

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Nepal is a developing nation. The majority of Nepalese women and girls are part of the development mainstream. Women make up around 51% of the population, however they are underrepresented in social justice. Nepal's cultural norms and beliefs are patriarchal. Male dominance and female subordination are so firmly reinforced by cultural, economic, and religious forces that neither the violence nor the lack of outrage over it is unique. The hierarchal system depresses women as well. They receive second-class treatment. Additionally, women are excluded from home decision-making and have limited access to resources and educational opportunities (Sharma, 2007).

Women make up more than half of the population of Nepal (CBS, 2003), yet only 42.4% of them are literate (CBS, 2001). Along with participating in socioeconomic activity, women are extensively involved in household duties. They play a significant part in household administration and are responsible for more than half of the chores, but they have limited decision-making authority. Even when compared to a male equivalent. Since early age, they have experienced discrimination. They must live under their parents while they are young, their husbands when they are adults, and their children when they are elderly. They lack the ability to make decisions on their own accord (Singh, 2004).

Nepali women's status has been significantly impacted by different religious beliefs, traditional dress, social standards, and values. In Nepali culture, the birth of a girl is considered bad fortune. The family is happy if a boy is born, but unhappy if a girl is born. There is a widespread notion that if a man is not given a son, the entrance to heaven will not be opened for him. "Let it take time, but let a son be born," is a proverb (Ghimire, 2009).

Only when the UN declared 1975–1985 as the UN Decade for women did women begin to be recognized as an essential human resource. This international wave of "Women in Development"

included all of South Asia, including Nepal. Women had previously been statistically ignored by development professionals. Women were severely undercut as the domestic and subsistence sector's traditional producers and managers because their work was immediately categorized as "non-monetized," "non-marketable," and "non-productive." The transition in women's status to "non status" can be attributed to such severe statistical bias, which is mirrored in national accounting and further supported by firm social norms, values, and views (Bhusal, 2004).

Household chores are primarily performed by women. Women rely on their husbands for financial support since they lack other sources. They have access to land resources, but they have little control over how those resources will be used. In our society, which is predominately male and in which the male home head makes significant decisions, men tend to exercise control. If there is an excess of agricultural output, the guys carry it to the market to be sold. Despite the fact that women have an equal share in the sources of money, the males are the ones who manage the generated income and have control over them. Benefits and decision-making authority are unequally distributed (Ghimire, 2009).

In the development of a nation the women play vital role, however, in male-dominated country like ours, female are considered of low standard and of less value. But in recent years, people have started realizing the importance of women's participation in the economic as well as social development. The socio-economic standard of women greatly enhances the progressive development of a nation. Now, men and women have equally started participating on development activities in many developed countries having faith and relationship as that of "muscles with the nail of the finger" (Bhusal, 2004).

Concerns about women's rights, their economic status, and their empowerment are on the rise nowadays. As the importance of women's development for the broader development of society has become more widely recognized, so too has the body of writing on women and their socioeconomic circumstances. Overworked and underpaid is a pejorative yet accurate depiction of women all around the world. Even though women work two thirds of the world's labor hours, they only receive 10% of income and less than 1% of all property. (UN,1980). Women and men have different roles and obligations in every society. Due to different socioeconomic restrictions,

women typically have less access to resources and benefits. This is more noticeable in developing nations where there is a clear separation between roles and responsibilities and a more overt male dominance. In undeveloped nations, women are only valued for their domestic and parenting responsibilities.

Gender inequalities are frequently linked to differences in the way households make decisions (Acharya, 1993; Bajracharya, 1994; Shrestha, 1994). Sattaur (1996) asserted that all castes and ethnic groups in Nepal place less emphasis on women than on men. In terms of sociocultural, economic, political, and legal contexts, Nepalese women are still restricted to their traditional duties, have a lower status, and are deferential to men. In rural areas, women are more restricted to domestic work and agricultural tasks than are men (Shtrii Shalcti, 1995; Subedi, 1997). Both in rural and urban settings, women work longer hours per day than men, with rural women working longer hours than urban women (Shtrii Shalcti, 1995).

Because of the prevalent religious and cultural practices, women are abused and oppressed (Subedi, 1997; Tiwari, 1997). Women lack the authority to decide whether or not to pursue an education, who to marry, or when to do so. In addition, women lack authority over their bodies and have no say in decisions about property, family size, or political engagement (ABC Nepal, 1995). However, elderly women are respected and frequently have a voice in directing the family and overall household administration in most households, regardless of their caste or race (Felmy, 1993).

Rural women are still largely uneducated. This is partially due to Nepal having one of the lowest global literacy rates (Subedi, 1997). Girls' educations frequently depend on their parents giving them a special favor. Nepal has significantly improved its literacy rate during the last 30 years. Between rural and urban areas, as well as between men and women, there is still a literacy gap. For instance, in urban regions, 77.3 percent of men and 50.5 percent of women are literate, as opposed to 50.1 percent of men and 22.4 percent of women in rural areas (CBS, 1997). A girl's access to education is restricted by her parents' illiteracy as well as social taboos and gender expectations. It is typical for a family experiencing financial hardship to prioritize the daughter's education over the son's. Demands for the aid of girls, who mostly support their mothers and other members of the home, can prevent them from attending school (Subedi, 1997).

The fact that women are equally qualified and even more competent than men has been recognized, but the so-called males have not internalized this truth. In reality, women should be given access to education so that they can compete with men on an equal footing in all fields of endeavor and at all occupational levels. To give men and women equal chances and opportunities, the gap between their standing should be closed. However, in Nepal, men, not women, are primarily responsible for dealing with the outside world and running the household.

In families, women are accepted to serve as the household's leader and, therefore, the decision-maker in the absence of men. When the spouse is present and acting as the leader of the household, he frequently makes decisions for the family. Women are perceived as being barred from any positions requiring decision-making, whether in the household or in society as a whole. Men easily outweigh women in these situations. The decision-maker looks for a solution that the family will accept (Singh, 2004).

Panday and colleagues (2006) argue that a lack of ownership of productive resources, a lower level of educational attainment, and confinement to domestic and agricultural work all contribute to women having a limited influence in decision-making. Gender discrimination in decision-making areas of social life can be viewed by categorizing the areas as public or domestic. In the public domain, they can be measured by looking at the percentage of women in leadership positions in the government's legislative and administrative institutions. Similarly, in the domestic domain, it can be seen in terms of their roles in making decisions regarding household activities such as land transactions, borrowing/ ending money, arranging family member marriages, and other such things (Panday and others 2006).

Women play an important role in the development of a nation. Females are considered of low standard and value in male-dominated societies such as ours. However, in recent years, people have begun to recognize the significance of women's participation in economic and social development. Women's socioeconomic status contributes significantly to a country's progressive development. In many developed countries, men and women are now participating on an equal footing in development activities, with faith and relationship as "muscles with the nail of the finger." This mutual understanding between men and women can have a significant impact on a country's socioeconomic status (Bhusal, 2004).

In most of the general literature of women empowerment, it shows that education and employment are the major factors for improving women's capability in making decisions. (Stromquist, 2002; Dacosta, 2008; Roy, 2008; Murphy-Graham, 2008, 2010; Sadania, 2016; Bulte et al., 2016). According to the studies, women's education and employment are complementary factors in their empowerment, with empowerment measured by women's participation in household decisions. Education leads to the development of potential human capital required by women to improve their job-seeking capacity, allowing them to make active decisions in their professional and personal lives. Women's education is argued to be an important factor in preparing women to work and increasing their decision-making power in all aspects of their lives (Sultana, 2011; Sundaram, 2014; Barman, 2018). Numerous studies on women's empowerment rationalize women's decision-making capacity in terms of financial empowerment and autonomy (Soetan & Obeyan, 2019; Hung et al. 2012; Sultana et al., 2013; Sadania, 2016).

1.2 Statement of Problem

Gender inequality and discrimination against women, regardless of caste or ethnicity, have long been a feature of Nepal's predominantly patriarchal society. Women have less access to education, knowledge, resources, and opportunities than men, and they lag in both social and economic spheres. According to the Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN), approximately 86 percent of Nepalese women are limited to reproductive roles in society, contributing to their overall lack of confidence. A variety of socio-cultural beliefs and practices contribute to the situation. In Nepalese society, the birth of a baby boy is cause for celebration because he is viewed by the family as an economic asset who will support his parents in their old age and continue their lineage. The birth of a baby girl, on the other hand, comes as a bit of a letdown. Because girls are sent to their in-laws' homes after marriage, money spent on their education and healthcare is viewed as a bad investment. As a result, a daughter's overall development is given less priority than that of a son. Daughters are expected to take on housework at a young age, often at the expense of their education, health, and nutrition (Ranjan and others, 2014).

There is impact of women's education and employment on their involvement in household decisions. Most of the studies argue that employed women enjoy greater access to economic resources which increase their involvement in the household decision making. Women's participation in

household decision-making and autonomy are influenced by a variety of factors. Objectively, women's employment status is critical in this regard (Murphy-Graham, 2008, 2010; Sadania, 2016; Bulte et al., 2016). Employed women can be more involved in household decision making than unemployed women for two reasons: For starters, their professional experience and external exposure create a framing effect; because women are expected to make many independent decisions at work, they may do so at home as well (Dacosta, 2008; Murphy-Graham, 2010). Second, their employment status allows them to have a reasonable stake in their family's financial matters, so their families give them some leeway in household decisions (Hung et al., 2012; Sultana et al., 2013; Sadania, 2016). One can hypothesize that employed women are more likely to be involved in household decisions than unemployed women.

