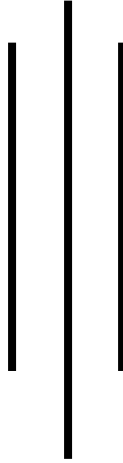
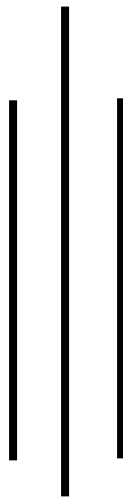


Changing Status of Rural Women
(A Case Study of Namsaling VDC Ilam Dirstrict)



A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, Mahendra Rathna Multiple Campus, Ilam, Department of Rural Development for the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development.



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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis **Changing Status of Rural Women (A Case Study of Namsaling VDC, Ilam District)** submitted to the Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Mahendra Ratna Multiple Campus, Ilam, is entirely my original Work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my Supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented to submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purpose. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any from before.

.....

(Pabitra Chamlagain)

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ABSTRACT

The Present study **Changing Status of Rural Women: A Study of Namsaling VDCs, Ilam District** is based on Primary information collected from field survey.

Nepal is an independent democratize country where the changing status of the women can play vital role for the national development, but in male dominated country female are considered low standard and of less value. In recent years people have started realizing the importance of women role and participation in the economic as well as social and development activities

In Namsaling VDC most of the women have grater household responsibility than men. They have less access in higher study, less access in socio- economic status and less authority for decision making which is main subject of the study.

The main subject of the study to analyze the socio- economic status of women, the changing status of women and role of women in household in decision making on Namsaling VDC. In this context, this study is case on women of Namsaling VDC of Ilam District Nepal.

In order to fulfill objectives, 41 households the study area were selected. Information was collected from primary and secondary sources, questionnaire, focus group discussions, and key information were the major tools of data collections. This study analyzed the socio- economic status of women, especially in education, health, marital status property ownership, occupation, age status, family structure of Namsaling VDC at Ilam district.

In the study area the condition of women's education was low. The higher (73.17) percentage of women are literate. (26.82) percentage women were engaged in agriculture and the source of income is agriculture. Then health status is satisfaction. (43.09) percentages of women have ownership in land property and (56.09) percentage women have no ownership property.

The study show women have the low decision making in their personal life. They also have the low decision making in social participation activities. Women are deprived of the decision on specific economic issues in their male dominated family. Therefore, we should extremely participate the women to develop their status as well as the nation with proper policy and program.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Bikram Sambat
CA	Constitution Assembly
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CFUG	Community Forest User groups
DDC	District Development Committee
ETC	Et Cetera
HHS	Household
I.e.	That is to say
ILO	International Labour Organization
KM	Kilometer
LTD	Limited
MA	Master Degree
NCDC	Namsaling Community Development Center
NHDR	Nepal Human Development Report
NO.	Number
PA	Poverty Alleviation
PAFN	Poverty Alleviation Fund Nepal
S.L.C	School Living Certificate
T.U	Tribhuvan University
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VDC	Village Development Committee
ILO	International Labour Organization
DDC	District development Committee
No.	Number
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VDC	Village Development Committee

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1. 1 Background of the study

Nepal is an agricultural country. It is located in the South Asia between China and India. It covers the land area of 1, 47,181 square kilometers and it is situated in a rectangular shape with North West to South east orientation. It is divided administratively into five development regions, fourteen zones and seventy-five districts. (poudel, 2005)

According to the CBS2001, the total population of Nepal is 2,31,51,423 where (1,15,87,502)50.6 percent are female and (1,15,63,921) 49.94 percent are male. CBS 2011, the total population of Nepal is 2,64,94,504 where (1,36,44,670) 51.5 are female and (1,28,49,835) 48.5 percent are male. It means that women constitute more than half of population in Nepal. The majority of population Nepal is illiterate and most of them are women. (CBS, 2001 and 2011)

Women are poorer because they have fewer economic opportunities and less autonomy than men. Their access to economic resources, education training and participation in decision- making are limited. For the development of nation women play vital role. In male dominated country, like Nepal, female has been given low status and of less value. But in recent years people have started realizing the important of women's participation in the economic as well as social development. The socio economic status of women greatly enhances the progressive development of the nation. Man and women have now started participating on equal footing development country activities in many developed countries having faith and relationship as that of “muscles with the nail of finger” (Bhusal, CBS2004)

Employment status of female seems gazette 5.13 percent and non-gazette 8.55 percent in organized sector. The three types of work done by women,

Productive, Reproductive and Community Management: Productive means all tasks that contribute economically to the household and community, such as crop and livestock production, handicrafts production, marketing and wage employment means task carried out to reproduce and care for the household and community, such as fuel/water collection, food preparation, child care, education, health care, home maintenance and community management means the common tasks carried out to support social events and services at the community level, such as ceremonies, celebration, community improvement and political activity (Luitel; 2065, 216).

Women are ignored in Asia and African countries. A large number of women in South Asian countries are affected by social evils, conservative culture in these countries the birth of a son is celebrated with great joy but a girl brings a great disappointment and frustration in the family. So it is direct or indirect effect on their family status all social traditions offer examples of the oppression of women in which religion is implicated. History shows that more than 1, 00,000 witches were burnt in Christian Europe. In India innumerable widows have died on their husband's funeral pyres. The feet of Chinese women were bound for countless generations to please their men-folk. The genitals of African women were mutilated because it was believed that such mutilation would make them better wives and mothers. These examples present the extent of cruelty bestowed on women in various societies (Luitel; 2008)

Economic activities of women are always underestimated, because household works, which take about 10-11 hours a day, is not classified Poverty can never be defined with the under the economic activities. A typical Nepalese women work about 18 hours a day. She works from early to late night. She is also occasional participant in labor market. But even in the working day her economic activities are supposed to be autopsied with her housework. It is because the boundaries of household works are themselves not clearly defined. In our society women are considered for burn to serve her husband in Nepal women play full and active role in domestic economy (poudel 2005,)

Beside household works such as cooking meal, fetching water, collecting

firewood, cleaning household and utensils, washing clothes, looking after domestic animals and caring for children and unable. They are also equally participating in agriculture activity without any recognition of their efforts. “This is generally true that at sometimes, especially in the busy season of agriculture, women are required to bear full load a day productive or some sacrifice of their regular household task including care children and aged (Subedi 1993).

Women play a significant role in the development of a nation. In the past women were considered as second grade citizens in most of the countries including Nepal. Nepali women are daughter, wife and mothers but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men. The more difference in physical structure does not make it necessary for one sex to lose complete human identity and live in surrender to the other sex. Harmonious coexistence should be the guiding principle in the relationship between man and women and not as if one were a slave and other were master. Men must read just their opinion of women

Women have not been empowered to participate in the social and economic development in a fully fledged manner excluded from the development process. The deep rooted gender stereotyping in the socialization pattern role models has consistently inhibited women from coming out of traditional cocoons. Reorganization of the need improve the status of women and to promote potential roles in development is no longer seen only as an issue of human rights of social justice(Sajal 2004,)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Although, the share of women in total population is more than half in Nepal, status in society compared to men is quite miserable. Women are lag behind in access education, health and other facilities. It is the fact that more women are illiterate than men.

Rural women involved in low productive sectors, as a result low wage and higher

underemployment prevails in rural areas. Most of the rural women population is involve in agriculture. Women have been compelled to endure discriminatory practices in every steps of life due to the patriarchal perception. Women have been regarded as ‘week’ in every sectors of the society.

According to the census 2001, about 83 percent of household head are men .In government services, there are very few female employees and it is growing up smoothly. Low status of women is mainly due to less involvement in the income generating activities.

Nature of women poverty can be visualized in terms of low caloric intake, lack of basic health facilities, high burden of household and fieldworks, low life expectancy, illiteracy, no access in public sector and less inputs involvement in the most important area of the family decision making. But in this study the case of women's poverty is being dealt with the context high burden of household chores and field works, less opportunities and minimum participation in the family decision making. Household works include all productive and non productive works which have use value but not exchange value such as cooking, fetching water, firewood, cleaning household, taking care of the children and old etc.

In Namsaling VDC women have greater household responsibilities than men. However, ownership right over family properties rests on the men, not in women. The study area of this thesis mainly concerns with less access of women in the higher education and less authority for socio- economic decision making. Therefore, no single action would be sufficient to change the socio economic status of women. Some common problem related to women are low levels of property right and education, little participation in income generating activities and decision making power, low access in employment, social status and economic status in family etc. It was the main problem that women used to live depending life due to low level of skill and education status. However, at present some women are involved in socio-economic activities and getting better socio- economic status. More specially, this study attempts to answer the following research questions.

- Why do they have poor status?
- What is the change in their status?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objectives of this study are to analyze the changing status of women. The specific objectives are as follows.

- To analyze the socio economic status of women in Namsaling VDC.
- To analyze the changing status of women in Namsaling VDC.
- To analyze the role of women in household decision making in Namsaling VDC.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

Every research has their limitations. It has also norms and values. The study of "the changing status of rural women" of Namsaling village is only limited to Namsaling VDC of Ilam district. In this village, the study about the socio-economic characteristics of women causes of low status and the changing status of women and role of women in household decision making. So the situation of women could be different than women of other village.

The limitations of this study are as follows:

- This study is conducted for the completion of the partial fulfillment of master degree in rural development. It does not cover a detailed study due to the constraint of time and resources. So the conclusion drawn out from the study depended upon availability of the respondents so there may be possible errors.
- The study itself is a learning process.

1.5 Organization of the Study

The topic changing status of rural women is our study has divided mainly into six chapters. Chapter first presents background information of the study, Statement of the Problems, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, organization of the study. Chapter second presents a literature review.

The chapter third is related with research methodology used during our field study for data generation, selection of the study area, research design, nature and source of data, universe and sample size, data collection tools and technique.

The chapter four comprises the Socio-Economic Background of the respondents including socio- economic characteristics of women. The chapter five presents the causes of women's low status and changing status of women in the study area and role of women in household decision making. Chapter six deals with summary conclusion and recommendation derived from the whole study.

CHAPTER – II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Nepal is one of the poorest countries of the world. The income level of Nepalese women is very low. As women make half of country's population education of women is very important and it should receive top priority in the context of development of modern Nepal women's health is a societal issue. Improving women's health and well being improves not only their own life but also those of their children and contributes to improve household and community welfare.

Women's situation is very poor in health, education, participation, income generation, self-confidence, decision-making, access to policy making and human rights. The insurgency for more than 10 years between the rebels has further widened this gap (Kiran, 2008).

This is the important part of research work. The literature review has been done under the review of conceptual study. For this, different journals, books, reports, previous research works, article etc. have been reviewed. Other published and unpublished documents related to subject have also been studied.

2.1 Status of Women

The term "status" denotes not only the conjunctions of rights and duties, as reflected in women's survival roles as mother, wife and daughter in law but also the degree of subordination in home, education the number of son has, the economic status of family as measured by numbers of utility items found in house, degree of participation in public life, role in decision making in family affairs and self-perceived status in this home and the community.(Acharya and Benette)

Asian Women who have been subjected to acute social, economic and political prejudice and oppression in the past and which continues even to this day, may be to a lesser degree. The monopolies of economic and political power as well as access to knowledge are the three major instruments by which the present structure of inequality between and within nations is maintained. The position is further

belittled by the fact that work is considered as “non-productive”. This undervaluation of women’s contribution to the economy is closely associated with inferior social status and also “the relative loss of individual freedom and status with the family (Lean, 1996).

Traditionally, rural women have contributed substantially to household income and participated substantially in the household decision making process. But with commercialization of the rural economy is losing ground relative to men because women are less equipped to cope with commercialized economy. The majority of the rural households are fast losing access to community resources, such as land and forest. Rural women are the greatest losers with increasing work burden and reduce access to resource. (Luitel, 2008).

