

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

The cooperative is a form of organization engaged in economic activities and carries out management functions such as planning organization, controlling and evaluating. The word “co-operative” is said to have been derived from the Latin word “cooperative” which means working together for some common purpose. People have different angle of vision about co-operatives, Dr. CR. Fay claims that cooperation is a forms voluntary organization for a joint organization of some work equal terms and with common objectives. This form of organization has been growing popularity in the sphere of economic activities, particularity among the economically weak members of the community who by definition can't protect their interest on and individual basis. Generally, speaking, co-operation means living, thinking, and working together. It is technical sense, it denotes special method of doing business. In its former sense corporation existent then the man himself, example are not wanting of 'Reflexive' and 'Instinctive' cooperation in the animal world. Formation of social groups are the outcome of reflexive cooperation, while the life of ants, bees, wasps, loons, etc. provide the best example of instinctive cooperation. The practice of principle of cooperation contributed to the development of human role. That other biological and social factor. An ILO Report define a cooperative society “as an association of the economically weak who voluntarily associating on the basis of equal rights and equal responsibility. Transfer to an undertaking on a several of their function. Corresponding to one or more of their economic needs, which are common to them all. But which each of them is unable fully to satisfy by his own individual efforts to manage. Use such undertakings in mutual collaboration to their common material and moral advantage. Such association have been tried in one form or another in production, consumption and distribution, Co-operatives is business organization which is gained capitalized and managed by of and for its members patrons furnishing and/or making at cost goods and for service to patron(Acharya, 2012).

Cooperative is a form of economic as well as social organization based on certain values. Cooperative effort is ultimately the group instinct in man which enables him to live together, work together and help each other in times of stress. Cooperatives are voluntary oriented and self-help organization. They aim at meeting the human needs through collective action without any exploitation. It is the voluntary and democratic association of human beings, based on equality (of control and opportunity) and equity of distribution and mutuality for the promotion of common interests as producers or consumers. A cooperative is generally viewed as a socio-economic organization that can fulfill both social and economic objectives of its members, and that has its member's interests truly at heart. It directly serves its members interests by meeting their needs but doesn't earn profit for itself as an independent economic unit at their cost (Swami, 1978).

Small cooperatives Limited is located in Santapur VDC of Rautahat District which is far from the capital and eastern part of Nepal. It lies about 3/4 kilometer south of National Highway of Rautahat segment. One has to reach the working areas of this cooperative for about an hours from the highway by left-righting. The population of this VDC is about 3 to 4 thousands. Among them the female population have been high than the men. The major castes groups are Tharu, Yadav, Danuware, Kewat, Kurmi, Chamar, Mushahar, Teli, Sudi, etc. They are mostly small farmers. Agriculture is the major occupation. Paddy, wheat are the principal cereal crops, whereas potato, onion, dalhan, telhan crops milk production through livestock is another sources of income of he people of this VDC.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

More than half of the total population of Nepal are women without their contribution national development cannot be uplifted. The contribution of he women in households and agriculture is more than men. But their contribution is not accounted in the economy. Their participation on decision making is very low. Women's role in socio-economic development has not been properly recognized. In our country, women are as the traditional procedures and manager of the domestic and subsistence sector.

According to the word Bank record, Nepal is a poor country in the world's economic panorama. It has been extremely necessary that the poverty and underdevelopment of the

nation be attacked from all possible directions. Cooperative movement is one such a measure to ease, and lower the blows of poverty and underdevelopment to the country and its people (member). The cooperatives are therefore, established and managed to solve the problems of distribution of goods of daily necessity that of agriculture inputs of facilitate improved farming system and exploitation of the intermediaries to mass people. Moreover, the cooperative can definitely help the farmers to get fair prices to their farm products. Thus, the problem of agricultural production, distribution of goods and services of daily necessity to each and every concern of the country's marketing the agricultural products, loan disbursement to the member in need, etc. can be solve through the cooperatives. But unfortunately, these important institutions initiated with such high expectation and objectives are not simply working satisfactory. Most of them are not in a position to render goods and services to the people. Many of them are under the unbearable and almost inescapable loads of bank loans and are always looking for the nominal grants from the government.

Hence, the research questions of the study are as follows:

1. What is the socio-economic status of rural women ?
2. Which area they are involve for leadership development ?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objectives of this study is to assess the present role of savings and credits cooperatives in Rural Women Empowerment.

The specific objectives are:

- i. To identify the socio-economic status of rural women
- ii. To analyze the participation of women in major decision making of cooperatives
- iii. To assess the role of cooperatives in leadership development among rural women

1.4 Significance of the Study

Given the purpose for which the study was conducted, the study may be considered as a references guide as it described the financial and non-financial services and activities that the selected cooperatives implemented and pointed out areas for improvement that this and promoting agencies may address to build the farmer's capability and capacity in

meeting its members' needs. The findings of the study are significant only in so far as they provide the and promoting agencies with the ideas on what types of developmental interventions women-only need to build their capacity as provides of financial and non-financial services. Thus, this study serves as a reference point for both promotes and the as the latter move to become stronger and more sustainable community-based organizations.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Each and every study has its own limitation. This study too is no exception. This study is confirmed with role of savings and credits cooperative in rural women's empowerment of Santapur VDC in Rautahat district. However, it is supposed that this study proved to be representative. This study is limited only the VDC.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study divided into five chapters. First chapter is introduction, which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study. In this chapter Second deals be literature review. Third chapter leads with methodology which include nature and sources, rational for selection, research design, sampling procedure, techniques and tools of data collection. Fourth chapter discuss with presentation and analysis of the data. Five chapter deals with summary conclusion and Recommendation of the study finally references are available.

CHAPTER - II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature review is done through journal articles, reports, manuals, workshop proceedings, internet home pages and other studies into cooperatives program that are available. This chapter has briefly presented the theoretical review of cooperatives in general and conceptual review of socio economic empowerment of women through cooperatives, critical review of women empowerment through cooperatives, evolution of cooperatives in Nepal.

2.1 Theoretical Review

Professor Muhammad Yunus is considered as a leader and innovator in the modern cooperatives world. Yunus first tried to connect the poor people with the bank located in the campus. It did not work. The bank said that the poor are not creditworthy. Then he offered to become a guarantor for the loans to the poor. He was stunned by the result. The poor paid back their loans every single time! But he kept confronting difficulties in expanding the program through the existing banks. Several years later he decided to create a separate bank for the poor, to give loans without collateral. In 1983 Grameen bank was started. It now works all over Bangladesh, giving loans to 2.5 million poor people, 95 per cent of whom are women. In cumulative way the bank has given a total loan of about us \$3.75 billion. Financially, it is self-reliant – it has stopped taking donor money since 1995, stopped taking loans from domestic market since 1998. It has enough deposits to carry out its lending program. Impact studies done on Grameen Bank by independent researchers find that 5 per cent of borrowers come out of poverty every year, children are healthier, education and nutrition level is higher, housing conditions are better, child mortality was declined by 37 per cent, status of women has been enhanced. Ownership of assets by poor women, including housing, has improved dramatically. Now the obvious question that anybody might ask - if poor people can achieve all this through their own efforts within a market environment, why isn't the world doing more of this? Grameen type cooperatives has spread around the world over the last two decades.

Nearly 100 countries have Grameen type the program. In 1997, a cooperatives summit was held in Washington DC, which adopted a goal to reach 100 million poorest families with cooperatives and other financial services, preferably through the women in those families, by 2005. The result is encouraging thus the target has been extended to reach 175 million (Grant, 2009).

The biggest problem for expanding the outreach is not the lack of capacity, but strangely, the lack of availability of donor money to help cooperatives program get through initial years until they reach the break-even level. Beyond that level, these programs can expand their outreach with loans from the market or from deposits. In most countries such type of finance program are not allowed to take deposits by the regulatory bodies. If the cooperatives program could open the doors for taking public deposits, expansion of outreach could be very rapid because this would free them from dependence on donor money. It is a very strange phenomenon in many countries to see that conventional banks with repayment rate of below 70 per cent are allowed to take huge amounts of public deposits year after year, but cooperatives institutions with record of over 98 per cent recovery are not allowed to take public deposits (Fisher, 2009).

Co-operatives is generally about providing financial services to poor people, those who lack access to prevailing formal financial institutions. Many cooperatives institutions, by working in rural areas or in poor urban neighborhoods, by providing small loans for activities that low income groups would normally engage in, by imposing specific conditions of borrowing such as seeking small regular repayments, ensure that the poor are served and the wealthy are excluded. However, Many cooperatives point out that without a more proactive identification of the poor, and especially the very poor and the more vulnerable, they would continue being systematically excluded from financial on increasing the depth of outreach (Selim, 1999).

When we talk about savings and credits co-operatives the credit goes out the Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof. Mohammed Yunus of Bangladesh. He was the first person who developed the concept and applied it. An economist by profession, he established saving and credits bank in Bangladesh that come to known as Grameen Bank. The Bank was established in the Jobra village of Bangladesh in 1976 as a result of action research

project on Chittagong University. The project later became a pilot project and covered throughout an entire district. This was undertaken with the financial support of the Central Bank of Bangladesh. In 1983, an independent financial institution, Grameen Bank was established under a special law passed for its creation. It works exclusively for them. At present, 94% of the total equity of the bank is by the borrower of Grameen Bank has 6 percent by the government of Bangladesh (Joanna, 2009).

Saving services allow members to store excess liquidity for future use and to obtain returns on their investment. Credit services enable the use of anticipated income for current investment or consumption. Overall cooperative services can help low income women, reduce risk, improve management, increase empowerment, raise productivity, obtain higher returns on investments, increase their incomes and improve the quality of their lives and those of their dependent. Lack of saving and capital make it difficult for many poor rural women to become self employed and to undertake productive employment generating activities. Providing credit seems to be a way to generating self employment opportunities for the poor women (Shrestha, 2014).

Experience and studies have shown that the provision of financial services is not sufficient in meeting the needs of the disadvantaged and the poor. The needs of this particular sector in society are basic diverse opportunities to improve their condition must be varied and multifaceted. This fact is even more pronounced when clients are poor women. The very motto of cooperatives each for all and all for each signifies loyalty, trust faith and fellowship. Co-operative provides opportunity to weaker segment of the society by pooling their resources leading to collective and co-operative social action and thereby their problems are solved and development is promoted. A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to achieve their common social and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises (Regmi, 2014).