Lots of studies and research have been done on women's empowerment and their role in others sectors like developmental and others. Many researchers also have done study on women roles in household decision making. Most of the research was done in rural areas and other ethnicity group women. Most of the study focuses on the roles of women and the discrimination faced by them in micro and macro level but here are not many studies which concentrated working and non-working women role in household decision making and the problem faced by women and the factors that affect their power and capacity to take the decision and the solution for eliminated the inequality. There are only few studies done in Kirtipur and about Newar women. There are only few study and literature that address the role of women and their role differ by their working status and the factors which affects the role of women. Therefore, my study has attempt to focus on this area and fill the research gap.

When we looked at the role of women who are housewife and working outside, we can find differentiation in their power and authority to make decision related to household and decision related to other sectors also. Their role and authority is affected by many factors like socio-economic and cultural. The roles of women differ by their working status. Previous study have not talked about the factors and problems faced by women while participating in the household decision. So, this study not only study about the roles of women but also make comparative study of role of working and non-working women role in household decision making and also study about the factors affecting the decision making process and in general will the positive change in these factors will help to bring positive change in the capability and authority of

women and helps them to empower and bring equal opportunities between men and women in the household and society.

Therefore, my research is focused on following questions:

- 1 What are the role of working and non-working women in household decision making process?
- 2 What are the factors affecting women access in household decision making role?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objectives of the study is to assess the working and non-working women and their decision making role in household activities related to health care, education, income and so on.

However, the specific objectives of this study are:

1. To examine the role of working and non-working women in household decision making process.
2. To examine the factors affecting women access in household decision making.

1.4 Significance of the study

Nepal is underdeveloped country; in most of the parts of Nepal women are more backward than men. Most of the household works are done by women such as cooking, cleaning, washing, caring children, looking after cattle and agriculture activities. Women are always marginalized in underdeveloped countries. Gender study is essential in order to uplift their position. There is an inequality between men and women in every aspects of society like cultural, economic, political, social and educational. So, this study will help to find out role of women as working and non-working women in household decision making and the problems they faced in access of household decision making process. This study can be useful for those individuals and institutions that have interest to know about the role of working and non-working women in household decision making and the problems they faced while making decisions. This study may also be helpful for all researchers, NGOs/INGOs and other organizations to execution of

development activities and will be helpful for determining the economic educational status of women.

Chapter II

Literature Review

Theoretical literature Review

This section deals the literature regarding the status of women and role of women in decision-making. The review of literature consists of the some of the Studies related women's Economic and educational Status and their decision making power. However, some available literatures are organized as follows:

2.1 Women role in different Caste & Cultural Groups

The main basis of management is decision making. In general, women's participation in household decision-making has remained low in comparison to men's. However, women's participation in decision making varies by cultural group. The existing literature clearly shows that the role of women in decision making varies according to their caste/ethnicity.

Women play a smaller role in decision making in caste groups than in ethnic groups. According to Acharya (1995), women have a very low participation rate in decision making. 70% of household-related and external decisions are made entirely by male members of the household.

Women in Nepal, as in other countries, are responsible for reproduction, housekeeping, and farm work. However, reproduction is not considered work, and housework is not considered productive work by the government system. They are also subjected to discriminatory practices in terms of educational opportunities and personal mobility, both of which are necessary for skill development and independent decision making.

Women's public lives are culturally limited to the extent that they are casually related to the patriarchal social system that confines them to subordinated positions. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history, and social attitudes severely limit women's participation in public life as well as control over their private lives. These factors have shaped the culture's worldview as well as governed individual self-image, influencing the understanding and practice of

development. This is largely demonstrated by the fact that only a small number of Nepalese women hold professional, management, or decision-making positions (Shtri Shakti, 1995).

2.2 Gender Inequality in Nepal

Gender inequality persists in Nepalese society, with women lagging far behind men in economic, social, and political standing. Women's historically disadvantageous status in education, health, and economic participation has limited their mobility and divided them from the basic needs/tools required for political participation.

Women have less access to income, wealth, and modern employment opportunities (Thapa 2004). They must devote a large portion of their time to household tasks, leaving little time for activities that could contribute to the country's economic development. Their access to property in their husband's households, as well as their limited access to income, wealth, and employment, are the primary causes of their low social status. It has a direct impact on their decision-making ability (Ghimire, 2009).

Despite the fact that Nepali women are daughters, wives, and mothers, they are not recognized as individuals with their own identities, despite the fact that they are as human as men. Women have been relegated to the lowest rank and a submissive role in society. Due to their maternal function, they are confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there. They are discouraged and prevented from participating in public life (Subedi, 1993). The decision-making process is primarily seen and understood in terms of office management. It is a problem-solving method that involves selecting one or more alternatives. After the introduction of sociological knowledge, this term is viewed merely as a sociological process involving households and institutions that are linked by the concept of roles. In general, their role at the family level is a process that involves four interconnected steps in participation: planning, decision making, implementation, and evaluation. These steps are repeated in the family, but in a different order due to the smallness and intimacy of the group involved. The key to participation in the family is to make the decision itself, as well as the planning process that precedes it. However, there is one significant difference that separates family decision making from large assembly decision making: the active presence of women. Few women participate in large gatherings. The rest

delegate participation in public decision-making to their male counterparts. However, at the family level women are certainly present.

Women's social status and access to resources varied greatly depending on their cultural group. In general, women from Tibeto-Burman cultural groups had significantly more freedom in matters such as choosing marriage partners, deciding when to marry, and deciding what economic activities they wanted to pursue than their Indo-Aryan sisters. Mustang Bhote (Tibetan) women, Kham Magars, Rai, and Tamangs were among the Tibeto-Burman groups studied. The Indo-Aryan group included high and low cast Nepali, speaking hill groups, as well as Maithali, Tharus, and Newars, whereas Indo-Aryan women were married young, had no choice in their life partners, and had little social mobility. Such findings did not apply to women from Tibetan-Burman groups in general. Women's access to modern resources in the form of knowledge (education, training, etc.) and traditional and newly created assets (e.g. land, machines, employment) was found to be severely limited across all cultural groups (Acharya, 1994).

2.3 Women Participation in Economic Sector

Women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector in Nepal, according to economic participation and household decision making. The data on decision making show that women play an important role in agricultural production, both as laborers and as managers of the production process. Decision making has been selected from the multidimensional concept of status, which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. In the study, the village women were actively participating in four activities: local market economy, shorter migration to employment in the larger economy beyond the village, and longer migration to employment in the larger economy beyond the village. (Acharya and Bennett, 1983)

Female participation in the market economy varies by community, and this is reflected in their decision-making power within the household. Women from Hindu communities have a greater concentration in domestic and subsistence production, whereas women from Tibeto-Burman communities have a greater concentration in market activities who are largely Confined to

domestic and subsistence production display a much more significant role in major households economic decisions than those from Tibeto-Burman communities. (Acharya and Bennett, 1982) Women's roles and status vary depending on caste and ethnicity, but they are subordinate to men in all caste, ethnic, and religious groups. Women play an important role in household subsistence, agriculture, and labor work, among other things. Women's labor participation in agriculture is thus the economic backbone of Nepal. Aside from agriculture, they must perform a variety of household tasks such as childcare, cooking, feeding, cleaning, and decorating homes. These domestic activities of women are not accounted for in monetary terms. As a result, in order to support the planning of facilitating increased integration of women into the national development process, a thorough analysis of Nepalese women's situation is required. Women have also made significant contributions to the household economy through skill-based entrepreneurship such as weaving, poultry, fishing, vegetable farming, and so on.

According to UNESCO (1998), the level of women's education in Nepal is the lowest among SAARC countries. Nepal has a literacy rate of 34% among adult females. 94 percent in Sri Lanka, 58 percent in India Bangladesh has 53%, while Pakistan has 48%. The campaign to improve women's status has had an impact on the role of education. It is expected that education will reduce gender disparities and elevate women's oppressed position in society. Women with higher levels of education have higher social status and larger families.

2.4 Factors affecting Decision making of Women

Satnam Kaur (1987), in a case study conducted in Haryana state, emphasizes the importance of recognizing female decision making, particularly in the case of home and farm affairs among rural families. She claims that, with the exception of food and nutrition for children, women are never found to be the final decision-makers in many matters. Ironically, women are not free to choose whether or not to join women's organizations such as Mahila Mandals. Except in a few cases, financial decisions are found to be solely manipulated by husbands. She concludes by stating that programs that support women's potential as capable and worthy decision makers should be planned.

Kaur goes on to emphasize the importance of education and access to educational opportunities in influencing women's input in decision-making. She observes that "educated women are better placed than illiterate counterparts" (Kaur 1987: 120).

Acharya and Benett (1981) provided a broader overview of women's status in terms of decision-making power in the home. They contend that economic factors influence decision-making both directly and indirectly. A woman with greater economic participation has more decision-making power. Similarly, social and demographic factors influence the role of decision-making; for example, small child size implies greater economic participation and, as a result, greater decision-making power for women.