2.1.1 Women and Social status

The social status of women in Nepal is generally low, a situation attributable both to the general poverty of the country and the gender biased distribution of power and resources, in the family and society. The birth of a boy brings prestige, identity and also dignity to a mother and family in the Nepalese society. Boy is welcomed by the celebrities and rejoices at the occasion. Nepali women are daughters, wife and mothers but are not recognized as individual with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to be submissive role, confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities due to their maternal function. They are discouraged and prevented to take part in public life (Subedi; 1993)

The social, economic and political conditions of women in a society depend on the state of society structure. From stage of virtual slavery only a quarter of a century ago, are entered the age of rights and equality in the political and economic spheres. the revolution have The years after seen a change in the traditional views and attitudes towards. In the less developed areas, the idea of equal opportunities and development is gaining ground. Women were given a high status in the Hindu

traditions, but in social concept for giving equal practical opportunities were not possible still very recently. (Usha 2003)

women were limited to the care of children and affairs within the wall of home. The change brought in 1950, played a historic role in the social, economic and political sectors, as also in the domain of equal rights and opportunities for women. The change took place in its history and at present women is capable to hold the responsible jobs in government as well as non-government sectors. (Usha 2003)

Social status of a girl child is also affected by practices of dowry, bride price and different marriage customs prevalent among ethnic group. Girl child also poses a problem that sexual purity has to be ensured and arrangement has to be made for getting decently married. A majority of ethnic groups assign a secondary status to women. A barren woman is scorned in all communities (Pradhan 2001,).

2.1.2 Women and poverty status

Poverty has been described from different perspectives; income based poverty, weakness in different aspects of human development and social exclusion are the aspects of poverty. Women are behind than male from these kinds of aspects.

The status of female is very poor in terms of access to resources. They have very low access properties at house, land and livestock. This show the gender inequality in terms of access to resources. According to census 2011 only 19.4 percent households have female access to resources as land, house and livestock, either one or more than one. Women's access to land and property is derived through her marriage relationship. A marriage woman has no right in her parental property. She gets on equal share in the husband's property together with her son, if she remains faithful to him and his clan. This is server's limitation on women's access to all productive assets. (Website: 16 July, 2013)

Poverty plays the vital roles in social restriction on women's mobility are limited. Families trade control over women's activities in exchange for increased income. At the same time, export industries tend to have heavily feminized workforces, which

range from 50 to 90 percent female. While many of these jobs are described by liberals in the west as "Sweat shop exploitation" the women who work in these units see them very differently. These jobs give young women a space where women are able to escape the supervision of families. The income from jobs often results in greater decision making power, and experience of the wider world can embolden these women speak up for themselves. (Sauza 1980).

Nepal is a developing country "women are poorest among the poor" because they have less access to resources income and employment opportunities than men. This is particularly due to limited access to education and traditional gender bias in attitudes concerning women's activities. According to the CBS report 2012 literacy rate of population above (15-24) years male and female 71.6 percent and female is 44.5 percent. However, women in rural areas of the country are involved intensively in family activities and household works. So, their estimated earned income index is 0.345 in which mean is 0.485.

Rural women involved in a low productivity, low wage and higher underemployment sector. Most of the rural women population is involved in agriculture. Women have been compelled to endure discriminatory practices in every step of life due to the patriarchal perception. Women have been regarded as 'weak' in every sectors of the society. According to the census 2001, about 83 percent of household head are men. In government sector of Nepal, there are very few female employees and it is growing up smoothly. Low status of women is mainly due to less involvement in the income generating activities. (Acharya 2001)

2.1.3 Women and Agriculture status

The economy of Nepal is totally based on agriculture production. In agriculture women play a major role as they actively participated in various farm activities 98.1 percent of the economically active rural women are agriculture worker, hence women importance.

According to Sauzsa (1980) in the countries of South Asia, between 70 to 80 percent of total female workforce is employed in agriculture activities either as cultivator or farm labor.

The role of women in various farm activities is crucial not only because of the variety of agricultural activities they perform. Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables, fruits and livestock farming. The role played by women is significant in the development of the nation. But all these works by women are considered voluntary (Shrestha, 2001)

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. Although women bearing triple burden, housing, field works, product down to the desk of the work. Therefore in Nepalese rural society women are lagged behind than men in education, politics, ownership of poverty, decision making economic and so on.

Women are discouraged in respective fields. More over their role in agriculture sector is decisive. But they are not evaluated properly and they are underestimated in their work (Singh, 1995).

2.1.4 Women and Economy status

The situation of women in economic sector is very poor in the developing and underdeveloped countries like Nepal. Most of the women are deprived from their rights. However, the voice of equal rights to women is raised everywhere, who are not getting the opportunities in every sectors.

Women work longer hour than men. Women spend much more activities than men of subsistence activities and domestic work. In these activities the work loaded of women exceeds that of men by more than 25 percent. Over 70 percent are confined to self employed, unpaid and low wage in formal sector activities between 1991 and

2001. There six fold over the same period. They constituted almost 23 percent of the labor force in this sector in 2001. (Shtri Shakti; 1995)

Having very low level of per capita income of US\$ 190, Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. More than 70% people are under absolute poverty (World Banks, 1990). All these data show the economic background of the country. The rural women's condition is more miserable than that of their male counterpart/ even though women constitute one third of the total formal labor force, their participation in economic activities in decision making seems negligible. About 29, 64,003 women who are economically active which is nearly 32% of the total population of women (UNDP 1995).

The majority of women in Nepal are engaged in four occupational sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, trade and services. In these sectors economically active population may be categorized as:

- a) self employed
- b) employed
- c) non paid family workers

Rural women have contributed greatly towards the agro-economic development of Nepal but their involvement of reciprocal type, which is called "Parma" (Labor exchange). Nepalese women spend 11 hours a day as compared to 7.51 hours for man. Again women's contribution will be 50% to total income, the rest 50% goes to both men 44% and children of 10-14 age groups 6 %.(Website: socio- economic status of women 16 July 2013)

The need for improving women's role in the economic development effort should widely recognized by governments as national economic and social goal. Land is still the most important form of collateral for agricultural credit. If due to lack of land ownership, women are not able to obtain credit for agriculture inputs, the land cultivate less economically productive. If women must resort to high interest unsecured loans or to the mortgaging or advanced sale of crops, the land cultivate is apt to be less economically productive. This may result women contributing less to rural economics and having less economic incentive to best utilize productive resources. (Word Bank 1995)

2.1.5 Women and Education status

Education is the most important factor for the development of human personality. If we want holistic development of our nation we have to give equal important for women education like men the majority of the population of Nepal is illiterate and of those most are women. That a large number of girls are still deprives of education in our society. Although many schools opened in village there large numbers of girls are still unable to receive education.

Show that female education plays an important role to reduce population growth. The fertility rate decreases as the education of women and vice verse. So to reduce the fertility rate it is necessary to provide facilities for all women especially in village area in the field of education. If they are engaged in other works outside the home there is little chance to have more children.

Education for life itself because it is that element which equips a women with the tool to solve her problems in life and helps her to live in a better life. Education is therefore essential for the rural women in a measure as well as a form that they need to become more productive and worthier citizen of the country. (Subedi, 2000).

The research done by family health found that the vast majority (80 percent) of Nepalese women have never been to school. One in nine has attended primary school, 6 percent have secondary education and less than 3 percent have passed their S.L.C. four or 5 percent women are illiterate (CBS 2002). According to (CBS 2012) total literacy rate is 71.6 percent, among them 44.5 percent women are literacy rate.

In the context of Nepal, the overall indicator proved that the poor status of women. They have less chance to the technical and higher education, their health status is still lower level. Nepalese women suffered from different kind of violence including domestic violence, trafficking and social crimes. Labor force participation rate of Nepalese women in the economy is quite high, however, employment of women are often confined to less productive sector of the economy is quite high. Women's

participation of administrative reform act and local self governance act 1999 by the HMG. Their participation in the media is also quite low. (Subedi, 2000).

2.1.6 Women and Age status

Age is the important factor determining the working load of women. Aged women have to work more than young girls. Among men and women of same age group, women have to work much more than men.

In male children between 5 to 9 years of age spend 1.24 hours working each day while girls in the same age group put in 2.05 hours. Almost men spent 92.2 percent of their work time in productive work; while women spent only 38.8 percent of their daily work in productive of work. But again given that women work more hour than men. Men have about seven hours of free time while boys of 10 - 14 age groups put in about 5 hours of word per day, girls of the same age group have almost full work day i.e. they word for an average of 7.6 hour per day (Website: socio- economic status of Nepalese women).

In the national development, women play vital role, but in male dominated country female are considered low standard and of less value. Literacy rate differs vastly. Total literacy rate is 71.6 percent. Among them 44.5 percent women are literacy rate (CBS, 2012). Life expectancy of women at birth in 2002 is 62.2 years. Only 17.5 households reported the ownership of females on house, land and livestock. There are only 14.9 percent female headed households (CBS, 2002)

In Nepal's context women's work is higher than men's but their labors after goes unreported because women's inside activities are generally considered unproductive conducted with man's outsides. According to the CBS report economically active population in recent 10 years in male's case is 67.6 and female's is 48.9. It shows that economically active women are fewer than men. Women have less access in property which is shown by CBS women ownership. House and land is 5.5 percent and 10.8 percent respectively.

In Nepal, the vast majority of girl children (0-14 age group) are denied the opportunity to develop and realize their full potential as they are discriminated against in all spheres of life. The gender bias against them, which begins from the moment of their birth, continues in one form or another throughout their lives. Customs, traditions, legal rights and the harsh economic reality have conditioned the parents to perceive a daughter as a liability, both morally and economically.

2.1.7 Women and Health status

The health status of Nepalese people in general has been improving though it is low compared to other fewer developing countries. The health status of women remains still lower and the life expectancy for men is high then women.

Nepalese women's health is in miserable condition in the sense that they are quite neglected from their very childhood stage. The cultural norms, economic condition and preferential attitude of parents towards the boys are in the center of the ill/poor health of women (Luitel, 2008).

That throughout the developing world, more boys than girls are generally in worse condition than boys. Most of the illnesses related to women can be prevented or cured through medical treatment, but for many reasons women are unable to take preventive measures or obtain medical treatment. According to Subedi, now a day's maternity related illness are regarded as the most serious, although the problems of malnutrition and anemia also harms women's health. Each year 50,000 mothers throughout the world die of problem related to childbirth.(Subedi 1993)

Women have more biological responsibility to bear child and care them. It loses their physical strength and personality. In addition to this biological responsibility they have to involve at the household works. They are not so free to handle any sort of risky jobs by being far away from their location. It draws them back to developed their career and uplifting the socio-economic status. (CBS2002)

In the Nepalese context, the health condition of rural women is very pathetic as very

to get busy in agriculture. Fetching firewood and drinking water. They are always over burdened with work. It is recommended medically that in last before delivery takes place a women should not be involved in physically strenuous work but in Nepal a pregnant women keeps on working even up to the last day delivery (Lean, 1996)

2.1.8 Women and Marriage status

Marriage is an important factor for women status. Because it is through the marriages that women change from the status of daughter to that of daughter-in-law (Acharya 1994)

Marital status makes a woman totally dependent upon her husband because her right upon the family property is only through husband. About the women's right upon the family property Benet wrote that "men are endowed with the right to property by virtue of biological fact of birth. Women's right to property depend almost entirely upon the social fact of marriage (i.e. on their role as a wife)". Therefore women's economic security is entirely dependent on their adherence to strict social norms of proper marital behavior (Acharya 2003).

The civil code or "Muluki Ain" of 2020 permits marriage with parental consent at the age of 18 years and without consent at 20 years. UNICEF (2000) however estimates that 22 percent are married by the age of 15 and 50 percent by the age of 20 years.

Women still have few social options for survival other than marriage. According to culturally defined ideals, getting married and producing children are the ultimate goals for women. All other options including education and employment are only secondary. Some orthodox people believe that if a daughter is give away before her menstruation she is sent percent virgin and giving away of virgin is really a great "Punya" or religious credit. (UNDP 1995)

Women in many developing countries marry when they are very young. Almost 50

percent of women, 40 percent of Asian and 30 percent of Latin American women are married by the age of 18 year (World Women UN 1991).

2.1.9 Women and Early Marriage status

Women still have fewer social options for survival other than marriage. According to culturally defined ideals, getting married and producing children are the ultimate goals for women. All other options including education and employment are only secondary.

Some orthodox people believe that if a daughter is given away before her menstruation she is sent percent virgin and giving away of virgin is really a great "Punya" of religious credit. Early marriage is a tradition of Hindu society. About the adverse effect of early marriage Acharya said, 'Besides being subject to early marriage, high fertility, high death and low life expectancy, Nepalese women from the culturally dominant. Remarriage in Hindu culture is locked down upon and difficult. (Acharya 1997)

The civil code or "Muluki Ain" of 1963 permits marriage with parental consent at the age of 16 years and without consent at 18 years. UNICEF (1992) however estimates that 22% are married by the age of 13 of 50% by the age of 16 years. Women in many developing countries marry when they are very young. Almost 50% of African women, 40% of Asian and 30% of Latin American women are married by the age of 18(Worlds' women, UNDP, 1995).