However, in course of time, the concept of Guthi has also been further elaborated from literacy foundation i.e. Madan Puraskar Guthi to health institution i.e. Mrigendra Chikitsa Guthi to Social Services i.e. Nepal Charkha Pracharak Gandhi Smarak Maha Guthi. Nepal does not have a long history of modern cooperatives. The cooperative movement began only since the last five decades. It saw the formal cooperatives for the first time in

1953 through establishing the Cooperative Department. Nepal is a developing country. It has about 51 percent female and about 49 percent male population in Nepal. The data itself shows that without the involvement of half people (women) in development, the development of country will be lame. It was not realized the difference between men and women in development process the difference between men and women in development process before 1970s. First of all, the analysis of Esther Boserup's research paper women's role in economic development from the concept of "Women in Development" was developed to involve women in social, political, economic empowerment activities. One strategy of women in development is to change social condition and position of women. Because of some weakness of women in Development the concept gender and development tool place in 1980. This concept defined biological and social difference between men and women (Shrestha, 2014).

However, during the last five decades, the cooperative movement has experienced many difficulties. Prior to the 1990s, the government had used to set a target for registering cooperative societies: This usually restricted the public initiatives to promote cooperatives. Hence, the growth was almost negligible. However, with new act and liberal environment, where government did not restrict cooperatives from being registered, cooperatives were free to promote them. Hence, a mushroom growth was recorded during the 1990s. There were 33 district cooperative unions by the year 1990, but there were no national and central federations. After 1992, the mushroom growth took place at all levels of cooperatives societies, ranging from grass root to secondary and central level. The government had celebrated "Cooperative Golden Jubilee Celebration Year 2000" with a slogan "Adapt Cooperative System and alleviate poverty and unemployment (Swami, 1978)".

2.2 Conceptual review on women's Socio-economic empowerment through cooperatives

When we talk about savings, credits cooperatives, the credit goes out the Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof. Mohammed Yunus of Bangladesh. He was the first person who developed the concept and applied it. An economist by profession, he established saving

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Saving services allow borrowers to store excess liquidity for future use and to obtain returns on their investment. Credit services enable the use of anticipated income for current investment or consumptions. Overall cooperatives services can help low income women, reduce risk, improve management, increase empowerment, raise productivity, obtain higher returns on investments, increase their incomes and improve the quality of their lives and those of their dependent. Lack of saving and capital make it difficult for many poor rural women to become self employed and to undertake productive employment generating activities. Providing credit seems to be a way to generating self employment opportunities for the poor women (Katiwada, 2013).

Experience and studies have shown that the provision of financial services is not sufficient in meeting the needs of the disadvantaged and the poor. The needs of this particular sector in society are basic yet so diverse that opportunities to improve their condition must be varied and multifaceted. This fact is even more pronounced when clients are poor women. The very motto of cooperatives each for all and all for each signifies loyalty, trust, faith and fellowship. Cooperatives provide opportunity to weaker segment of the society by pooling their resources leading to collective and cooperative social action and thereby mitigate their problems and promote development. A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to achieve their common social and social and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises (Karki, 2013).

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Guthi to Social Services i.e. Nepal Charkha Pracharak Gandhi Smarrk Maha Guthi. Nepal does not have a long history of modern cooperatives. The cooperative movement began only since the last five decades. It saw the formal cooperatives for the first time in 1953 through establishing the Cooperative Department. Nepal is a developing country. It has about 51 percent female and about 49 percent male population in Nepal. The data itself shows that without the involvement of half people (women) in development, the development of country will be lame. It was not realized the difference between men and women in development process the difference between men and women in development process before 1970s. First of all, the analysis of Esther Boserup's research paper women's role in economic development from the concept of "Women in Development" was developed to involve women in social, political, economic empowerment activities. One strategy of women in development is to change social condition and position of women. Because of some weakness of women in Development the concept gender and development tool place in 1980 (Shrestha, 2014).

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Rational for emergence and growth of women were based on formalizing the intra-lending model to credit union operation. Women lent to individuals rather than to groups, and the size of loan was usually fixed relative to the amount of the members' savings

and/or a fixed ceiling. Loan amounts were tied with members' savings. The observed loan to savings ratio ranged from 0.8:1 to 10:1. Loan ceilings were set; the maximum amount ranged from NRs1,000 to NRs 50,000. The governing body or the group as a whole made loan approvals. The processing of loan applications and delivery of credit were generally much faster than by NGOs and participating banks. Interest rates ranged between 18% and 34%. Reported repayment of loans is also very high; supporting the theory that member "ownership" of funds is an integral part of successful loan recovery. According to Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, 'women have plans for themselves, for their children, for their home, the meals. They have a vision. A man wants to enjoy himself.' The women's world banking program has found that men will only invest about 40-50 per cent of their earnings into the family, while women will invest 92 per cent of their earnings into their families. Studies conducted in the field to evaluate women's empowerment as a result of access to credit have looked at a variety of measures. In their vigorous study of Bangladesh chose to examine the following as their indicators of empowerment:

-) Geographical mobility,
-) Economic security,
-) Ability to make small or large purchases,
-) Involvement in major decisions,
-) Relative freedom from family domination,
-) Political and legal awareness and
-) Participation in public protests and political campaigning (Acharya 2012).

The Nepali study found that over half of the women participants felt that their families treated them with more respect than before they had joined the program. An additional 40 per cent felt that they were respected as equals to their husbands by their families. Therefore, all of these targeted programs focus on poverty alleviation and the enhancement of women's social and economic status. The programs of cooperatives have aimed to reduce poverty prevailing among the rural people of Nepal. Credit is believed to remove financial constraints as well as bringing economic power, engaging

women in productive work and earn an income, not only to level household consumption, but also for generating savings and future investment (Tripathy, 1978).

2.3 Critical Review of Women Empowerment through cooperatives

The strategy of loan to women as a tool of empowerment is quite debatable. Access to and control over resources, participation in the households level decisions making process and fulfillment of other gender needs are considered as the empowerment of women through the access to cooperative. It explicitly says, 'The entire family is much more likely to benefit personally and socially, when loans are directed at women rather than men'. Sample claims in the same line, 'once the women have their own income (access to and control over resources), it is most likely to help their children for the improvement of nutrition, education and health. In addition, the women in the groups have increased awareness, developed self-confidence, become aware of their rights and have high participation in decision-making process.

While the critics say it is merely a strategy to assure higher repayment rather than empowerment. Moreover, it concluded based on their study on Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee's clients that involvement of women in the cooperatives and income generating activities has created emotional distress, anxiety and tension. Symptoms of depression are also reported in some cases. It is also pointed the intensification of tension within the household because of delay in repayment (Admas et al.,1999).

2.4 Importance of cooperatives for Women

Scientific discoveries and revolutions initiated global economic transitions leading to rapid structural changes. A major concern in the Development Economics is to find an answer as to why do different countries or different states within a country grow differently leading to different degrees of income inequalities and poverty. Clark (1995), Diamond (1993), Renshaw (1994), among others, commented that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are, increasingly promoted as the panacea for correcting all the iniquities and problems encountered when governments in the developing regions of

Asia, Latin America and Africa, pursued objectives of rapid economic growth. Economic transition, in many of these countries, has been characterized by a withdrawal of the government, from many sectors of the society, thus fostering a civil society. This connotes a combination between government and market that embraces many types of voluntary organizations is believed to promote citizen involvement and help create a political culture and social capital, necessary to sustain democracy. Many governments impacted by structural adjustment and economic uncertainties, see NGOs as low-cost providers of services as they themselves are unable or unwilling to provide. The current situations seems to be bringing these three sectors namely, government, private sector and civil society, together in a more meaningful and effective partnerships (Singh, 1999).

The civil society supplements governmental efforts in rural and socio-economic development and transformed their approach from reactive intervention towards a more pro-active approach on developmental issues. Participation and decentralization are closely related to each other. Successful decentralization required some degree of local people's participation. Grass root level participation is a theme of longstanding debate that has engaged development theorists, more specifically in developing countries. In developing countries, which consist of dual economy, rural development is a comprehensive exercise designed to transform rural economies, so that they would be equipped with the means to generate income, employment and other facilities needed by the rural poor. Institution building is an important process of development. It is essential to provide good governance (Singh, 1999).

2.5 Historical development of Women empowerment

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2.6 Previous Review

Karki (2013) has mentioned that 'Nepalese cooperatives and empowerment of women' development strategy as the financial service such as deposits, loans, payment services, money transfers, and insurance to poor and low income households and their micro enterprise and so on. It clearly indicated as a powerful tool for alleviating poverty. Nepal are serving primarily the micro entrepreneurs who operate or are starting to operate very

enterprises, termed as micro entrepreneurs. Accesses of micro entrepreneurs to cooperatives services provide them with an important tool for improving their efficiency, productivity, and welfare while reducing risk. In other words, both formal and informal, provide financial services which help in creating job opportunities to the wage and self-employment, and thereby generating income among the poor. Thus, the term 'cooperatives' refers to the practice of sustainability delivering those services. More broadly, it refers to a movement that envisions "a world in which as many poor and near-poor households as possible have permanent access to an appropriate range of high quality financial services, including not just credit but also saving, insurance and fund transfers."

It was designed to assist the rural small farmers and the landless rural poor in increasing their income and standard of living by providing range of financial and non-financial services. The program has provided saving and credit and community development services to around 200,000 small farmer families by 1985. However, its operating cost was high and innovation and improvement was felt to make the program viable and sustainable. Hence, In 1993 began to transform SFDP(Small Farmer Development Program) project units to member-owned and managed financial and technical support of farmers were established in 39 district of Nepal. The transformation of an increasing trends (Dahal, 2012).

2.7 Policy Review

Co-operatives arises in the 1980s as a response to doubts and research in findings about state delivery of subsidized credit to poor farmers. In the 1970s government agencies were the predominant methods of providing productive credit to those with no previous access of credit facilities people who had been forced to pay usurious interest rates or were subject to rent seeking behavior. Governments and international donors assumed that the poor required cheap credit and saw this as a way of promoting agricultural production by small landholders (NRB,2011).