From the multidimensional concept of status, Acharya and Bennett have selected "decision making" to reflect the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. They created some models after studying the status of women in eight different village communities in Nepal. In this model, villages were envisioned to be engaged in four types of subsistence activities: household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in the village labor market and local bazaar, and total employment in the larger economy beyond the village.

According to Acharya and Bennett (1983), various socioeconomic, cultural, and demographic factors influence the extent and structure of female economic participation in rural Nepal's largely subsistence economy. The majority of women's labor is concentrated in their own agricultural production activities. However, female percent participation can be seen in the local market economy and the larger economy beyond the village. Women in more orthodox Hindu communities who are subsistence producers play a much smaller role than those in Tibeto-Burman communities where women actively participate in the market economy. The proportion of time spent by women in domestic activities emerged as a positive factor in the determination of her input in farm management decisions and as a negative factor in her input into resource allocation decisions. Participation in the market economy outside the village had a positive influence on women's input into both domestic and resource allocation decision and a negative influence on farm management decisions. Women who participate in the market activities make a measurable contribution to the household income, while women working in the subsistence

agriculture are generally laboring on land, controlled by the male household head. The women involving in the development process and expanding their acceptable roles beyond those of mother, household and subsistence agricultural worker can be expected to have important long range effects in terms of reduced fertility rates and changed social attitudes towards children's education. Women participating in development and expanding their acceptable roles beyond mother, household, and subsistence agricultural worker can be expected to have significant long-term effects in terms of reduced fertility rates and changed social attitudes toward children's education.

According to MOH (2001), women and men living in the mountain ecological zone are the least educated, while those living in the hill zone are the most educated. One-third of women and two-thirds of men in the hills are educated. Women in the western region are more likely to be educated than women in the other regions, while those in the far western region are the least educated. Similarly, men in the western region are more likely to be educated, while men in the central and midwestern regions are less likely to be educated. There are significant educational differences between subregions. In the western world, the proportion of women who have never attended school ranges from 53% to 75%. The percentage of women who have never attended school ranges from 53% in the western mountain sub region to 51% in the western mountain subregion. Women make up 8% of the population, while men make up 20%. Completed at least secondary school, which is the highest rate among all sub regions. Tiwari (1995) discovered that women's decision-making roles are determined by household economic status, independent entrepreneurs of religious celebrations, greater freedom of choice at marriage, economic support in the absence of sons in the family, and women's self-employment. Working in domestic productive sectors, women's status is represented by their level of education, occupation, political, attainment, and economic situation. It is classified as making food, children's future prospects, and so on. It is classified as making food, children's future prospects, household work, agriculture, economic field, and child birth.

According to Gurung (1999), traditionally, women's responsibilities were limited to the home: cooking, cleaning, child care, and housekeeping. Women are considered weak, vulnerable, and dependent on men; there is no gender discrimination.

According to Ghimire (2009), women have less access to income, wealth, and modern employment opportunities. They must devote a significant amount of time to household tasks, leaving little time for activities that could contribute to the country's economic development. Their lack of access to property in their husband's households, as well as their lack of access to income, wealth, and employment, is the primary cause of their low social status. It has a direct impact on their ability to make decisions.

2.5 Status of Nepali Women

Women in Nepalese households have traditionally been responsible for household chores, cooking, child-rearing, and collecting fuel wood and water for the home. Furthermore, because an increasing number of Nepalese men are traveling abroad to find work, many women are involved in farming and other income-generating activities. However, society and the state have been slow to recognize Nepalese women's contributions to the country's economy. (Ranjan et al., p.51)

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS, 2012), Nepal has a total population of 26.5 million people, with women constituting approximately 49% of the population. According to the FAO (2010), approximately 12.6% more women than men work in agriculture, while Action Aid (2013) reports that Nepalese women work an average of 11 hours per day, while Nepalese men work an average of 8 hours per day. The average working day for a woman increased from 10.8 hours in 1981 to 10.9 hours in 1995. (Stree Shakti, 1995). According to the Resource Centre for Primary Health Care (RCPHC), rural women work more hours per day (13.2) than urban women (9.7). Nepal ranks 112th out of 142 countries surveyed in the World Economic Forum's 2014 Gender Gap Report, indicating a high level of gender disparity. Nepalese women are frequently denied their rights to education, health care, and economic opportunities. Women are victims of centuries-old oppression manifested through customs, social norms, social systems, and discriminatory social practices. According to the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare (MoWCSW et al., n.d.), patriarchal attitudes in Nepalese society have resulted in deep-seated stereotyping of women and high levels of discrimination. High school dropout rates among girls, disparities in access to education, low literacy rates among women, limited access to basic health care, and high maternal mortality and morbidity rates all demonstrate this.

According to UNICEF (2006), women's low status in Nepalese society is primarily due to a lack of educational opportunities for women and girls, as well as their general absence from decision-making processes. As a result, many women fail to demand healthcare and/or resources and fail to advocate for their reproductive rights. The female literacy rate (in the population aged 5 and up) is only 57.4%, while the male literacy rate is 75.1%. (CBS, 2012). Furthermore, with 515 deaths per 100,000 births, Nepal has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Despite the fact that the Nepalese government announced a 33% reservation for women at all levels in all government bodies, women's participation remains negligible (NWC, 2012). Provisions allowing women to inherit property from their parents have also proven ineffective; women head only 25% of households, and nearly 80% of women have no rights to land or to their homes (CBS, 2012). According to UNICEF (1996), men make the majority of family decisions, and women are typically discouraged from participating in decision-making processes. Women continue to face discrimination and are denied equal access to opportunities and resources (UN Women, and NCCR, 2013). Gender discrimination is clearly prevalent in Nepalese society, as evidenced by the data presented above. (Ranjan et al., pp.51-52)

2.6 Status of Newar Women

Nepal has an estimated 125 ethnic groups as well as a plethora of local languages. According to CBS (2012), the Newars (who are indigenous to the Kathmandu Valley (Gellner, 1986)) are the sixth most populous ethnic group, with 1.3 million people. The Kathmandu Valley is home to 55% of Newars. The Newars are an established and successful ethnic group with a rich cultural heritage. Jyapu women are kept busy all year, playing both a productive and social role in the family structure. Jyapu women are easily identified by their traditional dress, which includes a hakupatasi (black sari) with a red border, a putulan (blouse), and tisa (jewellery), which includes gold earrings and silver necklaces, which are still common in rural areas. Because of patriarchal values and power structures in families, Jyapu women are also subjected to such social and economic obligations and are excluded or discouraged from participating in household and family decision-making processes. Jyapu widows are not allowed to remarry, nor are they allowed to lead religious rituals or other functions. The oldest male in a Jyapu family is always the head (thakali/thakuli) and is solely responsible for decision making. Jyapu widow, on the

other hand, cannot be "thakali/thakulinakin" (the eldest female in the Newar household). Although the Jyapus are more liberal than other Hindu groups in many ways, women may not marry a man from a lower Jyapu caste. Jyapus with very traditional beliefs tend to be more conservative, whereas those with more education and better opportunities for social and economic participation tend to be more liberal (Ranjan and others, 2014).