Early marriage is another serious problem that some girls most face the practice of giving away girls for marriage at the age of 10 to 14 after with they must start producing children is prevalent among certain ethnic groups. The prime pod reasons for this practice are the girl's virginity, the prize and lock awareness and education. Early marriage for many girls in Nepal ads to high rates of maternal and in front morality.

Early marriage robs girls for her childhood time necessary to developed physically

emotionally and psychologically in fact early marriage in fills great emotional stress as a young women is removed from her parents home to that of her husband and in laws. Her husband who will invariably be many years' seniors will have little in common with a young teenager. It is with the strange on that she has to develop an intimate emotional and physical relationship. She is obliged to have intercourse although physically she might not be fully developing (UN, 1995).

About 62.2 percent of girls between 15 to 18 years are married their bodies are psychologically weak for child bearing. Young child bearers have higher rates of miscarriage, abortion and infant death.

2.1.10 Women and National Policy status

The commencement of systematic economic planning since 1956/57 in Nepal is an indication of government for all round development of the country. By and large, the government integrated women development into national development process up to Fourth Five year Development Plan (2027-2032). From the fifth plan women's education got a separate place in the national agenda 6th^{plan} (2036-2042). Adapted the policies of promoting women's capacity and participation in women's health and education. The 7th plan and 8th plan strengthening the previous policies added equal participation of women in development process. That was a strong indication to put women development into mainstream of the development. The policies adopted in the 9th plan (2054-2058). Put the women into mainstream of the development. The main objectives of the plan were sustainable economic development, poverty alleviation, considering women development as an integral part of the all round development of the country, 14 separate policies were adopted, which include promotion of women's participation in every sectors of employment general health, education, training, equal rights, equal access to resources, institutional reform etc (Website 16 July 2013) .

With the target for achieving its overall aim of poverty alleviation and human resources development by involving women actively in different sectors of development for building egalitarian democratic society and also by increasing the

access of women to political, economic and social sectors, and reforms in legal provisions so as to ensure women's rights for making that access more effective, the 10th Five-Year Plan (2058-2064) has included policy to involve women in the National Development Mainstream and to implement it the following strategies were followed:

- National scrotal development policies, goals and programmers will be ascertained to involve women in the mainstream of national development.
- Contribution of women to household labor will be evaluated scientifically and substantially by reviewing the national accounting system.
- For the effective coordination and implementation of women development activities, existing institutional structure will be strengthened, expanded and agencies, organizations and local bodies working in the field of women's development.

Although some strategies of tenth plan has already been implemented like contribution of women to household labor are evaluated scientifically and substantially by reviewing the national accounting system; in the women's participation in development, appropriate gender desegregated indicators are reformulated, modified, monitored and evaluation measures are cried out effectively in the Population Census 2011, yet there are lot of things to be implemented by the government to uplift the status of women.

2.1.11 Women and Decision making status

Traditionally, rural women have contributed substantially to household income and participated substantially in the household decision making process. But with commercialization of the rural economy is losing ground relative to men because women are less equipped to cope with commercialized economy. The majority of the rural households are fast losing access to community resources, such as land and forest. Rural women are the greatest losers with increasing work burden and reduce access to resource.

The women have little role in family's decision-making due to their illiteracy and non-involvement in direct income generating works. Nepal is a male dominated country where women's decision-making authority comes only after the men's. The women make decisions only when the males are not in the home or they have gone outside their village. (Status of women, vol. 4 part II).

In the same manner, while making decisions on an agriculture sector, the women's role is limited only to selection of seeds and manure. The women make 18.5% decisions by themselves and 12.5% jointly with men. About the power and authority of decision making, Dr. Rizal advocates that "a Nepalese wife exercise as much power and authority in the household as her husband. In some cases her power and authority may even exceed to that of her husband. "(Status of women in Nepal Vol. I, Part V: 106).

It is seen that the role of women in decision-making is stronger in Magar, Newar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu, Tamang, Bhotia communities than in the comparison of Brahmin, Chhetris and Lower caste communities. (Kiran 2008).

Now the bill has been passed in 2059 in Nepal in which (Act) the women when she born she can get the ancestral property as even daughters till before marriage but if she get marriage naturally she have to leave the ancestral property and then ultimately she get the property as laws by her husband's. But in practice very fewer women have received the ancestral as well as her husbands' property.

Women's situation in Nepal is reflected in the fact that Nepal has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, one of the lowest female literacy rates, one of the lowest per capita income and one of the lowest participation of women in decision making bodies. In Nepal, there is need for new and reforms to change status of women for participation in decision making program and all round development. (Kiran, (2008)

CHAPTER – III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is specially designed to analyze the status of women in Namsaling village Development committee (VDC). Different kinds of research methodology and tools have been used to develop the research design. In this study, descriptive and explorative analysis research design has been used to collect data. The following research methodology has been applied in this research.

3.1 Selection of the Study area

As mentioned earlier, objective of the present study is to analyze the status of rural women. This is about the socio- economic characteristics of women, low status and the changing status of women from gender perspective. There are many different types of cast and ethnic groups in Namsaling VDC, there women has lower status than male in the following aspects such as education, health, socio- economic status and power of decision making process. For this purpose Namsaling VDC of ward no 4, 6, 7 of Ilam District has been selected for this study. This VDC is in the eastern part and 5 km. far from Ilam district. The total population of this village is 6377 the female are 3119 and males are 3258. This VDC has been selected for the following reasons.

1. There are no sociological studies about women's status in this area.
2. Need to explain the relationship between men and women.
3. It is own research area of interest of the researcher.

3.2 Research design

This research design depends on the nature, objectives, complexity and further more need of the study. This study has been prepared as a non doctrinal research. Most of the information has been collected field visit, questionnaire and observation, focus group discussion.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

There are two types of data has been use in the study-quantitative and qualitative. Primary and secondary source of data have been used. Most of data were collected by primary sources and secondary sources of data have been used where the necessary. This study has not only dealt with the statistical characteristics, but also has tried to find out the causal relationship between changing status of rural women and socio- economic development. So, qualitative and quantitative techniques are used.

3.3.1 Primary Data

The primary data has been collected from the field work with the help of field survey (interview, questionnaire, observation)

3.3.2 Secondary Data

The secondary data is important as primary data this study. The secondary data has been collected from VDC office Namsaling, district development committee ilam, the terminal and yearly evaluation or progress report of VDC office and special data and records prepared by the Namsaling community Development centre has been the main secondary data source for researcher.

3.4 Universe and sample Size

Among the 9 wards of Namsaling VDC ward no. 4, 6, 7 were purposively sampled. This word represented all the cast/ethnic groups of the VDC 41 households of the total 200 households randomly sampled.

3.5 Data Collection tools and technique

The data were collected from field .This study is concerned the formal method of questionnaire interview, participation observation, focus group discussion has been used in the study.

3.5.1 Questionnaire Interview.

Researcher has prepare an interview format with a set of questionnaire both structure and unstructured, that have been use for information collection with the help of interview. Researcher has collected both qualitative as well as quantitative data essential to support the research problem

3.5.2 Participation observation

Participation observation has been a key method of data collection for the research site and observes the programmer activities. Researcher was also participated in various social gathering and observes their planning, implementation and decision making process.

3.5.3 Focus groups discussion

During the research period, at least three focus group discussions were conducted. The discussion has been held in gathering of the members 10-15 with proper check list on the basis of the objectives. This method was adopted totally the information obtained from the key information and observation.

3.6 Method of data analysis tools and technique

The collected data is tabulated on the same basis of their nature. Information is grouped, sub-group and classify as per the necessity and so as to meet the objectives of the study. The systematic analysis is making using simple statistical tools such as percentage, average etc. quantitative data is analysis by using computer software.

CHAPTER-IV

SOCIO- ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS

4.1 Introduction of the Study area

This study is situated in Namsaling village. It is in the eastern part of Nepal and east from district Ilam. The neighbouring village of Namsaling VDC is Nayabazar, Soyang, Godak, Panchakanya, and Ilam Nagarpalika. In the southern part of Ilam is Panchakanya VDC and in the West Soyang VDC. The literacy rate of Namsaling villages is 69.47 percent, the female literacy rate is 44.75 percent and male literacy rate is 55.25 percent.

Main crops of this village are paddy, maze, wheat and ginger orthodox vegetables etc. are grown here. Nepali language be spoken and also Rai, Limbu and Bhote language as a mother tongue of this VDC. Most of the population is Hindus and some are Buddhists. There are various types of festivals celebrated by the villagers. Main festivals are Dashain, Tihar, Teej Magesagrati etc.

4.1.1 Population

More than six thousand people live in Namsaling VDC. There are many ethnic groups, such as Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Rai, Limbu, Kami, Dalit, Sharki, Sherpa, Tamang, Magar, Lappcha , Bhujel, Gogi, Gurung, Helmu, Khabas, etc. The following tables show wards wise distribution of population of Namsaling VDC.

Table No: 4.1 distribution of population of Namsaling VDC

Ward No.	No of Households	Population			
		Female	Male	Total	Percentage of female
1.	139	303	344	647	46.8
2.	77	192	193	385	49.87
3.	149	393	418	811	48.45
4.	175	368	417	785	46.87
5.	160	435	423	858	50.6
6.	114	296	292	588	50.3
7.	127	286	324	610	46.8
8.	223	589	567	1156	50.95
9.	118	257	280	537	47.8
Total	1282	3119	3258	6377	

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The table shows that the total population of the Namsaling VDC is 6377 out of them Male and Female are 3258 and 3119 respectively. The total households are 1282. Ward no 8 is found biggest of all in terms of population. The average family size 50. The Namsaling VDC in ward no 1, 4, 7 female population is found greater than Male population.

Table no 4.1.1–caste wise sampling structure of women in Namsaling VDC ward no 4, 6, 7

Caste ethnicity	No of HHS	Sample of HHS	Percentage
Brahmin	77	16	39.02
Chhetri	35	7	17.07
Janjati	55	11	26.82
Dalit	28	6	14.63
Other	5	1	2.43
Total	200	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Ward no. 4, 6, 7 are Selected purposively. among them 77 Brahmins women's

households, 16 households are selected ,35 chhetri women's households 7 households are selected ,55 Janjati households 11 households are selected , 28 dalit households 6 households are selected and 5 households are other women's households 1 household is selected.

For the primary source altogether 41 respondents were taken from different number of different castes which are mentioned in the above table clearly.

4.1.2 Agriculture

The Namsaling VDC is mostly depending upon Agricultural activities. According to the field survey about 75% people depend upon agriculture. The main crop in this Village were rice, Mize, vegetable, fruits etc. there is an irrigation facilities available in this Village. Agricultural activities mostly depend on traditional techniques and equipment. Most of women are engaged in agriculture work as well as households work. But the work of women is not count in economy. Although the women's work is laborious it is countless. Since the production of land is not sufficient for their livelihood and they do not have to work in the field annually, most of the villagers have side jobs which are able to meet their daily expenditure. Some of them have joined government and non-government services some are engaged in business such as tea shops tailoring, making ornamental materials, general stores (Kirana Pasal) etc.

4.1.3 Religion

There are four religious groups in Namsaling VDC, Hindus, Buddhists Kirat, Isai. 51.94 percent are Hindus, 17.86 percent are Buddhists, 30.06 percent are kirat, and 0.14 percent is Isais and others 0.29 percent. So most of the people are Hindus in this VDC.

4.2 SOCIO- ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN

The United Nations has defined the status of women in the context of their access to knowledge, economic resources and political power and their personal autonomy in

the process of decision-making. Women from different caste/ ethnic groups have different social status in their respective communities and women from the ethnic group. The dominant Hindu Culture and the patriarchal values system of the country influenced the status of women as their subordinate. (Usha, 2003).

Equality in society cannot be achieved either through slogans, demands conflicts or through wishes and blessing along. Experiences have also shown that laws and regulations are not adequate. What is indeed required is a climate of public opinion where feeling of equality emanates from the hearts of all. Women are bounded by socio-cultural norms. Even parents discriminate against the girl child.

The factor, they build the status of women in the society. The Socio- Economic background has taken into consideration in this research includes age, ethnic composition, educational status, health status, Marital status, family structure, family size, high fertility, occupation of husband, personal income and personal property, ownership of women, working hour per day during peak season of agriculture, types of work performed by the respondents, Involvement of respondent in family decision making, food consumption within a day, components of personal expenditure and women's involvement in community decision. They are the socio-Economic characteristics of women.

