

CHAPTER – I

1.1 Introduction

A woman is a female human; that is, of the species *Homo sapiens*. The term woman is usually reserved for an adult, with the term girl being the usual term for a female child or adolescent. The term woman is also sometimes used to identify a female human, regardless of age, as in phrases such as "women's rights". "Woman" may also refer to a person's gender identity. Women with typical genetic development are usually capable of giving birth from puberty until menopause. Throughout history women have assumed or been assigned various social roles.

In many prehistoric cultures, women assumed a particular cultural role. In hunter-gatherer societies, women were generally the gatherers of plant foods, small animal foods and fish, while men hunted meat from large animals.

In more recent history, gender roles have changed greatly. Originally, starting at a young age, aspirations occupationally are typically veered towards specific directions according to gender. Traditionally, middle class women were involved in domestic tasks emphasizing child care. For poorer women, especially working class women, although this often remained an ideal, economic necessity compelled them to seek employment outside the home. Many of the occupations that were available to them were lower in pay than those available to men.

As changes in the labor market for women came about, availability of employment changed from only "dirty", long hour factory jobs to "cleaner", more respectable office jobs where more education was demanded, women's participation in the U.S. labor force rose from 6% in 1900 to 23% in 1923. These shifts in the labor force led to changes in the attitudes of women at work, allowing for the revolution which resulted in women becoming career and education oriented.

In the 1970s, many female academics, including scientists, avoided having children. However, throughout the 1980s, institutions tried to equalize conditions for men and women in the workplace. However, the inequalities at home stumped women's opportunities to succeed as far as men. Professional women are still responsible for

domestic labor and child care. As people would say, they have a "double burden" which does not allow them the time and energy to succeed in their careers. Furthermore, though there has been an increase in the endorsement of egalitarian gender roles in the home by both women and men, a recent research study showed that women focused on issues of morality, fairness, and well-being, while men focused on social conventions. Until the early 20th century, U.S. women's colleges required their women faculty members to remain single, on the grounds that a woman could not carry on two full-time professions at once. According to Schiebinger, "Being a scientist and a wife and a mother is a burden in society that expects women more often than men to put family ahead of career."

Movements advocate equality of opportunity for both sexes and equal rights irrespective of gender. Through a combination of economic changes and the efforts of the feminist movement, in recent decades women in many societies now have access to careers beyond the traditional homemaker.

Although a greater number of women are seeking higher education, salaries are often less than those of men. CBS News claimed in 2005 that in the United States women who are ages 30 to 44 and hold a university degree make 62 percent of what similarly qualified men do a lower rate than in all but three of the 19 countries for which numbers are available. Some Western nations with greater inequity in pay are Germany, New Zealand and Switzerland.

A household consists of one or more people who live in the same dwelling and also share at meals or living accommodation, and may consist of a single family or some other grouping of people. A single dwelling will be considered to contain multiple households if either meals or living space are not shared. The household is the basic unit of analysis in many social, microeconomic and government models, and is important to the fields of economics and inheritance. Household models include the family, varieties of blended families, share housing, group homes, boarding houses, houses in multiple occupation (UK), and a single room occupancy (US). In feudal times, the royal Household and medieval households of the wealthy would also have included servants and other retainers. In social work the household is a residential grouping defined similarly to the above in which housework is divided and

performed by householders. Care may be delivered by one householder to another, depending upon their respective needs, abilities, and perhaps disabilities. Different household compositions may lead to differential life and health expectations and outcomes for household members. Eligibility for certain community services and welfare benefits may depend upon household composition.

In sociology 'household work strategy', a term coined by Ray Pahl, is the division of labor between members of a household, whether implicit or the result of explicit decision-making, with the alternatives weighed up in a simplified type of cost-benefit analysis. It is a plan for the relative deployment of household members' time between the three domains of employment: i) in the market economy, including home-based self-employment second jobs, in order to obtain money to buy goods and services in the market; ii) domestic production work, such as cultivating a vegetable patch or raising chickens, purely to supply food to the household; and iii) domestic consumption work to provide goods and services directly within the household, such as cooking meals, child-care, household repairs, or the manufacture of clothes and gifts. Household work strategies may vary over the life-cycle, as household members age, or with the economic environment; they may be imposed by one person or be decided collectively.

Feminism examines the ways that gender roles affect the division of labor within households. Sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild in *The Second Shift* and *The Time Bind* presents evidence that in two-career couples, men and women, on average, spend about equal amounts of time working, but women still spend more time on housework. Cathy Young, another feminist writer, responds to Hochschild's assertions by arguing that in some cases, women may prevent the equal participation of men in housework and parenting.

Decision-making is regarded as the cognitive process resulting in the selection of a belief or a course of action among several alternative possibilities. Every decision-making process produces a final choice; it may or may not prompt action. Decision-making is the process of identifying and choosing alternatives based on the values and preferences of the decision-maker.

Decision-making can be regarded as a problem-solving activity terminated by a solution deemed to be satisfactory. It is therefore a process which can be more or less rational or irrational and can be based on explicit or tactical knowledge.

The world is in 21st century and at the same time it is reduction into a global village. People are participating in the process of global development. There are no national as well as international boundaries in terms of development. But Nepal is a country where darkness is existing under the light. There exist bundles of problem which are discouraging people more forward with freedom. Women's participation in various level of decision making is an essential condition for the establishment of equality, development and peace. In term of decision making and other aspects many different conditions between women by caste and ethnicity.

Traditionally, women in Nepalese households are responsible for household responsibilities, cooking, child-rearing, and collecting fuel wood and water for the home. In addition, many women are involved in farming and other income generating activities, partly due to the fact that an increasing number of Nepalese men are travelling abroad to find work. However, society and the state have been slow to recognize the contribution made by Nepalese women to the country's economy.

According to the census 2011 of Nepal, total population is 26494504, among which 12849041 are males and 13645463 are females. Out of total population 48.56% are males and 51.51% are females which constitutes the sex ratio 94.41, which was 99.80 in census 2001.(CBS,2011) Though there is higher number of female in overall population but females have to bear discrimination in most of sector of socio-economic as well as demographic sectors. They have important and dominant role in household activities as well as other activities but their access and control over resources is limited, which have adverse impact in decision making process.

According to the FAO (2010), around 12.6% more women than men are involved in the agriculture sector, while Action Aid (2013) reports that Nepalese women work an average of 11 hours per day whereas Nepalese men work an average of 8 hours per day. The length of the average woman's working day increased from 10.8 hours in 1981 to 10.9 hours in 1995 (Stree Shakti, 1995). The Resource Centre for Primary

Health Care (RCPHC, 2008) reports that rural women work more hours per day (13.2) than urban women (9.7).

This study is carried out at Machchhegaun Village in Kathmandu district, Bagmati zone. This Village is situated at 10 Kms from central Kathmandu. Total Population of this village is 3628. Among them 1755 are male and 1873 are female. Among the household 531 families are lead by men where as only 207 families are led by women.

Nepalese women are often disadvantaged of their rights in terms of education, health, and economic opportunities. Women are the victims of the centuries-old domination that manifests itself in customs, social norms, social systems, and discriminatory social practices.