2.7 Unequal Relation between Men and Women

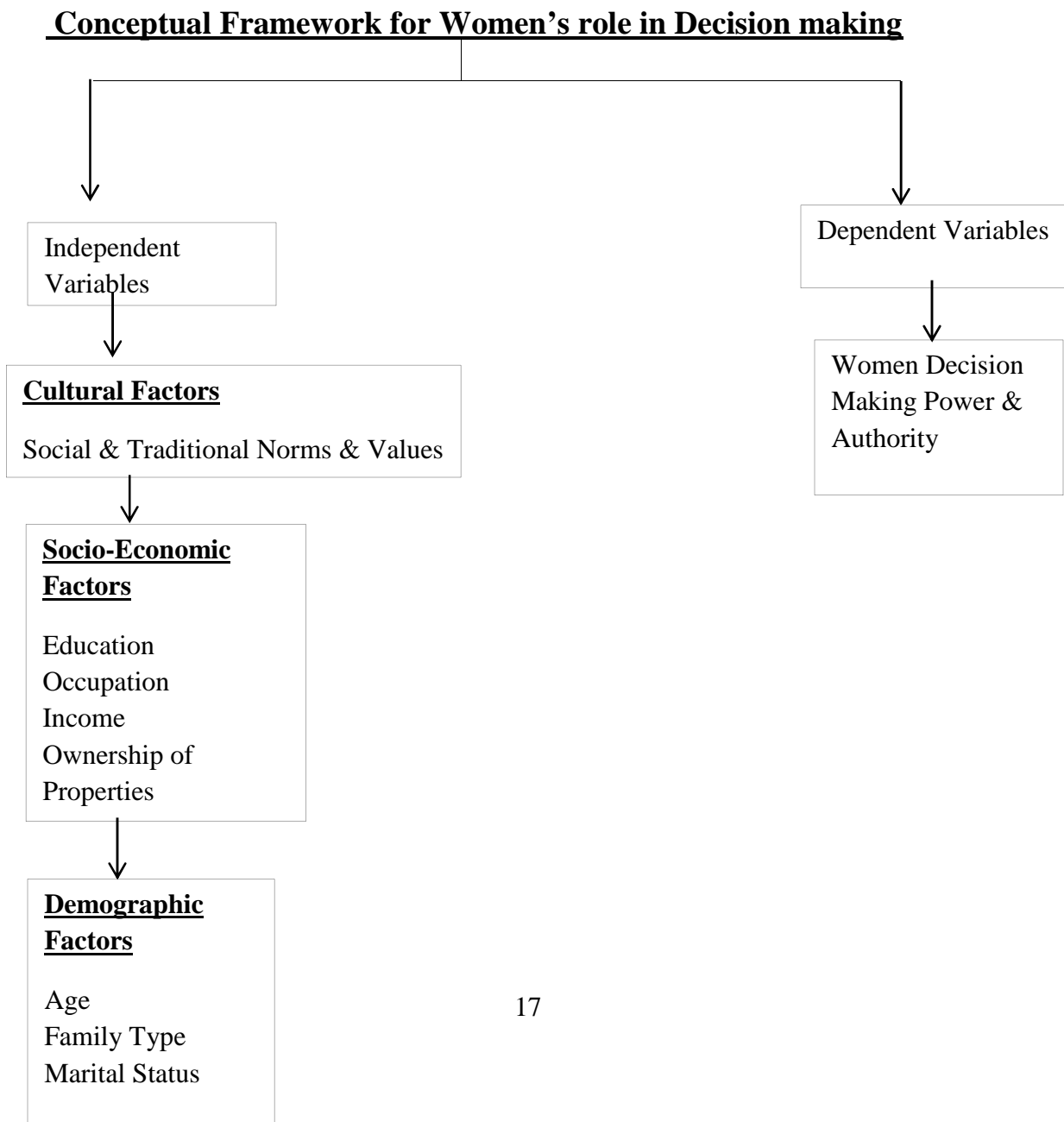
Gender inequality is rooted in societies that assign men and women different roles and responsibilities (Chancer and Watkins, 2006). As a result, how gender identities are constructed determines women's power and place in society. Gender rights, roles, and responsibilities are not only distinct, but also skewed in favor of men in both private and public life (Gupta and Yesudian, 2006). In general, men are assigned superior roles to women, have more rights, and have less restrictive responsibilities, resulting in persistent gender inequalities (Frost and Dadoo, 2010; Nikiema, Haddad and Potvin, 2008).

Empirical evidence indicates that disparities in household decision-making between men and women are widespread and less favorable to women (Frost and Dadoo, 2010). Most societies place men in positions of authority due to patriarchal ideology. Men and women in this ideology are guided by the same social norms and values that prescribe gender roles and rights, which reinforces existing practices (Sathar and Kazi, 2000). This patriarchal ideology is consistent with the prescriptions of major religions (such as Christianity and Islam), which shape people's norms and values through behavioral guidelines stated in teachings, reinforced by authoritative messages, and solidified through social interactions (Hummer, Ellison, Rogers, Moulton and Romero, 2004). People seek guidance from their religious doctrines. Mossi women's (in Burkina Faso) roles in household decision-making, for example, generally follow religious lines (Johnson-Hanks, 2006).

2.8 Conceptual Framework

Based on the review of literature and research objectives, I have made an attempt to develop a conceptual framework for my study. The framework includes independent variables i.e. cultural factors, socio-economic factors and demographic factors and dependent variable i.e. women decision making power and authority.

In household, there are many responsibilities of women. Most of the basic household activities are done by women like cooking, taking care of family members and so on. But when it comes to important decision of household, the women of household are left behind, and mostly decision are taken by men of household. Some factors affects in women decision making power at household. Working women have more power to make household decision while comparing to the non-working women. So, factors like economic, occupation, education, income, age and many other factors affects the decision making power of w



Nepal is a patriarchal country where in every sectors of society male domination can be seen. Women are seen and treated as inferior human and most of the women have to depend on men. Women have do most of the household activities, but the major decision of the household are mainly taken by male member of the household. With the changing time, many women can be seen participating in decision making of household with the male member. Decision process of women is influenced by demographic, social and economic factors. Demographic variables such as age, family type and marital status are important factors which affect the decision making power of women. Cultural factors like social and traditional norms and values affect the role and capability of women's decision making. In my research, the major factor that affect the role of women in decision making is socio-economic factors i.e. education, working status, occupation, income and ownership of properties play important role to build up the power, authority and self-confidence which affect the decision making process of women. In compare to non-working women and illiterate women, the working women and educated women have more freedom and power to make decision of household.

Chapter III

Research Methodology

3.1 Rational site selection

The site selection for my study is Panga of Kirtipur Municipality, Ward No. 8. The reason for selecting this topic and Ward No. 8 of Kirtipur municipality is because Kirtipur is the ancient Newar town. Newars are the native's people of Kirtipur. Majority of the people living in Kirtipur are native Newar people. In Kirtipur Municipality, there are total 10 wards, among 10 wards, I purposively selected ward no. 8, I am familiar with most of the household, so I select ward no. 8, because the study site was nearby my house, which makes data collection easy and convenient. And due to connection with study area and selected household, the information collection became easy.

By choosing ward no. 8, it was convenient to get required data and information from respondents because I was familiar with the respondents. This area is selected because it is one of the main Newar town of Kathmandu. In this area, there are both working and non-working women, for my study I need both working and non-working respondents to collect the data. That's why this area was suitable for my research.

3.2 Research Design

The study was carried out both on the basis of exploratory and descriptive research design. I used exploratory research design because my study aim is to understand and investigate the problem

and describe and explore the problem and find the answer of the problem. And I also used descriptive research design to describe the population and phenomenon of my study. I have done comparative study of role of non-working and working women in household decision making. And I have used interview and observation method which is used in descriptive research. The study had focused on to investigate the Economic & Educational Status of Women & their Decision Making Process in Household Activities. Methods and techniques of data collection and methods of analysis have been consisted in methodology. It describes the essential and experienced view for all academic work of the study. It clarifies the concept and gives the way of the study. The study had tried to explore all the aspects of the women's role in household decision making in the study area. This is the comparative study which uses both qualitative and quantitative methods. Thus, the study has been based mainly on descriptive and exploratory in nature.

3.3 Nature and Source of data

This study was conducted on the basis of both primary as well as secondary data. Primary data are the data that are collected by researcher himself. Primary data was obtained from field work and through interview, structured questionnaire and observation of some key informants applying some question where needed. Similarly, information was obtained through secondary sources. Secondary data are those which are collected from the others like related books, internet, journals, newspapers etc. The secondary sources of data was collected from subject related books, journals, reports, institutional publication and website, Member groups, stakeholders, Social workers. In order to analyze the study are, both primary and secondary data sources are used. Data collected are both in qualitative and quantitative nature as needed. Qualitative data like interview and observation were collected. Quantitative data like education, income, properties, employment related data etc also have been collected.

3.4 Sample size

The universe of this study is women participation in household decision making process of Kirtipur municipality, ward no. 8. Out of total households of 1,359 and 4,206 population, there are 2,447 male population & 1,759 female (CBS, Nepal). I had selected 50 household's women

as respondents from this area. This site is purposively selected to meet the requirement of the study. The sample size taken is 50 women from a population of 1,759 women. The unit of research is the individual women taken from population of 50 households. I choose the 50 household in which there are at least one female from age group of 16-60. And in case of household having multiple female members, I select the female women who can give best response to get information. This study is done by using Purposive non-probability sampling method. In this sampling technique, researcher relies on his or her own judgment when choosing members of population to participation in the study and selected the sample according to personal judgment and study purpose. Selection of the sample is adjusted in accordance with the object of inquiry, so for my research, information is related to women and their decision making role in household activities of the selected area. I selected the sampled household where there were woman family member. And also while also selecting sampled respondents I deliberately selected both working and non-working women because both kind of sample were required to fulfill the purpose of my study.

3.5 Research Method and Data Collection Techniques

There are different types of data collection techniques, which can be used to conduct this study. In order to carry out any research and draw reliable and meaningful conclusion, it is very essential that the methods and techniques of the data collection must be precise and accurate. The research method to be followed under this study is structure questionnaires interview and observation. The secondary data was collected from subject related books, journals, reports, institutional publication and website, Member groups, stakeholders, Social workers, NGOs.

3.5.1 Interview

Interview schedule is prepared on the basis of research objectives before going to field for data. On the basis of that schedule, interview is performed with the respondent of sampled household to collect the required information. Various information about Newari women in household decision-making process is collected. Interview was the best techniques to access the unseen facts of the women easily. The interview technique is a verbal method of securing data especially in the social field of research. The respondent is requested to provide information in the form of facts, attitudes and opinion about the concerned matter. Interview is taken with all structure

questions. The questions were in both open ended and close ended. The interviews were taken from selected respondents. For interview, I prepared the interview schedules in suitable time of respondents after discussion with in advance. This technique was suitable to collected factual data from respondents directly.

3.5.2 Observation

Observation is done to collect the required data about the women activities for the study. Observation is one of the important techniques to collect various types of data at natural level. Observation method was used to collect the observable information such as women's participation in day-to-day activities, their role in household activities, and their relationship with family. The decision making process in the household was observed to find out the women's role in the household decision-making. The data collected through observations was cross-checked with the information collected through structured interview. Observation became easy and helpful because the study area is own my home town so in I can easily observe the daily activities of the respondents and check if the information they provided were true and accurate.

