

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal is located between the two most populous countries of the world, India on the east, south and west and China on the north. It has overall area of 1,47,181 Sq. Km. the mean width about 193 km and length 885 km. and the country is multilingual, multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic. In the country 26.6 Million people of more than 125 castes and ethnic groups are living and divided into three types of ecological zones/regions viz. the Terai, the hills and the Himalayan. Terai has the higher density of migrants from inner Terai and hills and mainly Madhesis inhabit in these districts. Currently 3,276 VDCs and 191 Municipalities are in Nepal. Mahottari district is also a part of Terai/Madhesh in Janakpur zone and has a population of 627,580. The program of LGCDP-I was implemented in Gaushala VDC too, where the population are 17,086 including 8,763 male and 8,323 female (CBS, 2011).

The formal process for development had been started from 2013 B.S in Nepal. Besides, The Government of Nepal (GON) has made many efforts over the last decade to transform Nepal into an inclusive and just state by revising many exclusionary practices and laws to make the civil service more inclusive. It has also established and implemented several institutional mechanism and programs to incorporate different aspects of inclusive governance. Since the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990, the GON has been implementing various plans and programmes with the aim of reducing poverty of the general population (FEDO, 2012). The Interim constitution of Nepal (2007) has made provisions of local governance and community development. Also the Three year Interim plan (2007-2010) had made a separate section for fundamental rights and for more inclusive towards Adivasi Janajati, Dalits, Madhesis, women and person with disability (NPC, 2007).

After all practices and experiences of the country, the issues of social gap and disparity, the issues concerning power and privileges and the issues of advantaged and disadvantaged groups are still not resolved. The fruit of democracy and human right do

not reach to the marginalized sections of the society. It is widely known that still after the democratic decentralized governance in Nepal, the minorities of backward class of the society are dominated by power elites. The issues that are still significant between local self-governance and disadvantaged groups are the issues of participation in decision-making and control over the local common property resources. So the LGCDP-I was implemented for make effective and capacitate of LBs in Nepal.

GoN has committed to bringing about tangible changes in the local governance and community development process. In the development plan Government had incorporated a policy for increase local governance and community development activities through LGCDP with the aim of to improve the living standards of the people through community led development, efficient service delivery, good governance, based on a democratic value system and inclusive development efforts subsequent to the restructuring of the state. The LGCDP-I was based on the conceptual framework of federal, inclusive and participatory development with implementation of local level development initiatives under the leadership of local autonomous government. The program focused to support on poverty alleviation measures based on the fundamental premises of inclusive development and through the mobilisation of local resources with the direct involvement of local citizens and community organizations. The LGCDP-I was one of a large scale program of GoN which was implemented from November 2008 to 15 July 2012 for good governance and community development of Nepal (Project Document of LGCDP, 2007).

A major task of the GON is to substantiate the objectives, policies and principles of the Local Self-Governance Act (LSGA) -1999, and to translate the principles of local self-governance into practice through the mobilisation of local bodies and local communities. LSGA provides the legal basis for the involvement of civil society organisations (CSO) and marginalized communities representatives in formulating plans for the local bodies (LBs). The program was jointly implemented by MoLD (now known as MoFALD) which was given the need of improving local governance and participatory approaches to establish robust accountability of local government to communities.

For these issues and contexts the study focuses to find the impact, major achievements of LGCDP-I and the causes of strengthen of good governance and community development process. Also the study has focused on to assess of involvement of Dalit and DAG communities in the planning, implementing, monitoring and decision making process of local bodies. As well as to analyze of impact of LGCDP-I on DAG's for their access to local governance and community development process.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Nepal had faced over a decade long armed conflict. April 2006 People's movement brought historical change in the country. Communist Party of Nepal, Maoist that led the conflict in the country and they led government of Nepal. Rapid political changes are observed by the country. Voices had been raised in favor of the poor and socially marginalized. Political awareness among general population has gone high; their expectation from the political parties and the government had risen up. The first election of constitution assembly had been successfully completed and taken four year long time for making a new constitution but did not success to finalize by CA members. So after the circumstances the impact of LGCDP-I is also influenced because a government report shows that in mid-Terai district economic discipline is very weak and a recent study report of Prof. of Haward University and former Chief Secretary Bimal Koirala has also mentioned that 40% of the development fund of VDC of mid- Terai had been misused as commission (Koirala, 2011).

Mahottari is a border line district near India of central development region, where the pace of development is very low. Many of the villages of this agriculturally rich district are without the basic infrastructure of development. The district was highly prone to violence during Terai upraising or revolution. Dalits and marginalized communities were struggling against district based government offices on their development funds, which were misused or delayed by the officials. The voices of Dalits, excluded communities, minorities and women were unheard by the many officials and problems remained unsolved. They are devoid of being a part of decision making body and are not entertained in policy making places by so called upper castes and service providers. Even in current period they faces greater rate of discrimination due to lack of good governance, citizenry rights, on the basis of caste and gender, lack of collective action and power

relation. The allocated fund for marginalized groups is not completely reaching them hence they feel exclusion from the development process (UNDP, 2012). So need to see the cause of DAG inclusion and practice of good governance as well as of community development process of the area.

The April 2006 *Janandolan II* had given directives to all, especially the GoN, to address all forms of exclusion and inequality. The interim constitution declares Nepal an “inclusive” state and provides directives for affirmative action for the excluded communities. Thus the GoN had prioritized of LGCDP-I as key means for address on the current situation and substantial challenges. Such as; absence of elected representatives, since 2002 in the local bodies had created leadership vacuum and affected the local government system over the last decade in the country'. As per provisions on LSGA, 1995 for LBs that to build their capacity for good service delivery. Also the act focuses on decentralize of power and participation of marginalized communities' people in planning and implementation process.

Human development and equitable distribution of resources form the major developmental need of developing countries like Nepal. Although Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, it is rich in various natural resources and depended on donor's assistance. Its utilization has not been satisfactory because of the poor economic condition and other domestic problems, such as lack of inclusion of DAG communities in development process, corruption and many more.

In this context, the research issues that this study tries to address are as follows:

-) Was the goal and objectives of LGCDP-I had been met?
-) How LGCDP-I has addressed on the local governance, community development, inclusion of DAGs in development and decision making process ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyze the impact of LGCDP-I programme on local governance and community development process of Gaushala VDC at Mahottari district.

The specific objectives of the study are following:

- a. To assess the representation of Dalit and DAG communities in the planning, monitoring and implementing process of local governance and community development process.
- b. To evaluate the participation status in local committees, role of disadvantaged groups in decision-making and in local governance and community development system.
- c. To explore the factors that are responsible to involve of disadvantaged groups in local committees and how service providers regulate effective service during LGCDP-I.

1.4 Significance of the Study

GoN's major task is to provide effective service delivery through its mechanisms and to improve the living standards of the peoples through based on democratic value system. And for the process Government had implemented many policies to improve local governance and community development work through LGCDP-I. Which was based on the conceptual framework of inclusive and participatory development.

The study findings will support to assess of the mobilization process of the local bodies and communities including situation of effectiveness of service delivery & inclusive development process of LB. Also the study has provided a reflect of investment and an impact of LGCDP on DAG's inclusion in local governance and community development process in the VDC. It significantly provides the information of causes of barriers to participate in local decision-making mechanisms of disadvantaged groups and to assess of the implementation status of the provision of LGCDP-I and LSGA-1999 for DAGs. Are they playing effective role in major decision of local level? This study would be useful for those researchers who come with interest in the field of DAGs with special focus of local governance and community development process. Also it might be useful for the experts working in the field of the DAGs and their role in community development and local governance process. Through the study examines and explains of the role of DAGs in planning, monitoring, implementing and decision making process in LB.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The present study is focused on the local governance and community development programme of Gaushala VDC of Mahottari district. The limitations of this study are as follows:

- i. This study has covered only the selected area of Gaushala VDC of Mahottari District and may not be applied to the cases in other part of the country.
- ii. Simple statistical tools are used to analyze the data.
- iii. This study has assessed the participation situation and role of disadvantages groups in local committees and community development process in the VDC.
- iv. This study has focus on study about impact of LGCDP-I on Madheshi Dalits and lower castes of Madheshis who are known as DAG.

1.6 Organizations of the Study

The study is organized into Six chapters.

1. Chapter one includes introduction, background of the study, statement of problem, objectives of the study, significance and limitation of the study.
2. Chapter two deals with the review of literature to the study, which are related of LGCDP-I and its impact.
3. Chapter three includes the methodology of the data collection, sampling procedure, techniques of data analysis and research design.
4. Chapter four includes general background of the study area, universal and general random sampling procedure, research design.
5. Chapter five has dealt with the analysis of data obtained from the field survey. It also includes major findings of the study on impact of local governance and community development program on rural development.
6. Chapter six includes the summary, conclusion and recommendation of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with available literature about LGCDP-I . This section, efforts have been made of review past stakeholders or researcher's publication and documents pertaining to area of the study.

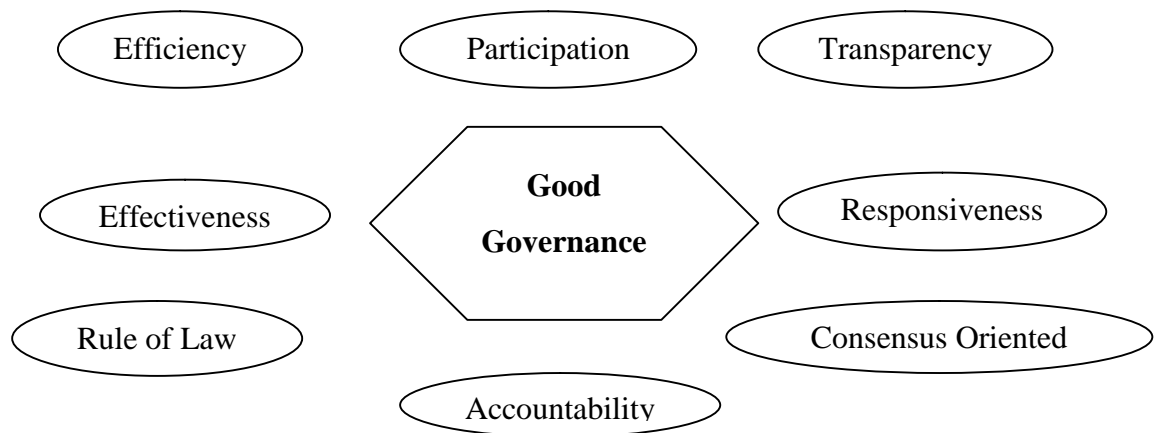
2.1 Concept of Local Governance

A Committee of Experts on Public Administration, Definition of basic concepts and terminologies in governance and public administration expressed that governance refers to the exercise of political and administrative authority at all levels to manage a country's affairs. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions, through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences (New York, 2006).

A definition of *'The Governance Working Group of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences 1996'* that 'Governance refers to the process whereby elements in society wield, power & authority, influence and enact politics and decisions concerning public life, and economic and social development'.