This program, first develop and initiated in Bangladesh in the late seventies and later replicated in many other countries including the south and southeast Asian and some African countries, have now been recognized as useful instrument for poverty alleviation.

The Grameen Bank is the pioneer among introduce the programs. During the last two decades or so the number of such government and nongovernment organization operating at national or various local levels on Bangladesh has increased. Both formal and informal cooperatives organization are providing financial services to generate income through creation of job opportunities for the low-level income families. The informal financial markets in the country have existed for generations, whereas the first formal sector micro lending began in 1956 with the establishment of credit cooperatives in the Rapti Valley of Chitwan district to provide financial services in rural Nepal. Later in 1963, the cooperative Bank was established to provide financial services to the credit cooperatives. Therefore, several credit cooperatives and the ward/village committees were established to extend credit at the grassroots level along with a national level institution, i.e. Land Reform savings Corporation. Thus, 1956-1970 is the beginning phase of formal MF in Nepal (Pyakuryal, 1998).

In 1992, Grammen Bikash Banks was initiated by the government sector, crossing a milestone in rural micro-financing in Nepal and NGOs started Garameen Banking activities in certain areas.

- The evolution of the microfinance sector in Nepal
- Credit co-operatives were established in the 1990s.
- Co-operative bank was established in 1993

Priority sector lending program: The central bank (NRB) imposes 'priority sector' lending to commercial banks, which entails lending a certain percentage of their deposit liability to deprived population. The ratio of priority sector lending has increased from 5% to 12%, of which, 0.25 to 3% must be invested in the 'deprived' sector, targeting the poorest of the poor. Development Banks Act 1995: The two apex organization as well as the five Regional Microfinance Rural Development Banks (RRDBs) and the four private rural microfinance banks are registered under Development Bank Act 1995. This Act was merged under BAFIO-2004.

- Financial Intermediary Act 1998: The NGOs providing microfinance services are registered under the 'Financial Intermediary Act 1998', which provides a limited

banking license to NGOs. To date 47 NGOs are registered under this Act and providing financial services.

- Cooperative Act: Cooperatives are regulated by the Cooperative Act and supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Cooperatives. Out of various types of cooperatives savings and credit cooperatives are providing microfinance services. There are 8000 registered Cooperatives of which 2700 are savings and credit cooperatives.

Each having a specific purpose and clientele, wholesale lending organisations provides a substantial amount of lending to SFCL providers. The Rural Self-Reliance Fund (RSRF) was established in 1990 by the government of Nepal to support organisations providing financial services at a grassroots level in rural areas. These included: Savings and Credit Cooperatives, NGOs, and Grameen replications. SFCL is currently managed by Nepal Rastra Bank, with a portfolio of Rs. 19.2 million outstanding as of mid January 2004. The Rural Small Farmer Cooperatives Limited Development provides wholesale funding to regulated microfinance organisations that comply with a strict set of criteria related to their institutional capacity, focusing on the poor and financial performance. As of January 2004, it has had difficulties in disbursing all of its available funds due to the small pool of partners able to satisfy its criteria (on institutional development, sustainability and poverty focus), and the cap put on the level of lending to each borrower institution.

- Another apex organisation, Sana Kisan Bikas Bank (Small Farmer Development Bank) was established in 2001 by the Agricultural Development Bank of Nepal (ADBN) to outsource the wholesale funding to Small Farmers Cooperatives Ltd (SFCL), which was formed after the transformation of Small Farmers Development Projects, promoted under the Small Farmers Development Project, into cooperatives.
- It has provided substantial funding to Pact Nepal for the Women Empowerment Program until 2001. It will continue to promote microfinance and education through recent grants to World Education to support the WEEL project (Women Economic Empowerment and Literacy) and to Save the Children under the IGP grant program.

- The SFCL for Microfinance is one of the key organisations supporting microfinance in Nepal. It aims at strengthening the microfinance sector through capacity building, research and consultancy services. It is also involved in policy development, an innovation catalyst (partner in a micro insurance pilot scheme), and impact assessment. CMF currently partner with Impact, an international project focusing on the social impact of microfinance, funded by the Ford Foundation and implemented by three UK universities. The Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), established in 1990, is an independent research institute, under NGO status, focusing on development issues in Nepal. It undertakes research studies as well as action-research programs. In microfinance, it implements the ‘Self-Reliant Development of the Poor by the Poor program’, which covers 18 village development committees in Western Tarai and has reached 3,000 beneficiaries from the poor and underserved communities. The program supports the formation, development and transformation of self-help groups, which ultimately become registered cooperatives with access to external capital. It also provides self-help groups with credit for development activities and the constitution of revolving loan fund for income generating activities. Approximately 180 groups have been supported, some of them operating under cooperative rules and accessing funds from also provided technical assistance and capital funds to women’s groups.
- Over the years, local small farmer cooperatives as a microfinance networks have been established in Nepal, such as the Microfinance Association of Nepal, the Grameen Replications Network and several cooperative networks and federations. However, they are now mostly inactive, due to a lack of funding and the diversity and geographical isolation of their members. Plan International, an international NGO, encourages the creation of a national small farmer cooperatives forum, which would involve policy makers, academics and microfinance providers. This forum would focus on issues such as product development, pro-poor methodologies, regulations and standards.
- Plan also supports microfinance providers in increasing their outreach, and provides Nirdhan with financial assistance in establishing linkages with self-help

groups and building the capacity of cooperatives. It also collaborates with the Women Credit Union. Through collaboration with Nirdhan, Plan provides capacity building assistance in monitoring the impact of financial products in the lives of clients and their barrier to growth. Plan also manages the education component of the credit plus approach implemented by Nirdhan. The Agricultural Development Bank of Nepal, with technical assistance from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). It aims at bringing sustainable financial services to the rural poor and has supported the transformation of Small Farmer Development Projects promoted into Small Farmers Cooperatives (SFCL) and in the establishment of Sana Kisan Bikas Bank – SKBB- (Small Farmer Development Bank) in 2002.

The term ‘microfinance’ is existence in 1980s with the German Bank in Bangladesh. The concept behind micro finance program is that, given the correct circumstances, poor households are reliable borrowers and will utilize a range of financial services to improve their welfare. Though the ideas were initially meet with decision. Regarding the viability and sustainability of Grameen Bank and other Microfinance institutions. A financially viable microfinance institution must generate sufficiently revenue to cover all operating costs. Two key factors affecting viability are a Microfinance institutions loan repayment in both categories. Fond that loan repayment rates for five Microfinance in south Asia ranged from 52 to 95 percent cite incurred annual losses. Not surprisingly, the authors believe that most Micro-finance are generally incapable of covering their operating costs (Singh, 1999).

Small farmer development program was initiated in 1975 with the objectives of improving socio-economic conditions of the rural poor including women by bringing them into the mainstream process. Households having per capita family income of less than or equal to Rs 2500 and/or a land holding size up to 0.5 ha. Are categorized as small farmer families for providing financial and non-financial services through small farmer development program. Credit is provided on group approach, for different purposes related to production, marketing and other income/employment generating activities. To develop saving habit among small farmers, group saving and its mobilization is also being undertaken as an integral component. By July 2008, the program was implemented

through 26 sub-project (SPOs) benefiting 25, 459 small farmers. In terms of its coverage, SFDP is claimed as the largest poverty alleviation program launched in the country (Tripathy, 1998).

It has concluded that cooperatives practices in Nepal started as early as in 1974 however, efforts in creating legislative and regulatory environment for this sector was made possible only after agriculture development bank act-1995 and financial intermediary act-1998. Nepal Rastra Bank, 2003, prudential regulation for fiscal year 2005/06 has made further amendment in some areas. Presently, there are operation out of which are Grameen Bikash Banks (GBBs) in the government sector and remaining private sector. There are two separate legal frameworks for development of cooperatives among others, also permits to do cooperatives business, whereas financial intermediary act-1998 (first amendment 2002) facilitates doing limited financial intermediation like small savings and credited cooperative. Some facts are presented below:

- a. Capital Requirement: A minimum of paid-up capital of NRs. 100 million is required to open a MFDB at national level. Similarly, MFDB which is to be operated with in 4 to 10 districts excluding Kathmandu valley requires NRs. 20 million as its minimum paid-up capital. The lowest capital requirement for MFDB is NRs. 10 million and such MFDB can operate with the coverage of 3 districts only excluding Kathmandu valley.
- b. Limit for promoter's share: A minimum of 15 promoters are required to promote a MFDB. The promoters of MFDB can hold a maximum share of 70 percent. At least 30 percent shares should be allotted to the general public, which should be issued within 2 years of the operation of the bank. The promoter can off-land their share with the permission of the NRB after meeting the following two conditions:
 - a) public issue has been done, and
 - b) listing of shares at the stock exchange has already been done for the last 3 years.There are very few dissertations written by various researchers in previous years. Some of them which are supported to be relevant have been reviewed and resented in this section. It has studied about Rural Financial Services implementing the bank's strategy to reach the rural poor. This study elaborates rural finance aspects of the World Bank's rural development strategy by giving an overview of recent implementation experience, discussing

current issues, and highlighting priorities for the future. The wide range of rural finance issues discussed in this paper can be grouped into three critical areas that confront task managers in a variety of sectors in trying to respond of the demands of developing countries for assistance in rural development. This chapter is intended to chart a course that will be illuminated through subsequence more detailed operational notes and guidelines on particular issues, drawing on lessons of experience. Finance based on the principle that commercially viable institutions are most likely to reach large numbers of clients on a sustained basis and building the capacity of Rural Micro Finances to respond to demands from rural households and enterprises. reaching reliable access savings mobilization is an effective tool for expanding outreach and achieving financial self sustainability (Dahal, 2012).

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

3.1 Rationale for Selection of the Study Area

Satanpur VDC is situated in eastern part of Rautahat district. Based on the nature of the study is selected for the study where most of the dweller are Janajaties, Madhesies and Dalits people. Among them most of the people are women. Moreover, women's empowerment through saving and credit cooperative is different in comparison to other rural women.