3.6 Data analysis and interpretation

The collected data from the respondents will be analyzed through different techniques. The qualitative data generated through interview will be interpreted in descriptive way and analyzed with the thematic classification used for organizing the data. For quantitative data various techniques like charts, table and graphs will be used for research study.

CHAPTER IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The data and information collected from the samples are presented, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in this chapter for attaining the stated objectives of the study. In particular, this section includes the analyses and interpretation of various variables.

4.1 Demography of Sampled Respondents

4.1.1 Age Distribution of Sample Household

Age is one of the important demographic characteristics. Age of a person determines their role and responsibilities, maturity, status in the family and society. Age also makes differences in working hours, mental and physical awareness and responsibility and involvement in decision making. Hence, age may influence the capacities of decision making of women. For the purpose of analysis the age of the sample respondents are categories into four groups which is presented in the following table.

Table 4.1.1: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Non-Working Women		Working Women		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
16-25	6	21.43	4	18.18	10	20.00
25-46	9	34.61	13	54.16	22	44.00
46-59	9	34.61	7	29.17	16	22.00
60-above	2	7.14	0	0	2	4.00
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to the above table shows the age distribution of the respondents selected for this study. The data showed that 21.43 percent of non-working inside are between 16-25 years of age. 18.18 percent of working outside belong to this group. Similarly, 34.61 percent of non-working women and 54.16 percent of working women belong to age group of 25-46 years. Moreover, 34.61 percent of non-working women and 29.17 percent of working women belong to the age group of 46-59. The last remaining number of 7.14 percent non-working women belong to group of 60 above. There are no any women in this age group working outside. This shows that age group from 25-46 has highest percentage of working women which is 54.16%.

4.1.2 Ethnic Composition

Nepal is a multi-ethnic country where there are different caste/ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnic group has their own language, culture and tradition. Newar is one of the ethnic groups of Nepal. Within Newar also there are many castes. In Kathmandu and mostly in Kirtipur, majority of residents are Newar.

Table 4.1.2: Caste of Respondents

Caste	No. of Household	Percent
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Maharjan	31	62%
Dangol	5	10%
Shrestha	8	16%
Bajracharya	3	6%
Khadgi	3	6%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to the above table, it show the ethnic distribution respondents. Among the total respondents, Maharjan is the highest, there are 62% Maharjan respondents. Dangol contains 10%, followed by Shrestha 16%, Bajracharya and Khadgi both are 6%. It shows that among Newar, Maharjan are in large population in the study area.

4.1.3 Marital Status

Marriage is one of the most important events in the life of both men and women. According to Hindu tradition, marriage is the compulsory for all whether man and women. After marriage, a woman have to leave her family and home and have to accept her husband family as her own and have to live in husband home. So, marital status makes difference in women’s status and her decision making power. After marriage, the women change her status from daughter to daughter-in-law which increases her responsibility regarding decision making. In Nepalese context marriage leads women to child bearing, with increasing role expectations. The married and unmarried have different status due to this position in Nepal. So, female role increases in family only after marriage. It enhances the decision making power.

Table 4.1.3: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Non-Working Women	Working Women	Total

	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Married	16	61.54	14	58.33	30	60
Unmarried	8	30.77	6	25	14	28
Widow	2	7.69	3	12.5	5	10
Separate	0	0	1	4.17	1	2
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table shows the marital status of respondents. In fact, out of 50 respondents, 30 are married, among them 16 are working inside and 14 are working women. 14 respondents are unmarried, among them 8 are women who are working inside and 6 women are working outside. There are 5 respondents who are widow, among them 2 are working inside and 3 are working outside. Similarly, there is 1 woman who is separated from her husband who is working outside. It shows that the number of married women are high in both working and non-working group. The married women are of middle age group so they are employed and widow women are also working to support their family.

4.1.4 Education Status

Education is important part of human life. Education affects different aspects of human's life like status, income, living standard, occupation and so on. The education attainment level of population is an important indicator of socio-development. Education empowers both men and women. If women are educated it increase capabilities of her decision making power. Education of the sample respondents was measured in terms of literacy status. Those who were not able to read and write were considered as 'illiterate' and those who were able to read and write without any formal education were considered as 'non-formal education'. Those who had received formal education were graded as primary, secondary, SLC, intermediate, bachelors, master on the basis of the education they have completed.

Table 4.1.4: Education Status of Respondents

Education level	Non-Working Women		Working Women		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Illiterate	5	19.23	3	12.5	8	16
Non-formal	1	3.85	2	8.33	2	4
Primary	6	23.08	0	0	6	12
Secondary	0	0	4	16.67	4	8
SLC	5	19.23	5	20.83	10	20
Intermediate	6	23.08	3	12.5	9	18
Bachelor	3	11.53	4	16.67	7	14
Master	0	0	2	8.33	2	4
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, the working women are more educated than non-working women. There are 5 illiterate women in non-working women household and 3 illiterate women in working women category. It is shown that the working women have got higher level education in compare to non-working women. In non-working women category, there is 1 non formal education got respondent, 6 primary level passed, 5 SLC passed, 6 intermediate passed, 3 Bachelor passed. While, in working women category, there are 2 non-formal received respondent, 4 secondary level passed, 5 SLC passed, 3 intermediate passed, 4 Bachelor passed and 2 Masters passed. It shows that working women have high level education and graduated from college.

4.1.5 Family Structure

Family is one of the social institution concerns mainly with love, affection, sexual relationship, reproduction, child bearing, child care and socialization. Everybody belongs to a family either by birth or by affinity. Most of the activities of an individual revolve around his/her family. Family structure also has an impact on the responsibilities of both male and female in their household activities. Women of the nuclear family structure have more freedom and more liberated compare to women of joint family structure. The following table shows the family structure of the sampled household.

Table 4.1.5: Family type of Respondents

Family Structure	Non-Working Women		Working Women		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nuclear Family	10	38.46	15	62.5	25	50
Joint Family	16	61.54	9	37.5	25	50
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, it shows that 38.46% non-working women belongs to Nuclear family and 61.54% belongs to Joint family. Similarly, 62.5% working women belongs to nuclear family and 37.5% working women belongs to joint family. So, it can be seen that non-working women are more from joint family who are more engaged in household work than outside activities. Most of the working women are from nuclear family, which give them more freedom to involve in occupation. Nuclear family women have more freedom and family support than joint family.

4.1.6 Occupation and Source of Income

Occupation is the one of the main factor which determines the status and power of the person in the family and society. It also influences household activities.

Table 4.1.6: Occupation of the sampled households

Occupation	No. Household	Percentage
Agriculture & Livestock Farming	2	4
Business	19	38
Services	24	48

Wage-earning	5	10
Total	50	50

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, it shows that sampled household is least engaged in agriculture and livestock farming. Only 4% are engaged in it. Similarly, 38% household are engaged in business, 48% are engaged in services and 10% in wage earning. It shows that most of the respondents are engaged in business and several kind of services as their occupation. Most of the household are engaged in their business like shop, restaurants and other small business. Other educated household works in office like cooperative, bank, government office and school.

4.1.7 Access of Land

Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80 percent people depend upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great cultural, religious and legal significance. There is a strong correlation in many societies between the decision making powers that a person enjoys and the quantity and quality of land rights held by the person. It also measures the economic status of people. The following table shows the possession of land by respondents.

Table 4.1.7: Possession of Land by household

Land (Ropani)	No. of Household	Percentage
0-5	43	86
5-10	7	14
10+	0	0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, it shows that out of 50 sampled household, 43 households possess 0-5 ropani of land and 7 households possess 5-10 ropani of land. Many household have sold their land for money. Compare to past, most of the household have sold their land for their personal reason. Even household owing land are not engaged in agriculture actively.

Table: Working hours of respondents in Land

Working hours per day	No. Respondents	Percent
1-3 hours	20	40
4-7 hours	25	50
8-10 hours	5	10
11-12 hours	0	0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, it shows that the respondents working hours in land is low i.e. 20 respondents works 1-3 hours in a day, 25 respondents works 4-7 hours and 5 respondents works 8-10 hours in the land. Household are not engaged actively in agriculture. Women work in field only at the time of rice, paddy farming and harvesting. Most of the time women are engaged in other household activities and working women engaged in both their occupation and household activities. Involvement in agriculture is declining in the study area as they are involved more in other kind of activities.

4.1.8 Sufficiency of Food Production

According to field, out of total 50 samples households, only 30 percent have food sufficiency while 70 percent household are facing the food deficiency. It is because of low agriculture land and people engaging in other sectors of occupation. Those who have food deficiency fulfill their food requirements from other income sources as business, services, livestock farming, wage earning etc. The following table it clearly.

Table 4.1.8: Distribution of households by food production.

Food Production	No. of Households	Percentage
Sufficient	15	30
Not Sufficient	35	70
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

It was found that 70 percent household have food deficit. Due to less engagement in agriculture they do not have enough production of food, so they have to buy food. They fulfill their needs for food by different alternatives. Most of the household buy food as they are engaged in other field of work. Those household who have sufficient food production also have to buy vegetables and other food stuffs.

4.1.9 Alternation source for fulfillment of deficit of food production

Only 30 percent of respondents household have sufficient food from agriculture. The rest of respondents fulfill their needs of foods by other alternatives like business, business wage earning and so on.