Age is socio- economic characteristics of women. Age makes difference in working hour, types of work and involvement in decision making process. So the society's social, political and other aspects are directly and indirectly influenced by its composition and population composition. In this study women below an age of 16 years have not been included due to their immaturity and domination by their parent or in-laws as such they do not have their independent thinking. In this study age is the sampled of respondents ranged from 16-79 years.

Ethnic composition is also the one characteristic which builds different Socio-economic status of women. In our society, on the basis of ethnic composition, there is different gender status. In the case of Nepal women possess different power and prestige in different communities. The high caste women in the hills and terai have

low decision making power owing to a subordinate position to men while the ethnic women of mountain and hill have high decision making power (UNDP 1995).

According to the World Bank, Agriculture is the main source of food, income and employment for the majority. The economy of Nepal is totally based on agricultural production. In agriculture women play a major role as various farm activities.

According to Souza (1980) in the countries of south Asia, between 70 to 80 percent of total female workforce is employed in agriculture activities either as cultivator or farm labor. Agriculture plays an important role to build socio-economic status in the society.

Education is the key that opens the door in life which is essentially social in character. The level of education of women is an important indication for the understanding of the present and future status of women in a country. Education plays a vital role in overall development of an individual. It is one of the major degrees to measure the social status of any community. Moreover, education for women is so important that it helps them to improve their status in the society. Generally, the level of education is the indicator of the social status.

Marriage is an important factor of Nepal society. Marriage especially in Hinduism has a vital role in relation to social prestige and honor in society. In societal analysis gives a picture that all the societies have given important to marriage for the permanent settlement and establishment of family. The form of marriage is a determining factor for the establishment of gender status in the family and society at large (Luitel, 2008)

Family is regarded as the primary stage of social institution where every child enters into the process of socialization of the community. According to Luitel family is the basic unit of all societies/ communities that fulfills the biological, physical, and psychological needs of an individual. Family provides the basic needs of progeny, protection and probkl spirits to the individual and the groups associated with it, there has been great change in the pattern of family since the development of human

society. There are two types of family in the study area. One is nuclear and another is joint family. The nuclear family consists of married couple and their unmarried children and joint family is group of brothers families living together in which there is joint resident, kitchen and property.

4.2.1 Age Status

Age is a vital role to involve in the socio- economic activities. It makes difference in working hour. Type of work and involvement decision- making process. So society's social, political and other aspects are directly and indirectly influenced by its composition and population composition.

In this study, age of respondents ranged from 16-79 years, they are categorized in to four category- 16-20 years, 21-45 years, 46-59years and 60 above. Women below an age of 16 years have not been included due to their immaturity and domination by their parent or in-laws as such they do not have their independent thinking. The data mention in the table below show the description of age group on sample household.

Table no.4.2: Distribution of sample respondent by Age

S.N.	Age	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	16-20Years	11	26.82
2	21-45 Years	14	34.14
3	46-59 Years	9	21.95
4	60 above	7	17.073
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013

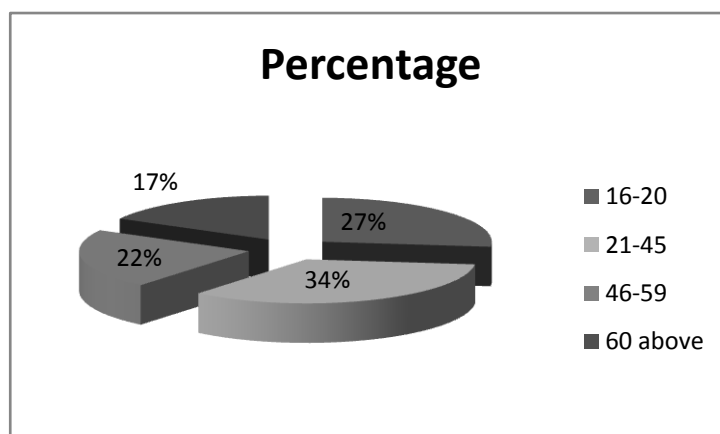


Figure: Table no 4.2 Distribution of Sampled Respondents by Age Group

The table no. 4.2 show that age is an important factor of socio – economic status of women. It has seen that the highest percentage respondents 21-45 years age groups women are 34.14 percent. They are the most active age groups to involve in work played important role in socio- economic sector because they are engaged in business, households work and job. So the socio- economic status has been good than the other age groups women. (16-20 age groups) women are 26.82 percent it is lower number age groups cause of their school and college period. Lowest percentage respondents (46-59 and 60 above age groups) women are 21.95 percent and 17.073 percent involved in household work cause of their old age.

4.2.2 Educational status

Education is one of the main variables to measure social status of men and women. It helps to bring awareness and change in the community, the level of social status of women. The literacy rate of Nepal is 71.6 percent. Women literacy rate is 44.5 percent. 55.5 percent of male literacy rate, According to the census 2012. In Namsaling village, the literacy rate of women was found to be very low which has shown below the table.

Table No.4.3: Distribution of Sampled Household by Education status

S.N.	Education	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	7	17.07	11	26.82
2.	Literate	16	39.02	14	34.14
3.	S.L.C. pass	18	43.90	16	39.02
		41	100	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

The table no 4.3 show that that the lower education status of women than men. 73.16 percent of women sampled population is literate and 26.82 percent women are illiterate. Among the 39.02 respondents have passed S L.C. 34.14 respondents are able to read and write. Only half percent women are literate with the compare of men because 39 percent male are literate and 34 percent female are literate. S.L.C. pass respondents are also lowest than male's in Namsaling village.

4.2.3 Marital status

Most of the respondents were married in this study. Early marriage has been one of the important characteristic of the Nepalese women. Marital status makes the difference in women's status. It is through the marriage that women change their status of daughter to daughter-in –law, wife mother. Marriage also changes the role of women and increases their duties and work load. After the marriage, normally there will be less chance of continuing the education, as she has to look after her parents in –laws and babies so marriage plays the very important role in the life of women.

In this study, marital status has been has been divided in to three categories. They are- married, unmarried, widowed women. Among our respondents, there is not any divorced case. From this table we know the marital status of women.

Table No. 4.4 Distribution of sampled Household by Martial status

S.N.	Marital status	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Unmarried	13	31.70
2.	Married	22	53.65
3.	Widowed	6	14.63
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013

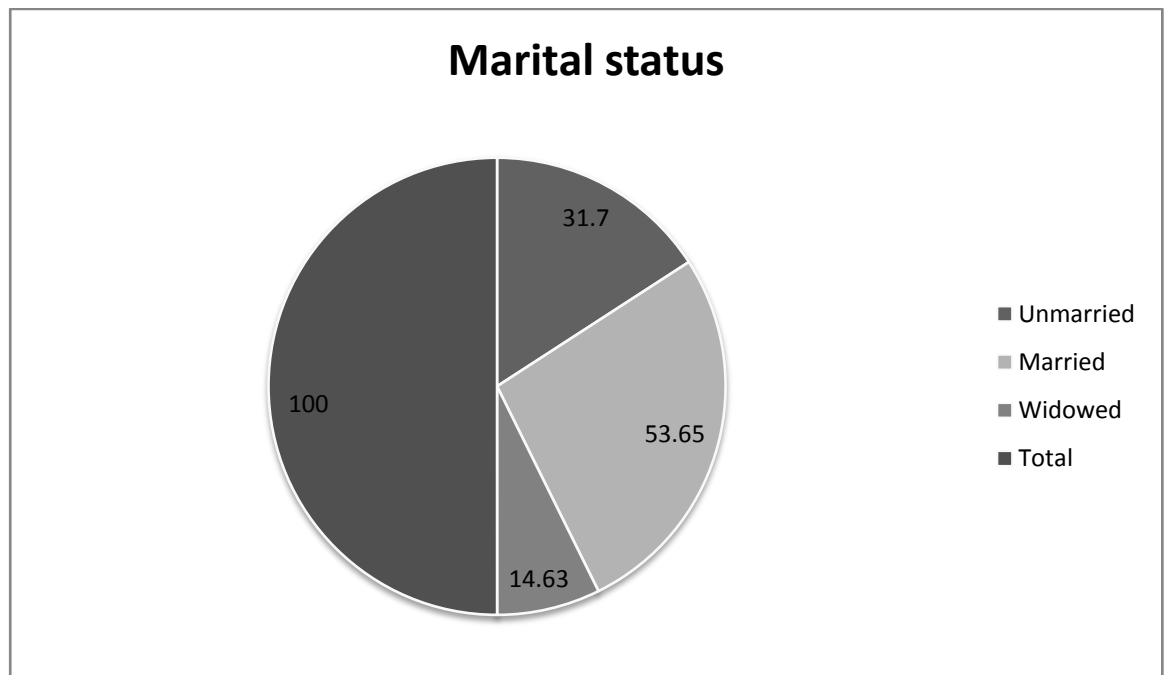


Figure: Table No - 4.4 Distribution of sampled respondents by marital status.

Marital status changes the women's role and increase the duties work load and responsibility of the women. Marital status makes the difference in women in women's status. From the status of daughter to daughter – in law. It makes a woman totally dependent upon her husband because her right upon the family properly is not only through husband. The table no 4.4 show that unmarried respondents are 31.70 percent they are less involved in household work and agriculture work because they are students of school and college. Most (53.65 Percent) of Married women are involved in the occupation of socio- economic sources and 14.63 percent widowed women are involved in socio- economic sector. They have to face fully work load of

socio- economic sector because of their husband. And not found separated, divorce case.

4.2.4 Health Status

Health is most important things of human beings. Health is wealth but in Nepalese context women’s health is in miserable condition. Health has a direct relationship with the quality of life as it is a major determinant of national welfare. The health status of society is the outcome of interaction of complex biological, social and environment factors. Among these factors economic condition, educational level, socio- cultural structure and status are pertinent especially in the case of women availability of proper housing, nutrition, environment, sanitation and the availability of health infrastructure and health care facilities.

The socio-economic status of women depends on health also. Maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate are relatively high in Nepal. Their access to health facility is low. Hence, in this study, an attempt has been made to identify the access of women to some health facilities such as place of delivery and practice of medical checkup The popular saying that “Health is wealth” it is taken as the symbol of civilization

There is a primary Health post in Namsaling VDC. People of surroundings are getting better health treatment from this health post. This health post has providing different kinds of services. So it has been playing greater role in health sector for this VDC people. The following table shows the decision for treatment.

Table No. 4.5: Distribution of sampled Households by Decision on treatment for sickness

S.N.	Decision Maker	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	25	60.97
2.	Female	16	39.02
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013,

The table No. 4.5 shows that among the 41 Respondents, 60.97 percentage male members have decided sickness for the treatment and only 39.02 percent women have decided for the treatment. Mostly male members decided sickness for the treatment in this VDC. In terms decision related to treatment for sickness of family member males have dominate role. Mostly male member decided the type of treatment to be practiced to care the disease.

4.2.5 Family Structure

Family is a social institution and most important primary group in society. Family structure plays an important role to develop socio-economic status of women; the structure of the family is categorized into three types in this study. There are nuclear, joint and extended. Nuclear family have husband wife and their unmarried children, joint family have husband, wife one or more married and unmarried children and extended family have husband , wife their married unmarried children, grand father and grandmother living in one household who take their meal in the same kitchen and work.