3.2 Research Design

The study used descriptive research design. The study has focused on to investigate the role of cooperatives in rural women's empowerment. On the other hand it tries to describe the existing status, problems and prospects.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

This study is used descriptive and analytical. It is used both primary and secondary data. The data has been collected from the field survey. However, information obtained from secondary sources was useful during discussions of several issues. Secondary data or information was derived from different books, journals, reports, institutional publication and website.

3.4 Sampling Procedure

There are around 10 cooperatives enrolled in the Santapur VDC. Random sampling method has been used to select the sample for the study. This research has limited only two cooperatives, which is selected by purposively sample by using stratified random sampling. In this Sambridhi Bachat Sahakari have 140 members of them there are only 20 female members and other Mahila Jagarn Bachat Sahakari Sastha have 160 members of them only 40 female members. So here are only 60 female members are the sample of the study. It is required those members are selected who are mostly taking benefit from the cooperatives. The respondents sample to get the intended information. The sample be

selected by using simple random sampling method to acquire the desired objectives.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques and Tools

3.5.1 Household Survey

It has been used questionnaires for collect the information. Questionnaire made socio-economic condition of the rural women. The set of questionnaire is given in appendix.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interview

There are only 6 chairperson are selected for Key Informant by using interview schedule. For this research according to annex-2 are asked questions. Key Informant are those person who are involved in different organization. Like as chairperson of cooperatives, political leaders, advocates, social workers and so on.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

The analysis is based on 60 members of the cooperatives. Collected information process scientifically. Information have been analyzed with the help of computer software like excel as well as manually. Different tables are prepared for different socio-economic variables. Mathematical calculation and statistical operations and tests are performed for quantitative information. Qualitative information has been adopted in descriptive way. To visualize information different diagram's and charts are prepare.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4.1 Introduction of the study area

The study area for this study is Santapur VDC of Rautahat district. Santapur is located in south and west side of the eastern region of terai. It is located on the north and east corner of the Rautahat district. It has 108 Village Development Committee and two municipalities. It is located 26⁰16' to 88⁰32' east south attitude and 26⁰37' to 88^{.05}' west north longitude. Rautahat district has covered an area of 1,188 Sq.kms. The total population of the district according to 2011 census is 572,399 out of which 293,933 are male and 278,466 are female. The total number of households are 762, in average households are 4.77 including landless. The total population of the VDC, according to is 3,636, out of which 1,841 are male and 1,795 are female. The population consists of different caste/ethnic such as Tharu, Danuwar, Yadav, Mahato, Teli, Sudi, Kewat, Chamar, Dhobi, Kami etc. The majorities are Danuwar and Yadav (VDC profile, 2011).

Educationally, there is only one high school and a primary school in this VDC. The main profession of the people are agriculture and small trade. More than 90 percent of the total population is engaged in agriculture sector. The main agro-products are paddy, wheat, maize, vegetables, pulse, mustard, sugarcane, tobacco etc. Besides this people are engaged in different income generating activities such as animal husbandry, cattle trading, wage and salaries, small enterprises and business etc.

This VDC has lacks of economic development and physical infrastructures. The people of this VDC are poor. Among poor, some are in such a miserable condition that they have insufficient food to feed their children throughout the year. Women are still engaging on unproductive and only used in reproductive machine. Most of the women of this area are uneducated, poor, untrained or without any vocational training.

4.1.1 Population of the study area

The major settlement areas of this VDC are Chisti and Mirmi. The total population of this VDC is 3,636. The female population and male population of this VDC is 1,795 and 1,841 respectively. The percentage of population who, solely depend upon agriculture is 70%. About 26% of the people in this VDC are found engaged in business whereas about 4% are engaged in Jobs. Tharu and Danuwar are ethnic group and their main occupation is cottage industry and agriculture. Economically, the community of this VDC can be divided into three categories i.e. middle, lower middle and lower classes.

4.1.2 Ethnicity and Caste Composition

Different kinds of casts and ethnic groups has found in the study area. They are Yadav, Tharu, Danuwar, Teli, Brahmin, Dalit, Muslim, Kewat, Mallah, Halluwai and so on.

Table 4.1: Ethnicity and Caste Composition of VDC,

Caste/ethnic	Number	Percentage
Yadav	808	17
Tharu	313	9
Danuwar	606	22
Teli	169	5
Brahmin	29	0.6
Dalit	547	15
Muslim	267	7
Kewat	372	10
Mallah	178	5
Haluwai	173	5
Koiri	9	0.2
Sunidhi	108	3
Hajam	47	1
Newar	6	0.2
Total	3636	100

Source: Village Profile, 2014

In the above table shows that there are maximum number of caste is Yadav, Tharu, Danuwar, Teli, Bramin and so on.

4.1.3 Religious Condition of VDC

There are various religious groups in the study area. They are Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Christian etc. Among the various religious groups, Hindus are in majority. Because of acculturation and modernity, Tharu and Danuwar, and other ethnic groups have also belief in Hinduism.

4.1.4 Occupation

The population's percentage who depend upon agriculture is 70 percent. About 26 percent of the people in this VDC are found engaged in business whereas 4 percent are engaged in Jobs (village records, 2014).

4.1.5 Infrastructure Development of the VDC

This section highlights about infrastructure such as school, drinking water, social organization, health post and sanitation services and settlement pattern etc.

Social Institutions/Organizations

There are many social and cultural organization in this VDC. They are given below:

- Village Development Committee's Office
- Pokharbhinda Sub-Health Post
- Additional Post Office
- Twenty-Five Community Development Organization
- Two Saving and Credit Cooperatives (Sambridhi Saving and Credit cooperatives Limited (SSCCL) and Mahila Gagaran Saving and Credit Cooperatives Limited (MGSCCL)
- Arniko Youth Club
- Women Empowerment Programme Office

Settlement Pattern

This VDC is situated within Rautahat district. The study area is composed of several ethnic groups and majority of them are Yadav, Teli, Haluwai, Tharu, Danuwar, Dalit, Chamar etc. Local people of this VDC largely depend upon natural resources to

supplement their small cottage industries and their livelihood.

4.2 Saving and Credit Cooperative in VDC

There is two cooperative in the study area which is established by women. One is Sambridhi saving and credit cooperative and other is Mahila Gaganan Saving and credit cooperative. These two cooperative have around 300 members. Among them majorities are of women. These cooperative provide credit to agriculture, education, health, trade and business etc.

4.3 Socio-Economic Status of the respondents

In general, the member surveyed, they have low socio-economic status as can be gleaned from the different variables measured. Number of variables, namely:

- Civil Status: More members are widowed separated or divorced from husband,
- Educational attainment overall: More members have no education and primary education only,
- Caste: More members come from ethnic, Madhesis groups and lower caste than upper caste,
- Main occupation: More farmers, fewer entrepreneurs
- Income from main occupation, from other occupations, from other household income earners, and aggregate household income: lower in this area.

These data confirm the finding of other studies that showed that women are in more marginalized or disadvantaged condition. It also indicates that even if opportunities for membership in on equal among women from different castes, actual access is still determined by the level of castes, the women belongs to. Women from higher caste feel less constrained to join while women from lower caste feel more constrained to join due to their caste.

4.3.1 Caste of the Sampled Population

Majority (50%) of members belonged to ethnic groups, that is Tharu and Danuwar while 30% belonged to various Madhesis women and 20% were Dalits, the low caste. There are more upper caste member in this cooperatives. There were more members belonging to

different ethnic groups and Madhesis groups. This data is consistent with the observation that women only the cooperatives tend to have a strong women's empowerment agenda.

Table 4.2: Caste of the Sample Population

Castes	Number	Percentage
Madesi	25	42
Bramin	20	33
Dalits	5	8
Others	10	17
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

In the above table shows that in the study area there is most of the respondents are lived are Madesi which percent is 42 percent, similarly Bramin 33 percent, Dalit 8 percent and others are 17 percent.

4.3.2 Age and Sex Composition of Sampled Population

Whether a population is young or old, or getting older or younger depends of the portion of people at different age group. In general, a population considered young is considered old. Age structure is affected by the fertility, mortality and migration. Independent and active age group of population has a significant role in the overall development of the society. Researcher has identified three groups of population interval among sample household. The following table depicts age and sex structure of sampled population.

Table 4.3 : Distribution of Sampled Population by Age/Sex

	Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-15	-	-	-	-
16-59	-	-	58	97
60 and above	-	-	2	3
Total	-	-	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

In the above table shows that maximum number of respondents are below 60 years, whose percent is 97, least number of respondents are above 60 years whose percent is 3. It shows that in this cooperatives maximum number of respondents are more energetic.

4.3.4 Civil status

All members surveyed in were married. But some are widowed, and some are separated/divorced. This means that of the members surveyed are heads of households. Because of the programme they are easily considering in the society. Without feel hesitation, they are still spending quality of life.

Table 4.4: Civil Status of Sampled Population

Categories	Number	Percentage
Unmarried	2	3
Married	48	80
Separated/Divorced	10	17
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

In the above table shows there is maximum percentage of respondent are married which percent is 80 and less percent is separated and least percentage is unmarried whose percentage is 3. It shows that in these cooperatives are involved married women.

4.3.5 Educational Attainment of the Sampled Population

Education empowers the women; it increases women's status in community and leads to greater input into family and community decision-making. Having knowledge, income and decision-making power can place women on a more equal footing with their male counterparts. Education also provides people with the knowledge and skills to contribute to and benefit from development efforts, especially in area of health, nutrition, water and sanitation and the environments.

Table 4.5: Distribution of Sampled Population by Educational Status

Level	Female Population	Percentage
Education	30	50
Literate	27	45
Illiterate	3	5
Total	60	100

Sources: field survey, 2016

The number of educated people in the study area has found 30 i.e. 50 percent of the total sampled population. The percentages of sampled population that are illiterate are 5 percent. There are few government schools in the Santapur VDC. In the study researcher has defined literacy as the ability to read and write. Illiteracy as having no ability to read and write and educated as those who have passed in class ten above.

4.3.6 Distribution of Respondents by Family Type

The empowerment of rural women depends upon the family types. In the joint family, the women has less authority and responsibility due to male dominant society and it is very difficult to enhance skill because less opportunity has provided to her for career development.