Table 4.1.9: Distribution of household by coping with deficit food production

Activities	No. of Household	Percentage
Services	10	25.57
Business	10	28.57
Livestock Farming	3	8.57
Wage earning	11	31.42
Debt	0	0
Other	1	2.85
Total	35	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table show the various alternative way of fulfilling the food deficiency due to low production in agriculture sector. The main alternative for deficit production is wage earning which is 11 household, following by services and business both 10 household. The third position is livestock farming which covers 3 households for coping with deficiency of production. There are no any household who have taken debt to fulfill their needs. At last, other category occupies 1 household out of total food deficient households. Most of the household are engaged in activities like services, business and wage earning. The most of household of study area have their own shop, some are engaged in carpentry and others are office worker and wage worker. So, it can be seen that most of the household are engaged in their own business.

4.1.10 Monthly Income of women working outside

Monthly Income	No. of respondents	Percentage
10,000-20,000	9	37.5
20,000-30,000	11	45.83
30,000-40,000	4	16.67
Above	0	0
Total	24	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table shows the monthly income of women working outside. Among 24 total working women, 9 respondents earn from 10,000 to 20,000, 11 respondents earn from 20,000 to 30,000 and 4 respondents earn from 30,000 to 40,000. Therefore, most of the respondents earning is between 20,000 to 30,000. The average income of women who are working outside are 20 thousand to 30 thousand. The respondents who have higher level education and are working in reputed company and organization earn high level of salary. The employment and earning of income have made them economically independent.

4.2 Decision Maker and Participation Level in Household Activities

4.2.1 Saving of Money

Saving is money we put aside for future use rather than spending it immediately. People save money for unexpected financial emergencies. People save money for their future to be secure and happy. People can do saving if money is left after spending on basic and essential expenditures. If people have high income and less expenditure then people can have saving. In this regard, this study also outlines saving of the respondents.

Table 4.2.1: Saving of Respondents

Household Members	Non-Working Women		Working Women		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	10	38.46	15	62.5	25	50
No	16	61.54	9	37.5	25	50
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table show the saving of respondents. Among total money saver, 10 respondents were non-working women and 15 were working outside women. The respondents who have no saving are 16 non-working women and 9 working women. It show that more working women are engaged in saving money. Similarly, the non-working women also have some saving, those women having saving money are women those who have power over family income. The saving are mainly done for future security and at the time of crisis. To be able to save money give respondents authority and power in their household.

4.2.2 A place to keep saving of Respondents

People usually keep or save their money in safest place. People save money for secure financial future. There are many places and institution where people can save their money. Nowadays, most of the people save their money in bank and cooperative. In my study, out of 50 respondents, 25 respondents have saving, the following table shows where the respondents save their money.

4.2.2 A place where respondents keep their saving

Saving Place	Non-Working Women		Working Women		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bank	2	20	10	66.67	12	48
Cooperative	5	50	5	33.33	10	40
Household Saving	3	30	0	0	3	12
Total	10	100	15	100	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table show method of saving of respondents. Among 10 money saver from non-working group women, 2 respondents keep their saving in bank, 5 respondents keep their saving money in co-operative and 3 respondents keep their saving money in their own house. Similarly, 10 working women respondents save their money in bank, while 5 save their money in co-operative. So, nowadays, women have become advance and have utilize advancement by saving in bank and co-operative. But, compare to non-working women, working women are more aware of banking saving.

4.2.3 Authority to mobilize saving

In household, women usually keep and save the money. But to use the money, the women have to take permission from men to use the money. If women are working outside and earn money, then in that case, they would not need permission of men to use their money.

Table 4.2.3: Authority to mobilize saving

Household Members	Non-Working Women		Working Women		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	4	40	10	66.67	14	56
No	6	60	5	33.33	11	44
Total	10	100	15	100	25	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table show the authority to mobilize saving of working and non-working women. Among the 25 respondents who are saving money, 4 respondents are non-working women who have authority to mobilize saving and 10 respondents are working women who have authority to mobilize saving. Then, 6 respondents of non-working and 5 respondents of working have to take permission from men to mobilize saving. The working women earn money so they don't need other family member permission to utilize their money. But in case of non-working women, the income earner are other member of family member so they have to take permission from their partner to use the money.

4.2.4 Health Treatment

With the modernization, medical science has developed lots of methods and medicine for treatment. However, in underdeveloped countries like Nepal people are even depending upon the traditional methods of treatment of diseases. In our country, most of people have no easy access to modern medical facilities. In household also, women tend to be careless about their health. They think medical checkup spend extensive amount of money and would not consider for medical treatment unless their health is critical. Most of the women ignore their pain. The following table shows the participation of women in the decision making regarding treatment of household member.

Table 4.2.4: Decision making of Medical treatment.

Decision Maker	Non-Working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	10	38.46	7	29.17	17	34
Female	7	26.92	11	45.83	18	36
Both	9	34.62	6	24	15	30
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table shows the decision making of medical treatment. The table shows that 38.46 percent of non-working women's household and 29.17 percent of working women's household, the decision regarding medical treatment is taken by male of household. Similarly, 26.92 percent of non-working women's household and 45.83 percent of working women's household, the decision about medical treatment is made by women of household. Likewise, 34.62 percent of non-working women's household and 24 percent of working women's household the decision is taken by both the male and female member together. The working respondents are seen taking self-decision about medical treatment regardless of their male partner decision. While in non-working respondents household, the decision are mostly taken by male member or taken decision are taken mutually. The working and education have knowledge and are aware of the treatment and hospitals

Table 4.2.4: A place of getting treatment

Place	Non-Working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No.	%
Healthpost	6	23.08	5	20.83	11	22
Private clinic	6	23.08	8	33.33	14	28
Government Hospital	7	26.92	4	16.66	11	22
Private Hospital	5	19.23	6	25	11	22
Dhami/Jhankri	2	7.69	1	4.17	3	6
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to the above table, out of 26 non-working respondents, 23.08 percent household are getting treatment from health post and private clinic. Likewise, 26.92 percent are getting treatment from government hospital. 19.23 percent are getting treatment from private hospital and while only 7.69 percent are getting treatment from dhami and jhankri. Similarly, out of 24 working women's household, 20.83 percent are getting treatment from health post, 33.33 percent are getting treatment from private clinic, 16.66 percent are getting treatment from government hospital. Likewise, 25 percent and 4.17 percent are getting treatment from private hospital and dhami. The respondents are become modern and treat their illness in clinic and hospital. The superstition have reduce and respondents don't believe in dhami for treatment. With the empowerment in the women, the health and other conditions of the households are improving.

4.2.5 Family Planning

Every couple or individual has the freedom to choose how many children they want to have and the freedom to decide the timing and spacing of any pregnancy. Family planning let couple and individuals protect themselves and family's well-being. The family planning is getting popular recently than before which helps to maintain the family size small. When couple or individual are aware of their rights and knows what options are, they can make sound decisions in life. Family planning also helps to build financial security, allowing them to raise a family that they can properly care for. The following table shows the decision making of household family planning.

Table 4.2.5: Decision maker of household family planning.

Household Decision Maker	Non-Working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	8	30.78	5	20.83	13	26
Female	7	26.92	9	37.5	16	32
Both	11	42.30	10	41.67	21	42
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table shows that the respondent are aware of family planning. The highest percent of household decision regarding family planning is of both which is 42.30 of non-working women household and 41.67 of working women household respectively. For family planning, both male and female have equal decision, they both came in the mutual agreement in case of family planning. Nowadays, respondents have fewer children compare to past. Most of the respondents have family planning. Nepali people both male and female educated or uneducated hesitate to

talk about family planning freely. However, with changing time, people are more aware about family planning and even utilizing it.

4.2.6 Decision making in Children Education

Education is the key indicator of life that exposes the bright future of life. It gives social status to the individuals. Education enhances the ability and capacity of human being to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision making process in the society. In newar community, in recent context, there is high literacy rate. Most of parents sent their children in private school. The following table presents the decision maker regarding school selection of children.

Table 4.2.6: Decision maker of children school selection

Household Decision Maker	Non-Working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	8	30.77	6	25	14	28
Female	7	26.92	10	41.67	17	34
Both	11	42.31	8	33.33	19	38
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The above table shows the decision making of children education. The 30.77 percent of non-working women's household and 25 percent of working women's household is decided by male lead. Similarly, 26.92 percent non-working women and 41.67 percent working women take decision regarding decision of selection of school. Likewise, 42.31 percent make joint effort by both male and female in non-working women's household and 33.33 percent in working women's household. The working women contributed in family income so they have power to

make decision of children schooling. However, in case of non-working respondents, they take decision mutually with their husband. It shows that there is mutual understanding between husband and wife.

4.2.7 Community groups

Community group are widespread now. It helps to connect with people who share common interest. Meet new people, share knowledge or get support. Nowadays, there are different kinds of groups in community. The following tables show the participation of respondents in community groups.

Table 4.2.7: Membership pattern

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	20	40
No	30	60
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, out of 50 sampled respondents, 20 respondents are member of some kind of group in community. Women of the study area have engaged in different kind of group. This engagement will make them aware about new idea and knowledge, interactive with new people.

Table: Type of group

In our community we can see many types of group. Most of us are even member of those groups. A group of people have formed a group with their mutual understanding and interest. So, different community have different types of groups.