There are an estimated 125 ethnic groups in Nepal in addition to a plethora of local languages. According to the CBS (2012), the Newars (who are indigenous to the Kathmandu Valley (Gellner, 1986)) are the 6th largest ethnic group, with a population of 1.3 million. 55% percent of Newars live in the Kathmandu Valley.

The life of women is always difficult in comparison to their male counterpart in Nepal. It is well known that the status of women is lower than that of male. Girls work more that boys (Some times more than twice) in all the age groups. Their work burden increases with age (UNDP: 1997) but it's so painful to mention here that, their work is not considered as the productive work. It is due to the lack of education, poverty, low social values and norms of religious faith etc.

Though Newar women are very active in household and field work, they have been assigned subordinate status to men. In most of the ethnic groups in Nepal there is a traditional myth that women are inferior to men. Customs and traditions about sexual division of labor, limits the status of women only to the household activities are not considered as the economic activities. This tradition is not confined only to the division of labor but it is also determine not only by the work output but also by social cultural factors like decision making process.

The Newars are a successful and well-established ethnic group, with a rich cultural heritage. The Newar community boasts the largest number of feasts and festivals of

all the ethnic groups of Nepal. A number of authors such as Nepali (1988), Gellner (1986), Toffin (2007), Keshav Lall Maharjan (2007), Vaidya and Maharjan (2012) and Ishii (ed.) (2005) have written about the Newars' unique culture, festivals, rituals, costume and lifestyle. The majority of Newar communities are concentrated in various parts of the Kathmandu Valley. Although their primary occupation is farming, some are masons, potters, musicians, artisans and photographers. In recent years, Newar people have also excelled in business and politics. Newar women remain busy throughout the year playing both a productive and social role in the family set-up.

Women play significant role in the development of a nation. Without women participation, goals of development activities cannot be fully attained. Women's inside activities are generally connected with men's outside sphere. It is seen that if women do not manage the household sphere properly men shall not be able to work outside enthusiastically. So the role of men and women are interdependent. But overall burden of women is higher than that of men.

In Nepalese context women of any caste or ethnic groups are generally associated with poor health, illiteracy, unemployment and overloaded. The birth of son brings prestige, identity, entity and dignity to a mother in the Nepalese society. There is saying that "let it be a later", but let it be a son. The position of women has been different in ideology than in practice. In Hindu Scripture women has been given very high position and they are thought to be the foundation of happiness. The religions text has also mentioned the name of many goddesses in the form of Shakti. They are worshipped in the temples. But in practice women are not honored in accordance with the teaching of religious books, rather there evolved a practice of exploiting women on the basis of such religious tradition. In Nepal most of the economic activities are guided by agriculture. The contribution of women to the agriculture economy is greater than male but their contribution is not accounted to the GNP. The life of Newar women is dominated in comparison to their male counterpart in Nepal. Newar women's status in the society results continuous lags in opportunities in education, training, employment, health public life access to economic rights etc. Although Newar women are very active in household and field works, they have assigned very less status to men and in the process of decision making.

Newar women carry burden in the society: as a production worker, Newar women contribute directly to subsistence and income as a mother and wife. Newar women care for the children and the family member; as a community worker. They give all leisure time and labor to the society. Although in Newar community women have various important roles, when it comes to major decision making part male counterpart always dominate the women in almost every situations. It means women are deprived from decision making in social, economic as well as other decisive matters and issues.

1.2 Statement of the Problem:

Nepal is male dominated country where male has high standard than that of female. Females are discriminated in various fields even though lots of laws are activated. Women have low socio-economic status as well as low decision making power. Women have to bear three responsibilities as households, reproduction and economic activities but households and reproduction are not considered productive works.

Gender disparity and discrimination against women irrespective of caste or ethnicity has been a feature of Nepal's predominantly patriarchal society for many centuries. Women have less access to education, knowledge, resources and opportunities than men, and lag behind in both the social and economic spheres.

In Nepal women comprises more than 51.44 percent of total population (CBS, 2011). But only 42.49 percent females are literate (CBS, 2001) women are heavily engaged in domestic chores along with the socio-economic activities. They are the main factor of household management and they have to do more than 50 percent work of household but they have low decision making power. Even in 21st century they are not enjoying with equal decision making power with their male counter parts. They are discriminated since their childhood old age. In childhood they have to live under their parents, in adulthood, they should follow their husbands in old age they are under their children. They have no liberty to decide freely in their life. They do more without own decision.

It is essential for the development male and female should enjoy equal opportunities for decision making either in lower or in higher level of policy making, plan

formulation or in program implementation as well as in monitoring and evaluation sector. Unless women are not bringing into the mainstream of development participating them in decision making process, the path of development will not be smothered. Women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources but from the lack of power to utilize available resources, lack of power to assert their rights. Females are suffering from exploitation and injustice. To empower women their problems of disadvantaged, deprived as well as social injustice and gender disparity in socio-economical as well as decision making process should be addressed and raise the status of female in the society. Policy and programs should be formulated and implemented these properly to omit the problems related to women.

The birth of a baby boy is a cause for celebration in Nepalese society, as he is viewed by the family as an economic asset who will support his parents through old-age, and continues their lineage. The birth of a baby girl, on the other hand, comes as somewhat of a disappointment. As girls are sent to their in-laws' houses following marriage, money spent on their education and healthcare is ultimately viewed as a poor investment. As a result, the overall development of a daughter is accorded less priority than that of a son. Daughters are expected to take on household responsibilities at an early age, often at the cost of their education, health and nutrition. Newar women also fall victim to such social and economic obligations and are excluded or discouraged from involvement in household and family decision making processes because of patriarchal values and power structure in the families. Newar widows are not permitted to re-marry, nor may they lead religious rituals or other functions.

The oldest male is always the head (Thakali/Thakuli) of a Newar family and takes sole responsibility for decision making. However, Newar widow cannot be "thakali/thakuli nakin"(the eldest female in the Newar household). Although the Newars are in many ways more liberal than other Hindu groups, women may not marry a man from a lower Newari caste. In general, Newars that hold very traditional beliefs tend to be more conservative, while those with more education and better opportunities for social participation and economic engagement tend to be more liberal.

1.3 Research Questions

1. Who (men or women) have major role in decision making at household level?
2. How do women contribute to family well being? What is the level of discrimination in household level decision making?
3. What are the challenges for the enhancement of women's capacities in terms of decision making in household level and what are the strategies to address such challenges at household level?

1.4 Objectives of the study:

The main objective of the study is to analyze the role of Women in household decision making in the Newar Community of the Machchhegaun Village, Kathmandu. The study will compare the decision making roles of women in Newar communities in Machchhegaun village with women of other communities.

Objectives in Points:

-) To explore the socio-economic status of women in Newar community in the study area regarding the household decision making & dimension of Household decision making.
-) To assess the level of education, property ownership and employment among Newar women in the study area.
-) To examine the role of women in resource allocation and its utilization in household level & their Contribution in family.

1.5 Rationale of the Study:

This study is attempted to reflect the women's status in terms of decision making power inside the household by caste and ethnicity. Furthermore this study finds out the actual condition of women in household in study area in terms of socio-economic status as well as their decision making roles in house. This study will be very useful for those individuals and institutions who are interested to know the women's household decision making power. It will also be useful even for planners, policy

makers, NGO/INGOs and other organization to formulate and implement appropriate policies, plans and programs focusing the issue of women mainly in decision making sector. It will be helpful for the students of research or gender studies.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This Thesis proposal has been presented into following three units and the report is prepared as following.