The Asia Foundation presentation on local governance (2012) expressed that the context of local governance in Nepal with the following points. Such as; the practice of power for the management of economic and social resources in the development of the state. As same the rules that answer the questions who, what and how decisions are made and enforced. Also same exercise of political authority and the use of institutional resources to manage society's problems and affairs. And also focuses of system that manages the public affairs related to social and economic resources locally is local governance. The basic concept of the governance and indicators covered the following areas.

Figure 1: Structure of good governance



As per various definition and the diagram it seems that governance focuses on strengthening institutions and human resource capacities at all levels and the governance, good governance and local governance are very much interrelated.

The working definition used by the British Council emphasizes that "governance" is a broader notion than government (and for that matter also related concepts like the state, good government and regime), and goes on to state: "Governance involves interaction between the formal institutions and those in civil society.

On governance, World Bank defined 'Governance reflects the worldwide thrust toward political and economic liberalization'. Governance - the conscious management of regime structure, with a view to enhancing the public realm.

A report of Asia Foundation (2012), explained about a historical perspective of local governance in Nepal that the indigenous or traditional institutions are Posang, Bheja Kipat, Mirchang, Dhikur Chaatis Mauja Irrigation System of the Tharus, Parma, Guthi, Choho, Rodhin, Katuwal are known as local governance. And during Kirant period it was known as Thumbs, during Lichhavi period Panchali and during Malla period Bhungti, Vaisya and Grama was the three tiers of administrative units.

Also the report focuses of evaluation of local governance in Nepal under five phases. Such as; the first phase was from 1950 to 1960 and started as Tribhuvan Village Development

Programme. The second phase was during (1960-1981) and known as Panchayat system was introduced. During the period three tiers of local governance: zonal, district and village/Municipal and separate Acts defined roles, functions, organizational structures and horizontal and vertical relationship with government and other agencies. And also establishment of MoLD. The third phase was during (1982-1991) and fourth phase was (1992-1998) and during the period following achievements has been achieved, such as; the VDC Act, Municipality Act and DDC Act, divided the names of previous district, Municipal and Village Panchayat into development committees, the Acts specified the organizational structure, representation, and election process and defined tasks and functions of the local governments separately and a high-level decentralization coordination committee. And the final phase was from 1999 onwards, which has been very important on the context of local governance, community development and DAG's development process. In the phase the Local Self Governance Act, Local Self Governance Regulation, Local Body Administrative and Financial Regulation, Local Bodies Fiscal Commission, Local Bodies (Financial Administration) Regulations, Governance (Management and Operation) Act, Federations of Local bodies, terms of elected people's representative expired, civil servant authorized to run the local body, all party mechanism formed including the representatives of political parties, CIAA directed the government to scrape the APM, Ministry of Local Development scraped the APM.

2.2 Concept of Community Development

A definition of Wikipedia defines that community development is a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems.

The United Nations defines community development as "a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. It is a broad term given to the practices of civic leaders, activists, involved citizens and professionals to improve various aspects of communities, typically aiming to build stronger and more resilient local communities. Community development seeks to empower individuals and groups of people with the skills they need to effect change within their communities. These skills are often created through the formation of large social groups working for a common agenda. Community developers must understand both how to work with individuals and how to affect communities' positions within the context of larger social institutions.

The UN agency says that the community development approaches are recognized internationally. These methods and approaches have been acknowledged as significant for local social, economic, cultural, environmental and political development by such organizations as the UN, WHO, World Bank, Council of Europe and EU.

2.3 Concept of Disadvantaged Groups

Wikipedia defines in common usage "the disadvantaged" is a generic term for those "from lower-income backgrounds" or "the disadvantaged poor". The "disadvantaged" is often applied in a third world context and typically relate to women with reduced "upward mobility" suffering social exclusion and having limited access to natural resources and economic opportunities. Statistically a person born into poverty is likely to die there and have children who live powerless as well. So on the basis of the definition the study focuses on Madheshi Dalit as DAG.

A DFID and WB related GSEA report 2005 stated that Dalits as the people at the very bottom of Nepal's caste hierarchy, have in the past been a source of discomfort to educated bureaucrats who in their formal roles regard the caste system as outdated and inconsistent with their goal of developing Nepal into a 'modern' state. Even now, the government and many development/aid organisations use euphemisms such as 'occupational castes', 'oppressed castes', 'backward classes', 'depressed castes', 'deprived castes', 'marginalized', and the disadvantaged groups, instead of referring to them as Dalits.

A report of ILO, 2005 as Dalit and Labour in Nepal, has mentioned about the term that Dalit is generally used to identify those on the lowest rung in the caste hierarchy. In most writings, the term is also used to identify the vulnerable and poor groups of people who are oppressed, suppressed and exploited. Today, to Dalit activists in Nepal, India and elsewhere implies those groups of people who have been broken, ground down by those above them in a deliberate and active way.

The nomenclature, 'Dalit', was chosen by Dalit activists in India, rejecting other more widely accepted terms, for example untouchable, scheduled castes, depressed classes or

Gandhi's term *harijan* (meaning God's people). These developments in India influenced Nepalese activists. This term, as well as the concept associated with it, has received wide acceptance in Nepal in recent years. Nepalese Dalits, thus, increasingly reject the terms, '*achhut*' (untouchable), *sano jaat* (low caste), *paani nachalne jaat* (water unacceptable castes) etc, and instead find their true identity in the term 'Dalit'. Neither the constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal nor any legislation uses the term 'Dalit'; rather, they use the terms, backward classes, downtrodden, and disadvantaged groups .

Disadvantaged groups: The social groups such as Dalits and in the study specially focus of Madhesi Dalits as DAG. The identification of Dalits has been done on the basis of government's categorization.

Dalits: Government of Nepal categorized of these castes as Dalit and the people who belongs to the so called low castes likes Tatma, Mushar, Paswan, Chamar, Khatwe, Dom, Halkhor, Dhobi, Bantar and Chidimar.

2.4 History of Local Governance and Community Development Process in Nepal

The interim constitution (2007) of Nepal sets the future direction for the social, political and economic transformation of Nepal by guaranteeing social justice and affirmative action for women, Dalits, indigenous groups, the Madhesi community and disadvantaged groups. The constitution had proposed the future restructuring of the state in order to promote and institutionalize an inclusive, democratic and progressive local governance system, maximizing people's participation based on decentralization, devolution of power and the equitable distribution of resources to local bodies (LBs). Also the constitution provides for the creation of interim LBs at DDC, municipality and VDC level.

The constitution also provides for a conducive environment to promote people's participation at the grassroots level and for local, self reliant, institutional mechanisms to provide services to the people through decentralization as an integral part of overall governance. However, after the CA elections and its failure situation, the political equation has been changed in the Terai, which requires constitutional or policy changes in the existing legal provision (MoLD 2008). So the LGCDP-I program developed to address on the constitutional term.

MoLD has developed a concept paper (July 2007) on local development and self-governance to bring good governance and development interventions to people by reducing corruption, commission, mismanagement, delays and un-transparent procedures.

UN agency said governance means 'the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implement or not. Governance should ensure of decentralization of political authority and financial matter. Also said for good governance need to ensure of following characteristics, such as; participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, equity, accountability, strategic vision, effectiveness and efficiency matter.

A news carried by the Kantipur national daily on 31 August 2012 was stated that, out of 41 VDCs of Lalitpur district, 39 failed to meet the minimum performance criteria. The main reason for failure was not spending the 35% development budget which is meant to be used for targeted programmes for women, children, Dalit, Janajati, old aged, disables, Other Backward Communities (OBC) and Muslims (FEDO, 2012). Thus the report indicates still the trend of VDCs and DDCs related programs are not managed accordingly as per good governance rule, which impacts on rural and community development process has been weak.

A report of K.C. (2012), said that local governance is the widely accepted democratic system of governing people and addressing their local-specific need through participatory and inclusive development plans and policies, actions and programs. Also he examine local governance follows the decentralized principle of development with emphasis on the devolution of power from central authority to regional/local/sub-national level authority. So based on the view need to address the problems and voice of target beneficiaries and ensure their participation in the development planning and implementation process for good governance.

The report also focused that good governance incorporates budget ceilings, rights based development at the local level, notice boards, social/public audits, use of print and electronic media to ensure transparency in programs and budgets, monitoring & evaluation, and results based development. These functions are implemented by local

government units. Thus for the study of impact of LGCDP-I need to focus on these issues.

Scholars Lamichane, 2011 defines that local government as the closest tier and unit of government to the citizen at the lowest level. According to them, local government institution like municipality, village development committees and district development committees (in case of Nepal) are also the first entry point for people to gain access of local resources and influence decision-making process in government.

The project document of LGCDP-I (MoLD, 2010), mentioned that it is representative local governance project to assess the impact of local governance on the participation of Dalit, women, disable, Madhesi etc. in local development planning and implementation processes. Also the document stated that the various mechanisms can be noticed that suggest the efforts towards enhancing participation of local people in local governance sector. The formation of Local Peace Committees (LPC) at 29 districts (intends to spread over 75 districts) ensures the participation of disadvantages and backward communities including Dalits through their involvement in local planning and funds flow process of the DDCs. That means the marginalized communities are still not representing properly at VDC level planning and implementing process, which was accepted by government too.

An assessment report (2010) of LGCDP-I reported that the project facilitates the formation of Interim Local Bodies at district, municipalities and village level whose main functions was directed towards the upliftment of socially and economically backward classes including Dalit, women, disables through their involvement in revenue mobilization and budge allocation process. The project also implemented the local level employment opportunities for excluded Dalit as a part of positive discrimination policy. Under the disadvantaged group empowerment and community development components of the projects, Dalits along with other backward groups was targeted as a major beneficiary of development programs like Poverty Alleviation for Karnali region (One Family One Employment). After LGCDP-I project completion some outcomes came up, which was not satisfactory but certainly encouraging for future efforts in local governance sector. It enhanced the capacities of socially and economically backward communities

including Dalit to articulate and assert their demand and voice against government and advocate against caste discrimination in education, employment and various sectors.

K.C. Shyam, 2012 says on the basis of their interactions with the local governments units like VDCs and municipalities, their space for decision making in local development planning and implementation process, budgetary allocation and empowerment, the project identified 'social mobilization' as the major strategy embedded in local governance processes. Also oriented towards helping communities and community organizations to interface with local governments and other service delivery agencies (e.g. health centres, NGOs, etc.) at the local level.

The GoN is committed to bringing about tangible changes in the local governance and community development process through LGCDP-I from 2008. The aim was to improve the living standards of the people through community led development, efficient service delivery, good governance, based on a democratic value system and rights-based approach and inclusive development efforts subsequent to the restructuring of the state. That was based on the conceptual framework of federal, inclusive and participatory development, with the implementation of local level development initiatives under the leadership of local autonomous government. The focus of the local development programme will be to support poverty alleviation measures based on the fundamental premises of inclusive development, and through the mobilisation of local resources and use of local skills and technology opportunities- all with the direct involvement of local citizens and community organizations (LGCDP Project Document, 2007). So through the study found the linkage results of the VDC.