Name of Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
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Mother Group	10	50
Female Group	5	25
Community Group	4	20
Others	1	5
Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, out of 20 members of group, 10 respondents (50%) are member of mother group. 5 respondents (25%) are involved in female group. Likewise, 4 respondents (20%) are involved in community group and 1 respondent (5%) is a member of some other group. Respondents are involved in different groups. In these group, they do activities like saving money, monthly meeting, and organized programs and picnic and so on.

Table: Decision maker of joining groups

Decision Maker	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	5	25
Female	7	35
Both	8	40
Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, out of 50 respondents, 40 percent respondents are member of some group of community. Out of 20 members of group, 10 respondents (50%) are member of mother group. 5 respondents (25%) are involved in female group. Likewise, 4 respondents (20%) are involved in community group and 1 respondent (5%) is a member of some other group. The decision about being member of any particular group is taken by themselves are 7 respondents, by male of household are 5 respondents and by joint decision are 8 respondents.

4.2.8 Household Expenditure

In household, there are many everyday basic needs that needed to be fulfilled such as food, clothing, housing (rent), energy, and goods and miscellaneous services. The decision regarding these expenses needed to be made in household in daily basis. In most of household, women are seen making decision on daily expenses. The following table shows decision maker on household expenditure in the sampled household.

Table 4.2.8: Decision maker of household expenditure

Household decision maker	Non-Working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	4	15.38	2	8.33	6	12
Female	13	50	16	66.67	29	58
Both	9	34.62	6	25	15	30
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table shows that 15.38 percent of non-working women's household and 8.33 percent of working women's household, the decision about the household expenses is taken by male. 50 percent of non-working women household and 66.67 percent of working women's household, decision is taken by themselves. Likewise, 34.62 percent of non-working women's household and 25 percent of working women's household, decision is taken jointly by both male and female. While talking about household expenditure, whether it is working women or non-working women, women have to take responsibility and managed the expenditure of the household.

4.2.9 Registration on government record

In household, there are responsibility of making registration and keeping government records. It is the duty of family member to make governmental registration like property registration, marriage registration, birth registration, migration registration and so on. The family members need to be clear about their role and responsibility in the household. The following table shows decision maker on registration on government record.

Table 4.2.9: Decision maker of registration on government record.

Household Decision Maker	Non-Working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	9	34.62	10	41.67	19	38
Female	7	26.92	6	25	13	26
Both	10	38.46	8	33.33	18	36
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Above table shows that in non-working women household 34.62 percent by male, 26.92 by female and 38.46 percent by both male and female decision are made. In working women household, 41.67 percent by male, 25 by female and 33.33 percent by both male and female decision regarding registration on government record are made. Knowledge are required for government tasks so, for government work and record of household, mostly male do the tasks.

4.2.10 Household Activities

There are many household activities which have to be done to maintain the household by female of household. Only few male can be seen engaged in household activities. Female whether they are employed or not have to fulfill their household duties cooking, caring children, cleaning house, washing clothes and many other activities.

Table 4.2.10: Household activities decision maker

	Sex	All Time	Mostly	Sometime	Never	Total
Cooking	Female	33	7	1		41
	Male			7	2	9
	Total	33	7	8	2	50
Cleaning	Female	30	6	1		37
	Male		4	8	1	13
	Total	30	10	9	1	50
Washing Clothes	Female	22	11	4		37
	Male	3	2	3	5	13
	Total	25	14	7	5	50
Caring Children & family members	Female	20	8	4		32
	Male	6	4	5	3	18
	Total	26	12	9	3	50
Buying food	Female	15	8	5		28
	Male	10	7	5		22
	Total	25	15	10		50
Other household Activities	Female	14	10	3		27
	Male	8	7	5	3	23
	Total	22	17	8	3	50

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, in 50 total household, 41 females and 9 males are engaged in cooking activities. Similarly, 37 females and 13 males are engaged in cleaning house and wash clothes. Likewise, 32 females and 18 males are taking care of children and other family members. And 28 females and 22 males are activities of buying foods for family. In other household activities 27 females and 23 males are engaged. Women have to take decision and do all the basic activities of household. Women are engaged in all the small and basic household activities like cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, taking care of children, buying foods and so on.

4.3 Factors affecting decision making of women in household activities

Nepal is a developing country. Nepal is a patriarchal country where men hold primary power and have predominate roles in every aspects of society. In Nepal, women are always lagged behind than men in many aspects. In household also, men are the head of the family and have authority over women and other family members. There are many factors which affect the decision making of women in household activities. The below table will show the decision making of women.

4.3.1 Education

Education plays important role in human life. Education plays vital role in how to use logic while making decision and interacting with people. Education gives people knowledge, make individual qualified to meet basic job needs and also helps to get secure job. Educated people are more respected and they are given more priority than uneducated people. Education also affects the women and their role in decision making in every aspect of their life. The below table will show the response of women who are affected by their education in household decision making.

4.3.1 Education affecting decision making of respondents

Education	Non-working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	20	77	5	21	25	50
No	6	24	19	79	25	50
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, the respondents are affected by their education status. The non-working women are more affected by their education than working women. 20 non-working respondents answer was yes which show that their education is factor that affects their decision making authority. And in case of working women respondents only 5 respondents were affected

by their education in their household decision making. It shows that non-working women are uneducated compare to working women, so they are more affected.

4.3.2 Economic Status

Economic Status of a person can be measure by their income, class and ownership of properties. Economic status of the women affects their authority and power in their household. The women who are economically independent and support in income of family have more power and prestige in their family. Economic status plays vital role in giving power and authority to women to take decision in the household activities. The below table will show the response of women who are affected by their economic status in household decision making.

4.2.1 Economic Status affecting decision making of respondents

Economic Status	Non-working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	18	69	15	63	33	66
No	8	31	9	37	17	34
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, 18 non-working respondents are affected by their economic status while making household decision. Similarly, 15 working respondents are affected by their economic status in their household decision making role. It shows that both working and non-working women have face problem when it come to their economic status.

4.3.3 Social & Traditional Norms and Values

Nepal has diverse culture practices and numerous beliefs, social values, rites and many more. Different communities and different ethnic groups have different traditions and customs. In Newar family, the head of the family is always oldest male member of family. In Newar family, women always have to treat the male member with respect and son are given more priority.

4.3.3 Social & Traditional norms and values affecting decision making of respondents

Social & Traditions norms and values	Non-working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	17	65	10	42	27	54
No	9	34	14	58	23	46
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, 17 non-working respondents have to face problem in household decision making due to social and traditional norms and values. Likewise, 10 working respondents have to face problem because of social and traditional norms and values in their role of household decision making. It shows that our society still follows the out dated old social norms and values which view women as inferior human and women are limited within household.

4.3.4 Occupation

Occupation is a person job or a regular work. People are engaged in different kinds of occupation or profession. People having different level of education possessed different kind and level of occupation. People with high level occupation have high level of power and respect in society. The income also differs according to the occupation. So, people in high post profession earn more income and similarly have high respect and authority in their household and society. The below table will show the response of women who are affected by their occupation in household decision making.

4.3.4 Occupation affecting decision making of respondents

Occupation	Non-working		Working		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	15	57	18	75	33	66
No	11	42	6	25	17	34
Total	26	100	24	100	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

According to above table, women face problem due to occupation also. 15 non-working respondents feel that women decision making role is affected by their occupation, their roles depend on their occupational status. And 18 working respondents have faced problems due to their occupational status, what kind of work they do. The higher the post, higher respect and power in the household and in their society.

Chapter V

Summary, Conclusion

5.1 Summary

Nepal is the patriarchal country where men are given more priority in every sector than women. Most of the women have to live under the control of men. Women can be fully developed only when there is gender equality in the country and in where they can grow fully with support from family and society. In our country, mostly in rural areas, women are excluded from developmental activities and they have to take permission from their family and husband to do their work.

The analysis focuses upon the status of women in terms of their household decision making power in comparison to their male counterparts. Before summarizing the target issue, socio-economic characteristics of the total households are summarized.

The general objective of the study was to explore and describe the women's participation in household decision making among Newars in the study area and the specific objectives were to analyze decision making role of women in seven general dimensions (social, economic, health, education, political, training etc.) and factors affecting decision making of women (economic, education, social norms and values, owner of properties, age and occupation).

This study is based on exploratory and descriptive research design. Both Primary and Secondary data were used for this study. There are 400 households in ward no. 8 of Kirtipur Municipality and among them 50 households are taken as sample to gather information. This study mainly focus to analysis the socio-economic status of women and their role in the household decision making process.

Among the 50 respondents, majority of respondent's age were from 24 years to 59 years old. Out of 50 respondents, 26 respondents are non-working women and 24 respondents are working outside. All 50 respondents are of newar caste, in newar also majority are of Maharjan caste. Most of them are married and have status of wife and daughter in law in their household. Most of

the respondents have got some level of education. Among the respondents, working women have higher level of education. They are more qualified in terms of education than non-working women. Most of the working women belongs to the nuclear family, while majority of non-working women are from joint family. It shows that women belonging to the nuclear family have freedom to engage in outside work other than their household activities.