Table 4.6 : Distribution of Respondents by Family Type

Family Type	Numbers of HHs	Percentage
Joint Family	17	28
Nuclear Family	43	72
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Exactly 28 percent of the family in the study area are found as joint family whereas 72 percent as nuclear family. The joint family is still dependent on traditional occupation.

4.4 Economic Characteristics

Women make substantial contributions to uphold Nepal's economy. The status of women study completed in early 1980s established that women and girls together contribute more

than 53 percent of the household income in rural household of Nepal. Several studies in subsequent years have reconfirmed that women's labor contribution of Nepalese agriculture is substantial and at least equal to that of men. To foster women's increased participation in the market economy, access to economic opportunities such as secure savings, non-collateral credit, and business skill trainings are vital. Training enables women to access capital and to start of expand their own income generating micro-enterprises. This, in turn, will expand household income.

4.4.1 Size of Landholding

Land is the most important source of wealth of a nation. Without abundant land, it is very difficult for the development of any country. It is argued that landholding is considered as the major indicator for the identification of poor in Nepal. In the study area, researcher found all most all respondent having less landholding as compared to average national size. The following table 5.7 and bar diagram depict the average landholding size of the study area.

Table 4.7 : Distribution of Respondents by Size of Landholding

Types of Land in Bigha	No. of Household	Percentage
Landless	12	20
0-1	30	50
2-3	6	10
4-5	5	8
6-7	3	5
8-9	2	3
9-10	1	2
>10	1	2
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the above table and figure 2 shows, it is clear that most of the respondents do not have adequate land for their living. There are 20 percent of the households have no land, they are lived on rent but less than 1 Bigha land only, 16 percent of households have no lands, and they depend upon absolute poor and Sukumbasi. 10 percent of the households

have 2-3 bigha of land and 8 percent of the households have 4-5 bigha of land. Only 2 percent of respondents have found 9-10 bigha of land. The percentage of population having greater than 10 bigha of land is 2 percent only.

According to the respondents those households who do have no land and do have less than 2 bigha of land cannot maintain their daily life and fulfill the basic needs without other occupation and employment.

They who only can have maintained and fulfill their basic needs who have more than 5 bigha of land holders. Therefore, it can be concluded that 2 percent of population in the study area can survive easily with their land products.

4.4.2 Occupations

Occupational structure is a good indicator of employment of opportunities, both for men and women. The 2011 NLSS has collected information on primary secondary and subsequent occupations. A person occupation has been defined as primary if he\she had devoted most hours of work in the preceding twelve months to this activity. The following table illustrates the main occupation of the households and respondents in the study area.

Table 4.8: Distribution of Respondents According to Occupation

Main Occupation	No. of Household	Percentage
Wage labor	17	28
Agriculture	16	27
Service	3	5
Business	7	12
Cottage industry	2	3
Tailoring	5	8
Labor	10	16
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table clearly reveals that majority of the respondents' main occupation in the study area has found wage labor. According to respondents 28 percent of them have been

involved in wage labor. After that the second majority of the respondents' main occupation in the study area has found in agricultural sector. Only 5 percent of population was found engaged in service sector. Similarly 12 percent have found engaged in business, 3 percent in cottage industry and 8 percent in tailoring, and 16 percent in labor.

4.4.3 Annual Household Income and Sources of Respondents

Usually, income in poor households is contributed by several of its members. Gauging a member's socio-economic status using income as a variable, the annual income from main occupation, her other sources of income and annual income from all other income earners of the household.

Per capita household and family income is an important economic variable. To extract economic characteristics, it is important. When the total family income is divided by the total number of family members, per capita family income is obtained. World development report stated that people struggling below. Yearly per capita income US\$ 365 are poor. the exchange US\$ into NRs is unstable, it varies from 64 to 72.5. So, average exchange rate NRs 68.49 has been used to calculate yearly per capita income in Nepalese currency, which becomes NRs25000. Those cooperative members whose yearly per capita income is below NRs25000, are grouped as poor.

Table 4.9: Annual Household Income of Respondents

Income in NRs (000)	No. of Respondent	Percent
Less than 75	12	24
75-100	8	16
101-125	9	18
126-150	11	22
151-175	6	12
More than 175	14	8
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table shows the annual income of the cooperative members in Santapur VDC. According to the survey, out of 60 respondents, there are 24% households who have less than NRs. 75000. At the same time 16% households who have 75 to 100 thousands annual income respectively. The annual income of 18% households have 101 to 125 thousands and 22% have 126 to 150, 12 percent have 151 to 175 thousands annual income. Only 8 percent respondents households have more than 175 thousand annual income.

Sources of Income

Micro-Enterprises

Agriculture

Wage labor

Vegetable gardening

Service

Livestock/Poultry raising

Small trading/selling

Medical Shop

Communication service

Seasonality of Income

The exercise on gender-disaggregated activity calendar showed that the member's household's income is seasonal. Coming from mostly farming households, their incomes were at their peak during the harvest season (during the months of November, December and January) and lowest during the dry (April and May) and monsoon (July and August) seasons when extreme weather affected either their farming activities or physical mobility. Stressful periods were during these seasons as well. As most members were engaged in subsistence farming, where production was mainly for purposes of family consumption, income from this main occupation was almost always not sufficient to feed their households for a whole year. Thus, it was common for households to be engaged in other forms of livelihood to be able to have other sources of income as shown in the earlier section on "other sources of income". Other than livestock-raising, petty trading and vegetable farming, the members were also engaged in farming using other crops such

as wheat, potato, millet, corn and sweet potato. This types of crops planted varied according to the months or season and according to the geographical location. For example, any crop may be grown in the Terai region, but most grains cannot grow in the hill parts. Being engaged in different forms of livelihood was a means for the members' households to earn constantly throughout the whole year despite the seasons. Many members of in the Kathmandu valley and of some in the Terai were engaged in petty trading and in other forms of micro-enterprises. In general, they had higher incomes than those members who were mainly dependent on farming, even if the latter was engaged in other livelihoods that were not related to retail, trading or manufacturing.

Stressful period also occurred during those months when expenditures were higher than normal such as festivals during seasonal celebrations (such as marriage of children) and during opening (August) and closing (March) of classes when school fees have to be paid. Overall those observations applied to members who involve in or not.

4.4.5 Workload

The average number of hours that the women surveyed spent on each type of work as follows: reproductive work-8 hours productive work-9 hours and rest-7 hours. Rest included the time spent eating meals or drinking tea. Similarly, urban-based members had slightly more time for rest (9 hours) and shorter time for productive work (7hours). This data shows that most women spent at least 17 hours of work on a regular day and they had very little time for rest and recreation. The number of hours worked in a day increased during the harvest season. It must also be noted that a large majority of the members were still in their reproductive age (between 25-40, average age in aggregate is 35 years).

This data implies that women's work-load must be considered in the planning of development interventions for these women-only. In particular, activities must be carried out in a way that they do not consume so much time in order not to take much precious time from the women. Activities should be conducted during periods that are not too stressful for them, either caused by too much work (say, during harvest season) or when major expenses have to be made.

4.4.6 Member's Needs

A modified timeline exercise, it was developed specifically for this study. This exercise encouraged participants to recall their most compelling or strongest past dream and recognize their most compelling present dream, both, realized and unrealized. The participants were not instructed to specify for or with whom the dream was avoid. Providing any clue as to what dream to focus on, that is either personal dream or that involving family or their. Using pictures showing images that best reflected or represented their dream, the participants shared with other participants their past and present dreams.

After the participants identified their dreams and shared these with the other participants, they identified those things that they needed to have or to do to be able to achieve the dreams that were not fulfilled yet. Each participant shared her needs with other participants. After all the needs had been listed, all participants were asked to identify what they considered as their top 5 needs according to importance and significance. This was required to encourage participants to focus on only a limited number and not a wish list of needs. Importance was defined in terms of what they value in principle. Significance was defined in terms of having a practical impact in their lives.

The participants arrived at consensus on what they considered were the top 5 needs. After these top 5 needs were identified, they were asked to identify the institutions that they thought could assist them in meeting their needs. They were also asked whether they were willing to pay for services from their to meet their needs or not. And if yes how much they were willing to pay.

To examine the differences and similarities between the dreams and needs of the participants by relative difference in socio-economic status, the participants were divided into better off and poor groups. The key person from the with the assistance from the study team identified who among the participants should belong to what groups. Most of the better off groups were Non-Dalits but not all while most of the poorer groups were Dalits.

4.4.7 Member's Practical Needs and Strategic Interests

It pointed to the following results and findings. It must be noted that overlaps between dreams and needs occurred. Conceptually, dreams referred to those that fall within the realm of wish or hope or desire or goal while needs referred to means, without which goals or dreams will not be fulfilled. However, participants did not make the distinction between dreams and needs, thus, the overlap between these two concepts were acceptable.

- a. Most of the member's needs were practical needs, but some dreams were related to strategic interests. There are very little difference in the dreams and needs expressed by members from better off groups and poorer groups.
- b. The most commonly expressed dreams that were related to practical needs were described as follows. The first two dreams appeared in the top 2 needs of all groups from both types better off and poor.

Education for Self and for Children

The referred to the dream to either have some education (especially for self as 44 percent of the members surveyed were illiterate) or higher education (specially for children as they are already in school). This also referred to the desire of some members to have some basic literacy, that is, to be able to read and write, specifically, letters from relatives and loves ones, and to be able gone through basic adult literacy classes and had to count and keep own accounts of their livelihoods (numeracy skills). Those who had since been literate, desired for advance literacy to be able to do more than just read and write. Specifically, they wanted to know about life in other VDCs, how people in other places live, how to take care of their livestock, how to increase the yield of their forms or vegetable gardens. For the poorer groups, higher education for children meant that their children would be able to reach up to high school. For the better off groups, that their children would be able to get a bachelor's degree, land in good job, get a good income.

Having Own Livelihood and Own Income an Saving's from that Livelihood

Livelihood, income and savings come together. The desire for owning a livelihood stemmed from a desire to have income plus savings. Most of the women come from very

poor households where income was scarce and savings was almost nil. The desire to have income was strong in all members surveyed.