- Chapter one deals the introduction. It includes general background of the study. Statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, organization of the study and limitations of the study.
- Chapter Two deals with the literature review for the study. It includes theoretical framework and national context.
- Chapter Three and Four comprises the research methodology used during the field survey and provided a detailed explanation of the research design, sampling procedure, source and tools of data collection, key information survey, data processing and analysis of the study.

1.7 Limitation of Study :

This study has been focused on the role of women in household decision making in the Newar community in a very small range of geographical area of Machchhegaun VDC of Kathmandu district. So, Conclusion or generalization of this study may or may not applicable in the other part of the nation.

This study is limited following variables in household decision making process:

Research variables

-) Child education
-) Household labor allocation / division of labor
-) Household Expenditure and Investment
-) Marriage
-) Women's reproductive

-) Use of contraceptive
-) Number of child
-) Sex of child
-) Agriculture

CHAPTER – II

Review of Literature

2.1 General Literature Review

Though the one of biggest indigenous Newar population has been living in Nepal for thousands of years, the government has not able to include Newar indigenous people in the national mainstream yet i.e. they are marginalized. But fortunately some of the Nepalese and foreign scholars and researchers have paid due attention over this problem. They have made great contribution in identifying its socio-economic and cultural trends and make the government know about them. Some of them have been reviewed as following.

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2007): Socio-economic means relating to or concerned with interaction of social and economic factors 'status' is complex of many elements including economic, political, Social, religious and other relationship. It is certainly not easy task to assess the social and economic' status of people. The term 'Socio-economic' status means' in system of social stratification, it refers to a combination of various social and economic indexes of rank which are used in research studies. The term is often used to deal with stratification in a society without the need for the assumption that these are distinct social classes. The socio-economic status of people is not entirely dependent upon the circumstances of age ethnic life style, geography and number of other variables imposed by the wider national society in terms of constitutional and legal frameworks.

Satnam Kaur (1987) in a case study carried out in Haryana State, emphasizes upon the need to give due recognition of female decision making especially in the case of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She claims that women who are never found as final decision maker in many matters except for case of food and nutrition of the children. Ironically, women are not even free to decide about participation in women's organization such as Mahila Mandals.

Financial decisions are found solely manipulated by husbands except in few cases. She concludes saying planned programs should be designed which support women's

potential as capable and worthy decision makers. Kaur goes on to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women's input in the decision making process. As she observes "educated women are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterpart".

United Nations (1987) focused that the role of young women workers in manufacturing of rapidly industrializing economy is closely associated with the international division of labor. Garment and textile industries of Philippines and Thailand were chosen to analyze the role of women. The data presented in this study indicated that women's employment has been concentrated in the most labor-intensive and wage industries and that in association with this fact, the labor force participation rate of women has risen, much faster than that of men during the export oriented phase of industrialization. The wage levels of men and women are found to be similar in Thailand, but the work burden of women and the task assigned to them does not revealed as the same since the development programs have not effectively addressed women's contribution as industrial workers, fairer laws are required to cover women working in manufacturing. If governments are genuinely interested in protecting women as well as promoting opportunities, then social policies and job related program will be needed to prepare women workers for the new skills and jobs of the future. Report of UNICEF (1987) explains that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still controlled by their limited access to education and information which restricts them from the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capacities. For a large proportion of women, the written word still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male requirement may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. In 1982, in government services only 7 percent of graduated officers and 5 percent of the supporting staff were women. Women constitute less than 10 percent of decision making position at the nation and local level. Most of the decision making concerning activities are made by men. The study shows about 50 percent of decision are made by men, 19 percent jointly and 31 percent by female which shows very low percentage of decision making power on the part of women.

Women make up 16 percent of representatives in both houses of parliament at the global level, which is consistent with trends at the sub-national and local levels. They are more underrepresented in high-level decision-making positions, including as heads of state and government, presiding officers of parliaments and in cabinet positions. Furthermore, women continue to struggle to obtain decision-making positions within political parties. The experts noted that there are a number of factors that can hamper, or support, women's participation in decision-making. Gender relations, like all social relations, are multi-stranded: they embody ideas, values and identities; they allocate labor between different tasks, activities and domains; they determine the distribution of resources; and they assign authority, agency and decision-making power. This means that gender inequalities are multidimensional and cannot be reduced simply to the question of material or ideological constraint. It also suggests that these relationships are not always internally organized. They may contain contradictions and imbalances, particularly when there have been changes in the wider socio-economic environment. Consequently, a shift in one aspect of social relations is likely to initiate a series of adjustments with unpredictable consequences. Advancing gender equality and justice and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility, are basis of population and development related programs. The human rights of women and the girl-child are unchallengeable, integral and undividable part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in Civil, cultural, economic, political, and social life, at the national, regional and international levels, and eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex, are priority objectives of the international community. Universal declaration of human rights, article 21, and every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in their country." It is considered that both male and female are equal by legal and human right but they are separated by different social values, norms and attitudes. Thus, males became more powerful than female in our society. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the empowerment of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and

partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life including shared responsibilities. The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men is a matter of human rights. Moreover it is a condition for social justice and should not be seen as isolated women's issue. It is the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society. The empowerment of women and equality between women and men are fundamentals to achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security to all.

Providing additional services—such as training, channeling services through groups rather than individuals, or alongside other investments in awareness-raising has been shown to have a greater impact on whether women actually exercise more control over resources or have more decision-making power within the household. Combining these ingredients can be critical to empowerment.