Numerous reports shows that the GoN major task is to substantiate the objectives, policies and principles of the Local Self-Governance Act (LSGA), 1999 and to translate the principles of local self-governance into practice through the mobilisation of local bodies and local communities with the facilitation and support of the central line ministries (GoN, 2008). For these objective MoLD has supported as LGCDP for local governance and community development at all VDCs and also the ministry has allocated at least 15% budget for development of marginalized people of all VDCs and Municipalities. LGCDP-I was a national programme, managed and implemented by the MoLD, and financed by

the Government of Nepal with its development partners (DPs). It was started with the aims of to contribute towards poverty reduction in Nepal through improved and more inclusive local governance and service delivery.

GoN stated on good governance that it is felt quite necessary to make service flow efficient, simple and accessible for raising the people's confidence on the government through establishment of citizen friendly governance system. For local bodies' capacity building, gender & social inclusion and poverty reduction in FY 2070/71, 4,82,00,00,000 budgets has allocated for second phase of Local Self Governance (NPC 2013).

MoLD's (Now MoFALD) vision on local governance and community development is to bring improvement in the living standard of the masses through local good governance based on a democratic value system and inclusive development effort subsequent to the restructuring of the state, based on the conceptual framework of federal, inclusive and participatory development, with the execution of the local level development initiatives under the leadership of local autonomous government (MoLD, 2008).

The peace process of Nepal started in June 2006, with the signing of the eight-point agreement between the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Maoist. The comprehensive peace agreement, concluded between the GON and the CPN (Maoist) in November 2006 guaranteed a political system based on universally accepted fundamental human rights, a competitive multiparty democratic system, constitutional checks and balances, independent judiciary, periodic elections, participation by civil society, press freedom, people's right to information, transparency and accountability in the activities of political parties, peoples' participation and the concepts of impartial, competent, and fair administration.

The Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007) reflects the commitments made by the SPA and the CPN (Maoist) and sets the future direction for the social, political and economic transformation of Nepal. It guarantees social justice and affirmative action for women, Dalits, indigenous groups, the Madhesi community, and other excluded or disadvantaged groups. Also the constitution proposes the future restructuring of the state to promote and institutionalize an inclusive, democratic and progressive local governance system,

maximizing people's participation based on decentralization, devolution of power and the equitable distribution of resources to local bodies. In a post-conflict context, the need to ensure a tangible peace dividend and a framework for recovery is seen as being a major justification for the programme (MOLD, 2008).

Naila Kabeer (2002) defines institution as a framework of rules for achieving certain social or economic goal. Institutions produce, reinforce and reproduce social relations, thereby creating and perpetuating social differences and inequality. She suggests four key institutional locations: the state, the market, the community and family & kinship. These institutions are not ideologically neutral, and they are not independent of each other. A change in the policy or practice of an institution may bring about change in the others. Kabeer argues that to understand how social difference and inequalities are produced and reproduced through institutions, it is necessary to move beyond the official ideology of bureaucratic neutrality to examine the actual rules and practices of institutions to uncover their core values and assumptions. Through the Kabeer concept we did try to find the impact of LGCDP-I on the governance and participatory development status.

Kabeer (2002) also categorizes socially excluded group or people as: problematic groups (e.g., beggars, rural landless or asset-poor, the long term unemployed, retrenched women workers, ethnic minorities), problematic conditions (e.g., poverty, unemployment, ghettoization, family breakdown, isolation) and lastly the problematic processes (e.g. political, social, economic). Therefore seen the dynamics of the exclusion are interrelated of collateral in nature as per the people, power domains, and conditions of the society.

According to Local Self-Governance Act, 1999 - the Act constitutes an important legal instrument towards enforcing equality provisions of the Constitution. The preamble of LGSA seeks to institutionalize the process of development by enhancing the participation of all the people including the ethnic communities, indigenous people and down-trodden as well as socially and economically backward groups in bringing out social equality in mobilizing and allocating means for the development of their own region and in the balanced and equal distribution of the fruits of development. So as per the act norms the area's local governance and community development program happened properly or not?

According to (Lopez and Scott, 2000), the proponent of structural analysis, pattern of institutions and relations result from the actions of individuals who are endowed with the capacities or competencies that enable them to produce them by acting in organized ways. These capacities are behavioral dispositions, and so social structure has to be seen as an embodied structure. They stated that embodied structures are found in the habits and skills that are inscribed in human bodies and minds and that allow them to produce, reproduce, and transform institutional structures and relational structures.

In the study of relational structure; John Rex (1961) in Lopez and Scott(2000) used ideas in a larger conflict model of society. He argued that it was necessary to complement institutional analysis with an investigation of the ways in which interclass relations are built into a variety of systems of domination through the actions of the conflict groups that struggle with each other at societal level. In a ruling class situation, for example one class dominates the whole society, determines the shape of its social institutions, and perpetuates its power over one or more subordinate classes. In the truce situation, on the other hand, there is a balance of power between two more or less equally matched social classes, and whole series of negotiated compromises are established. Finally, the revolutionary situation is one where subordinate classes have mobilized to resist the power of a dominant class and initiate a transformation in a social order. Through the concept we can find the key cause of the program succeed or major impacts.

Rene Lenoir (cited in Sen, 2000) regards the social excluded groups and people as: mentally and physically handicapped suicidal people, aged invalids, abused children, substance abusers, delinquents, single parents, multi problem households, marginal, asocial persons and other social misfits. On the basis of the statement we can define of disadvantage groups and to find the cause the barriers of participation of excluded communities in the society including programme.

A report of GIZ (2010), In the Civil code (Muluki Ain) of 1854 at the many non-Hindu indigenous groups (Janajati) were placed in the middle to lower ranks and at bottom were 'impure' and 'untouchable' groups known as Dalit. Poverty, lack of social services (health, education, water and sanitation, etc.) are the problems for rural lower castes and indigenous peoples. Due to the affects the excluded groups facing social and economic

problems. First time address by the name of Dalit and Janajati from the Ninth plan (1997-2002). The report mentioned that 'Democracy has given opportunities for Dalits ,Janajati, women and Madheshis to raise their voice about justice, which has increased their political awareness.

A report of World Bank and DFID (2003) stressed that unequal status is perpetuated and reinforced by unequal relations in role, functions, decision rights and opportunities. Accountability is one of the fundamental pillars of good governance.

A report's finding of MoFALD (2012) shows on Mid-Terai districts are very affected from corruption activities in LBs and also the governance situation is very risky. About the process of MCPM (Minimum Condition and Performance Measure) measure the situation of the Mahottari, Dhanusha, Saralahi, Siraha, Rautahat of Mid-Terai district are very poor and failing continue from three years. Due to the cause the extra grant of ministry for development is losing of these districts.

A baseline report of FEDO (2012) as '*Public Service Tracking towards Dalits and Marginalized Groups*' explain on the provision of the government, who has mandated that each district must allocate a portion of their budget to the upliftment of Dalits and other marginalized people. Specially, the MoLD requires that all VDCs and DDCs allocate at least 15% of its development budget for the development of these groups. However, despite these policies and the apparent good interventions of the government, it remains the case that Dalits and marginalized people are still largely deprived of services. The report focused several reasons that why the groups do not benefited from the services, but two major reasons are the lack of knowledge and information about these services among those people who may benefit from them and secondly, unwillingness or limited commitment on the part of service providers to make efforts to reach poor and marginalized people.

An article of Bishnu Pant, IIDS (2012) on 'Issues of Urban Governance in Nepal' mentioned that, presently Nepal is passing through a political crisis which is not likely to be over any time soon. The unstable political conditions have hampered both the economic and social condition of the people. The major political parties were engaged in

fruitless internal squabbles to fulfill their vested interest and field miserable to draft constitution. But he added that too it will be possible only in 'Good Governance" for with both the government and the local mass must actively participate.

A SIRF report on "Structural Inequality between Madheshi Dalits and non-Dalits" (2012) addressed on dimensions of inclusion and mentioned that among various dimensions, the structural inequality on the basis of caste, class, social positioning (even capable Dalits have been ignored from access to decision-making or social dignity) institutional barrier (the facilities provided for Dalits have been misused or swallowed by local authorities and Dalits have been derailed from access to educational scholarships and such other amenities) inter-group relationship among Dalits (because of poverty and lack of solidarity among Dalits as they are sub-ordinates of non-Dalits) and misused by so-called higher class people to disastrous condition. These embedded multidimensional exclusions in social-economic structure, institutions and process have made Madheshi society more complex which is considered as a grave problem for broader inclusion in society.

A thesis report of Baniya (2007) on "Empowering Dalits in Nepal" findings shows that different forms of discriminations badly affect Dalit particularly because they have been marginalized in each and every sphere of their lives based on caste system under Hindu religion. He also mentioned that Dalit empowerment initiatives independently propelled by CSOs are likely to be unsustainable; the several contributions made by these organizations have hardly made any difference in the lives of Dalits.

The study found that the CSOs themselves lack sound strategies and internal capacities that can enable Dalits in meaningful way. They also cannot run programs due to the lack of sufficient funds and the LGCDP-I activities of community level was implemented by CSOs.

B.K. (a Dalit Rights Activists) 2012 said the reasons out that the poor implementation is because of lack of insufficient, non-sensitive governance system and lack of proper representation of Dalits in both policy and implementation level.

Ian Martin (UNMIN chief for Nepal 2007) articulated that to address the long standing problem of caste based discrimination effectively; functioning parliament democratic system with real representation of Dalits is needed.

Lena Sundh, the representative of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal had also agreed that due to lack of Dalit representation in state body is cause of discrimination too, which results are exclusion of Dalit people from the state.

The Status report, 2011 of LGCDP- I that mentioned of following components. Such as; First, citizens and communities engage actively with local governments and hold them accountable. Second component was to increased capacity of local governments to manage resources and deliver basic services in an inclusive and equitable manner. And third component was to strengthened policy and national institutional framework for devolution and local self-governance.

Also the report findings was on social mobilization area improvement is that the need to accelerate the social mobilization activities at the local level. And regular and repeated orientation on social mobilization guidelines and REFLECT are required for Local Service Providers and social mobilization to strengthen social mobilization implementation. On financial management the report says that poor accounts keeping and late financial reporting continue to be major issues in local body financial management. On the monitoring and evaluation findings supervision at VDC level was very weak, hence it is often difficult to confirm the real issues at grass root's level. The capacity of Ward Citizen Forum (WCF) and Citizen Awareness Centres (CAC) need to be strengthened to enhance their effectiveness. WCFs are the pivotal institution at the local level to address choices and articulate the voices of the people, especially the poor and excluded, in planning, implementation and oversight of local level planning.

2.5 Summary of the Review

The reviewed studies are associated with the concept of local governance and community development program including governance, disadvantage group and local governance. Also reviewed of impact of LGCDP-I on DAG representation in local governance and

community development process. In the chapter it has been dealt with the meaning, scope and context of local governance, governance, people's participation, community development and their relationship with disadvantaged groups of the society. The review of the acts and plans is also an important part here.

Government refers to the structure whereas the governance is the functions of the government. According to the literature, the mandatory provision of participation or inclusion is one of the key factor to represent of DAGs in local level structure. Also the discrimination practice, low literacy rate, lack of implementation of Acts and law the DAG are under margin and not getting benefits of democratic norms and values. The local government performs the local affairs and is accountable to the local people. His performance or function is termed as local governance. The organs of the local governance system are VDCs, CBOs, UGs, political parties, civil society and market. The coordinated function of these organs is the local governance system.