Comfort, Luxury and Beauty; Leisure and Rest

The women dreamt about having the time and the means to stop working sometimes, to have fun, to have the time to rest and relax and not having to work all the time in order to survive. They dreamt about owning good and nice clothes, ornaments and jewelries, to look nice and petty to eat good food.

Owning Land

Some members wished they own land. But when they said their own, they were not referring to themselves individually but rather to their family. This dreams came mostly from the poorer groups, particularly the Dalits and including who were landless.

Exposure and Travel

Some members wished to be able to go out of their village; see other places and see how they look like; se how other people live; being able to ride in certain modes of transport that they had tried to ride in for only a few times or not at all; to be able to reach for places; to be able to see the town and bazaar (headquarters); to be able to see Kathmandu. The members claimed that this dream was a reaction to some women's sense of isolation in their homes and in their villages, and a lack of contact with other people outside of their immediate environment.

Freedom to Decide for One's Own Life

Some women wished to have the freedom to make their own decisions and make choices, and not be dedicated by parents. It included the freedom of not having to work and "exercise the right of a son", according to one member; to be free to choose a partner, or whether to marry or not at all; to choose with whom to live, that is, with in-laws or with own family. This dreams stemmed from feelings of dissatisfaction, in some cases, fear in the women SCC members, in who were mostly in a marriage arranged by their parents, which is a common practice in Nepal. A daughter-in-law is also expected to join the family of the son, a condition highly favoured by the mother-in law as having the daughter in law means an additional hand in doing the housework in a normally large

household comprised of two or more families.

Both better off groups and poorer groups each mentioned one dream that the other did not mention. The poorer group mentioned "Respect from other people" while the better off group mentioned. Respect from other people referred to the members' need to have people recognize and accept them for what they are despite their poor status. It implied the wish for freedom from discrimination because of their poor economic and social status.

The needs commonly expressed by the members that were related to practical needs were:

- Education (both higher and literacy)
- Having the skills for a livelihood (both practical and business management skills)
- Security (as measured in savings that can be used for emergency and for other future needs)

The need for livelihood skills was related to the dream of having own income and savings. However, the needs included not just practical skills required in livelihoods but also business management skills. Business management skills were desired particularly by the better off members from the cooperative. The other commonly expressed needs were related to strategic interests. Those were:

Knowledge of and Access to Advance Agricultural Technology

This referred to need for knowledge on agricultural technologies that will increase their farm output while at the same time reduce their farming workload. It also referred to actually having access to agricultural technologies, tools and equipment. This need was particularly mentioned by both better off and poorer groups in the selected.

Knowledge of and Access to Veterinary Science

This referred to the members' need to know how to take care of their livestock so as to increase their income from raising livestock and protecting their livestock from disease. The top 5 needs identified by members were (in order of frequency of mention by both better off and poorer groups):

- i. Education for self and children.
- ii. Having own livelihood and own income and savings from that livelihood,
- iii. Security
- iv. Linkage with institutions, and
- v. Freedom to make own choices or decisions.

It is necessary to point out that the first 3 top needs were mentioned by all groups in while the fourth top need was mentioned by more than half of the groups and the fifth top need by less than half. The first 2 top needs are practical needs while the last three top needs are related to strategic interests.

A. Other dreams expressed by a few members, who were mostly board members or staff were:

- i. To serve community
- ii. To help other women
- iii. To help the cooperatives ,

B. Other needs expressed by a few members were

- i. Awareness-raising programs on women's health, rights,
- ii. Access to basic infrastructure, e.g. toilets, tubel wells-to reduce time to fetch water, enhances sanitation and promotes good health, civil good health, good sanitation and clean environment particularly proximate environment such as house and yard.

C. When asked about what institutions they thought can meet their needs, the members identified a number of institution, both government, non government, national and local, including their own. Some of these institutions were the co-op District office, Nepal Rastra Bank, Women Development office, District Trade and Industry office, District Agriculture Office, NEFSCUN, Nari Chetna Kendra Nepal, Nari Bikash Sangh and the centre for Miro-Finance. The members thought that their should meet their financial needs, particularly access to credit keeping their savings, and access to funds for future or emergency needs, and their needs

for education and training, particularly on livelihood. Although the members hoped that their needs would be addressed, they also recognized the limitations of their in meeting their needs. The members expressed this recognition during the PRA exercise.

- D. They expressed that their needed the following to be better able to provide it's members with financial, developmental services. These were
 - i. Fund for building (to provide a facility where the can conduct training to its members)
 - ii. Fund for educational loans to members
 - iii. Fund for educational scholarship for member's children
 - iv. Training on co-op management, specially financial management, e.g. beekeeping
 - v. Trainings on motivating members
 - vi. Linkages with other institutions especially other to know more about other types of financial services, and other services that can be given to members,
 - vii. Unity among members

4.4.8 Capacity and Willingness to Meet Members' Needs

The output of the timeline exercise was a list of priority needs, one each for better off and poorer groups. In another focus group discussion, the lists were shown to the Board, the Staff (if any), and other key people in and were asked whether their had the capacity to meet these needs. They were also asked to identify the factors both internal and external to the that would support the effort to meet the members' needs and to identify those factors that would hinder the to do so. In short, using the force field analysis, it was asked to analyze the capacity of their organization to meet it's members needs.

The result of force field analysis done by the it showed that they were fairly aware of some factors or forces both within and outside of it that they can utilize or harness to meet their members' needs. However, there were many more hindering forces, both internal and external, that they had to contend with than there were supporting forces that they can rely on. According to the it was lacking in the factor that is most essential and

necessary for the to be able to meet the members needs, namely: internal resources, such as funds, and capable human resources. Thus, although would like to meet all own member's needs, it thought that as it does not have the means to do so. They thought that they should meet the members' financial needs firstly and their social needs, secondly.

It pointed to it's organizing of non-financial, developmental activities and linkages with institutions that can conduct these activities in their as supporting factors. This indicated that the considered conduction non-financial, developmental activities important and not having the resources to do so on their own, having linkages with external resource institutions was necessary. This also indicated that it looked at itself as having both a financial and a social role and it looked positively at these roles. Organizing non-financial, developmental activities in linkage with other institutions is the way of performing this social role.

Cooperative and rural women empowerment

Nepal is divided into five regions and 75 districts. It has three major geographic regions, high mountains, foothills and lowland plains. Across these three regions, Nepal has roughly 1,400 registered. To roughly represent Nepal's diversity the from the plains region. This enable us to note any significant income and risks faced by women. Furthermore, the chosen maintain a large population of women members with one being solely controlled by women.

Key Economic Activities

Main occupation of the people is agriculture, amounting 78% of the total population. Other occupations include business (5%), wage labor (10%), small and cottage industry (3%), all others (4%). Since most of the land in Santapur VDC has irrigation facilities, the agricultural production is very good. They produce three primary crops per year. Facilities such as transportation, availability of inputs, technical supports and marketing facilities are also available. So this is a relatively prosperous VDC in comparison of other VDCs of Nepal. In the village women mainly involved in agriculture and livestock raising activities.

The programme of Save the Children (U.S.A) was initiated on a trial basis in 2048 in this VDC wards in 1, 2, 3. The objectives of this programme had been to give informal education class for rural old women, and by giving informal education to ensure the women for their rights and empowerment. Having shown expressive and positive results, the program was expanded all over the VDC's ward. Ministry of agriculture and co-operative Nepal is responsible for implementation of the program. During the past decade, its member in locations where member were capable of managing it independently. It started in 2053 B.S. and registered as a saving and cooperative Ltd. The major activities of the cooperatives are savings, credits, and life insurance.

The Current Status of Cooperative

Total Number of current member	300(all women)
Female member	300
Monthly regular savings	25
Interest of savings	8%
Interest of loan	20%
The loan size	500 to 30,000
Share Capital	4,55,000
Deposit	50,000
Loan from NRB	12,00,000
Repayment Rate	6%

4.4.9 Services Offered by Sambridhi and Mahilajagaran Saving and credit cooperatives limited

The various savings and loan products, micro-insurance and social services offered by these cooperatives to it's members are discussed in following sections. SSCCL and MSCCL usually provide such financial and non-financial services during it's savings and credit phase.

4.4.10 Savings Products

Which offer a variety of savings products to its members. It starts its savings products from compulsory savings, and gradually introduce voluntary and other purposive savings. These savings products are designed to develop thrift among members, generate internal fund for on-lending and make savings available to members in times of emergency.

Savings products are gradually introduced in trial and error basis. There is also the practice of adapting various products of advanced by moderate SSCCL & MSCCL. Generally, members cannot withdraw compulsory saving up to an agreed term or till it's give up membership. Both cannot return compulsory savings because these are their main sources of capital and they are also considered collateral against loans. To fulfill members' financial needs, which gradually introduce other purposive savings products.

With issue passbooks to their members once they start depositing savings. Passbooks are filled and signed by the staff concerned.

Table 4.10: Savings Products Offered

Products	Purpose and Products Definition	Interest Rate Range (Per Annum)
Compulsory Savings	Old age provision and loan guarantee for members and regular sources of investment fund. The minimum fixed amount must be deposit each month. These savings can be with draw only upon termination of membership.	8%
Demand Deposit	For emergencies and for lump sum investments. Members can withdraw stated amount mentioned in the policy.	8%
Daily Savings	Savings services for daily income earners. Must deposit fixed amount there of per day. With drawl after specified period when the amount becomes substantial.	8%
Fixed Deposit	For depositing surplus income of members and higher returns from the savings. Members can withdraw after termination of a pre-negotiated	8%

	period and can borrow up to 90% of accumulated amount by paying 2-3% extra interest pa.	
Education al Savings	To meet future education expenses of children. Must deposit fixed amount per month. With-drawl when child reaches 16 years.	8%
Festival savings	To meet festival expenses. Must deposit fixed amount per month. With-drawl in specified festivals.	8%
Group savings	Designed for groups of poor women and occupational castes. Each group must save a specified amount or more.	8%

Source: Field Survey, 2016

4.4.11 Loan Products

It offers a variety of loan products to members such as productive, social and emergency loans. The loan products are described in detail in. Members are eligible to borrow loans three to six months after acquiring membership. In the case for more than one member from the same family can become a member, but only one can get loan at a time. She can acquire another loan only after the repayment of the previous loan, but in emergencies, she can avail of emergency loans.