Table No. 4.6 Distribution of sampled households by Family Structure

S.N.	Family Structure	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Nuclear	23	56.09
2.	Joint	11	26.82
3.	Extended	7	17.07
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013,

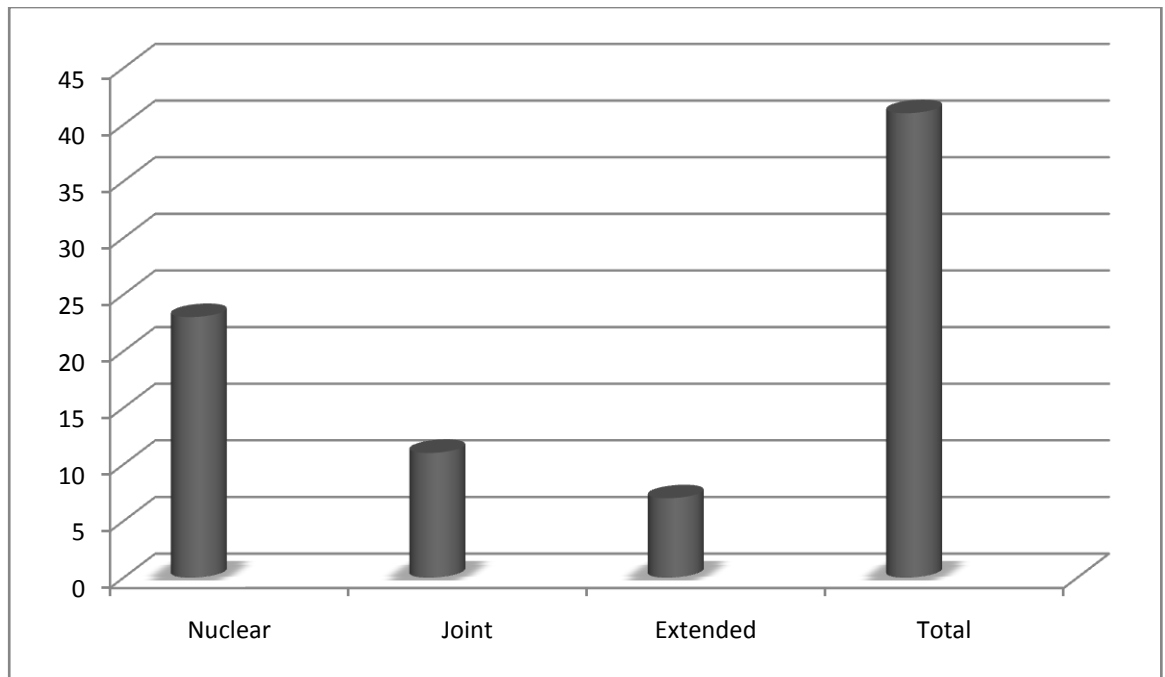


Figure: Table no- 4.6 Distribution of sampled Household by Family structure

Above the table no. 4.6 show that 56.09 percent families were nuclear type. 26.82 percent families were joint type, and 17.017 percent families were extended type. So the Respondents of Nuclear families were higher percentage that joint and extended.

In nuclear family, Women can work according to their own choice and they also have an authority to make decision for their family and husband works. In these kinds of family structure, women have less work load of household's chores in comparison with joint and extended families structure. Joint and extended family structure were also found in rural areas of our country. Nepali women living in joint and extended family had both positive and negative experiences and feeling. They have to face heavy load of household work. They believe that due to smaller family size in the nuclear type family, economic condition can be strengthened somewhat easily.

4.2.6 Family size

Size of family determines education and social awareness of women. Educated

women could think about many children one or two children are the gift of the god but who are uneducated think about many children. Size of family determines the working condition and the time spend by a house wife in households and other chores. In this study, the size of family is divided into four categories. This has shown below the table.

Table No. 4.7: Distribution of sampled household by Family Size

S.N.	Family size	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	2-4	10	24.3
2.	4-6	16	39.02
3.	6-8	8	19.5
4.	8-12	7	17.7
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013,

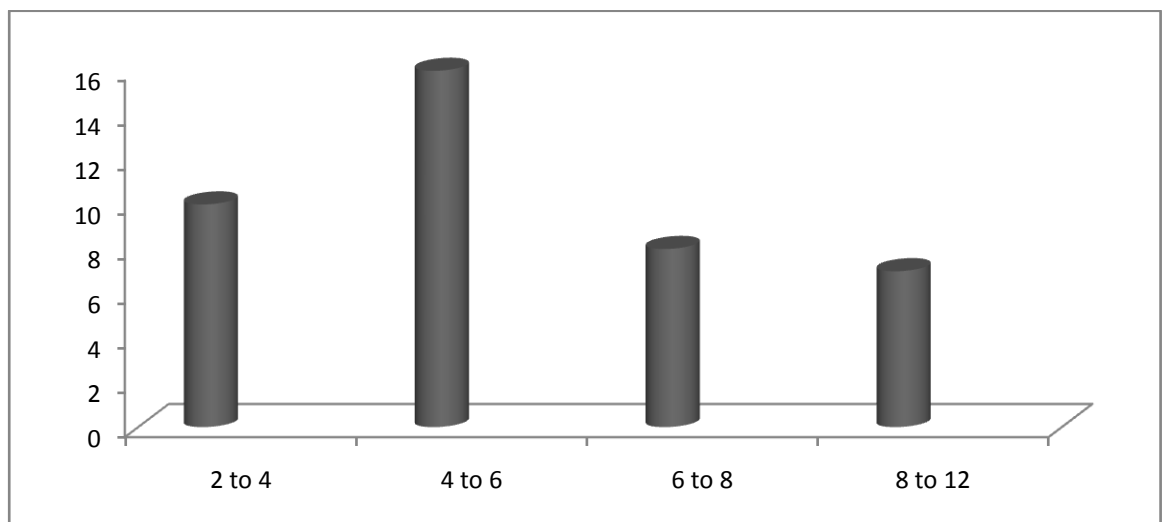


Figure: Table No. 4.7: Distribution of sampled household by Family Size

The table No. 4.7 shows that (4-16) members of family size are 39.02 percent; this is the higher number of this family size and (8-12) members of family size 17 percent, the lower number of family size.

Small size of family (Nuclear type) are popular than large size family (Joint family) in these days. In the small size of family, women have to bear less socio-economical load but in the large size of family, women have to more active in social-economic works. Now a day people are educated and they know about the importance of small size of family so this table shows like that.

4.2.7: High Fertility

High fertility is one of the causes of women's poor socio-economic condition in Nepal. High rate of fertility is very common in rural areas of Nepal. High fertility is one of the causes of women's poor socio-economic condition in Nepal. In this study fertility of the respondents are divided in to five categories.

Table No. 4.8: Distribution of sampled Household by number of child.

S.N.	No. of Children	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	No children	2	4.87
2.	Up to 2 children	9	21.95
3.	3 to 5 children	11	26.82
4.	Above 6 children	6	14.63
5.	Unmarried	13	31.70
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey 2013,

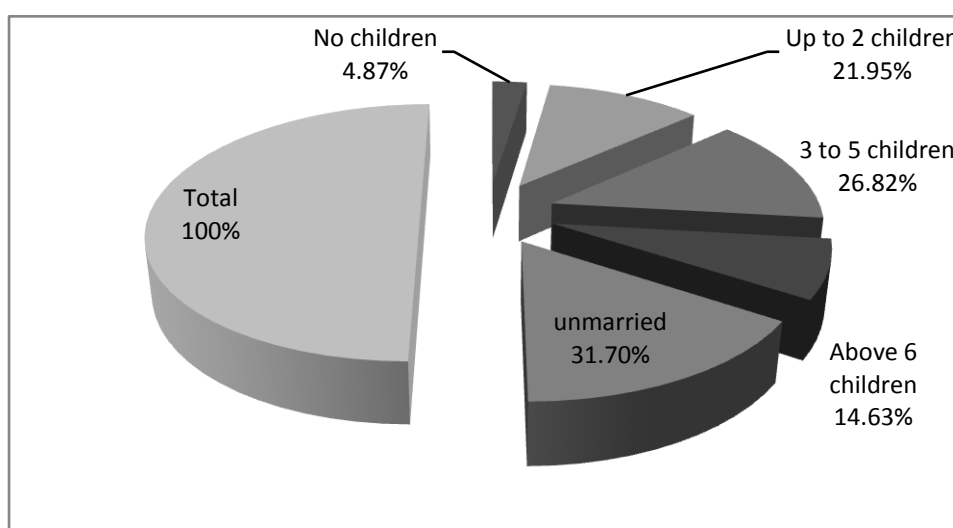


Figure: Table No. 4.8: Distribution of sampled Household by number of child

This table no. 4.8 Show that 68.27 percent of the respondents are married and 31.70 percent respondents are unmarried. Among them only 4.87 percent are found without children and 21.95 percent of the responds are found exiting up to 2 children. But some of them are newly married, 26.82 percent of respondents are found to have 3 to 5 living children, 14.63 percentages of the responds are found having more than 6 children. 31.70 percent responds are unmarried.

We found from this table that high fertility rate is the main problem of women because if there are many children, the economic has there and the health condition of women also in miserable.

4.2.8 Occupation

Occupation is one of the major means to measure the status of women in a society. Most of the women are dependent upon husband's income. However women are involved in different economic activities but they cannot get money from such household work and farming. In these days, income source and cash money determines the status of a person. Occupation of women is household activities in Nepali society. But their contribution are not confined within the household activities alone, they perform agricultural works.

In this village, women engage in the household and agricultural work for 18 hours every day. They work from the (4:00) to till night (8:00). Besides these household chores, they are involved in agriculture, tailoring, service, business, etc. If woman who is job holder, after finishing the household work she can go to the office.

Table No. 4.9: Occupation composition of the respondents

S.N	Occupation	N0. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Household work and agriculture	9	21.95
2	only household work	6	14.6
3	Agriculture and labor	14	34.14
4	Agriculture and other services	10	24.36
5	No work	2	4.87
	Total	41	100

Source: field survey, 2013.

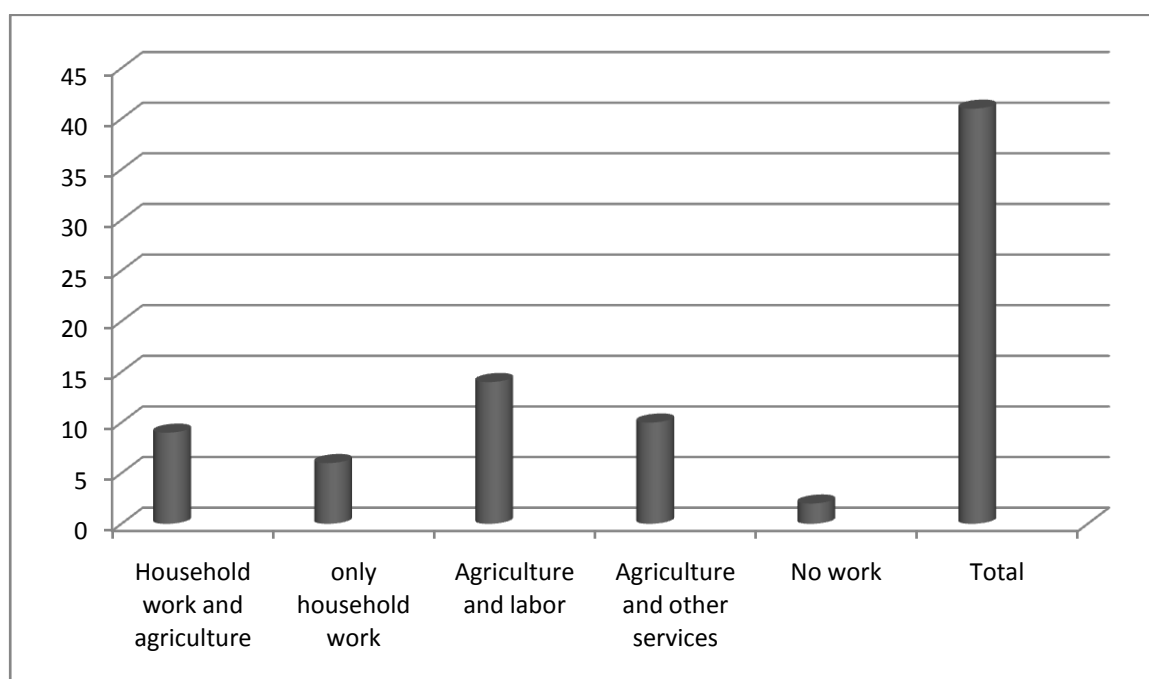


Figure: Table No. 4.9: Occupation composition of the respondents

The table no.4.9 shows that the occupation composition of the respondents. 14.6 percent of the women are involved only in household works. In this study, in Namsaling VDC 4, 6, 7 words, 21.95 percentages of women are engage in household activities as well as agriculture works. In household chores they have to perform cooking meal, washing, fetching water, bringing firewood preparing children for school, etc. 34.14 percent respondents are involved in agriculture and labor. 24.36 percent women are involved in agriculture and other services and 4.87 percent women are not doing work cause of being old age. That is the period of

working time, they have to do rice plan, cutting grass, bringing firewood etc.

4.2.9 Occupation of Husband.

Table No. 4.10: Occupation Composition of Male Counterparts

The table shows the occupation of male counterparts.