The reviewed study are embedded multidimensional exclusions in social-economic structure and process have made Madheshi society more complex which is considered as grave problem for broader inclusion in society. Reviewed of miss-use of DAG's related provision, cause of LGCDP-I implementation, causes of discrimination practice and importance of the program for local governance and community development process.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEACH METHODOLOGY

This study is dedicated to reveal the impact of LGCDP-I in Gaushala VDC of the Mahottari district. Gaushala, one of the famous VDC of the Mahottari of the central development region and of the home VDC of the researcher has been selected for the study area. In the VDC the DAGs are easy to find and it is known as Madheshi Dalits populated area, so selected the VDC. Also this research study is guided by the theoretical understanding of local governance, community development and social inclusion of disadvantage groups of Nepalese context. And the study has been analytical in nature and this research explored the views of different set of respondents, as well as explored different literatures related with the study.

3.1 Selection of the Study Area

The study has been carried out in Gaushala VDC of Mahottari district. The Gaushala VDC is one of the renowned places of Mahottari district. From the VDC ward no. 1, 2 and 3 has been taken from purposive selected wards. The study area has been playing significant role in local governance, community development and inclusion process to the inhabitants of DAG community. This research is dedicated to find out of impact of LGCDP-I program on local governance and community development process of Gaushala VDC of Mahottari district. Many people from different castes and ethnic group are living in the VDC. So, it was easy to find out the impact of LGCDP-I on DAG communities. According to census report (2011) in the VDC has 3,022 households and 17,086 populations where 8,763 are males and 8,323 are females.

3.2 Research Design

The study has been based on exploratory and descriptive research design. It describes the impact of LGCDP-I on DAG's inclusion in the process of local governance and community development. It was exploratory in the sense that the researcher explores the DAG's participation in local level governance, planning process and decision making.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

This study is supported by both primary as well as secondary data. Primary data were collected through various tools of data collection. Secondary sources used were mainly the national censuses report 2011, MoFALD publications, website related information, published and unpublished documents of various sources including different governmental or non-governmental institutions or agencies.

3.4 Universe and Population of the Study

Gaushala VDC of Mahottari district is the universe of this study. The population of this study includes the selected household heads in the study area, VDC personnel of the Gaushala VDC. The VDC personnel include the VDC Secretary, Technical Assistant working in the VDC, Social Mobilizers (Staff of LGCDP) . The Civil Awareness Center (CAC), Ward Citizen Forum (WCF) members, DAG community's representatives and beneficiaries of the VDC are also included. Total 1,457 household are in the 3 selected wards and in the study house heads were selected from wards 1, 2 and 3 of the VDC. These wards were selected purposively.

The people of different caste and ethnicity are found there, simple random has been used to select the sample unit. First I have selected 90 households of DAG communities and LGCDP related persons. Among them 75 households' of direct involved persons of the three wards (25 from each ward) has been selected purposively. 15 persons has been selected as key respondent such as; SMs, VDC official staffs and local political or social organizations representatives .

3.5 Sampling Procedure and Sample size

General information about the household of the VDC was taken from the population Census 2011. To clarify the information, the VDC survey report was also consulted. Altogether 90 households were selected from 3 wards of the VDC's using purposive

sampling method. The ward wise selection of the households was again done with the help of simple random.

The distribution of households and number of sampled household is given in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1 Distribution of Households and Sample size

Ward No.	No. of Households in the VDC	No. of Sampled Households	No. of Sampled DAG	No. of Sampled Non-DAG
1	270	30	25	5
2	748	30	25	5
3	439	30	25	5
Total	1,457 (100%)	90 (6.17 %)	75 (5.15 %)	15 (1.02 %)

Source: VDC Profile, 2068.

Table 3.1 shows that 75 (5.15%) household heads of DAG respondents selected from each wards 25 respondents and 15 (1.02%) respondents from Non-DAG and VDC personnel, social & political organizations representatives as key informants were selected for the study with the help of simple random sampling. Mostly DAG respondents are representing from CACs and WCFs members. And from the Non_DAG the VDC personnel, SMs, political & social organizations representatives were selected.

3.6 Tools of Data Collection

In order to meet the stated objectives of the study, the following tools of data collection were used:

3.6.1 The questionnaire

Questionnaire was the main tool of data collection. Basically two types of questionnaire were designed to collect the data from the field. The first type questionnaire was so designed to get the information from the beneficiaries of the disadvantaged communities and from households' heads. Another type of questionnaire was individual questionnaire used to collect information from the VDC personnel, social and political organization's

representatives & Social Mobilizers. This type was designed to obtain the current status of the VDC and LGCDP's impact .

3.6.2 Participant Observation

Although not all tools and techniques of the participant observation were applied, this tool was adopted during the field research. During the field research, the researcher had observed the VDC's related developments work, VDC meetings minutes and name lists of arbitration committees. Similarly, the researcher had himself attended the monthly meetings of the VDC, CAC, WCF and arbitration committees. The participation of disadvantaged groups in the meetings and in local functions was noticed. The activities of disadvantaged groups in political parties and their relationship with the local governance and community development activities was also observed.

3.6.3 Key Informants' Interview

In order to support the data, some key informants were interviewed formally and informally. The VDC secretary, SMs, CAC and WCF members, Dalit communities representatives and social/political organization's relevant persons, etc were consulted for this. The researcher used interview method also to have face to face interaction with the respondents. An informal interview was conducted with DAG representatives, CACs & WCFs related HHs head on the impact of LGCDP-I regarding various issues like inclusion of DAGs and involvement in community development activities.

3.6.4 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

It was one of the crucial tools during the field study that helped to pick out some hidden information supporting the objectives of this study. Before organizing the group discussion, FGD instruction was prepared. And then the necessary participants for discussion were informed. They were provided with the topic of discussion and time schedule too. Before operating the discussion, one moderator was appointed who was already trained on the topic or subject of discussion. Then, continually Primary Research Questions, Why Questions, Testing Questions and likes were asked to the general

members. The moderator had asked the questions and responded to the answers of general members. The researcher in a separate note pad noted the information relevant to the study separately. The FGD was carried out with 10 members along with one moderator. Similar another FGD had also been carried out.

3.6.5 Selection of Dependent and Independent Variables

The independent variables affect dependent variables and they formulate an abstract process, which construct a figure in a society. Governance is the dependent variable in this study. The governance will be better only when it is participatory. Hence governance and participation are interrelated to each other. On the other hand, participation is affected by various socio-economic factors. Hence for the specification of the variable study, the participation has been selected as dependent variable in this study. The levels of literacy, economic status, employment or occupation, social structures, institutional provisions and political culture have been selected as independent variables.

3.7 Data Processing, Analysis and Interpretation

After the completion of the field survey, the information was gathered in one place. The data thus gathered, were first edited and then coded with the help of a coding table. After coding the data, they were tabulated. Before tabulation of the data, the data were classified and put under required headings and sub-headings. Tabulation has converted the data into percentage as well as frequency tables.

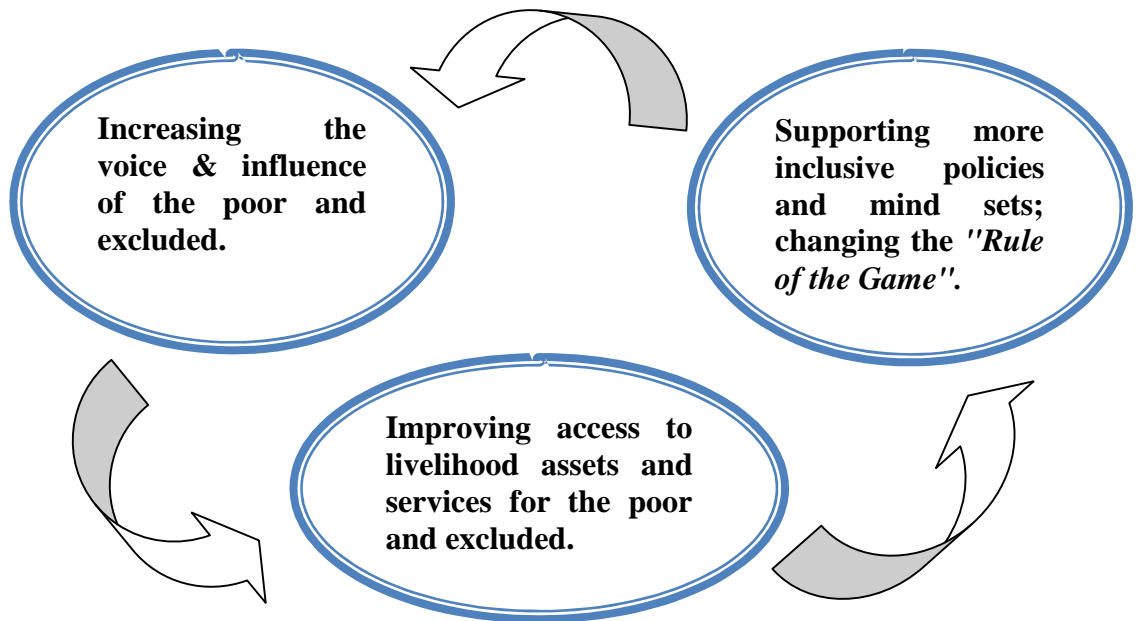
The information obtained from secondary sources as well as field observation, FGD and formal and informal interview were similarly processed and tabulated. The analysis was done with the help of simple statistical tools such as cross tables, percentage, percentage frequency (PF), average etc. So this study presents the data analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively.

3.8 Conceptual Framework of the Study

The study of impact of LGCDP-I on DAG is conceptualized from the below model. This model is the outcomes of review of literatures concerning the research topic. Which

shows its relation is as multidimensional to uplift of DAG's status and inclusion in local governance and community development process of LB. The framework is shown in figure 2.

Figure 2: Conceptual framework of the Study



The frame is focuses to increase of social mobilization related activities to support for enhance of the DAG's to build their voice and develop ability to influence decision affecting their development in the VDCs. It will pressurize the local government to respond to their voice and need.

The program policies has been ensured to develop effective institutions of DAGs for devolution and self governance in LB. Which had supported to make enabling environment for DAG inclusion in the local governance and community development process of LB.

The economy has been a major tool to influence the level of participation on social affairs and social hierarchy. Provisions of constitution, acts and laws also influence upon the interest of participation in socio-political activities. Political culture of a community or

the political parties has a great impact on disadvantaged groups in local governance and community development processes. Through the livelihood assets and services the status of DAGs will uplift for inclusion process in LB and it will also support to mainstreaming in the process of local governance and community development.