Agriculture as a main occupation has been decreased as compare in past. Majority of sampled household's occupation is business and services. The household that are engaged in business are 38%, while services are 48% person. Most of the sampled working women job are teacher, tailor, some work in private sector, knitting, some owns their own small shop. The majority of sampled household owe 0- 1/5 ropani of land. Only 16% respondents are owner of 10-15 ropani of land. Due to low of ownership of land, the household do not engaged in agriculture. Due to low agriculture and cultivation of crops and vegetables, the 70% of respondents are facing the problem of food deficiency, 10 households are involved in services, 10 households in business, 3 households in livestock farming and 11 in wage earning.

Among the 24 respondents who involved in outside work, their monthly income is respondents have 10,000-20,000 income, 11 respondents have 30,000-40,000 income. Every household does some amount of saving for their future or any emergency needs. Among the sampled respondents, among the non-working respondents only 38.46 % of working respondents are saving the household income. Although 38.46% (10) non- working respondents are saving the household income only 4 respondents have although to mobilize saving. They need permission of their husband or other family members to use the saving. Likewise, among 15 working respondents have freedom to utilize the saving. Compare to the non-working respondents, working respondents have more authority and freedom to utilize the saving as they are also active in income generation and are saving their income.

The decision about medical treatment of family member in the non-working women household is mostly taken by male member or by both member together. The decision is made after mutual decision in the household, the decision related to medical treatment is mostly taken by female. The female have authority to make decision because most of them are educated and contributed in household income. There are many places to get treatment, common place where all households get their treatment are clinic, health post and both private and government hospital.

Most of the household are not getting treatment from Dhama/Jhakri, which shows that they have move on from superstition. If both male and female members of household become educated then superstition will disappear completely. Family planning have increase with increase of literacy rate in household and working women household, mostly decision about family planning is taken by both women and men equally for child production.

Education is one of the basic right and need of human. In present context, education has become very important in human life. In sampled area, in non-working women household the decision regarding their children education is taken by both male and female together which is 42.3% and in working women household, mostly the decision about children education is mostly taken by female which is 41.67% or the decision is taken together by both male and female which is 33.33%. People are seen giving more priority to education than before. In every community and society, different groups especially formed by women or formed for women or formed for women. Among 50 respondents, 20 respondents have joined various group like 10 respondents have involved in mother group, 5 respondents in female group and 4 respondents in community group. To join these groups, for 5 respondents the decision was made by male member of household, for 7 respondents, they made self-decision of joining the group. While 8 respondents decision are made by jointly by both male and female. Joining groups have made women's participation in community work, have broaden their knowledge and interaction with many people.

In household there are many expenditure, the decision regarding the household expenditure in both non-working women household and working women household more than 50% decision is taken by female. The 50% non-working women and 66.67% working women are decision maker of household expenses are mostly done by female as they have more idea of needs of household and men do not like to bother by small matter of household. In every household, family member have to make certain governmental registration like birth, marriage, death, property registration and many more. So, in sampled household, the decision maker regarding registration in non-working women household is mainly men or both men and women jointly take decision. Similarly, in working women household also, the decision is mostly taken by men or combine. The major or important decision of household are mainly taken or done by male member of household. Women take sole responsibility about household activities like cooking, cleaning,

washing clothes, caring children and family members, buying groceries and other household activities. The men only offer a helping hand at the time of need. It is found that men in the working women's household participate more in household activities in compare to non-working women.

There are many factors which affects the decision making capabilities of women like education, economic status, ownership of properties, social and traditional norms and values, age, occupation, working status and others. Education and working status are the most influencing factor that affects the decision making power of women. Education women are given more opportunity to take household decision than uneducated women. They are consultant by other family member and have more authority to make decision in the household. The working women also have more freedom to make decision while compared to non-working women because they contribute to the household economically. They share the economic burden of the family so they are given more priority and are more consulted while making decision. The social norms and tradition is also an important factor that affects women's decision making. The social norms and value superstitions found to pressurized non-working women more than working women. Age also affects the decision making power of women. Middle age women have more authority to make decision in compare to young and old age women decision in compare to young and old age women. The occupational status also affects the power and authority of women regarding household decision making. The women in higher job past are given more authority and consulted for making monetary decision or other important decision.

5.2 Conclusion

As this study is concentrated to analyze the decision making power of women in household activities, it can be concluded that the power and authority of women have increased compare to past. Most of the women have get education and involved in some kind of employment. Education and working status has play important role to give power and authority to the women in decision making in household and even in society. The male partner support also have increase in the decision making of women. Both male and female mutual decision and participation have increase. They are jointly taking most of the household decision.

In study area compared to past, women are getting some kind of freedom and power to participate in decision making if they are educated and contribute in household income. The women who are working outside or employed have more power to take part in the household decision making compared to the non-working women. The women who are economically independent and are contributing in household income are given more freedom and authority in their household, their perception and decision are taken seriously and also agreed by other household members. But while looking at the non-working women, they have less power and authority in compared to the working women. They are economically depend in their family so their view are not given priority. The reason for lower power of women in decision making is because of their education status, socio-economic status and social traditional norms and values. So, it is essential to improve literacy rate of women. Women should give opportunity to get higher level education. The literacy rate of women have improved compare to past. Girls and women are going college and university and are degree holder. In past, people were superstitious and believed woman as inferior sex. But in present context, people perception about women has change. Gender bias have reduce and female has equal opportunities as male if they are educated. Women are more empowered compared to past. Their role in household as well as other sectors have increases.

All women either jobholder or not have to perform all the household activities like cooking, cleaning, washing, groceries shopping, taking care of children and family members and many other activities. But decision making regarding other important household affairs like finance,

health education, the decision is mainly in hand of male or done both male and female jointly together. Even if female take decision on these affairs, they have to take advice from male member of household.

While comparing non-working and working women decision making power and authority. The working women have more power and are more confident about their role and status in the household. The working women authority is not limited in small household activities, they are participating in economics affairs of household like investment, saving and so on. In compare to non-working women, mainly working women in high post have more freedom and power in household affairs and also in society. From this it show and indicates that working and economics status of women power both in household and society.

In can concluded that to have equal opportunity and power like male, the women should get education and women should get employment opportunity in every sector. Women should need to be economically independent to be empower. Unless women does not earn by themselves they can't be empowered. So, to empower women, education and employment opportunity plays the important role. Women need to bring in the main stream of development.

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Questionnaires
HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING ROLE OF NEWAR WOMEN:

A Comparative Study of Non-Working and Working Women

A: General Information of Respondent:

1. Name
2. Caste/Ethnicity
3. Age
4. Marital Status
 - a) Married b) Unmarried c) Widow d) Separate
- b) Educational Level
 - a) Illiterate b) Non-Formal c) Primary d) Secondary e) SLC f) Intermediate g) Bachelor h) Master
5. Family Structure
 - a) Nuclear b) Joint
6. Occupation
 - a) Agriculture & Livestock Farming b) Business c) Services d) Wage earning

B: Socio-economic Status of Women

1. Do you have own land?
 - a) Yes b) No
2. Who is land Owner?
 - a) Male b) Female c) Both
3. How many land you have? (in Ropani)
 - a) 0-5 b) 5-10 c) 10+
4. How many hours do you work in land?
 - a) 1-3 hrs b) 4-7 hrs c) 8-10 hrs d) 11-12 hrs
5. Is food production in your land sufficient for consumption?
 - a) Yes b) No
6. If No where do you fulfill food deficit?
 - a) Services b) Business c) Livestock Farming d) Wage Earning

e) Debt f) other

7. What is monthly income?

a) 10,000-20,000 b) 20,000-30,000 c) 30,000-40,000 d) Above

C: Decision Maker and Participation Level in Household Activities

1. Do you have saving of amount?

a) Yes b) No

2. Where do you keep Saving?

a) Bank b) Cooperative c) Household Saving

3. Do you have authority to mobilize saving?

a) Yes b) No

4. Who decide on getting health treatment?

a) Male b) Female c) Both

5. Where did you get treatment, when you suffered from illness?

a) Health post b) Private Clinic c) Government Hospital

b) d) Private Hospital e) dhami/Jhankri

6. Who is the decision maker of household family planning?

a) Male b) Female c) Both

7. Who decide to determine of No. of Children?

a) Male b) Female c) Both

8. Who makes decision to select school for your children?

a) Male b) Female c) Both

9. Are you member of any community groups?

a) Yes c) No

10. If yes, which group

a) Mother Group b) Female Group c) Community Group d) Others

11. Who decide to join you in any groups?

a) Male b) Female c) Both

12. Who make decision on household expenditure?

a) Male b) Female c) Both

13. Who decide registration about government record?

a) Male b) Female c) Both

14. How do you make decision about your family's daily household activites?

	Sex	All Time	Mostly	Sometime	Never
Cooking	Female				
	Male				
	Total				
Cleaning	Female				
	Male				
	Total				
Washing Clothes	Female				
	Male				
	Total				
Caring Children & family members	Female				
	Male				
	Total				
Buying food	Female				

	Male				
	Total				
Other household Activities	Female				
	Male				
	Total				

D. Factors affecting decision making of women in household activities

1. Does Education affects the decision making of respondents?

a) Yes b) No

2. Does Economic Status affects the decision making of respondents?

a) Yes b) No

3. Does social norms & values affects the decision making of respondents?

a) Yes b) No

4. Does Occupation affects the decision making of respondents?

a) Yes b) No