Any member who needs a loan may apply to her with an application and the required fee. The loan sub-committee reviews the loan applications based on the existing policy and forwards them to Board of Directors, the final body for approving or disapproving within one week for loans, with necessary recommendations. subcommittee is authorized to approve or disapprove loans up to the amount of Rs. 30,000.

Table 4.11: Loan Products Offered by the cooperatives

Loan Products	Purpose	Interest Rate
Agriculture loan - Farm activities	Provided for buying seeds, seedlings, fertilizer, implements and livestock.	20%
- Vegetable cultivation - Livestock and fisheries	Divided mainly into three categories: short term (6 months), medium terms (up to 18 months), and long term (more than	20%

	18 months). Short-term loans are given for seasonal farm activities, medium term for livestock and long term loans for other.	
Micro enterprise and trade - Petty trade - Trading in agriculture produce - Agriculture produce processing and cottage industry.	Loans for petty trade and trading in agricultural produce are given for short-term, while those for running cottage industries are given for long term. Cottage industries include construction of warehouse and cold storage.	20%
Housing, latrine and bio-gas	Given for building new houses, improving old houses, construction latrines and installing biogas. This loan is for long term.	20%
Social loan	This loan is given for social purpose such as for consumptive purpose and for organizing rituals and festivals.	20%
Emergency loan	Given for emergency purposes, eg. during illness of family members, accidents, natural disaster etc. This loan provided only for short period (3-6months)	20%
Loan against collected savings	Given against fixed deposit, compulsory savings and purposive savings of members.	20%
Group loan for women and occupational castes	Mainly given on group guarantee for various purposes mentioned earlier.	20%

Source: Field survey, 2016

4.4.12 Insurance Products

Which introduced simple insurance products for the welfare of their members. Those insurance services were not provided through authorized agencies. Among the various insurance products offered in this way, life insurance covered the funeral cost, outstanding loan and transitional costs. Besides this voluntary and other purposive savings products and subsidized emergency loans also helped members to manage both predictable and unpredictable future risks. It has started linking formal life insurance through an insurance company to members of micro-finance institutions. SSCCL has been included in this life insurance project. This insurance covers funeral cost, outstanding loan and transitional costs of the family under shock.

4.4.13 Social Services

It provides a broad range of social services through their own resources or in coordination with developmental agencies for the benefit of its members. These services can be categorized under the following headings:

i. Training in Income Generating Activities

It has organized, in coordination with different NGOs and district line agencies, mainly with district agriculture office and cottage industry development committee, training in various income-generating enterprises such as seasonal and off-season vegetable cultivation, livestock (e.g. goat, poultry, buffalo) raising, knitting and weaving.

ii. Preventive and Curative Health Services

These services include implementation of drinking water projects, granting of loans for construction Pakka latrines and requiring every member household to have a pit latrine and a kitchen garden. It also provides soft loans for health treatment and emergency purpose. It has, along with some partner also commenced a partnership linkage programme on HIV/AIDS and cooperatives.

iii. Community Development Activities

It has mobilized its members for improving local infrastructure such as construction of village roads and school buildings, establishment of communication services.

iv. Awareness-Raising Activities

It has organized adult literacy classes for its members. Besides, it has organized various campaigns and talk programmes on gender equality, girl's education and postnatal care.

List of Services Offered by SSCCL

Particular

1. Services

1.1 Savings

- Compulsory savings
- Demand deposits
- Fixed deposits

- Daily savings
- Educational/child savings
- Festival savings
- Special savings
- Group savings
- Staff Provident fund

1.2 Loans

- Agriculture and livestock
- Micro enterprise and business
- Repair of house, latrine and biogas
- Social and emergency purpose
- Loan against savings
- Group/member guarantee

1.3 Insurance (Micro Life and Health)

1.4 Social Services

- Training on income-generating activities
- Health and nutrition
- Community development activities
- Awareness-raising and literacy

4.4.14 Organization Structure of the cooperatives

The general assembly elects a seven to eleven-member and a three member account supervisory committee for a three-to five-year term.

4.5 Rural Women Empowerment

4.5.1 Social Conditions of Respondent in Study Area

In general, the objectives of any development programme is to bring positive change in the community and to uplift the life standard of the poor, disadvantaged and backward segment of the society. The programme may bring either good or bad impact in the society based on caste/ethnic groups. The researcher found positive change occurred by

cooperative programme in Pokharbhinda VDC. The following table depicts the social impact on household through saving and cooperative.

Table 4.12: Social Role of Saving and Credit Cooperative in Rural Women

Social Condition	Yes	No	Total Percentage
Occupational successful	90%(45)	10%(5)	100
Family Breakdown	0%(00)	100%(50)	100
Conflict in Family	4%(2)	96%(48)	100
Use of Outside Labor	0%(00)	100%(50)	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016 (Figure in Parenthesis refers to the no. of HHs)

The above table 6.4 reveals that only 90 percent respondents are successful in their occupation. No one has found suffer from the family breakdown due to the impact of saving and credit cooperative in the study area. Only 4 percent of households in the study area founds having conflicts between family members in the distribution of resources and savings whereas 96 percent of households have very harmonious relationship among the family members due to this cooperative that is a very positive indicator in socio-economic development of the community development and rural women empowerment that is illustrated below in the bar diagram.

Table 4.13: Social Impacts on Rural Women in Households

Social Impacts	Excellent	Good	Bad	No concern	Total percentage
Family's views in occupation	17 (34%)	31 (61%)	2 (4%)	-	50 100
Husbands' response in occupation	13 (26%)	33 (66%)	2 (4%)	2 (4%)	50 100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

About 34 percent respondents have expressed excellent view on women involvement in community's saving and credit cooperative in the study area and 61 percent household family member have remarked women involvement good whereas the response of husband on women involvement in saving and credit cooperative in the study area was found 26 percent excellent and 66 percent good whereas 4 percent bad and no concern respectively.

4.5.2 Roles and Status of Women in the Study Area

There has been past efforts to reduce prevailing discrimination and inequalities against women. Not with standing these initiatives, there is a huge gap between member's women and non member's women as well as for other underprivileged caste and ethnic groups.

Nepali women are some of the most disadvantaged people and one of the major focuses of the cooperatives is to increase the role and status of women. From the research, it was found that the local governance programme has successful in increasing the status of the women thereby increasing their role that can be considered as a positive role on women empowerment.

Table 4.14: Roles and Status of Women in Study Area.

Women status	Increase than before (2053 B.S.)	Decrease than before	As it is	Don't know	Total
Status in Household level	76% (38)	0	18% (9)	6% (3)	100 (50)
Status in Social level	68% (34)	-	26% (13)	6% (3)	100 (50)
Participation in group	82% (41)	-	14% (7)	4% (2)	100 (50)
Authority in household	92% (46)	-	2% (1)	6% (3)	100 (50)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the above table, it is clear that it has successful partially to meet the goal of rural women empowerment. Status of the women has increased by >6 percent in household level than before the establishment of cooperative. But status of women seems increased by 68 percent only in social level. After the implementation of this cooperatives, 92 percent women participation in group activities have found increase in the study area. Authority and responsibility of 92 percent respondent have increased than before in the study area. 6 percent of the respondent have found unknown about their authority and responsibility due to lack of education.

4.5.3 Women's Involvement in Decision-Making an Access to Financial Resources

For the purpose of this study, empowerment of women was defined as the ability of women to have access to and control over income, expenses, savings and credits, and household decision making.

Women's involvement in decision making in issue related to family planning, buying and selling of assets, community development, community meetings, voting, borrowing and use of loans and use of loan profit was taken as a proxy indicator of empowerment. In this study role of cooperative activities on women's empowerment was arrived at by calculating the percentage of women members involved in various areas vis-a-vis women non-members.

Table 4.15: Involvement of Women Members for leadership development program and Empowerment

Area of leadership development and employment	Number of Respondents n=60	Percentage of n=60
Family planning	46	72%
Buying /Selling Assets	43	85%
Community Development	52	84%
Community Meetings	14	28%
Leadership capacity	57	94%
Taking Loans	43	86%
Using Loans	52	84%
Loan's Profit Use	52	84%

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table shows that maximum respondent of are said it is increase leadership capacity. There are varies area which are involved by taking training and awareness program by the cooperatives. The high percentage of findings on the involvement of women members are develop leadership capacity is 94 percent. Similarly, 86 percent are said taking loan, 84 percent said using loan and loan's profit use and so on. The findings indicated higher percentages of women members involvement in all these areas that of women leadership development . During the household respondent survey, the researcher

observed that women members were more confident on various issue. Moreover, the female members of women-headed households (widows wives of migrant men and divorced women were more empowered in various areas. The researcher found that access to financial services can develop leadership and empower women to become more confident, more assertive, more likely to participate in family and community decision.

4.5.4 Role of cooperatives in leadership development

It was found from the FGDs that the sampled women members were more informed about leadership development program, including women's rights than non-members were. Not only they were informed about the women's right issue, but they were also applying their knowledge into practice in their daily lives. Women's involvement in various income-generating activities through better financial services contributed not only to increasing their household income but also to their economic empowerment. As a result, women members' involvement in household decision making in different areas also increased in comparison with that of non-members. It is also supports this finding. Similarly, their participation in SSCCL's various exposure programmes and community development activities increased their mobility compared to non-members. This, in turn, helped them to enhance their knowledge of different issues and thereby contributed towards their empowerment.

4.5.6 Increase in Income

Survey findings indicated increases in the incomes of 100 percent of the sample SSCCL's members since they joined their cooperative. SSCCL's savings and credits services provided and opportunity for its members to undertake different enterprises, including micro-enterprises. this helped the members to generate self-employment and increase their incomes, thereby contributing towards reducing their poverty to same extent.

The SSCCL's policy is to provide loans for productive purpose, such as cereal and cash crop production, micro-enterprises and agro-based trading activities.