CHAPTER FOUR

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 The Mahottari District

Mahottari District is one of the Terai district of Janakpur Zone, which is situated in central development region of Nepal. Mahottari is one which lies in the south-west side of the Janakpur zone is almost all occupied by Terai plain area. The east boundary of the district is Dhanusha and similarly the Sindhuli district in the north, the Sarlahi to the west and the Bihar of India to the south. Geographically the district is located between 26-024' to 27-026' north longitude and 83-010' east latitude. The total area of the district covers 387 sq.km. The total population of the district is 6,27,580. Politically the district is divided into 6 constitutional electoral areas, 15 Ilakas, 3 Municipalities and 68 VDCs. Jaleswor Municipality is the headquarter of the Mahottari district.

The major rivers and rivulets of the district are Marha and Ratu. The religious and tourism destinations are Panchdhura Maisthan, Tuteshwornath Mahadev, Mangalnath Mahadev, Sona Maisthan, Padaulthan, Jaleshwornath Mahadev and Gaushala VDC's Jalpa Mai Mandir. The major market centers are Gaushala, Jaleswor and Bardibas.

In the district, there are mostly Hindu over 84 percent and 80 percent over Maithali language are spoken throughout the district (CBS, 2011). Six types of religions (Hindu, Boudha, Islam, Kirat, Christian, and Jain) are followed in the district.

4.2 Background of the VDC

4.2.1 Location

Gaushala VDC is one of a famous VDC and known as trade center of Mahottari district. There is Aurahi VDC and Ramnagar VDC to the east, Bharatpur and Fulkaha VDC to the west, Belgachhi VDC to the north and Negoul and Sunderpur VDC to the south. The total area of the VDC is 45 Sq. Km. The VDC is approximately 90-100 m above the sea level. The VDC represents plain geographical structure and most of land is suitable for agriculture production. The villagers are depended on agriculture and small retail business.

The VDC lies in the electoral area no. 6 of Mahottari district. The total population of the VDC is 17,086, where 8,763 are males and 8,323 are females. There are altogether 3,022 households and family contains 6.8 members in coverage. The communities mainly Dalits (Mushar, Chamar, Tatma, Dushadh, Khatwe, Dom, Halkhor), Vaishya/OBC (Rauniyar, Kalwar, Sudi, Teli, Koiri, Yadav, Haluwai), Hill Brahmin/Chhetri/Newar/Magar and Muslim are living in the VDC. The VDC constitutes of both Terai as well as hill Dalits and indigenous people. According to the VDC source, Madhesi Dalits groups- Mushar, Chamar, Tatma, Dushadh, Khatwe etc are defined as Madhesi Dalits and DAG group. Rauniyar, Kalwar, Koiri, Yadav, Haluwai etc are defined as Vaishya and OBC group. As well as Brahmin, Kshetri, Rajput, Bhumihar, Kaystha are known as Upper castes.

4.2.2 Demography

4.2.2.1 Population Characteristics

The total population of the VDC is 17,086 (male-8,763, female-8,323) according to CBS 2011. Where males comprises 51.28% and females of 48.72 (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Ward Wise Distribution of Population in the VDC

Ward No.	Total		Male	Female
	HH	Pop ⁿ		
1	270	1,709	886	823
2	748	4,046	2,077	1,969
3	439	2,414	1234	1,180
4	245	1,507	785	722
5	255	1,402	710	692
6	201	1,135	592	543
7	236	1,218	590	628
8	327	1,886	986	900
9	301	1,769	903	866
Total	3,022	17,086	8,763	8,323
PC (%)	100	100	51.28	48.72

Source: Gaushala VDC Profile, 2068.

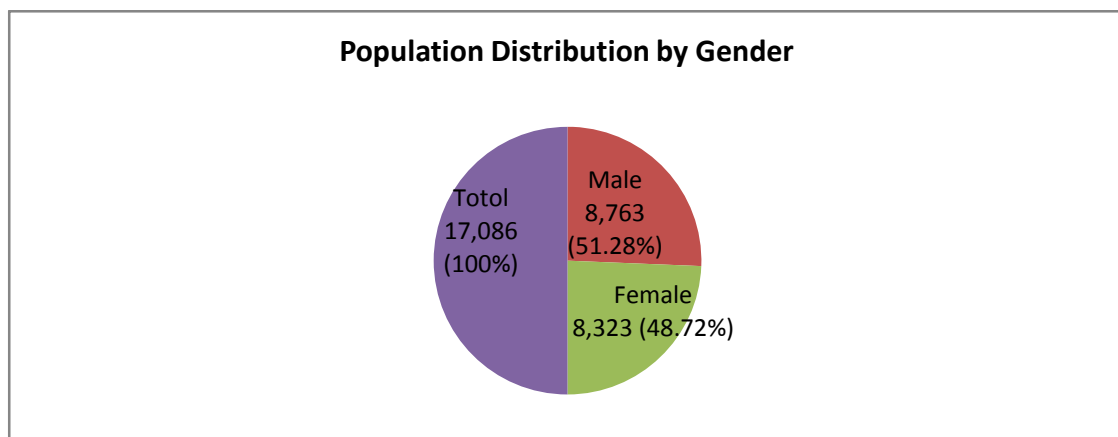
The table 4.1 shows the ward wise distribution of population in the VDC. There are 3,022 households in the VDC and total population is 17,086. Out of the total population the males are 8,763 and females are 8,323. Ward no. 2 consists of more households and population in comparison to other wards. Also the table no 4.2 below shows the population distribution of gender ratio.

Table 4.2: Population distribution by Gender/Sex

Gender/Sex	Population	Percentage (%)
Male	8,763	51.28
Female	8,323	48.72
Total	17,086	100

Source: Census Survey Report, 2011.

Figure No.3: Population Ratio of the VDC



CHAPTER- FIVE

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This chapter deals with analysis and interpretation of data collected during the field survey. In this chapter, the impact of LGCDP-I on DAG's inclusion in LB's mechanism and in decision making role of community development process. The analysis has been made on the basis of participation and inclusion of disadvantaged groups in decision making process of local bodies.

5.1 Socio-Economic Background of the Respondents

Before analyzing the data relevant to the objectives of the study, the socio-economic background of the respondents has been analyzed here. It will also provide a base for further analysis of data obtained from the field.

5.1.1 Age Structure of the Respondents

Age is also a social indicator that affects social mobilization. Age groups between 15-40 are generally considered suitable for political as well as economic participation is most important factor in demography and it makes difference in working hours, decision making role, social relation, types of work and responsibilities.

Table 5.1: Age Structure of the Respondents

Age	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 Years	Total
	Years	Years	Years	Years	above	
No of Respondents	5	10	40	30	5	90
Percent	5.55	11.11	44.45	33.34	5.55	100

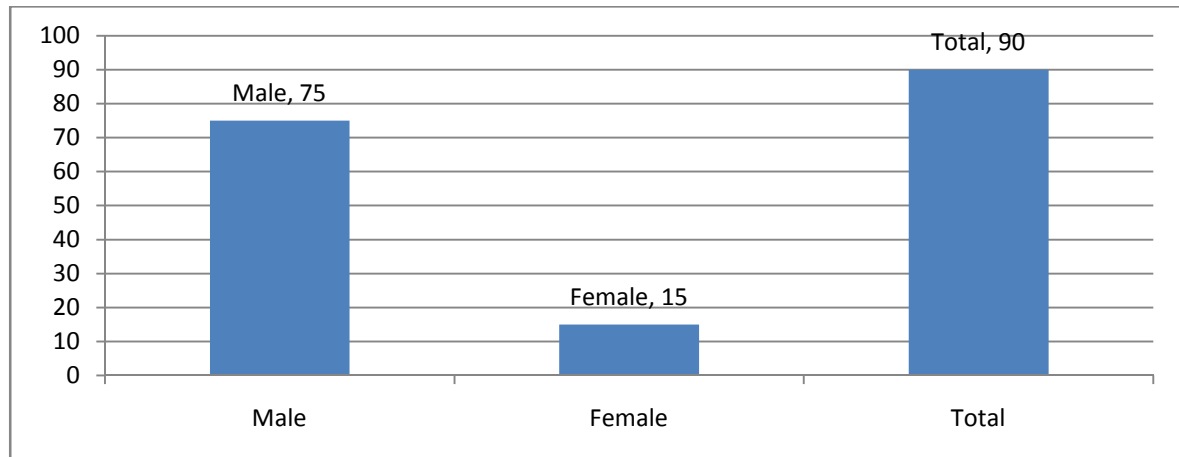
Source: Field Survey, 2015.

From the table 5.1 it is obvious that the respondents of age groups between 40-49 have the highest numbers 40 (44.45%). Gradually the respondents between the age groups 20-29 years, 30-39 years, 50-59 years, and 60 years above are 5 (5.55%), 10 (11.11%), 30 (33.34%) and 5 (5.55%) respectively.

5.1.2 Sex Structure of the Respondents

Sex provides basic situation information of inclusion status, local governance and community development effectiveness status.

Figure No. 4: Sex Ratio of Respondents



In the study, 75 (83.34%) Male and 15 (16.66%) Female respondent are found. In the study, mostly members of CACs and WCFs are included and based on the availability of respondents selected the ratio. But without analysis of female the impact of LGCDP-I will be incomplete.

5.1.3 Caste and Ethnic Composition

Caste is also main factor in our society and it plays important role interims of social activities. Nepal is a multi-ethnic country and different castes\ethnics groups. Each caste\ethnic group have own language, culture and religion. The country is full of cultural diversity. In the study site different caste/ethnic groups are found. Among them different castes of Terai/Madheshi Dalit's castes are known as DAG. These are selected for quantitative analysis and other castes selected as non-DAG for qualitative analysis. Caste and ethnic group population is the key factor for analysis of the study

The following table indicates the caste and ethnic composition of the respondents in the study area.

Table 5.2: Distribution of Respondents by Caste and Ethnicity

Caste Groups	Number	Percent
Tatma	15	16.67
Musahar	33	36.67
Chamar	10	11.11
Dushadh	5	5.56
Khatwe	10	11.11
Dom	2	2.22
Halkhor	2	2.22
Rauniyar	2	2.22
Sudi	2	2.22
Kalbar	2	2.22
Dhanuk	1	1.12
Brahman/Chhetri	4	4.44
Tharu	2	2.22
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

(Note: In the study Terai/Madheshi Dalits related castes Tatma, Musahar, Chamar, Dushadh, Khatwe, Dom, Halkhor are included as DAG; and Rauniyar, Sudi, Kalbar as Other Backward Castes (OBC and Tharu, Dhanuk known as Terai Janajati).

In the study mostly focused of Madhesi Dalits and the above table shows that the Madhesi Dalits related castes are mostly covered in the study. In the study area in the CACs & WCFs related structure mostly included of Madhesi Dalits related caste, such as; Tatma, Mushar, Chamar and others Madhesi Dalits communities members. Mahto is the most dominate caste groups living in this area. According to the table 36.67 % of the total respondents is Mushar, second largest caste is 16.67% of Tatma and after that Chamar and Khatwr are similarly 11.11%. The table shows that 77 (85.55%) respondents are from Madhesi Dalits, 6 (6.66%) respondents are from Other Backward Castes (OBC), 4 (4.44%) respondents are from Hill/Terai Brahmin castes and 3 (3.33%) respondents are from Terai Janajati.