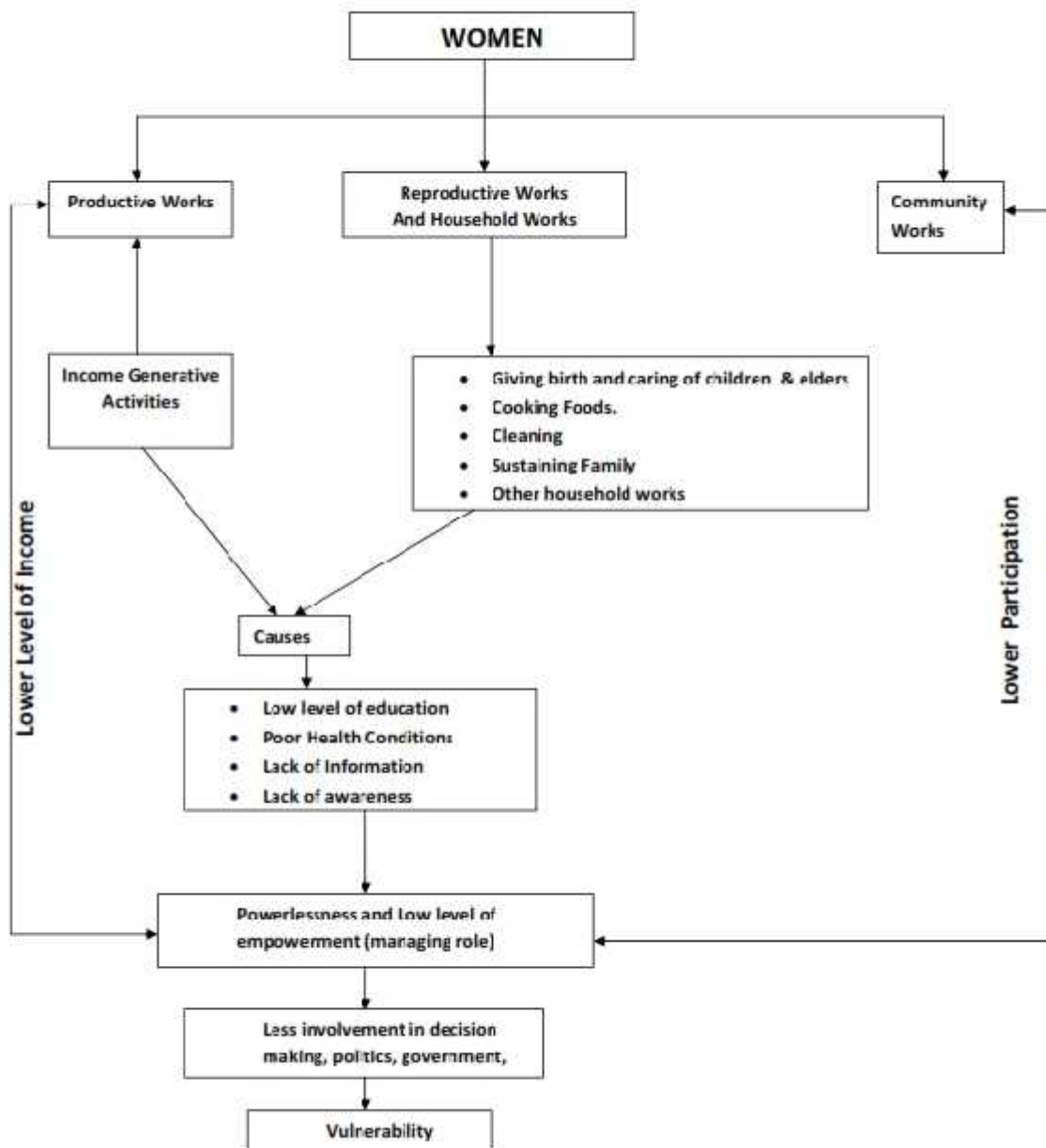
Household decision making—making choices on health care, household purchases, and visits to relatives—is not equally shared between men and women in many countries. When women cannot make health care choices for themselves, they may be more vulnerable to illness and disease as well as to maternal complications. In many countries, men also make the decisions regarding household purchases for both daily items and larger purchases, limiting women's economic empowerment in the home. Additionally, when women cannot decide when to visit their own family, they are subject to social isolation and their personal autonomy is reduced. The question of decision-making begins and ends with a person's ability to have control over oneself, including the body, the spirit, and the mind, and to liberate oneself from external control. She who does not have control over her body and mind would have difficulty gaining similar rights over different spheres of life. Approaching the issue of participation in decision making begins with an analysis based on developing gender. The importance of understanding the economic, social, cultural, and institutional structures within Arab societies, in light of globalization, is also considered. Accordingly, the concept and forms of decision-making are discussed and expanded; and the factors within which women's and men's capacity to contribute to the decision making processes at different levels are analyzed, taking into consideration the emerging and renewed relation among these levels (within the family, the

economy, the state, and civil society institutions). Quantitative and qualitative indicators were relied upon to help understand forms of participation, accomplishments, and gaps. For an advanced comprehensive analysis, decision-making should be regarded as a process. This takes place within political, economic, social, and cultural contexts. This process is shaped in the context of social roles and gender relations within a differentiated distribution of power between men and women, among women themselves, and among men themselves, depending on their social and economic backgrounds. The approach adopted in this report emphasizes the importance of the incorporation of gender in all policies, decisions, and institutions. Women achieved progress in all fields of decision-making (horizontal integration) and at all levels of authority (vertical integration), in decision making. Decision-making takes place within the context of a complex process that is affected by the form and content of the relations of gender roles. These decisions take into consideration women's practical and direct needs, relative to their reproductive roles, in addition to their economic and political productive roles. At the same time, these decisions aim to change gender social roles in order to reach equality within an enabling environment for both sexes and at the same degree. The socio-economic status of women in Nepal is very poor. The women are being discriminated in every aspect of the society. These and so many other factors have contributed to turn Nepal a lower human development state. The participation of women in the people's movement was very high and indeed encouraging. There is no doubt that both men and women contributed equally in people's movement and protection and promotion of human rights, good governance and sustainable peace. However, men only fulfill the state positions. Nepali women have made significant contributions for the democratic processes in Nepal. However, discrimination against women still exists even within the politics. Women face hegemonic character from their male counterparts. They have always been kept away from the decision making roles. Women's role in household decision making is affected directly and indirectly by economic condition. The women have a greater economic participation and will have a greater power in decision making. Similarly social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making. Small size of children implies higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women. Women

have very low participation in decision making process, 70 percent of households related and external decision are entirely made by male members of house. Though females spend their time in household activities, they have less chance to decide for these activities. Both the Vienna and the Beijing conferences and other recent United Nations conferences have contributed to the understanding that women's equality and non-discrimination between women and men, as well as women's equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, do not occur automatically as a result of the overall protection and promotion of human rights. It can be concluded from the above studies that females have low decision making power due to lack of proper socio-economic and demographic status of females. Now-a-days the access of female to resources has been increased but their status has slow motion to forward. Either one way or other females have more responsibilities in household chosen, agricultural activities and other but they have less chance to decide freely. So, it should not be forgotten that without equal participation of male and female in all spheres of households or other activities, there is less chance to be developed societies.

Therefore, women should bring into the main stream of development activities not by only their physical presentation but by providing fully decision making power.

2.2 Conceptual Framework:



CHAPTER-III

3. Research Methodology:

Research methodology is what makes social science scientific. It is a technique which helps researcher to collect data from the fields. It employed for the design on the fieldwork, its implementation and analysis and interpretation of the data collected. Effort has been made for the use of both qualitative and quantitative tools and techniques, in which I have presented the research site selection, sampling procedure, nature and source of data, data collection tools, case study and data analysis.

3.1 Research Site Selection:

This study is carried out at Machchhegaun Village in Kathmandu district, Bagmati zone. This Village is situated at 10 KMs from central Kathmandu. Total Population of this village is 3628. Among them 1755 are male and 1873 are female. Among the household 531 families are lead by men where as only 207 families are led by women. Newar population of the village is 52.12% of total village population out of that 25.5% are male and 27.07% are female.

The study has totally based on ward number 1, 6 and 7 among Newar Community of Machchhegaun VDC. This area had greater number of Newar as compare to other area. There are some reasons to select this area for the study which are as mentioned below:

Any research work in this issue may not have been studies before in this area through the sociology point of view. Being a native person researcher is well familiar in this area and easy to collect real information about role of women in household decision making.