S.N	Occupation	N0. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	16	39.02
2.	Service	11	26.82
4.	Tailoring	5	12.19
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

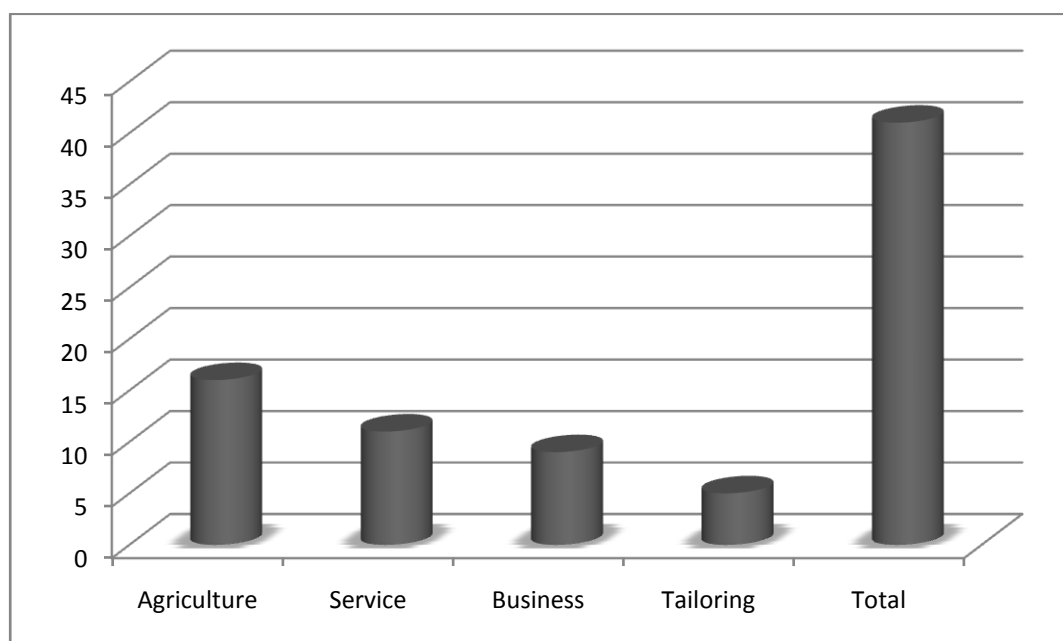


Figure: Table No. 4.10: Occupation Composition of Male Counterparts

The table no.4.10 shows that 39.02 percent male counterparts involved in agriculture and 60.96 percent are male counterparts involved in nonagricultural sectors. 26.82 male are involved in service, 21.95 percent are involved in business, 12.19 percent male are involved in tailoring. Most of the people are farmer; few of them are engage in other occupation like, service (teaching, office) tailoring, business, etc.

In this study we found that, if their husband is service holder, they have better economic condition but they are getting heavy working load. And if their husband is political also has not better economic condition and also are getting heavy working load. In this way the status of rural women depends on the husband's occupation of status.

4.2.10 personal income and personal property

Personal property means 'Daijo' (Dowry) given by their relatives and parents 'Pewa', which are personal saving of the women. Their parents gave them Daijo according to their financial capacity. In Nepal, unhealthy competition has been seen giving Daijo in the urban as well as rural area. This kind of unhealthy competition has distracted in the social values and it has affected rural Nepalese society as well. It may be either in form of goods, cash. Dowry system is not popular in this VDC.

Table No. 4.11: distribution of respondents by their personal property

S.N.	Personal property	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	15	36.58
2.	No	26	63.41
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

We found from above the table, 36.58 percent of the respondents have their personal property and 63.41 percent of the women have no personal property with them. Personal property supports to manage the household work. And it also shows their socio economic status in the society.

4.2.11 Property ownership of women

Although the women have property in their ownership, they are not free to use it. It is used guidance by the men. In this study, Property in women's ownership is categorized as land, house, livestock and bank deposit, the following ownership of women in Namsaling VDC.

Table No. 4.12 Distribution of sampled Respondents by women’s property ownership

S.N.	Women’s ownership	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Land	8	19.5
2.	House	3	7.31
3.	Livestock	11	26.82
4.	Bank deposit	5	12.19
5.	No ownership	14	34.14
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table no. 4.12 shows that out of total respondents 19.5 percent women said that they have land ownership in their family, 7.31 percent said that they have house ownership in their family, 12.19 percent said that they have ownership on bank deposit in their family, 26.82 percentages said that they have ownership on livestock. 34.14 percentage women of Namsaling VDC have no ownership any type of family property.

Table No. 4.13: Types of work Helped by the Male counterparts

S.N.	Types of works	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Help in field	15	36.58
2.	Caring livestock	10	24.39
3.	Caring children	4	9.75
4	Business and other	12	29.26
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

From this Table no. 4.13 we know that the work helped by male counterparts. Respondents are found receiving help from the male members of the family. Among the total 41 Respondents 36.58 percentage are receiving help in the field, 24.39 percent of male members are help to caring livestock, 9.75 percent help to

children caring from the male members of their family and 29.26 percentage male members are helped business and others.

4.13 Food consumption Within a Day

Food is the most important basic need on which all the living being exists. Nepal demographic and health survey 2006 indicates that poor nutritional status of female children than male children in terms of proper weight, height and weight for height.

Table No. 4.14: Food consumption within a Day

S. N.	Food consumption per Day	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Four times	10	24.39
2.	Three times	17	41.46
3.	Two times	14	34.14
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

From this table no. 4.14 show that almost 41.46 percent Respondents take food three times in a day, 24.39 percent respondents take food four times and 34.14 percent women take food only two times. Frequency of food taking differs according to economic status of family. So the frequency of taking food indicates the status of women.

4.2.14 Components of Personal Expenditure

In this study area, only few women have used their personal income in order to meet their demand. Especially who are mother and mother- in-law, they are using their money for household uses. The following table shows their expenditure in their different ways.

Table No.4.15 Distribution of Respondents by their Personal Expenditure

S.N.	Personal Expenditure	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Per Personal uses	10	24.39
2.	For household uses	18	43.90
3.	For other works	13	31.70
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

It show from the table no. 4.15 that, only 24.39 percent women have use for their personal use, 43.90 percent Respondents are spending for household works and 31.90 percent Respondents are spending for other works. Less income sources women are to spend their personal for their personal uses because they have less responsibility of their family. So it shows from the above table that the highest percentage women are responsible for household expenditure.

4.2.15 Working Hours per Day during peak season of Agriculture

Women have to do work many hours than men. In agriculture season, they have to bear double burden of work in the study area. They are equally involved in agriculture work and also have to perform household work.

Table No. 4.16 Distribution of working hour per day in peak season

S N.	Working hour	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Up to 5 hours	6	14.6
2.	5 to 8 hours	8	19.5
3.	9 to 10 hours	16	39.02
4.	Above 12 hours	11	26.82
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

From this table no. 4.16 we know that the working hours of agricultural season. Women have spent their total time in agriculture equally with their male member and also have to finish household works lonely. Working hour of the Respondents ranged from five hour per day to 15 hour in a day. In this study 14.6 Percent of the women have to work up to 5 hours in a day. 19.5 percent of the women have to work 5 to 8hour in a day. 39.02 percent of the women have to work 9 to12 hours and 26.82 percent of the women have to work more than 12 hours in a day

CHAPTER –V

5.1 Cause of Women's Low Status

A large part of women's work is not considered as economic activity. As a result only 50 percent of women as compared to 68.5 percent of men are classified as economically active. Women's average work burden has increased slightly over the past 10 years from 10.8 hours per day in 1990 to 10.9 hours in per day in 2000. Men's average work burden presently is 7.8 hours a day, 3.1 hours less than that of women. Women's participate in the in formal sector has increased significantly in both urban and rural areas- for example vending party, trade liquor making and vegetable selling are some of the more common employed ventures of women. In rural areas, the employment out the household generally was limited to planting, weeding and harvesting. In urban areas, they were employed in domestic and traditional jobs, as well as in the government sector and mostly in low- level positions (kiran, 2008)

This study points outs which might help to understand the root cause of women's low status in the rural area. Social and cultural factor is very crucial factor to push the women under the poverty line. So that social value and norms are the main causes and women are unable to educate them, moving out of the villages for works and searching to develop their status in the society. Similar illiteracy is one of the most important cause of women poverty, education women are getting chance to involved in family decision making more over they are self- dependent than uneducated women. The main causes of back of backwardness of women are as following:

- i. Lack of education
- ii. Lack of mobility
- iii. Social and cultural factor

In this study area, the higher percentage 41.2 percent of Respondents report that the main cause of women's low socio- economic status is the lack of education, 12. 19 respondents' reported that lack of mobility and 7.31 percent Respondent reported that social and cultural factor is the causes of low status. Lack of mobility of women, they are working in low wages than men and they are unable to chance to earn extra personal income. So that immobility is al so the causes of low status of women.

High fertility is very important factor, which makes which makes women's physically weak and mentally deprived. They have spent their time to bearing children as a substitute of doing economic gain. So they are economically poorer than other family. Another root cause of women's low position in the society is the lack of capital formation in the study area. Whatever they earn, they have to consume for living. There is no any institute, which can provide loan for women. Financial institute demand the physical property for deposit but women have not any physical property in their name.

At the time of harvesting in the study area, Rai, Limbu women are using food grains to make alcohol and JAND. After five or six month they are suffering from the food problem. It can be define as the cause of poverty. Ownership of the property also play very important role against the domestic violence, so that lack ownership of the resources is also the causes of women's low status. Extra skill (tailoring, weaving, etc.) can help to raise the women economic status but most of the women have not any those type skills and also the cause of women's property. The poverty indicates the low social and low economic status of women.

5.2 The Changing Status of Women in the Study Area

Women role in development issues have been accepted since the six plans as a national policy. After the restoration of multi- party system in 1990 policy makers are giving due important to uplift the status of women. A separate ministry, to look after the welfare of the women has been established. Especially, after the world women Conference held in Beijing in 1995, the question of women empowerment has been brought in to the limelight. His Majesty's government of Nepal is very much committed to fulfill the commitment made in this conference. In fact, the ninth five year plan, which is currently under operation, reflects the government's commitment to bring women force in the development process of the nations as well as empower them.

During the early 60's some women scholars showed the concern of women's space in various disciplines which they found missing. They simply began with the question "And what about women?" This question opened the eyes of many women

scholars to explore the contribution of women and initiated them on the study of women. The publication of Simon behavior's "The second sex" in 1953 followed by "The Feminine Mystique" (1963) by Betty Friedan had inspired the women of second generation of feminist movement to dig more in to women's issues.

At present in the Nepalese society, to address all these issues, women organizations and women themselves have been strongly advocating and lobby for maximum women participation at all levels of state mechanisms. As a result recent Constitutional assembly election has ensured almost 33% women representation. This is a major achievement in the history of Nepal as well as entire south Asian region. However, Nepalese women holding more than 50 percent population in the total census should not be satisfied with result. They must strive and fight for ensuring 50% proportional and meaningful representation of women at all level. Also, those women CA members have different challenges ahead, for which they need support and collaboration from all the members of civil society as well as political parties (Kiran, 2008).

There has been change in cultural assumption about women and leadership in Nepal. But, still women political figures had difficulty gaining a hearing of respected for their ideas, were tied to 'female issues' and were perceived as not capable of winning elections. The issues raised by women are treated as 'women's and not as issues of state. Women serving as ministers, professors, civil society leaders and all have demonstrated their competencies as leaders to public. All those constitute opportunities for the public to see female leadership. But as a result of patriarchal thought, still the political positions are not given to the women in political parties and state mechanism (kiran 2008).

Status of women means the place of women given by now society. If women are given equal rights as men in different sectors like property and other social as well as political sectors that society is advanced and women status is high. But most of the women are deprived from rights and are complied to be limited inside the household activities in Nepal. However, education and awareness has brought some changed among the Nepalese society. It is not satisfactory towards the women right.

Since last 20 years before, women education took place in country with great importance. After the restoration of democracy, the new government adopted the free education policy in the country. From 1987, after the establishment of higher education board in Nepal, many of the rural women are getting education in home village. Such education programmer helps to be aware of rights and duties. Now days, changing have seen on the status of women.

5.2.1 The Changing Status of women in Education

Education is the major components to get better opportunities in a society and country. It is essential factor to change the status of society. Female education has great importance to raise the society and status of women. In these days changes have been seen on the status of women in Namsaling VDC than 10 years before.