5.1.4 DAG and Non-DAG Composition

In the study Madheshi Dalit castes are covered as DAG and rest of the respondents are coded as Non-DAG. The compositions of DAG and Non-DAG are presented in the below table.

Table 5.3: Distribution of Respondent by DAG and Non-DAG

Caste and Ethnic Group	Number	Percent
DAG	77	85.56
OBC	6	6.67
Terai Janajati	3	3.33
Brahmin	4	4.44
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The table no.5.3 shows that total respondents of DAG is 85.56% and Non-DAG is 14.44%

5.1.5 Educational Status

Educational status is most important variable of economic and societal analysis of social science research and many other studies. Education is the key variable which play significant role in inclusion, local governance and community development process. It is one of the major indicators of socio-economic development of people. It is the main pre-requisite for development and civilization which enables a person to keep pace with the rapidly changing world and to be developed with developing country. A high percent of educated people in an area indicate that the community is progressing and the quality of life of people is improving.

Table 5.4: Distribution of Respondent by Educational Status.

Educational Status	Number	Percent
Illiterate	46	51.11
Literate (But not schooling)	24	26.66
Primary	10	11.11
Lower Secondary	4	4.44
Secondary	3	3.34
SLC and above	3	3.34
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Note: In this study, one who could read, write and understand any language with basic knowledge of mathematics (simple arithmetic calculations) was considered as literate.

From the observation of the data of table 5.4, more than 50 percent of the respondent is illiterate where as only 3 percent above are SLC and secondary level. It is also observed that about 26 percent above of respondent is literate but not schooling. The data also assumed that formal schooling is increased because of the low level of non-formal literacy rate.

5.1.6 Respondents belonging to the Political Parties

In the study area, the local people had different political ideologies. They were associated with different political parties. The major national and regional Madheshi related political parties had been operating in the VDC. All the respondents were not associated with political parties many were natural too.

Table 5.5: Respondents Belonging to the Political Parties

Political Parties	No of respondents	Designation	Elected	Non-Elected
NC	5	Member	1	4
UNCP- Maoist	10	Member	2	8
TMLP	2	Member	1	1
MJFN	5	Member	1	4
RMSP	6	Member	1	5
NSP	1	Member	-	1
Neutral	61	-	-	-
Total	90		6	23

Source: Field Survey 2015.

(Note: NP (Nepali Congress), UNCP (Unified Nepal Communist Party-Maoist), TMLP (Tarai Madhesh Loktantrik Party), MJFN (Madhesi Jan-Adhikar Forum Nepal), RMSP (Rastriya Madhesh Samajbadi Party) and NSP (Nepal Sadbhawana Party).

According to the table 5.5, among the respondents 61 (67.78%) are not direct affiliated with any political parties and they shared that as neutral. But among the affiliated the highest 11.11 % respondents are affiliated with UNCP-Maoist and 6 (6.67%) respondents are with RMSP. As same 5-5 (5.55%) respondents are with NC and RMSP similarly, 2 (2.22%) respondents shared that they are affiliated with TMLP and 1 (1.11%) are with NSP.

The table shows that among the affiliated respondents with political parties as general and active member only 6 (6.67%) are elected and 23 (25.55%) are found nominated. So the trend of representation and inclusion process of the excluded communities people is still very difficult in the study area.

5.1.7 Respondents representation Situation in LGCDP-I Structure

In the study the respondents are selected from WCF, CAC, LGCDP's relevant committees, VDC's personnel, political representatives and local beneficiaries. And the representation situation of the sampled respondents are as follow.

Table 5.6: Respondents Representation Situation in LGCDP Structure.

Name of the Committees	Number	Percent
WCF	11	12.22
CAC	58	64.44
LGCDP's Coordination Committees	6	6.67
Others	15	16.67
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey 2015.

Note: Ward Citizen Forum (WCF), Community Awareness Center (CAC).

The table above shows that 65 percent of respondents are belongs to CACs and in the centers mostly represents from DAG communities members. Also 12 percent respondents are belongs to WCFs and 7 percent respondents are belongs to other relevant committees of LGCDP-I. For qualitative information 17 percent respondents has taken from other area such as; VDC staff members, political organization leader, local beneficiaries.

5.1.8 Marital Status

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

The following table shows the marital status of the respondents as.

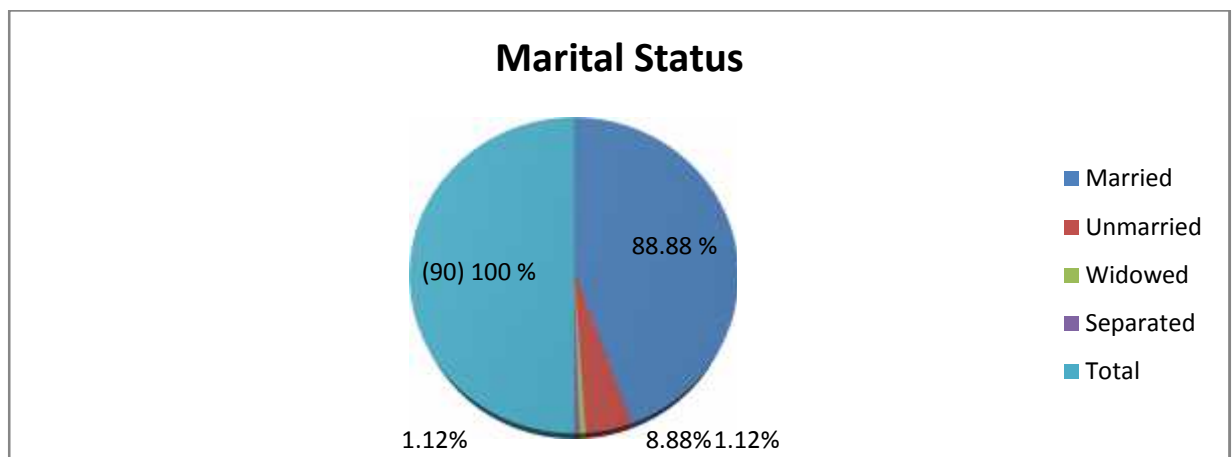
Table 5.7: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Number	Percent
Married	80	88.88
Unmarried	8	8.88
Widowed	1	1.12
Separated	1	1.12
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The above table shows that 89% percent of respondents are married, 9% percent of respondents are unmarried. Similarly 1% of respondents are widowed and separate. The CACs and WCFs members mostly are found married.

Figure No. 5: Distribution of the Respondents by Marital Status



From table no. 4 it is clear that maximum respondents are married followed by unmarried, widow and separate 9 %, 1 % and 1 % were found in the study area.

5.1.9 Family Structure

Family structure has dominant role in decision making process. Family is basic unit of our society and it is an institution which plays vital role in building society. There are two categories of family structure manly nuclear and joint family.

- i. Nuclear family: Nuclear family refers that the family which consist husband, wife and their unmarried children is called nuclear.
- ii. Joint family: Joint family contains husband, wife, unmarried and married children as well as their relatives who share the kitchen for meal and reside under the same roof.

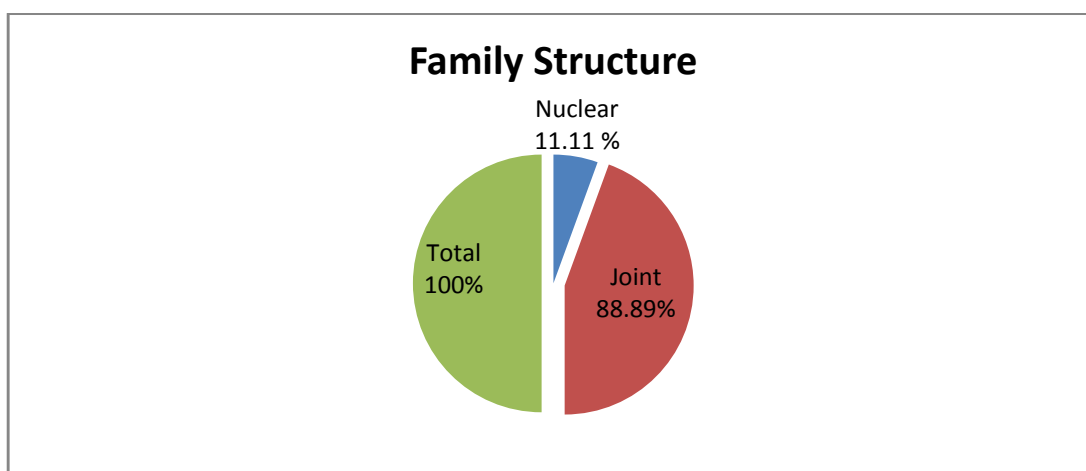
In most of the cases, it was recorded that the women from the nuclear family and female headed household have higher responsibilities for decision that joint family and male headed household.

Table 5.8: Family Structure of the Respondents

Family Structure	Number	Percent
Nuclear	10	11.11
Joint	80	88.89
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Figure No.6: Distribution of the Respondents by their Family Size



The table shows that the family size analysis revealed that most the family 88.89 % has joint family and about 11.11% family has nuclear family.

5.1.10 Language and Religion

In this study, 100 percent of the respondent have Maithili as a mother tongue. About 57 percent of respondents don't understand Nepali Language at all. In case of religion, 100 percent respondents are Hindu.

5.2 Impact of LGCDP's on Participation and Inclusion of DAG's in Local Governance and Community Development Process

After the completion of the program which types of changes had been seen in the study area is analyzed through the below data.

5.2.1 Economic Aspects

Economic aspect refers to DAG communities access over resources, social status and decision making role. It has been already mentioned that social aspect and economic aspect of the DAG have direct relationship to their status in the household and in the community. There are lots of factor, which are affecting the economic condition of DAG. The researcher has tried to know the economic aspect of DAG taking the following economic factors into consideration. DAG whose economic aspect is sound may support their community development activities by the help of their earning than whose economic aspect is weak.

5.2.2 Occupational Status

Occupation is not only the source of the income of the people but also the key factor that determines the livelihood pattern and the social status of the people. DAG of Mahottari district have adopted various kinds of occupations in order to meet their livelihood aims. In the study area DAG communities including CAC & WCF members were found involved in different occupation, which was influenced by various social variables. The respondent's occupational involvement has been given below in the table.

Table 5.9: Distribution of the Respondents by Profession

Profession	Number	Percent
Employed	20	22.22
Un-employed	10	11.11
Semi-employed	60	66.67
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The above table shows that 67 percent of respondents are found semi-employment, it means that they are earn through different occupation and seasonal related earning sources. Mostly are not in Government job or their own business, they depends on wage earning related profession so shows the high percent. Among the respondents 22 percent respondents are shared that they are employed and they are busy with their own business and long term job oriented profession. Such as; VDC personnel, own business etc. And 11 percent respondents shared that they are fully en-employed but sometimes they are doing daily wage related work and searching of an opportunity. The economic activities are also influence to representation and to play role in decision making at local level.

Table 5.10: Distribution of respondent by Occupation

Occupation	Number	Percent
Agriculture	10	11.11
Service	4	4.44
Business (own)	6	6.67
Wage earning	45	50.00
Animal husbandry	15	16.67
Others	10	11.11
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The following data shows that majority of respondent 50 % are wage earning and 4.44% are in service that is minority of respondent. Similarly covered animal husbandry, agriculture, others and business are 16.67%, 11.11% , 11.11% and 4.44% were involved.