3.2 Research Design:

This research has been designed in investigative method. So it tries to explore the role of Women in household decision making of the study area. So the present study is descriptive in nature which covers only the Machchhegaun village of Kathmandu district.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data:

This study uses both primary and secondary data and information. Primary data have been collected through questionnaire, interview, key information and observation. Similarly, secondary data have been collected from various published and unpublished materials by related organizations such as VDC profile of Machchhegaun VDC, DDC profile of Kathmandu district, CBS 2011 profile etc.

3.4 Sampling Procedure:

All the Newar women residing in Machchhegaun village has been considered as the universe population of the present study and Newar household has been taken as a sample unit. According to Central Bureau of Statistics 2011 total of 738 households have been identified. There are 260 newar household Out of these households 120 respondents were selected by using lottery of sample under purposive sampling. Only 120 respondent women were interviewed during visiting their houses. The sampling procedure is the purposive sampling. There has been selection of those who are interested to give interview.

From each house hold one Newar women of age group 20-60 has been selected as respondents through lottery sampling. Women below 20 years and above 60 years are not included in this study as a sample.

3.5 Data Collection Tools:

Different anthropological tools of data collection like participant observation, key-informant interviews, focus group discussion and data analysis were implemented.

The primary data have been collected from the field survey through various techniques such as questionnaire, interview with key informants and observation method. The structured questions were asked directly to the women to get information about the women's education, employment, property ownership status and their decision making power.

3.5.1 Structured Questionnaire:

The structured questionnaire is used in interviewing the sampled women about their literacy, occupation, property ownership, and decision making role in purchase and sale of livestock and agriculture. Use of improved seeds, buying household things, domestic expenditure, caring on health sanitation caring the children education, family planning etc.

3.5.2 Interview with Key Information:

The present study has been also conducted by discussing with the local teachers, VDC representatives, elder person, women, social workers, etc. to respond the concerns about the women's education, occupation etc. status and family background of the study area.

3.5.3 Observation:

This method has been used to collect the observable information such as women's participation in day-to-day activities their role in household activities. The decision making process in the household observed to find out the women's role.

The data collection through observations has been used to support the structured data in relevant place in the text. Human nature is basically hesitating to explore their weakness so it helped to collect this information through observation.

3.6 Secondary Data Collection:

The secondary data have been collected from various published and unpublished materials by related organizations such as VDC profile of Machchhegaun VDC, DDC profile of Kathmandu district, CBS, 2012 etc.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

Data for this study has been collected from the field survey. This study has been mainly based on primary data. The study has been conducted through the formal method of interview, observation, structured questionnaire, further more secondary

data has been collected by field surveys text books ,statistical reports and previous research studies.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis:

All the collected data have been transcribed into excel texts to ease the data analysis, the data has been analyzed by using simple and suitable mathematical and statistical tool like tabulation, Percentage, mean, frequency and other graphical presentation have been employed as analytical tools.

3.9 Limitation of the Study:

The issue of women particularly in household decision making process is a very huge issue that is not so easy to study at once. This study is focused so as to analyze the situation of women in decision making process especially in household. But the study is only based on decision making in household. This study cove only the selected newar community of 120 households of Machchhegaun village of Chandragiri Municipality, Kathmandu.

CHAPTER -IV

Role of Women in Household Decision-Making

In this chapter, a brief discussion is made on the general physical, social and economic setting of the study areas . A brief discussion of the cultural construction of gender in the Newar Community of the study area is also made so as to conceptualize the analysis of the findings within the cultural settings of the Newar community of Machchhegaun Village, Chandragiri Municipality of Kathmandu. Both primary and secondary data have been employed in this chapter. This chapter deals with the individual respondent's personal characteristics such as education, occupation, marital status and ethnic/caste status, etc.

4.1 Geographical Settings:

This study is carried out at Machchhegaun Village in mid hilly region, which is located at, Chandragiri Municipality, Kathmandu district of Bagmati zone. The village is located west of Kirtipur. It is around 7–8 km far from the center of Kathmandu city. There has been a drastic change in size of population, roads, schools and houses while analyzing the history and the year 2017. Newars used to be a predominant people, culture and language in this place but it has changed recently with the increasing number of local immigrants with other caste and cultures. Random land plotting and town planning has rapidly increased affecting more people to move into this beautiful place. Due to which, agricultural land has been severely affected. Although Kathmandu has been facing the problem of drinking water scarcity and environmental pollution, this place has faced very little because of effective and active management program.

4.2 Demographic Situation:

Total Population of this village is 3628. Among them 1755 are male and 1873 are female. Among the household 531 families are lead by men where as only 207 families are led by women.

4.2.1 Age Composition

Age composition is one of the major important factors for the study .The research is carried out by collecting data from 120 (one hundred twenty) respondent of various age groups. Interview shows role of women in household decision making may be higher of intermediates ages women compared to younger and older ones, which is shown in the table no. 1 below:

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents by Age Group

Sno.	Age group of Respondents	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	20-24	7	5.8
2	25-29	26	21.7
3	30-34	27	22.5
4	35-39	26	21.7
5	40-44	10	8.3
6	45-49	14	11.6
7	50-54	5	4.2
8	55-59	5	4.2
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The above table shows that out of total proportion of respondents 22.5% women are from age group 30-35 years which is the highest proportion of the respondents. Likewise, 21.7% women are from age group 25-29 and 35-39 years, 11.7% women are from the age group 45-49 years, 8.3% women are from the age group 40-45 years , 5.8% women are from the age group 20-24 years, 4.2% women are from the age group 50-54 and 55-59 years, which is the lowest proportion of the respondents.

4.2.2 Caste Distribution

Degree of sever poverty, illiteracy and in-access to decision-making level is highly attributed by group who are never been represented in the true sense of nation state. Therefore, Newar caste variations by groups become one of the important variations to define social illness. The following table clearly shows that the percentage distribution of caste composites of the respondents.

Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents by Caste

Sno.	Newar Castes	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Maharjan	48	40
2	Shrestha	39	32.5
3	Deshar	13	10.9
4	Gopali	9	7.5
5	Mali	5	4.2
6	Shahi /Khadgi	3	2.5
7	Kapali	2	1.6
8	Rajthala	1	0.8
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The above table shows more oppressed Newar caste followed by Maharjan 40% and 32.5 caste followed by Shrestha. Out of 120 respondents 10.9 % caste followed by Deshar, 8 % caste followed by Rajthala. 7.5 % caste followed by Gopali, 4.2% caste followed by Mali, 2.5 % caste followed by Shahi / Khadgi and 1.7 % caste followed by Kapali.

4.2.3 Marital Status:

Marriage is bond of family, role of women in household decision-making factor is affected irrespective of their marital status. Our society is male dominated society. In

the most of the case women are dominated by each of the family of the society, due to this their role in household decision making is always in minority. The Following table shows the respondents marital status.

Table 3: Distribution of the Respondents by Marital Status

Sno.	Marital Status	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Married	113	94.1
2	Widowed	5	4.2
3	Divorced	2	1.7
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the above table it can be justified that majority of the respondents are in the married category, this means most of the respondents have less involvement in household decision making. Generally, widowed and divorced women make their household decision by themselves.