The local woman of the Namsaling V DC wards no 4, Ram Maya Tamang says: there was no chance to go school. There was only one school and the less number of girls in the school comparing with the large number of boys. And also there were no female teacher in that school. We were not free from household work. We had no chance to go to outside. There was no any awareness programmer to increase our status. We were treated as second classes people in the society as well as our own houses. But now, there are many chances to participate in different programmers. The girls are getting chances to go to school like boys. Now, many kinds of sources of opportunities available for women like men. Ram Maya Tamang says “there have been seen chances in the VDC.”For example - there are altogether one High school, three primary schools, one private school and one lower secondary school in 4, 6, 7 wards . There are many public schools in the VDC. There is altogether 1802 school- going children were number of girls and boys are 872 and 930 respectively. Male teachers are 48 and female teachers are 14 in this VDC School.

Among the total 41 sampled, it has divided literate and illiterate and also among men and women are 34, 30 literate categorized by S. L. C. passed, Intermediate, Bachelor and master completed from male and the female also.

Table No. 5.1 The changing Status of Women in education

S.N.	Education	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage
1.	Literate	34	82.9	30	73.17
2.	Illiterate	7	17.07	11	26.82
	Total	41	100	41	100

Table No. 5.1 The changing Status of Women in education

S.N.	Education	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	7	17.07	11	26.8
2.	S.L.C.	13	31.70	12	29.25
3.	Intermediate	9	21.95	9	21.95
4.	Bachelor	7	17.07	5	12.19
5.	Master's Degree	5	12.19	4	9.75
		41	100	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Table no. 5.1 shows that among 34 Literate male 31.70 percent have passed S.L.C. and also 29.25 percent women have passed S.L. C. 21.95 percent male have completed Intermediate and 21.95 percent female have completed Intermediate. 17.07 percent male have completed bachelor and 12.19 percent female have completed Bachelor, it is increasing number of female than the past. Among 82.9 percent literate, only 12.19 percent male have completed Master's Degree and only 9.75 percent female have completed Master's Degree. IT is also the increasing number of women. Most of the old age of men and women are illiterate

Table No. 5.2 Number of students and teacher

S.N.	School	Boys	Girls	Total	T. M.	T. F	Total
1.	Namsaling secondary school	398	391	789	17	3	20
2.	Pashupati Academy Boarding School	193	150	343	9	3	12
3.	Nepal Jyoti Lower secondary	210	205	415	8	2	10
4.	Nara primary School	41	35	76	2	3	5
5.	Saraswati Primary School	37	38	75	3	2	5
6.	Namsaling Higher secondary	51	53	104	9	1	10
	Total	930	872	1802	48	14	62

Periodic sustainable Development plan Namsaling VDC. (2068- 2070)

This table no. 5.2 shows that from total 4 public schools of Namsaling VDC ward no 4, 6, 7, where as 930 Boys and 872 girls. Among the 62 teachers, 48 are male's teachers and 14 are female teachers. It has improved number of female teacher and girl's student than the past.

5.2.2 The Changing Status of Women in Occupation

Especially, occupation of women in household work or limited on private sector. But now, women have participated in other economic sources. They are helped by male member in household work. They involved in community decision making. Because of the education and changing attitude towards women in society can see some changes about the women. They are involved in cutting and sewing, business etc. Due to the concept of equality of men and women, there is not seen so many difference between men and women. So women have become self [- dependent. It has shown below the table.

Table No. 5.3 Changing status of women in occupation

S. N.	Occupation	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Only Agriculture	11	26.82
2.	Ag+ Labor	8	19.5
3.	Ag+ service	10	24.39
4.	Only Service	4	9.75
5.	Ag+ Business	6	14.6
6.	Only Business	2	4.87
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.



Figure: Table No. 5.3 changing status of women in occupation

The table No. 5.3 shows that the occupational status of women. In the study area, in 26.82 percent women are involved in only agriculture and others were involved in agriculture. But before 2060 BS, they hadn't engaged any type of occupation except agriculture and labor. But condition of present is a bit different. 26.82 percent women are involved in only agriculture and 19.5 percent women are involved in agriculture and labor. Some of the women are involved in service, business except

agriculture. Because of the education and changing attitude towards women can see some changes in society. But Dalit women couldn't feel changes as other women. They are illiterate and involved in labor work. There is great change occurring in Brahmin society. To clear it case study has done.

Case 1

Mira Nepali says: However, there is great change occurring in the Brahmins and janjati society. We are very behind of them. Children of Brahmins community have good environment for the study but we cannot provide such environment to our children. We have to do struggle to solve the hand to mouth problem and our children are also compelled to do work in very child age. He is my son at the age of 12 (showing a boy near to her), and he had gone to plough a land of a landlord and earn 200 rupees a day. While he was ploughing, sometimes he is going to public school. The son of land lord was going to private school that was at the age of 14 years. My husband was died. So I have to conduct all the responsibility of my household. My son (12) and daughter (14) use to help me to manage the household.

According to Mira Nepali, women from Dalit community have not been good position and she is poor than other community women. The higher caste's women have become self- dependent and educated also. Dalit women are still facing the situation of poverty and feeling dominated by the higher castes.

5.2.3 Number of Women Received Training

Training helps to involved in self- employment like animal husbandry, cutting and sewing support to rural women to rear goat and cattle for sale. Women can rear such animals for commercial purpose. Cutting and sewing helps them to generate income women empowerment program, silai- bunai program, Mahila bachat samuha etc. There is a NGO named- Namsaling community development centre (NCDC). Sometimes it brings different programs for women empowerment.

Table No. 5.4 Number of women Received Training

S.N.	Types of Training	No .of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	12	29.26
2.	Animal Husbandry	10	24.39
3.	Health	8	19.51
4.	Cutting and Sewing	7	17.073
5.	Weaving	4	9.75
	Total	41	100

Source: field survey 2013.

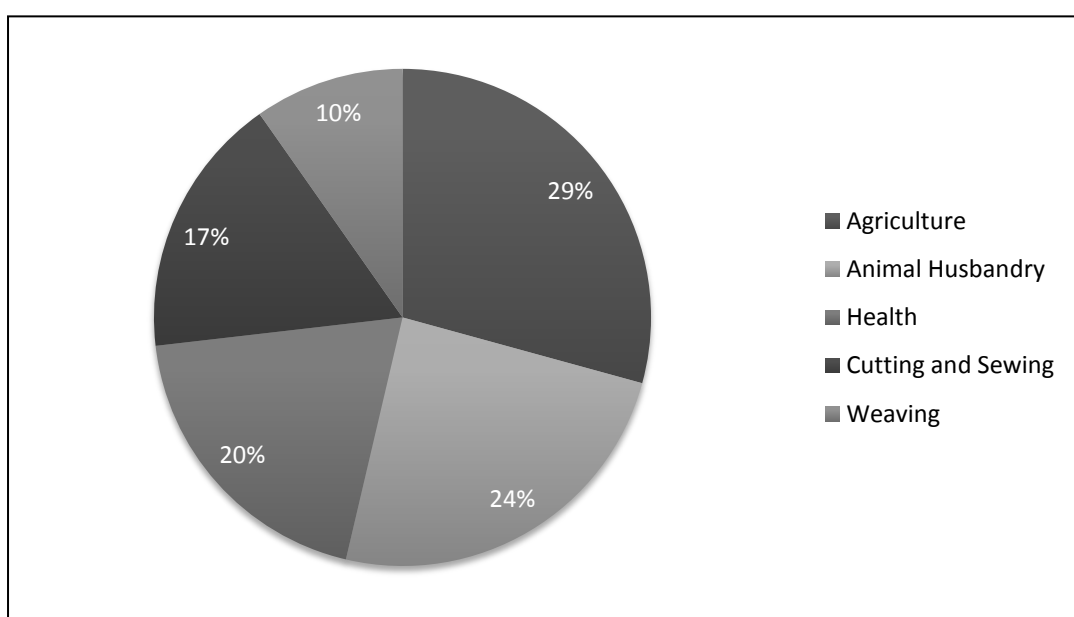


Figure: Table No. 5.4 Number of women Received Training

In the study area, most of women have gained training. However they are trained, they are not using training to generate income. It is because women have to pay more attention in other household activities. It is found that most of women use to get training after completion of S.L.C. exam.

Such income generating training helps them to be independent and raise the status of living. It has been increasing to empowerment men day by day than the past. That time women had engaged only in household work and agriculture, caring children

caring livestock etc. Lack of knowledge they didn't have participate in such type of training. This case study has supported moreover.

Case 2

Narbada Nepal says: I'm 65 years old. I gave birth seven children. There was traditional concept of society, at that time, ten years before from today. We used to involve only in household work and agriculture work cause of traditional and patriarchal society. We had no time to go to school. Our parents said us it was no necessary education for the daughter because she is 'witch'. We had no knowledge of any kind of training and education. There was a saying 'only sons have to go to school'. But now the situation has changed. Most of women become educated. All of women are empowered and have trained. Now, people think it is necessary for girl education.

5.2.4 Changes in Land of Women

However, some change can be seen due to education and awareness program launched by NGOs and INGOs. Due to the patriarchal society women have no property right in their name. Only widow women have had property right in their name. But now the concept of equality between men and women there has been seen some changes.

Table No. 5.5 Land Ownership of women

S. N.	Land in the name of Respondents	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Yes	18	43.90
2.	No	23	56.09
	Total	41	100

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Above this table no. 5.5 show that about the changing ownership of women in the land. Now, 43.90 percent women have land ownership of their name and 56.09

percent women have no land in their own names. But it is the increasing number than the past. The women who were only widowed had land ownership in their names at that time.

5.2.5 Transaction of land by women

Transaction of land property by women shows the access of women in the land property. Since the last 5-8 years women have actively participated in land transaction in this study area

Table No. 5.6 Transaction of land by Women

Types of land	Bought			Sold		
	Transaction Number	Area (Ropani)	Bought Date	Transaction Number	Area (Ropani)	Sold Date
Only Ghaderi	12	9.50	2065-070	8	4.50	2065-070
House	8	-	2063-068	3	-	2063-068
Khet	6	35	2062-070	2	12	2062-070
Bari	3	13	2064-069	4	15	2064-069
Pakha bari	1	7	2060-067	5	17	2060-67
Total	30	64.5		22	48.5	

Table no 5.6 shows that the transaction of land property by women. There are 30 cases of land bought and 22 cases of land sell. Very full area of 'ghaderi' has sold but 'pakhabari and bari' has sold in high quantity. But there are low cases of pakhabari and bari purchase of ghaderi and houses are the highest in number. It is because most of the women have bought ghaderi and houses after selling those lands. This also reflects the attraction of people towards the city and tarai region.

5.2.6 ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION - MAKING

There are various works with in the household. Here household role means such as kitchen works, washing clothes fetching water, firewood etc.

Generally, who has played the role in any sector she/ he can play the decisive role in that sector. Here, decision means, how why and which to do the household works.

Involvement in family decision making process indicates one's higher or equal status in the family. Status of women is also religiously higher in Nepal, especially in higher caste Hindu families. But it is only in theory or it can be said that it is true to some extent, when they are in their status of daughter.

In the role of daughter or daughter-in-law women are not accepted as a decision maker. When, particularly at their old age, performing the role of mother or mother-in law, she can take part in decision making process. Except for a few percentage most of the women have no authority or say on economic decision making. The situation is however much better in hill women such as Limbu, Gurung and Magars (Bhusal 2004).

Women have not taken up strategic decision making positions as quickly or in as large numbers. Although, represent about 40 percent of workforce, account for less than 20 percent of management and 8 percent or less of senior management. In public administration, female decision makers tend to be concentrated in social rather than economic or line ministries, in non strategic sectors and in staff and administrative positions rather than line and professional management positions. Some women have penetrated the 'glass ceiling' at the highest level. Women are heads of state ministers, presidents of the corporations. But at the same time and in the same countries, women are very poorly represented among elected representatives, and 'glass ceilings' at the lower level have been particularly impenetrable. (Usha , 2003)

Women are more apt to say that husband's decision or have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approved or accepting husband's decision without questioning does not mean that a decision was made jointly, simply because express opinion does not mean that make a decision. The idea is that women express disagreement because have an increased sense of their own value and an increase in the level of confidence in voicing opinions. (Acharya, 1994)

Women's earning is sustainability lower than men because of the household division of labor which assigns domestic work mostly to women due to lack of awareness. Culture and social custom also limit female participation to work outside the home. The role of women in household decision making and the allocation of household resources depend upon a number of factors. These factors include type and composition of the household, age and life stage of the women and the number of household males absent from the village. The breakdown of decision making by various ethnic group is presented below.

