIX

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of Population Studies

Kathmandu, Kirtipur

## ROLE OF PARENTAL PROPERTY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

### Household Information

Q. N.	Questions	Response Categories				Code	Skip
Q. 01	Number of family members by age	Age in Years	Male	Female	Total		
		0-14					
		15-64					
		65 & above					
Q. 02	Literacy/Educational Attainment or Illiterate		Male	Female	Total		
		Illiterate					
		Primary					
		Secondary					
		Higher					
Q. 03	What types of family are you living?	Nuclear.....				1	
		Joint.....				2	
Q. 04	What types of house?	Kachhi.....				1	
		ArdhaPakki.....				2	
		Pakki.....				3	
Q. 05	What type of toilet you have?	Kachhi.....				1	
		Pakki.....				2	
		Other.....				3	
	Do you own land?	Yes				1	
		No				2	
Q. 06	If yes, How much land do you own?	Bigha.....				1	
		Kattha.....				2	
		Dhur.....				3	

Q. 07	What is your main source of income?	Agriculture Business Service Other	1 2 3 4	
Q. 08	What is your main occupation?	Agriculture Business Service Other	1 2 3 4	
Q. 09	Have you ever engage in an income earning job during last one month period?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 10	If yes, how much do you earn?	Rupees		
Q. 11	Did your household make any earning by selling product of the food crops during the last 12 months?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 12	For how many months in a year does the income from a sources support your family?	Number of months.....		

### Personal Information

Q. 13	How old are you?			
Q. 14	Marital Status	Married Unmarried Widow	1 2 3	
	Who decided for your marriage?	Parents Brother/sister Self other	1 2 3 4	



	What is the type of your marriage?	Arrange Love Court Other		
Q. 15	Types of family	Nuclear Joint	1 2	
Q. 16	Relationship to the head of the household (status in the family)	Mother Daughter Daughter-in-law	1 2 3	
Q. 17	Occupation	Agriculture Business Student Service Other	1 2 3 4 5	
Q. 18	What is the highest degree you completed?	Grade .....		
Q. 19	Educational Attainment of Husband	Grade .....		
Q. 20	Occupation of Husband	Agriculture Business Service Other	1 2 3 4	
Q. 21	Do you have mobility freedom in following activities?	To go to market To go to health centre To go to friend/relatives To go to out of home for entertainment To go to join political party's meeting	1 2 3 4 5 6	
Q. 22	Do you have child?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 23	If yes how many?	.....		

Q. 24	Who made decision to give birth the child?	Parent Husband Both Other	1 2 3 4	
Q. 25	Who makes decision about treatment of children if they are sick?	Father Mother Husband Self	1 2 3 4	
Q. 26	Do your children go to school?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 27	If no, why?	.....		
Q. 28	Who makes decision about children education?	Parent Husband Self Other	1 2 3 4	
Q. 29	Who decided your treatment when you at risk?	Parent Husband Self Other	1 2 3 4	
Q. 30	Do you have right to decide on following health related issue?	To check up with doctors To expenditure in medicine To antenatal care check up To delivery check up To postnatal check up To safe abortion I am not allowed to make decision	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
Q. 31	Who decided to buy daily utility things at home?	Father Mother Husband Self	1 2 3 4	

Q. 32	Who decided to buy or sell household properties?	Father Mother Husband Self	1 2 3 4	
Q. 33	Do you have dowry or pewa?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 34	If yes, what do you have?	.....		
Q. 35	Do you have own named properties?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 36	If yes, what type of properties?	Home Land Shop Other	1 2 3 4	
Q. 37	Do you have saving account for future?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 38	Does your family income sufficient for household expenses?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 39	If women are given the parental property, the family violence will be.....?	Decrease Increase No effect Do not know	1 2 3 4	
Q. 40	Have you ever used family planning method?	Yes No	1 2	
Q. 41	Who made decision on using this method?	Husband Self Both	1 2 3	

### Parents Information

Q. 42	What is your father's educational status?	Illiterate Literate	1 2	
Q. 43	If literate which level does he complete?	Primary Secondary Higher secondary Above	1 2 3 4	
Q. 44	What is your mother's educational status?	Illiterate Literate	1 2	
Q. 45	If literate which level does she complete?	Primary Secondary Higher secondary Above	1 2 3 4	
Q. 46	What is your brother's education?	Illiterate Literate	1 2	
	If literate which level did he completed?	Grade .....		
Q. 47	What are the main sources of income in your family?	Agriculture Business Service Other	1 2 3 4	
Q. 48	Who controls the family income?	Father Mother Husband Self	1 2 3 4	
Q. 49	How much does your father income per month?	In Rs.....		
Q. 50	What is your father's main occupation?	Agriculture Business Service Other	1 2 3 4	

Q. 51	Who are directly involved in?	Father Mother Husband Self	1 2 3 4	
Q. 52	How much land does your father have?	Dhur Kattha Bigha	1 2 3	
Q. 53	Who decided to buy daily utility things at your home?	Father Mother Husband Self	1 2 3 4	