4.2.4 Decision Making Role in Social Activities:

Males and females have different roles in social activities. Males can participate in all social and other activities where as females are restricted only in the family. The exposure of males in different activities supersedes them than females in many respects. The female are made to be passive and silent, and accept whatever the males decide irrespective of the advantages and disadvantages.

The natural right to choose the bridegroom is not given to daughters. Moreover, their mother and other female members are also pathetic in this regards. The final decision is made by male members.

Table 4: Decision making in the choice of Bridegroom

Sno.	Decision Maker	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Husband	58	48.34
2	Wife	38	31.67
3	Jointly	24	19.99
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the above table 4 it is clear that majority of the respondents household has the male domination in the household decision making process.

4.2.5 Education of Respondents:

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. Education enhances the ability and capability of human being to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision making process in the society. In most of the cases, it can be seen that higher educational status played dominant role in decision making field. Those voices are respected who are educated and having higher educational background. The following table shows the education level of respondents.

Table 5: Distribution of the Respondents by Level of Education

Sno.	Education Level	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	52	43.3
2	Pre Primary	32	26.7
3	Secondary	22	18.3
4	S.L.C	8	6.7
5	Intermediate	5	4.2
6	Bachelors and above	1	0.8
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table 5 it can be stated that majorities of the respondents are illiterate thus it is clear that most of the respondents are deprived from household decision making. Even the literate women among the respondents are deprived from their role in household decision making process due to social obligations and male dominant structure of our society.

4.2.6 Education of Respondent's Husbands:

We should try to understand and analyze women's status in relational term. Husband's education is one of the determinants of wife's overall status in the society. So there is also analysis of the husband's education.

Table 6: Distribution of the Respondents by their husband's Education

Sno.	Education Level	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	10	8.8
2	Pre Primary	21	18.5
3	Secondary	50	44.2
4	S.L.C	15	13.2
5	Intermediate	9	7.9
6	Bachelors and above	8	7
Total		113	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Even most of the respondent's husbands are moderately educated from the data in table 6, very few respondents are involved in household decision making due to the male dominant structure and culture of the society. Thus, it is perplexing that even the level of education is not just the issue to deprive the women in participation of household decision making process.

4.2.7 Family Type:

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

There are two categories of family structure mainly nuclear and joint family. Nuclear family refers that family which consist husband, wife and unmarried children while joint family contains husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as other relatives who share the kitchen for meal and reside under the same roof.

Table 7: Distribution of the Respondents by their Family Type

Sno.	Type of Family	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Nuclear	73	60.8
2	Joint	47	39.2
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From this study and data shown in the above table women in the Nuclear family are more involved in household decision making than the women of the Joint families.

4.2.8 Occupation and Source of Income of Respondents:

Occupation and source of income represents the economic status of people. Occupation is considered as main source of income. Following table demonstrates the occupation status of the respondents.

Table 8: Distribution of the Respondents by their Occupation

Sno.	Occupation Status	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Housewife	55	45.8
2	Day Labor	29	24.2
3	Farmer	18	15
4	Business	9	7.5
5	Service	9	7.5
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table 8 it is clear that most of the respondents are housewife , day labor and farmer very few of them are involved in business and service, due to this reason most of the respondents are deprived from their role in household decision making.

4.2.9 Respondents Pattern of Land Holding:

Land is the most important resource of the Newar community. The pattern of land holding not only influences the economic status of household but also conditions of the gender pattern works within households and beyond household. Women are backward in every aspect. They are also deprived from the equal property right. In this study, all the respondents were asked about whether they have land ownership or not.

Table 9: Distribution of the Respondents by their Land Holding Pattern

Sno.	Land Ownership	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	29	23.5
2	No	91	76.5
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 9 shows that current situation of respondents of their land ownership. According to table 23.5% respondents holds land ownership and majority of them 76.5% had no land ownership. Since, most of the respondents have no land ownership they are deprived from any kind of role in the decision making process and are dependent on their male counterparts.

4.3 Resource, Decision Making and Gender

Women’s empowerment can be measured by their decision making “autonomy”. Women’s participation in the household decision making process is an indicator of this autonomy. Women’s participation in different types of household decisions such as children’s education, choice of school for children, personal (her own) health care, pre-natal care, use and method of family planning, contraceptives use ,children’s health care, expenditure on food, other household expenditure, selling household

goods , crop cultivation, receiving credit, use of loans, leaving home for job, and use of remittances received. Specially, in case of decision on household resources those women have greater decision making power who are educated, job holder, have business and who go outside for job or works. These women handle the house with their own choice.

4.3.1 Resource Entitlement, Decision Making and Gender

Patriarchy affects women in monitoring and handling the resources in Nepal in all forms of public and private life. The legal system is one of the biggest barriers for women's rights. There have been the equal and active participation of women and men in all areas of decision making, and in access to and control over resources and services. But there are not. Even household resources women access not in satisfactoriness. Resources entitlement is discuss as following topics:

4.3.1.1 Investment in Any Sector

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

According to this research women's participation is very low in investment in any sectors. In comparison with men women's condition is very low in investment in any sector. There is different condition in investment by caste and ethnicity. Following table shows the detail as:

Table 10: Distribution by their Investment Decision Pattern

Sno.	Investment	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	23	19.5
2	No	87	80.5
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 10 illustrates that even there is discrimination in house hold decision making, issues related with the investment decision pattern seems to be positive among the respondents.

4.3.1.2 Banking Balance

According to this research out of hundred and twenty women, there are few women who have bank balance in total. Following table shows the detail as:

Table 11: Distribution by Respondents having Bank Balance

Sno.	Bank Balance	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	48	40
2	No	72	60
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From depth interview, most Newar women's husband in research area migrate in India and other country working so they have bank account for transferring the money from other country. But for rest 72 % of the respondents who don't have bank accounts are deprived from the major household (specially Financial) decision making.

4.3.1.3 Role of Newar women in Agricultural Decision-making:

Here we intend to study on the contribution of Newar women on household economy. In order to study this is essential to know the capacity or role of women in decision making at house hold level. The table 12 shows that they decide mutually with their male counterparts in context of agricultural works.

Table 12: Distribution in Agriculture related Decision-making

Sno.	Decision Maker	Nos. of Respondents
1	Male	90
2	Female	5
3	Jointly	25
Total		120

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The Table 12 gives information that one third of the respondents replied that the work is done according to the women's decision. But two third replied that male dominate in the agriculture related decision making process. The Study reveals that women who contribute most in agricultural processes are disregarded in terms decision-making process.

4.3.1.4 Role of Newar women in other household Decision-making:

Table 13: Role of Newar Women in other house hold decision makings

Sno.	Activity	By Male	By Women	By Both	Total
1	Loan	120	0	0	120
2	Business	120	0	0	120
3	Children Education	30	70	20	120
4	Family Planning	80	0	40	120
5	Festivals / Rituals	100	0	20	120
6	Politics	115	0	5	120
7	Social Work	117	3	0	120

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The influence of economic activities on decision making has been analyzed. Table 13 shows how women’s involvement in economic activities influences their levels of participation in family decision making processes.

The Table 13 reveals that Women in Newar community have greater responsibilities in production and income generating activities but they alone have almost no role in decision-making. In education and social works very few women respondents replied positively. In festivals / rituals and family planning women are given due consideration but the decision of the male counterparts is dominant as replied by the respondents. It was found that the people who have got exposure and gone to school discuss in the family especially with their counterparts.