Table 4.16: Increase in Income by Membership Status

Membership status	Increases in income	Percentage
Member (after joining cooperative)	50	83
Member (before joining cooperative)	10	17
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above table shows that increase in the incomes of members since they joined cooperative whose percentage is 83 and only 17 percent of respondents are said no increase establishment of cooperatives. Least numbers of members also noted increase in their incomes since the establishment of cooperatives. It was because of their involvement in various income generating activities after observing the involvement of cooperatives members in the income-generating activities and their gaining knowledge and skills from them. Therefore, increase in the incomes of non-members households was spill-over effect of the activities of the cooperatives.

4.5.7 Increase in Health, Hygiene and Sanitation

Women's health has always been a cause for concern in Nepal, particularly in the context of limited economic resources and socio-cultural factors that give women a low status in our society. Factors like poor sanitation, inaccessible health services, food insecurity, lack of information awareness, difficulty in drinking safe drinking water an over workload.

Table 4.17: Increase in Health, Hygiene and Sanitation

	Before joining cooperatives programme			After joining cooperatives programme		
	Yes	No	Total(%)	Yes	No	Total(%)
Health post	50(100%)	0	100	50(100%)	0	50(100%)
Knowledge of family planning	30(60%)	20(40%)	50(100%)	50(100%)	0	50(100%)
Use of toilet	19(38%)	31(62%)	50(100%)	45(90%)	5(10%)	50(100%)
Safe drinking water	34(68%)	16(32%)	50(100%)	40(80%)	10(20%)	50(100%)

Source: Field Survey 2016

The above table show that before the implementation of this programme only 60 percent of respondent have knowledge of family planning and they are practicing by now 100 percent of the women in study area have found having proper knowledge of family planning and they are using family planning means. The percentage of toilet users after the implementation. Which have reached 90 percent but the percentage of toilet users before this cooperatives was 38 percent only. The percentage of population having safe drinking water was found 80 percent.

From the above table it can be concluded that the knowledge of health, hygiene, sanitation, drinking water and family planning of the respondent have much increased after establishment of the joining cooperatives.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

5.1 Summary

The cooperation program of the corporate department of Nepal government has boost up the bottom up decision making approach instead of top down approach. The research problems were feeling of women on cooperation program, level of their participation and effectiveness of the program to reduce the poverty through women empowerment.

The objectives of the study are study of socio-economic status of the women of Himalaya saving and credit limited and role of cooperation on women. Different tools and techniques were used for data collection. Descriptive research was carried out as well as both primary and secondary data were collected for this study, Perception of saving and credit cooperation was collected from 60 respondents and based on proposed accidental random sampling from Santapur VDC were used to analyze the data .

From the study it is clear that the most of the population of Santapur VDC has still remained largely poor, specially women, despite the saving and credit cooperative initiative. The basic indicators those are very vital for the socio-economic development of the society such as education, health hygiene and sanitation, drinking water, occupation etc. Play major role for the positive change in the community. From the ethnic composition perspective, most of the respondents of the VDC were poor in social as well as economic activities before the establishment of the cooperatives.

Yadav's percent is dominant in population composition as compare to other caste group. Such dominant caste group is the major obstacle in empowering women in empowering women in terms of decision-making, awareness and other factors.

Similarly the economically active population (age group 16-59) indicates that the possibility of active participation of female in the area of economic productivity if the women are given chance. The overall educational status of the sampled population of the

study area is 20 percent.

The sampled household population engaged in agriculture is 32 percent but engaged in services are only 6 percent. Mostly women are directly or indirectly involved in agricultural activities. After the implementation of SCC programme women have an easy access in the economic sector. The landholding, among the sampled members is little schemed as 2 percent of the members hold more than 10 bigha.

Exactly 66 percent of sampled members have nuclear type of family, which might be a major factor unequal distribution of landholding. It has been instrumental for considerable success in terms of community awareness, which has been reflected upon equal opportunity to women in the selection of occupation, education, training and various other social activities. It is evident that women's role and status has been increased positively than before after the establishment. The level of increase is slow and gradual but has proved significant in terms of household decision making and in economic productivity. The household decision making power and authority of women has been significantly improved and reached after the establishment.

5.2 Conclusions

The study showed that the socio-economic status of women. Specifically by empowering taking loan and any financial supports by the cooperatives. However members expected their to provide more (in terms of larger amounts) and other types of financial services. The members are strongly aware to increase financial capabilities. Savings accumulated in ways that are more compatible with the seasonality of their income, which in a large majority of members are involved. Affordable and regularly available credit or loans. Funds that members can access from for specific social purposes such as health (in case of illness, reproductive health), and accident and funds that increase the stability of their savings and loans. These needs expressed by the respondents members were related more to their practical need for security and strategic interest of owning land.

The model was found effective in providing financial and social services for the Terai-based communities. It financial services helped communities (through direct and

spill-over effects) in increasing their incomes, which thereby contributed to reducing their poverty. Similarly, technical services in terms of training provided it to their members helped in enhancing their skills, which also indirectly contributed to increasing their incomes. In addition, undertaking of adult literacy classes contributed to making illiterate adult literate. The community development activities were recognized in the community. Increased incomes and knowledge generated by training and exposure programmes helped in empowering the women members. It has, therefore, a role to play in poverty reduction and development in Terai areas.

Although it had good practice of taking loan and saving practice by the cooperatives. Similarly, they are involved different types of decision making role like as president of the organization, secretary, members and chief of loan provide committee. So, they say if the cooperative not establish we are not able to increase financial capabilities. So, cooperatives is our life partner. We are not escape from the cooperative they say. Hence, cooperatives provides financial strongness and different types of decision making and leadership development platform. Role on the livelihood and empowerment of members at individual and household levels. Use of solidarity for exerting pressure against social problems, Increase in women's involvement in household decision-making process.

5.3 Findings

The following has been for further improvement of the cooperatives program in the future.

1. Strengthen and capability to develop women empowerment by taking and saving small amount of money but it is maximum interest rate. So, to minimize the interest rate for developing the women capabilities.
2. There is increasing women participation in major decision making like as president of the organization, secretary of the organization and member of the organization. So, it is develop decision power.
3. It is provided the leadership developing capacity. Because in cooperatives all members are involve different types of post and contribute there capacity and

their own capabilities. So, it is the great opportunities to enhance the women empowerment.

4. To increase Awareness of women's condition and position.
5. Recognition of all types of work that they do (to address the issue of invisibility of women's work),
6. Increases access to opportunities (to address the issue of women's marginalization due to cultural factors such as caste and ethnicity)
7. Members should be encouraged to participate more actively in discussion and deliberations in annual general meetings and monthly meetings.
8. It boards should be encouraged to consult members related to non-financial, developmental activities of the as they are interested in participating in these activities.
9. The cooperative boards, staff and members must gain some knowledge and understanding of the principle, values and practices of co-operatives.
10. The government programmes and/or INGOs should continue to promote the poverty focused model to improve access of financial services to the poor in Terai region.
11. It should address the problems by developing strategies that would motivate poor people to join it.
12. The follow of credit facilities needs to be reviewed and should be provided as per priority basis at the rate of low interest.
13. Educational awareness programmes should be more focused.
14. Detail feasibility study of the area to be focused should be carried out before hand in order to ensure pay back of seed money and interest rate in the stimulated time period.

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Appendix-I

ROLE OF SMALL COOPERATIVES FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT : A CASE STUDY OF SANTAPUR VDC, RAUTAHAT, NEPAL

Name of Members

Date of taken membership

Demographic Information:

Particulars	Numbers
Total family member	
Child	
Son	
Daughter	

2. Socio-economic status on women

Before programme

After Programme

- A) Dirty and Rough ()
- B) Clean ()
- C) Simple and Clean ()
- D) Expensive and clean ()

- A) Dirty and Rough ()
- B) Clean ()
- C) Simple and Clean ()
- D) Expensive and Clean ()

3. What is your of Credit ?

- A) Before ()
- 1.SC ()
- 2.Private lender ()
- 3.Bank ()

- b)After ()
- i) SC ()
- II) Pirvate lender ()
- III) Bank ()

4. How Much loan do you have taken from the cooperatives ?

In Rs.....

5. Did it help to increase your economic condition ?

- A) Yes ()
- b) No ()

If not why ?

6.. What happen to your employment after utilizing the credit ?

- a) Employment was increased ()
- b) Employment was decreased ()
- c) No Change ()

7. what happen to your income after utilizing the credit ?
- a) income was increased
- b) Income was decreased
- c) No change
8. if you do not reply loan in time what steps does the project take ?
- a).....b).....
9. What affect do you find of the program in your village ?
- a) no any change b) it has cheap rate of interest
- c) other has increased their income after utilizing credit
- d) Other advised me
- e) Due to its integrated service
- 10 . what are the positive aspects of SC ?
- a) Service in time
- b) Friendly officers
- c) Self ownership feeling
- d) Service at any time
11. Has your debt reduced after becoming member ?
-
12. Do you think the Programme should continue ?
-
13. Does the cooperatives provide following social services ?
- | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Group saving | yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Child Care Services | yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmers training | yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmers visit | yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
14. Do you have increase decision making power from the cooperatives ?
- a) Yes b) No
15. Are you taking any training of leadership development ?
- a) yes b) no
- if yes, what type of training.....
16. If the cooperatives provides the opportunities of leadership development ?
-
17. What are the major problems after launching the programme ?
- a) Higher interest rate b) Complicated official procedure
- c) No problem at all
18. what types of social program are you involved ?
-
19. what types of personality development program are you involved ?
-
20. what are the empowerment activities program are provide from the cooperatives ?
-
21. what is done from the cooperatives in the area of women empowerment ?
-
22. what is your suggestion to improve the performance of cooperatives ?
-

Appendix-II

ROLE OF SMALL COOPERATIVES FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT : A CASE STUDY OF SANTAPUR VDC, RAUTAHAT, NEPAL

Name

Involving sectorHobbies:

1. What is the role of cooperatives for rural women empowerment?

.....

2. What ways to develop to increase women decision making ?

.....

3. What is the necessary condition for women's leadership development ?

.....

4. It is increasing for women empowerment by cooperatives , if yes plz justify it ?

.....

5. In your organization How many members of women are involved and for increasing women involvement what is necessary condition ?

.....

6. Any suggestion for improvement, plz ?

.....

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