A DAG person having sound occupation has higher status in the house and in the society. They have also the greater possibility in decision making rights and the chances of their economic support to household and society are higher than that of a DAG person having less attractive occupation. Occupation is one of the main indicators of DAG's economic status, which also increase their social status in the society.

5.2.3 Ownership Discrimination

The ownership discrimination is a key indicator for structural inequality. The DAG community is discriminated from the representation and participation of local social and economic institutions such as consumer committee, SMC and local public construction committee and institutions. Here, representation and participation means the active involvement of DAG in the various local level social and economic committees, LBs and organizations.

Table 5.11: Percentage of Respondents Represented in Socio-economic Development Groups

Representation	Number	Percent
Yes	80	88.89
No	10	11.11
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Types of Representation of Respondents

Representation	Number	Percent
Elected	16	20.00
Nominated	64	80.00
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 5.11 discloses that only 88.89% of respondents are represented in different social and economic development groups and institutions at local level, which is mostly related with LGCDP. More than 11.11% are out of these institutions. This figure indicates that the representation of DAG in the LGCDP related committees is found very satisfactory in the study area. But the elected rate is very low only 20 %.

5.2.4 Relationship of the Respondents with the Neighborhoods Before and After LGCDP

The LGCDP-I one is the major aim to reduce poverty and to improve inclusion of DAG in local level development activities. And the general problem of DAG is facing

untouchability in different forms, so the impact of LGCDP-I need to analyze that it is supported to reduce of the practices in the area or not.

Table 5.12 Relationships of the Respondents with Neighborhoods

Before Program Implementation			After Program Implementation		
Practice	Number	Percent	Practice	Number	Percent
General	10	11.11	General	30	33.33
Good	8	8.89	Good	10	11.11
Bad	67	74.45	Bad	48	53.34
Worse	5	5.55	Worse	2	2.22
Total	90	100	Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 5.12 indicates that before the LGCDP-I implementation among the respondents 74 percent faced untouchability badly by their neighborhoods. And 9 percent respondents didn't face the untouchability behavior in their community but they had been suffered from some socio-cultural elements that prevail in our society. Among the respondents 5 percent had faced discrimination as worse by their neighbors and 11.11 percent had general relationship with their neighbors.

After the program completed the relationship has been changed because 30 percent respondents shared that they feel general relation, 11 percent faced good, 53 percent are facing bad and 2 percent are still facing as worse relationship at the study area. But in total after the program the situation of untouchability relationship has been positive for DAGs.

5.2.5 Causes of Improved of Relationship with the Neighborhoods

The majority of respondents are belongs to DAG and they shared that these days the discrimination practices are decreasing. They shared that the improvements with neighborhood relationship area below.

Table 5.13 Causes of Improvement the Relationships with Neighborhoods

Cause	Number	Percent
Increased of Awareness level	40	44.44
Cause of Law	10	11.11
Economic Empowerment	21	23.34
Education	10	11.11
Political Empowerment	5	5.56
Others	4	4.44
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

The table 5.13 shows that among the total respondents 45 percent are shared that the main cause to reduce untouchability and discrimination practice is increased awareness level of local people and to improvement of relationship with neighborhood. 24 percent respondents shared that the second major cause is the economic empowerment, 11 percents respondents shared that the cause of law and education to reduce discriminatory practices in the area. Also 6 percent respondents shared that cause of political empowerment and 4 percent respondents shared that others cause of reduce of discrimination and improved the relationship with neighborhood.

And for these factor the LGCDP-I is also key program to enhance of these situation and improve of governance in the study areas.

5.2.6 Representation Trend Percent of Respondents in LGCDP's Structure

Through the general information we can find the representation level and trend of DAG's in local body. Also we can analyze of the impact of LGCDP-I.

Table 5.14 Representation Trend of Respondents in LGCDP's Structure

Representation	Number	Percent
Formal	40	44.44
Informal	50	55.56
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 5.14 shows that 45 percent of the respondents have shared that they are represented in the structure of the program as formal and 55 percent respondents are informal. In the study area the information dissemination system is very weak for local people. And the DAG's representatives have very limited access of information and the political relation, so the data shows that mostly representation of DAG's has been as informal.

Also the respondents are represented as elected or nominated data are below.

Table 5.15 Representation Trend of Respondents in LGCDP's Structure

Representation	Number	Percent
Elected	10	11.11
Nominated	80	88.89
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 5.15 shows that only 11 percent of the respondents are represented as elected and 89 percent majority of respondents have shared that they are represented as nominated in the structure of LGCDP-I. It shows that the situation of DAG's are still very critical because the DAG's mostly representatives are represented as nominated. Which shows that the DAG's social and political power are weak.

5.3 Factor of Governance and Inclusion Process

The program is focus to reduce of poverty and improve of socio-economic condition of DAG communities through social mobilization activities. Also the program did support to inclusion of DAGs in LB's mechanism and mobilized resources through the community's representatives. And discrimination is a indicator of structural inequality of Nepalese society, which plays to influence of governance and inclusion process as well as in decision role.

5.3.1 Representation in the Planning Process of VDC

LGCDP-I program's one of the key objectives that to include of DAG communities representatives in planning process and ensure of inclusion of their agendas in the LB's annual plan.

Table 5.16: Percentage of Respondents Representation in the Planning Process of Local Body

Before Program			After Program		
Representation	Number	Percent	Representation	Number	Percent
Yes	8	8.88	Yes	50	55.55
No	82	91.12	No	40	44.45
Total	90	100	Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Among the total respondents, before the program implementation only 9 % respondents were having representation in the planning process from DAG communities. But after the program completed 55 % respondent were having representation in the planning process. The VDC official persons shared that the cause of percent increased is the mandatory provision of MoFALD that compulsory to participate of the 60 % plan from WCF members demands through the ward level planning.

5.3.2 Impacts of LGCDP to Support on Inclusion Process of DAG's in Local Body's Structure

The inclusion and representation plays an important role in promoting local self-governance. DAG communities inclusion and representation activities were also distinct in local socio-economic affairs.

Table 5.17: Percentage of Respondent's Views on Inclusion Process at Local Body

Before Program Implementation			After program Implementation		
Inclusion Status	Number	Percent	Inclusion Status	Number	Percent
Yes	10	11.11	Yes	50	55.55
No	80	88.89	No	40	44.45
Total	90	100	Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

The survey data shows that before the program implementation only 11 % respondents were having representation in the different structure of LB from the DAG

communities. But after the program completed 55 % respondent were having representation in the various structure. Key respondents also shared that the impact of LGCDP's is positive on DAG community's inclusion process in the various structure of Local Level.

5.3.3 Role of DAGs in Major Decision Making Process and Ensure to Address of their Voices at Local Level.

Decision Making has been a burning issue in the context of participatory development process. It is social and national issue of the development process. Participation and role of disadvantaged groups in decision-making is another genuine issue in the context of self-governance. Decision-making is a process of finding solution to a problem and implementing that. It includes all the works and functions between problem identification and implementation of the solution of that problem. So decision-making is a solution finding process of a problem. Problem is context bound and its solution differs from time-to-time and region-to-region. A problem felt by one may not equally effective for other. So in finding a solution of a problem, the participation of the concerned, those affected by the problem, is crucially important. Here the participation and role of disadvantaged groups in rural affairs has been improved through the program is analyzed. The analysis is supported by the primary data collected from the field.

Table No. 5.18: Cause of the Representation in the Decision Making, Community Development and Planning Process of LB.

Causes	Number	Percent
Self Effort	5	5.55
Cause of member of Political Party	8	8.89
Mandatory provision of LGCDP for DAG	35	38.89
Representative of organization	2	2.23
Others	40	44.44
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The above table data shows that 39 % respondent shared that due to mandatory provision of LGCDP, representing of DAGs in local body structure in the study area. Also 9 %

respondents represented in the structure of LB cause of political parties influence, 5 % respondents shared that through their self effort they are doing representation and 44 % respondents said others and did not said about its cause name.

5.3.4 Causes to Influence of Role of DAGs in Major Decision Making Process and Ensure of their Voices at Local Level.

The conceptual framework of the study shows that through the social mobilization, mandatory of reservation and inclusive policies the role of DAG's and their voices are increased at local level effectively. So in the program need to analyzed of awareness level, role in decision making and causes of addressed of the voices of DAGs.

Table 5.19: Percentage of Respondent in Major Decision Role and Ensure of Their Voices Address at Local Level

Before Program Implementation			After program Implementation		
Major Decision and Addressed of Voices	Number	Percent	Major Decision and Addressed of Voices	Number	Percent
Yes	5	5.55	Yes	30	33.33
No	85	94.44	No	60	66.67
Total	90	100	Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

The table 5.19 shows that the respondents shared their view that before the program implementation in the area only 5 % respondents were having representation in major decision role and ensuring to internalize of their voices to address at Local Body of DAGs. But after the program completed the ratio is increased as 33 % . So the impact of LGCDP-I on DAGs are positive but still need to search causes of barriers to effective participation. For that we can analyzed of the causes through the below table analysis.

Table 5.20: Percentage of Respondent's Views on Major Causes to not Representation in the Decision Process of LGCDP-I and at the Local Body

Causes	Number	Percent
Cause of to belongs Lower Caste	60	66.67
Cause of Poverty	15	16.67
Lack of Knowledge and Awareness	5	5.55
Cause of Low Political Link	8	8.89
Others	2	2.22
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The table 5.20 data shows that 67 % respondents shared that due to lower caste the representation of DAG in decision making or their voices not heard at Local Body properly. Also 17 % respondents shared that due to poverty they did not included or their voices has been ignored, 9 % respondents shared that due to low political link and 5 % respondents shared that due to lack of knowledge not addressed of their agendas in Local Body.

5.3.5 Role and Participation of DAGs in VDC's Budget Preparation and Allocation Process

VDC budget preparation holds a major task of local government. In this process, the local government plans the developmental and other sorts of programmes. Budget preparation is a way to estimate the sources, resource mobilization and priority in the necessary socio-economic functions. The information obtained from the respondents was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The data are presented in the table 5.21.

Table 5.21: Role and Participation of DAGs in VDC's Budget Preparation, Allocation and Implementation

Before Program Implementation			After Program Completion		
DAG Involvement in Budget Preparation, Allocation and Implementation	Number	Percent	DAG Involvement in Budget Preparation, Allocation and Implementation	Number	Percent
Yes	12	13.33	Yes	40	44.44
No	78	86.67	No	50	55.56
Total	90	100	Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The table 5.21 shows that before LGCDP-I program implementation the DAG's communities involvement in budget preparation, allocation and implementation of VDC is only 13 % but after the program implementation the involvement of DAG in the process is increased as 44 %. Which is a big impact of LGCDP-I to do the changes.

Formality Perform for DAGs by Local Body

Pachu Das, Treasurer of Terai Dalit Upliftment Center, shared that about the process of VDC to preparation of budget and allocation trend that the DAGs have weak participation in economic decisions in the VDC. He expressed that they had to pass the programmes and allocate the budget on the pressure. So Das stressed on the economic power that provides their access to decision making. He said that VDC official person has captured all the economic and decisive power.