4.3.1.5 Personal Properties of women:

Most of the Women are handicapped due to the lack of money. They are unable to get different income generative training and quick education. They do not get the good health services and their mortality rate is also high. So, if they have their personal properties (Sometime termed as “Pewa”) they can generate some more from it and fulfill their basic needs.

Table 14: Private Properties of Women

Sno.	Properties Type	Nos. Of Respondents	Percentage
1	Jewelry	102	84.91
2	Animals (Livestock)	91	75.47
3	Money	80	66.04
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Apart from Jewelry / Livestock / Money newar women among the respondents most on them have no private properties like land / house and other physical properties, it seems that due to this reason respondents have less involvement in the household decision making process.

4.3.1.6 Decision Making on the use of health services:

Wives in the Newar families among the respondents have less involvement in final decision making for expenditure on medical treatments (both traditional / modern).

Table 15: Decision making on the use of health services

Sno.	Decision Maker	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Husband	60	50
2	Wife	45	37.5
3	By Both	15	12.5
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Female are taken as only housekeepers whose main duty is only inside the family. Their decisions do not contribute to the overall development of the family as these decisions can be completely subverted by the male. The females are forcefully made to internalize that they are physically and mentally immature and weak and as a result, they cannot make wise decisions.

4.3.1.7 Decision Making on Children Education:

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. Education enhances the ability and capability of human being to judge for right and wrong. Following Table illustrates the decision making process of the children education among the respondents.

Table 16: Decision making on Children Education

Sno.	Particulars	Husband	Wife	Both	Total
1	Books/ Copies	69	41	10	120
2	Uniform	5	110	5	120
3	Fee Payments	103	7	10	120
4	Selection / Admission in School	75	20	25	120

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Above table shows that female made the decision regarding the uniform of their children only. Though, some of the roles are given to females which are of less value. For example women's participation is higher in terms of selection of uniform as it is considered more or less household chore reserved for women of the house. The major roles are assumed by the males themselves. Thus, the females are engaged only in insignificant things, in which the final and most decisive decision is taken by males.

4.3.1.8 Awareness on Girls Education:

Education is the corner stone of the development and vital indicator of social status. An educated wife and mother naturally have better communication with the outsiders as with increasing educated males within the household. An educated girl can maintain better family healthcare , contribution in slow population growth , boost in productivity and builds confidence in decision making. As girl grows as wife and mother in future and their role to manage the house and raise the children are indispensable education of girls is always a matter of concern.

Table 17: Awareness on Girls Education

Sno.	Yes / No	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	115	95.83
2	No	5	4.17
Total		120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The above table shows view of the respondent Newar women on girl's education. Very few respondents are not in favor of girl's education; as they were not educated and do not know the importance of education. They think that girls will go to their husband's house after marriage. But 115 of the respondents replied that girls and boys are both their children, therefore should not discriminate.

CHAPTER -V

Summary, Major Findings and Conclusion

5.1 Summary:

Nepalese women are often disadvantaged of their rights in terms of education, health, and economic opportunities. Women are the victims of the centuries-old domination that manifests itself in customs, social norms, social systems, and discriminatory social practices.

There are an estimated 125 ethnic groups in Nepal in addition to a plethora of local languages. According to the CBS (2012), the Newars (who are indigenous to the Kathmandu Valley are the 6th largest ethnic group, with a population of 1.3 million. 55% percent of Newars live in the Kathmandu Valley.

Entire analysis focuses upon the role of Newar women in household decision-making. To undertake this study we tried to study the role of Newar women in agricultural production and their contribution in other off –farm household activities.

This study is carried out at Machchhegaun Village in Kathmandu district, Bagmati zone. This Village is situated at 10 Kms from central Kathmandu. Total Population of this village is 3628. Among them 1755 are male and 1873 are female. Among the household 531 families are lead by men where as only 207 families are led by women. All the Newar women residing in Machchhegaun village has been considered as the universe population of the present study and Newar household has been taken as a sample unit. Out of these total households 120 respondents were selected by using lottery sampling under purposive sampling.

Within the prescribed limits, women's roles in household economy, income generating activities and in household decision-making have been analyzed. Further, the demographic, educational and health status of the target groups have been analyzed to draw information. We found the literacy rate of the targeted group is higher than the national average, but their educational attainment is very low. Furthermore their economic status is subordinate. Their major occupations are agriculture, livestock rising, household chores business, labor wage etc. Due to the

very low pattern of land holding they are unable to produce agricultural products, which is sufficient to fulfill their subsistence annual needs. So the respondents do other off farm activities to sustain their livelihoods.

One of the important and interesting pattern which emerged from our investigation is female members have a comparatively less power of decision making than their male counterparts. They might have significant contribution in the decision of many important issues by the heavily depend on the approval and consent from their husband for the execution of both important as well as less important matters. This is due to the many factors. The major affecting factor is their tradition, male dominant social structure and lack of education.

Whatever is their status in household decision making, level of their contribution is more than their male counterparts in household economy. The data shows that, in an average women works 13.2 hours per day which is more than men and their contribution is more by 61.5%. However their status is still subordinate in each and every part of the social activities and in their society.

5.2.1 Major Findings:

This study has been carried out in Machchhegaun Village of Chandragiri Municipality, Kathmandu to find out the socioeconomic condition and women role in household decision making pattern in this research area. In my research area many women of traditional thinking are prevailing. The type of society is patriarchal. In the community we found less involvement of women in different community based events like ward meetings, school managements, community forest and various other social programs. Agriculture being the major source 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 male members of the family. We found high involvement of male in buying agricultural goods , tools or selling the agro products. Male member decide paying labor wages, purchasing and selling livestock and vegetables. Male are paid more than women though they perform same work outside the household which indicates that there is still discrimination between male and female in this society.

In male dominant country like ours, we found a large inequality, male are given preference in main socioeconomic activities. We found involvement of male in district as well as in national level events rather than women. Many opportunities are given to male rather than women from the household bases. Women's participation is little in every decision-making and job opportunities. Regarding the educational aspects most of the women are illiterate and very few have managed to forward their studies up to the Intermediate level. Women of this area mostly involved in agriculture. There is very less involvement of women in other economical activities like business and government officials. Women do not have clear concept to elaborate various economic program to enhance their financial situations.

Though various programs like adult literacy programs, negotiation and seminars are organized by various governmental and non governmental agencies but still the women of this area are lagging behind in educational, economic and social aspects.

5.2.2 Women's Role in Household Decision Making

-) The wives have a greater input in the decision making of the cropping pattern by the husbands.
-) The wives are the main person consulted and the final decision makers for the purchase of livestock while the husbands have greater inputs as indicators and final decision makers for its sales. The other male members have a comparatively greater say in both these issues than their female counterparts. But the other male members including the husbands show the least input in the overall livestock maintenance as compared to the women.
-) Regarding family expenditures, the wives are seen as the main initiators and final decision makers for items like food, clothing, medical treatments, social/religious ceremonies and gift loans to friends. This is due to their closer association to such ordinary matters than the rest of the family. However, these wives rely upon the approval from their husbands even for such unimportant items since the husbands figure as the persons to be consulted regarding all these expenditures. But the husbands are the main final decision makers or the crucial issues like investments. The other male

members usually have either a higher or equal inputs to that of the other female members in the three stages of the decision making process. This clearly indicates that the female members are through incapable of making any effective decision. The joint decisions are found to be very low among the households.