The decision making field of social field indicates the social works like to make road build tap and school building which is contact in the society. The decision making field of financial indicates that to building the selling goods cattle land etc. Playing the wage to the field workers so on where the decision making field of family is the family matters like to send the child into school, household work and agriculture work etc.

Table No. -5.7 Involvement Respondent in Their Family Decision- Making

S.N.	Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Full involve	9	21.95
2.	Partial involve	12	29.26
3.	Not involve	20	48.78
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The table no - 5.7 show that 29.26 percent of the respondents were found to be

partially in decision making power rests upon male members of the family. Some respondents were 21.95 percent fully involved in decision making of simple issues such as dispersing seeds , processing and storing food grains and the issues concerned with kitchen and food supply. A percentage 48.78 of the respondents was not found to be involved in decision making on the important issues of the family.

The increase number of decision- making indicates that the women who have prominent role in household work, they haven't taken in decision making but decision making of two men indicates that have been seen more awareness on household work or they have dominated to women even in the decision making of household works.

5.2.7 Women's Involvement in Community Decision

Nepalese are son preference societies. Still women are controlled to participate in community decision. Beside it religion, tradition, social attitudes make several limits on women's involvement into community decision. Following table shows that women's involvement in community decision.

Table No- 5.8 Sampled Respondents by women's Involvement in community Decision making

S.N.	Community decision	No. of respondents	Percentages
1.	Involved	26	63.41
2.	Not Involved	15	36.58
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The table No- 5.8 shows the situation of decision making process of women in family. 63.41 percent respondents were general participating in to community decision and 36.58 percent respondents have not involved in to community decision. It shows that the new emerging sector which affects for last long in family is handled by women. They are now educated and aware about the modern age. Such decision making process depended upon the understanding between male and female.

5.2.8 Decision Making to attendant social Activities

Social activities are important part of human life. It is generate the human beings and to gain for knowledge and awareness. The following table shows the situation of decision making on to social activities.

Table No- 5.9 Distribution of sample Respondents by Decision Making attendant social Activities

S. N.	Decision Maker	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	18	43.9
2.	Female	23	56.0
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

Among the 41 sampled household, 43.90 percent were made by males and 56.0 percent respondents be female. It shows the decision making power is higher than male on go to social activities.

5.2.9 Women Participation in Social-Cultural Activities.

The Nepalese society is traditional and most of the traditional and cultural aspects play effective role to enhance the status of women in the society. Females have no property rights and low access to education and economic actively. Indeed it is ridiculous in modern society where both male and female are equal rights and responsibilities. Through males and females are considered equal, female have low access to education, employment and other gain full activities and they have low status in the society. But different social organization female's generated low social status out of the 41 respondents the participated in social-cultural activities shows the following table.

Table No. 5.10 Distribution of Sampled Respondents by participate women in social cultural Activities

S. N.	Types of Activities	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	C.F.U.G	13	31.70
2.	Mother Group	10	24.39
3.	Religion	8	19.5
4.	Others	6	14.6
5.	No participate	4	9.75
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

This table no. 5.10 shows that 9.75 percent women were not participate in social-cultural activities. 31.70 percent women were the participating in community forest user groups. Similarly 24.39 percent women were the members of mother groups. 19.5 percent respondents were involved in religious groups and 14.6 percent women were participating in different groups. Such as Health, livestock, Management and assistant of social works.

5.2.10 Expenditure of Children Education

According to the field survey, out of the total 41 sampled households, male member have dominant role in deciding children's education. The decision about children's education and expenditure for them was made by males in most cases. The following table shows the male dominating to take decision on expenditure of children's education.

Table 5.11 Distribution of Sampled Household by Decision of Expenditure of Children's Education

S. N.	Decision Maker	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	22	53.65
2.	Female	19	46.34
	Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Out of 100 percentage it was found that 53.65 percent respondents decision were made by male and only 46.34 percent respondents decision were made by females. Through both male and females are equally responsible for the children's future but only male member decide in most of the cases. It may be due to low educational status of female and their economic dependency. The decisions of the female in lending their children to school are found to be less strong.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

The main objective of this study was to show the socio – economic status and the changing status of rural women in Namasaling VDC ward no: - 4, 6, 7 of Ilam district. It was taken one month to collect data in the related field for this research. 41 women had selected from three wards of Namsaling VDC and included only 15 above years of women. In Namsaling VDC, how is the socio-economic characteristic of women? What are the problems of their life? What are the changes have seen in their life, since last 10 years till now? And what are the roles of women household decision making? Primary and secondary sources of data have been collected from questionnaire, interview by traditional sociological method to analysis the description of data. Most of data are qualitative. To make the study scientific and manages its statistical method analyzed the data based on general tabulation, percentage and ratio. There are different castes groups in the study area as Brahmin Chhetri Janajati, Dalit, etc.

Nepal is patriarchal society; it gives more priority to men than women. So women are lacking behind then men in social, economic and political sectors. It is said to that women are poorest among the poor. Their lives are dominated by domestic work loads. In Nepal women bear triple work responsibilities household works and outside works and emplacement. In developed or developing countries reproduction is not regarded as work burden of women in Nepal is high in global scenario.

In this study, most of the women are involved in agriculture; however their changing status is better than the past. Some of them are involved in other activities like sewing, teaching etc. And old age of women are involved in household work and

rearing children. Educated and capable women are getting jobs inside the village like teachers, social supervisor etc. But the major occupation of this VDC is agriculture. Now there is vast different of educational status then the past. Only 26.82% women are illiterate most of them are old age women. 73.17% women are literate and having more primary education, 21.95% women having intermediate and 12.19% having bachelor and among of them, a few percent women 9.75% having master degree. But there is vast different between men and women in getting higher education. There are 17.07% men having bachelor, but only 9.75% women and 12.19% men having master degree. This study shows that a higher percentage of family is nuclear types. The general literacy rate is satisfactory in this village but the higher study rate is very poor of women than men. Agriculture is the main sources of income, the women are involved in to agriculture works and only few women are engaged in outside works (official works). From economic point of view almost all women are dependent on their family. The decision making power of women's low. In this modern time, there has been some change on women status, education is important factor to change of the society.

Higher percentage of women said that the government and organization should provide awareness, literacy and education to develop the socio-economic status of women in the society as well as nation.

6.2 Conclusion

From this study, it found that there was no better socio- economic status of women at the time 10 years before. There was very narrow thinking about the women education in the past society did not like to provide education to the women. Because of the lack of education and lack of awareness, women could not get rights. They couldn't go far from the house or everywhere without permission of their husband and family. Because of the heavy load of household work, they had no knowledge and no time to rearing children instead of doing economically poorer than other family.

At present, there is high change in socio- economic status of women than the past. In

this time, women who have own property or jobs or high educational degree or political access, have high status in society. Among the different sectors, socio-economic condition of a woman determines the status of in a society. In the study area, women having job or source of income have great status than that of low income source and low educational status. Most of the women have more income source and educational status. So women can learn any training fast like animal husbandry, vegetable farming etc. Cause of social awareness women have included in economic activities like – sewing, cutting, business engaged in outside jobs, beauty parlor also. So they are capable in the economic sector.

Women property ownership is the important variable to develop their socio-economic status. They used property but have less ownership than men. The major findings of the study area described as below

- In the study area, there is high change in socio- economic status of women-like education, occupation, land ownership; women received training or role of household decision making than of 10 years before.
- In this study area, the general literacy rate is high but the higher educated rate or getting bachelor or master degree's education is low than men.
- In the context of major income source, most (26.82) percent of the women's income in agriculture.
- 43.90 percent women have land ownership 56.09 percent women have no land ownership in their own name. Very few women have control over the land property. Only widows have less control over their land property. The new land purchase percent of women in increasing than the past which is the positive sign for women.
- A large majority (53.65) percent of women are found to be married while only small minorities (31.70) percent women are unmarried.
- The change has seen in the Brahmin, chhetri, women but Janjati, Dalit women are not effectives change cause of the lack of education and poverty.
- In the study area, (56.09) percent live in nuclear family and (26.82) percent women live in joint family.

6.3 Recommendation

Women who constitute one half of the total population play an important role in every society. Hence, gender discrimination is a major issue of development in Nepal. The selected study area is situated eastern part of Nepal. The following are the main recommendations for the improvement of socio-economic status of women of this area are as follows:

- Living some educated women behind the women of this study area does not possess an adequate education. Most of them are illiterate. Hence, it is important that literacy program should be conducted on a wide scale to increase the literacy rate of the women of this area.
- Unemployment seemed to be one of the main problems of this area. The different types of training are needed to build-up the self-confidence of the women.
- Gender sensitization is important for the success of any program. Local men and women of young and old age should be sensitized about the importance of women's roles in the family. By means of organizing various programs especially from the existing women's group of this locality this may be achieved.
- Cast discrimination should be reducing because there are all types of cast in the VDC, to improve socio-economic states of all peoples in the VDC.
- Women based awareness programs on health, sanitation, scientific agricultural framing domestics industries, educational opportunities etc. are specially needed to the all women of the community.

Proportional participation of women in every aspect of developmental programs is better to be implemented.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Topic Changing Status of Rural Women

Namsaling VDC

General Introduction of the Respondents:

a. Education Name..... b) Age..... c) Sex.....

d) Religion e) Education..... f) Marital Status: married ()
unmarried () widow ().

g) Family type: a) nuclear b) joint,

h) Cast / Ethnicity:

a) Brahmin b) chhetri c) Dalit d) Janjati e) others

1) Who is your household head?

a. Male b. female

2) How is your educational status?

a. Literate b. Illiterate c. SLC. d. Higher education

3) Who participate on the household activities?(cooking, cleaning, and washing)

a. Women b. men c. both

4) Are you involved income generating activities ?

a) Yes b) No

If you what kind of activities do you involved?

a. Agriculture b. Business c. service d. others.

5) While taking decision about property mobilization, dose your husband take advice with you?

- a. Yes b. no

6) How many hours do you work in a day?

- a. 5-7 b. 7-9 c. 10-12 d. 10-15

7) Men used to or do remarry for son. Do you think it is right or necessary, why?

- a. Yes b. No

If yes why.....?

8) What type of family structure do you prefer?

- a. Nuclear b. Joint

9) What is the main source of family income?

- a. Agriculture b. service c. business d. others

10) In your family, who use to attain the meeting in village level?

- a. Male b. Female

11) Have you any kinds of training?

- a. Yes b. No.

If you please mention it's types

Types of training

a.

b.

c.

12) Are you dominated by your family or husband?

- a. Yes b. No

13) Do you have feeling about the heavy load of household work sometimes?

- a. Yes b. No

14) Does your husband or other male members of the family help to perform household work?

- a. Yes b. no

15) What is the general trend for marriage age of girls, and what age did you get marriage?

- a. Marriage age b. get marriage age

16) Who take your marriage decision?

- a. Father b. mother c. relatives d. self

17) Does dowry improve the status of women their husband's family?

- a. Yes b. no

18) Do you have children?

- a. Yes b. no

If yes how many children do you have?

19) Do you have any separate property on your name?

- a. Yes b. no

If yes which types

- a. Land b. house c. money d. animals e. others

20) Do you think widow show remarry?

- a. Yes b. no

21) How much do you get as daily wage?

- a. If works labour, is that equal to male worker?

22) Is there any health service centre?

- a. yes b. no

If how many health care centre and how far?

23) How many times you become ill with in a year?

- a. one b. two c. More than two

24) What was the main disease?

- a. fever b. catching cold c. others

25) During your illness did your family support to you?

- a. yes b. no

26) Do you suffer from household workload during your illness?

- a. yes b. no

27) Do you see discrimination in terms of allocation of resources between male and female member in your family?

- a. yes b. no

28) What is the main b. Health c. Culture

29) Do you have any land on your own name?

- a. yes b. no

30) What is your status and position in your house?

- a. Mother b. daughter c. mother in law d. daughter in law

31) How is your relationship with family?

- a. depend with husband b. close c. distant

32) How is your relationship with husband?

- a. close b. distant

33) Do you see any discrimination between have and haven't Daijo (Dowry)?

- a. yes b. no

If yes what type of discrimination do you see?

34) Do you pressure to son or daughter for learning household work like cooking, washing etc?

- a. yes b. no

35) Men used to or do marry for son. Do you think it is right or necessary? Why?

- a. yes b. no

If yes why?

If no why?

36) How is your relationship with neighbors?

- a. General b. bad c. close d. good

37) Have you participate in decision making process of any kinds of resources?

Like, household work, land purchase, socio economic and political sectors.

38) Do you participate in any decision making process of the family?

- a. yes b. no