5.3.6 Major Changes on Local Governance and Community Development Area in the VDC through LGCDP-I

The program focuses to ensure of excluded communities representation in the mechanism of local body through social mobilization and livelihood related activities.

Table 5.22: Percent of Respondents on Major Changes in the Community through the LGCDP-I

Major Achievements	Number	Percent
Increased Awareness Level of DAGs	25	27.78
Supported to Reduce Poverty	2	2.22
Supported to Strengthened of Governance in LB	15	16.67
Supported to inclusion of DAGs Agendas in LB's	40	44.44
Increased Community Development work with Transparency in LB	3	3.33
Others	5	5.56
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The table 5.22 data shows that through the program some major achievements occurred in the community, such as 45 % respondents has shared that the inclusion of DAG representatives in local body's structure is a key achievements. As well as, 28 % of respondents shared that awareness level of DAG has been increased which is cause of the REFLECT classes and through the classes increased awareness level of DAGs. Also 17 % respondents are shared that the strengthened of governance process at local body, 3 % respondents shared that the program has succeed to increase transparency on development activities at local level, 2 % shared that it has succeed to reduce poverty of DAGs. And 5 % respondents has shared others different achievements.

5.3.7 Factors Affecting the Benefit from the Program

The program has implemented to establish of governance system at local body and to increase of activities of community development. And after the program phase over some major changes has been occurred in different sector, so the below table shows the impact of the program.

Table 5.23: Percentage of Respondent's Benefit Affect from the LGCDP's Program

Benefit Area of Respondents	Number	Percent
Social	60	66.67
Economic	10	11.11
Political	15	16.67
Others	5	5.55
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The table shows that 67 percent respondents are shared that they benefited from the program as social form; such as improved of social status, eradicate of discriminatory practices, play as social transformation actor etc. As same 17 percent benefitted as political form from the program and in the form such as; represent of political party, enhance of their capacity to lead the society and committees. Also 11 percent of the respondent benefitted as economic form because from the support of livelihood and community infrastructure grant, CAC & WCF related funds achieved. And 5 percent of respondents shared that they benefitted others area.

5.3.8 Comparison of Achievements of the Program on Local Governance and Community Development Process of Local Body

As per the program objectives the local body service delivery capacity and promoting of governance has increased or not need to analyze through their comparative analysis. So the below table is analyzed of achievements of the program.

Table 5.24: Percentage of Respondents on Comparison of LGCDP-I Achievement

Comparison Status	Number	Percent
Better	10	11.11
At the same condition	38	42.22
Satisfactory	40	44.45
Worse	2	2.22
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

The above table data shows that 45 % respondents has shared that the community development and governance status is satisfactory after the program implemented. As same ratio of respondents about 42 % are shared that the process of governance and community development activities is at the same condition. But 11 % respondents shared it has been increased and as better and only 2% respondents has shared that it is worse before the program implemented.

CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter comprises the summary, conclusion and recommendation including overall situations of impact of LGCDP-I. The analysis of the data has yielded useful information of the impact on representation, participation and role of the disadvantaged groups in the local governance and community development system. The analysis also presents the impact picture of LGCDP-I on promotion of governance and capacity development of LB's. Also analyzed the linkage of DAG and LB relation of participation and representation in local body structures and in community development process. The data obtained from the responses of the household heads, CAC & WCF members, VDC official persons and relevant stakeholders representatives.

6.1 Summary

The study analyzed the impact of LGCDP-I on DAG communities representation in the planning, monitoring, implementing and decision making process at local body. Through the study analyzed of specially Madheshi Dalit and other DAGs representation, participation in local governance and community development process in Gaushala VDC of Mahottari district. This was basically an empirical study with the help of the primary data collected from the field survey but secondary data were also used according to the need. The main aspects studied are the program had partially achieved their targets including representation and participation of Madheshi Dalits (DAGs) in planning, monitoring and decision making process of local body's. Primary data from Gaushala VDC of Mahottari district have been used in this research. Many secondary sources have also been used to support and strength the findings of this research. Altogether 90 respondents were sampled from different castes. Most of the common tools of data collection of the social science, such as; questionnaire, key informants' interview etc were adopted. Also simple statistical methods have applied for data analysis. The data and information have been analyzed descriptively.

The major findings of the study are summarized as follows.

-) The respondent's ages have been found between 20 to +60 year. Maximum numbers of the respondents i.e. 44% are of the age group 40-49 and minimum 5% are of the age group of 20-29.
-) Majority 83 % of the respondents were male and only 17 % are female. As same 85% respondents are belongs to DAGs (specially Madheshi Dalit), 3 % Terai Janajati and 4 % are Brahmin.
-) Out of 90 respondents, majority (36 %) of the respondents are Mushar, after that followed by Tatma (17 %), Chamar and Khatwe (11-11%) respectively. It is also noticed that the number of Dushadh (6%), Brahman/Chhetri (5%) and Dom, Halkhor, Rauniyar, Sudi, Kalbar, Dhanuk and Tharu (2-2%) are significantly.
-) Majority 89% of the respondents were married, unmarried 9%, widow and separated (1-1%) .
-) Majority 51 % respondents are illiterate and 49 % are literate. Among the literate 27 % of the respondents found only literate, 11 % primary, 5 % lower secondary and 3-3 % are secondary and SLC above.
-) With regard to family structure 89% respondents have Joint family and 11% has nuclear family.
-) Major national and regional Madhesh related political parties are active in the study area. Among the respondents majority (67%) are neutral and only 34 are associated with the parties. But among the parties 11 % majority of respondents were associated with UNCP-Maoist.
-) Majority of the respondents were found engaged in more than one occupation in the same time because of insufficiency from one occupation. Only 22 % respondents are found full employed and 67 % respondents are semi-employed. And among the respondents 11 % are found um-employed.
-) On the basis of occupation highest numbers of respondents 50% were engaged in wage earning, 17 percents respondents are in animal husbandry, 11% are in agriculture and others, 7 % are in their own business and only 4 % respondents are in service.
-) The ratio of DAGs representation in socio-economic development activities is highly increased after the program completion. But 80 % respondents are represented as nominated.

-) Before the program implementation the discriminatory practices are very high but after the program implementation and completion still 80 % DAG's respondents shared that they are facing discrimination in the study area. And 75 % respondents views that the cause of untouchability is basis of caste in the study area.
-) Participation of DAG representation in planning process found satisfactory. Because before the program implementation only 9 % DAG's representatives were participated in the planning process of local body. But after completion of the program and cause of mandatory provision it had increased 56 % of DAG's.
-) The discrimination practice is still high with DAG representatives because before the program implementation 83% respondents are faced direct discrimination with their neighbors on basis of caste & gender. But after the program completion respondents shared that the situation is decreased as 67 %.
-) Education is most influencing factor that affects the decision making power of DAGs. Social norms and traditional is also an important factor that affects DAG's participation and involvement in decision making process. Before the program implementation only 9 % respondents has shared that DAG's representation was in local body's structure and decision making process but after the program completion now shows 50 % of DAGs are representing in local body planning process. And 39 % respondents shared that it's major cause was the mandatory provision of LGCDP-I for DAG.
-) 22 % respondents shared that the program is partially succeed to fulfill the people's representation gap in LB. And 50 % of respondents shared that the program has been succeed to achieve their goal.

Level of education, economic status, population size, local political culture, social structure and some institutional provisions are the major factors hindering the access of DAGs to local governance and community development system. Among these factors local political culture is a major one, which has influenced the mobilization, empowerment and information of local governance for DAGs. The factor is the education; the higher the level of education more will be the socio-economic opportunities. But educational status of the respondents in study area was found to be low. Some laws and acts are also supported to ensure of the access of DAGs to

governance and community development system. Some laws and acts are mandatory through LGCDP-I program so it was possible to include of DAG's representatives.

6.2 Conclusion

LGCDP-I was one of the largest program of Nepal government for improve the capacity of LBs to provide effective services and implement inclusive development approach. The study indicates that the LGCDP-I has partially achieved their target and stated to inclusion of DAG's agendas and ensured participatory planning, monitoring and implementing the program of LB's. The program is supported to improve the living standards of the local people and fulfill the one decade above long absence and gap of people's representation at LB's. It is also supported to provide effective service and implement inclusive development approach at LB and in the process of local governance and community development. So, Government of Nepal implemented the four years program from (2067-070 B.S.) is very important to establish and ensure of DAG's representation in local governance and community development activities.

Cause of the mandatory provision of the program it has been possible to ensure and increase of DAG's representation in planning, monitoring, program implementation and decision making of LB. The program partially succeed to improve of LB's capacity to provide effective service and followed of LSGA Act-1999.

The local political culture is mostly responsible for the backwardness of the DAGs in local governance and community development process of LB. Similarly other socio-economic indicators like education, annual income, social structure, institutional provisions are equally crucial for the gap between the role of DAGs and local self-governance and community development system. The program focused to provide minimum democratic norms and values facilities to local people through the LB's efforts and reduce of poverty of Madheshi Dalits.

6.3 Recommendations

The findings of this study show that the disadvantaged groups are still not mainstreamed effectively in local governance and community development system as per LSGA Act-1999. They are not getting chances as per provision and democratic society concept. So need to involve and address of their demands continue and to support for streaming in governance and community development process.

The role of the local leadership is an important indicator that can enhance the participation of disadvantaged groups. Similarly, the laws and acts must be implement accordingly and the social and cultural values of the society must be reformed and changed. On the basis of the findings of the study the following recommendations can be suggested to improve the LGCDP program's next period.

-) The educational status of the DAGs should be improved. Targeted educational programmes through REFLECT should be continue especially for them. The educational programs should be designed in such a way that it could make them aware of socio-political reality of the society.
-) To increase the activities and funds for income of DAGs. Some quotas in local body's services should be conserved for the qualified person from DAGs.
-) Inclusive programs should launch by the local government and must implement the law strictly on the case of discrimination practice for punishment.
-) Local Self-Governance Act-2055 (1999) should be revised and it should clearly mention the quota provision for disadvantaged groups. The provision should be strictly implemented. If the provisions are not implemented then the VDC's or relevant person should be punished.
-) VDC should implement ward level or village level DAG's related programmes through disadvantaged groups. And the LGCDP program should implement continue.
-) For DAG representatives need to organized trainings for increase their capacity and awareness on governance and local body's plan formulation & implementation process.

-) DAG's role in decision making and implementation of programs should be increased. And do not harass them for their mistakes and develop of mechanism for encouragement.
-) To organize public hearing and public audit programs for strengthening of governance process and transparency at local level and to develop mechanism for easy information to disseminate.

Finally, this study is not enough to draw the picture of impacts of LGCDP-I but some achievements and changes of the program has been found on the context of DAG's inclusion in the process of local governance and community development. So, further research should be made in this field. The research should cover a district or a larger area so that a comparative study can be made. If such studies are made in the presence of representatives of the local governments (VDC, DDC, MUN.), results will be more effective and reliable.

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