- J While wives have the greatest say regarding the use of family planning measures, the joint decision of both husband and wife also appear to be quite strong. The same trend is evident in the selection of the family.
- J The wives have a greater contribution regarding the decisions in sending the children to school. This can be associated with their greater concern for the children's education.
- J Regarding the women participation in adult literacy classes the husband has a greater control over the decision making of this particular issue. On the other hand, the wives themselves appear to have no such control whatsoever.
- J Although women play greater role and take major responsibilities in every aspect but in the vital and crucial areas men make decision where women's role have been narrowed down only to follow or obey. The crucial areas are selling of properties, marriages of children, migration or deciding factors which in a long run effect in household or family.

Therefore the women have the least or rather no power on the decision making of issues that solely concerns them.

5.3 Conclusion:

On the basis of the findings, it has been concluded that Newar women have more contribution in household activities in comparison to men. They have great contribution in household activities like cooking , firewood collection, water collection , take care of children and elderly members of the family etc. It is seen that only a few number of the male members help their wives in these activities.

Generally , in higher castes most of the males are involved in different government services, local NGO's, political parties and their organizations. So they never help their wives in the household activities but in lower caste , males somehow help their wives in these activities.

Newars are one of the indigenous ethnic groups of Nepal. They have common characteristics of other people only in the aspects of life but they have their own culture, tradition, values, norms and life style. There were 73 respondents which have the nuclear family system and 47 respondents have joint family system. Overall, literacy rate is less than the national average standard. However the female literacy rates in the study are has found gradually increased. Major occupations are agriculture, livestock, and wage-labor. But they spend the significant part of their time in off-farm activities too. The respondent's health status is very low than national average. They still believe on Jhar Fuk , a method of traditional treatment which is not scientific and superstitious. Among the sampled respondents, 79.83% of the populations are economically active and the remaining are children and of old age.

The pattern of landholding is very low. Approximately 50% of the sampled respondent's households hold less than 1 ropani of land.

Though the Newar women are very active at household and field works they have been assigned subordinate status of men. They are confined into their domestic and subsistence activities. The main occupation of these women in each household chores and agricultural activities. Newar women carry a triple burden in the society. These are as a production worker, as a mother and wife and as a community worker.

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ANNEX 1

Survey Questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

Role of Women in Household Decision Making in the Newar Community of the Machchhegaun Village, Chandragiri Municipality Kathmandu.

Central Department of Sociology
T.U, Kirtipur

1. Name: _____

Age [] Chandragiri Municipality Ward No. []

2. Marital Status:

a. Married [] b. Widow [] c. Unmarried []

3. Family Type:

a. Nuclear [] b. Joint []

4. Your Education:

a. Illiterate [] b. Literate:

i. Primary education [] ii. Secondary []

iii. Intermediate [] iv. Higher Education []

5. Husband's Education:

a. Illiterate [] b. Literate:

i. Primary education [] ii. Secondary []

iii. Intermediate [] iv. Higher Education []

6. Your Occupation

- a. Agriculture [] b. Business [] c. Service [] d. Wage labor []
e. Carpentry [] f. Tailoring [] g. Household work [] h. Others []

7. Husband's Occupation

- a. Agriculture [] b. Business [] c. Service []
d. Wage labor [] e. Carpentry [] f. Tailoring []
g. Household work [] h. Others []

8. Land holding area: _____

9. In your house female member have ownership in any property?

- a. Yes [] b. No []

If yes, what types of asset is registered.

- i. land ii. Livestock iii. House
iv. Bank or financial institution deposit v. other _____

10. Please help me with detail information of your family.

S.N.	Name	Sex	Age (Years)	Education	Occupation	Marital Status

11. How many children do you have?

- a. Son [] b. Daughter [] c. None []

12. Who decides this cropping pattern?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
13. What types of seed do you use?
a. Hybrid [] b. Local []
14. Who decides for seed selection?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
15. How do you plough your field?
a. Tractor [] b. Ox/Buffalo [] c. Others []
16. Who decides for ploughing your field?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
17. Who decides for harvesting your crops?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
18. Do you use qualitative fertilizers?
a. Yes [] b. No []
19. Who plays vital role for managing irrigation facility?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
20. Who decides for spreading manure?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
21. Are you engaged in livestock rising? Please inform me with the number of livestock's.
a. Cow [] b. Ox [] c. Buffalo []
d. Goat [] e. Pig [] f. Chicken []
g. Pigeon [] h. Others []
22. Do you sell live stocks and its products?
a. Yes [] b. No []

23. Who decides about the purchase of live stocks?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
24. Who decides about the sale of live stocks?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
25. Who decides to spend the money obtained from the sale of live stocks?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
26. Where did you get treatment when you suffered from illness?
a. Health center [] b. Private clinic []
c. Hospital [] d. Dhami/Jhakri (Guruwa)
27. Who decides to take care for treatment ?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
28. Do you use family planning ?
a. Yes [] b. No []
29. If yes, who decided to use family planning method?
a. Self [] b. Husband v c. Both []
30. Where did you deliver your first baby ?
a. Home [] b. Hospital []
31. Who made this decision ?
a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both v d. Others []
32. Do your children go to school?
a. Yes [] b. No
33. Are boys given priority over girls to go to school ?
a. Yes b. No [] c. Equal []
34. Do you think that girls should go to school ?
a. Yes [] b. No []

35. If not, why not? _____

36. Who decides whether your children go to school?

- a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both []

37. Are you participating in adult literacy rate classes?

- a. Yes [] b. No []

38. If yes, who made this decision?

- a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both []

39. Who decides to provide educational materials and fees for your children?

	Self	Husband	Both
Books/copies			
Uniform/dress			
Payment of fees			

40. Do you spend your income in your family (if any) ?

- a. Yes [] b. No [] c. Sometimes []

41. If yes, where do you spend your income?

- a. Purchase of land [] b. Purchase of jewellery []

c. Household expenditure:

- i. Health [] ii. Food [] iii. Clothing []

- iv. Festival [] v. Others []

42. Who decides to spend your income?

- a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []

43. Who generally keeps the household money ?
- a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
44. Who usually goes to the bazaar for purchase?
- a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
45. Do you lend/borrow your money?
- a. Yes [] b. No []
46. Who decides to lend/borrow money?
- a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
47. Do you sell your agricultural products when it is surplus?
- a. Yes [] b. No []
48. If yes, who decides to sell the agricultural products?
- a. Self [] b. Husband [] c. Both [] d. Others []
49. What are the main causes that make socio-economic status of women in the Newar community low?
- a. Lack of education [] b. Patriarchal [] c. Culture []
- d. Inferiority [] e. Lack of awareness []
50. What do you suggest to improve socio-economic status of women in Newar community?
- a. Promote the education [] b. Equal property right []
- c. Priority in job opportunity d. Skill promotion []
- e. Social and cultural attitude towards women [] f. Others []