

CHAPTER: ONE

INTRODUCTION

The study is entitled **Feminist Voices in the Poetry : A Case of Poems from New Paradigm**, a prescribed book for M.Ed. second year compulsory course, *Literature in Language Teaching* (Eng.Ed.522). This study aims to analyze and interpret women's suffering, domination, inequality and their voices for equality and empowerment. I analyzed five poems intensively to fulfill the objectives of the study. These poems were: *I am Becoming My Mother*, *An Introduction*, *The Fisherman Mourned by His Wife*, *Letter from Mama Dot* and *Phenomenal Woman*. I collected data from these poems and analyzed. Women's suffering, domination and inequality were found in these poems. These poems present the condition of women as a machine to bear a child. These poems challenge the customs of society and traditional culture that categorizes the human beings in to male and female.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a successful medium to express human feelings, emotions, thoughts etc. Poetry is a form of literature, it is the most imaginative and rhythmic form. Poetry is an art of composition that evokes emotions and feelings by the use of language arranged in artistic way. Wordsworth (as cited, in Awasthi, et al 2011, p.7) writes, "Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings and emotions which takes its origin recollection its tranquility." He further says that poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge, the first and last of all knowledge and as important as the heart of man. Poetry is a form of literature that uses aesthetic and rhythmic quality of language. A poet reflects the view of a person in artistic way. In the present study I analyzed five poems which are related to women's suffering, discrimination and inequality between men and women. Women express their feelings, emotions and ideas against male centered society. They raise voices for freedom, equality and empowerment. Women are dominated by men. They

are controlled within the four walls of a house. Men are treated as a brave, strong, emotional and change agents. Women are treated as passive, weak, secondary and home manager. So, feminists raise voices against discrimination, hierarchy between man and woman. Shelly (1997, as cited in Awasthi et al p.7) writes, “Poetry is something devine, poetry is not like reasoning a power to be exerted according to the determination of the will. Poetry arises from within, like a colour of a flower. Poetry is the record the best and happiest movements of the happiest and best minds.”

Poetry is different from prose; poetry contains the unusual or deviant form of language. The language of the poetry is more connotative, the poet uses different figures of speech to convey the meaning more symbolically. Poetry is the successful medium to express human thoughts and emotions it can display both good and bad aspects of the society. Poetry helps to develop visions about different social issues such as inequality, discriminations and corruption. It also creates the visions to solve the problems of human life.

Coleridge (1997, as cited in Awasthi et al p.7) writes, “A poem is that species of composition which is opposed to works of science, by promising for its immediate object pleasure not truth; and form all other species it is discriminated by proposing to itself such delight form the whole and a distinct gratification from each component part.” Women are dominated by men. They are controlled at the four walls of the house. So, to analyze and find out the social discrimination I selected fives poems from *New Paradigm* which are related to women and social inequality.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Every research work starts with a problem in the mind of the researcher. Where there is any problem, there is the necessity of research and when we are talking about the research it must be based on some problems. Selection of problem is the first step of every research work. “A research problem is like the foundation of a building” (Kumar, 2005, p.40). By reading the poems given in the *New*

Paradigm, I was highly inspired and motivated to find out how women are dominated in this world and how they are raising voices against the male centered society. I also observed the influence of culture which divides males and females.

People are still unable to boast of a society where there is total gender equality or gender equity. The question of gender equality or gender equity is merely a topic of theoretical discussion. Things are changing but rather slowly.

Being a human being, we should not have feeling of discrimination, inequality and such social issues. Therefore I become interested to find out culture, thought and ideology which created discrimination inequality between genders. Gender discrimination is prevailing in the society from the beginning. The tradition, ideology and thought of people divide the entire world in to two parts: male and female. Feminism is a distinctive and concerned approach to literature inaugurated in the late 1960s. It is a political movement struggled for social, legal and cultural freedom as well as equality for the women. The basic view of feminism in the western civilization is pervasively patriarchal, male centered and controlled. It is conducted such a way as to subordinate women to men in all cultural domains: religious, political, economic, social and legal. The question of gender equity is a topic of theoretical discussion. To fulfill the objectives of the study I analyzed five poems from *New Paradigm* they are: *I Am Becoming My Mother*, *An Introduction*, *The Fisherman Mourned by His Wife*, *Letter from Mama Dot* and *Phenomenal Woman*.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study were as follows:

- i. To find out women's voices for equality and empowerment represented in the selected poems.
- ii. To find out how culture determines the role of male and female in the society.
- iii. To suggest some pedagogical implications for teaching poetry.

1.4 Research Questions

In order to make a research more specific, valid and reliable research questions play the great role in the research. These questions make a road map for the researcher. Research questions should be related to the issues of the research. Research questions are the inquires that the researcher is trying to make. A well defined problem helps in selecting appropriate techniques, collecting appropriate data and determining what relationships to be studied.

The research questions for this study were:

- i. How are the women raising their voices for equality and empowerments?
- ii. How does culture determine the role of male and female in the society?
- iii. What does culture say about women?
- iv. Who are responsible to make the gap between men and women?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is related to literary analysis especially, to find out the feminist perspective in the selected poems. This study is significant because it provides some insights on sociolinguistic aspect of gender related issues. Feminist voices are focused in this research as represented in poetry. This study evokes how women are dominated by patriarchal society and how they are raising voices against the discrimination. This study will be beneficial for curriculum designers, text-book writers, language teachers and the student of language and linguistics. It will also be useful for those who want to carry out a research in literary analysis. Furthermore, this study is helpful for the agencies which are working for the welfare of women. Women's actual voices are presented and some solutions to create equality in the society are provided. This study helps to create social awareness and decreases gap, discrimination between men and women. Male centered society believes on traditional culture, values and

assumptions. They think that women are follower of men. This study helps people to think critically rather than traditionally.

1.6 Delimitation of the Study

This study had following limitations.

- i. The study was limited to the five poems from *New Paradigm*.
- ii. The study was limited to the women's voices for their equality and empowerment represented in the selected five poems only.
- iii. It was based on the subjective judgment of the researcher.
- iv. Women's suffering, domination and inequality were analyzed.
- v. Women's voices against male centered society were presented.
- vi. The researcher was limited to gender issue only.

1.7 Operational Definitions of the Key Terms

Domination : In this study domination refers to control or have a lot of influence over women.

Dowry : Property of money brought by a bride to her husband.

Empowerment : In this study empowerment refers to give the women power or authority to do new things.

Equality : In this study equality refers to have the same right or being treated the same.

Exploitation : Exploitation refers to do something for one's own purpose.

Feminism : Feminism is a belief or theory that aims women should have the same rights and opportunity as men.

- Justice** : In this study justice refers to fairness.
- Laxman Rekha** : Laxman Rekha refers to the border line in which women are not allowed to cross.
- Loaves** : Unit of baked bread.
- Magazine** : In this study magazine refer illustrated periodical publication containing articles.
- Male Ideology** : Male ideology refers to a belief, value in favour of man.
- Mythology** : It is a social belief which is not based on science.

CHAPTER: TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Literature review is a very important component of a research work. It is the description of the related field or topic. It provides both theoretical and empirical knowledge to the researcher. In this chapter, both theoretical and empirical reviews of related literature are described.

2.1 Review of Related Theoretical Literature

To fulfill the objectives of this study I consulted and studied various research works that provided me theoretical as well as practical road map.

Tyson (2006) shares several important assumptions about the gap, discrimination and inequality between men and women. Women are dominated socially, economically, politically and psychologically. Patriarchal ideology divides the entire humanity into two paths male and female. All positive terms and contributions are given to the male. It is said that males are courageous, bold, rational, powerful and strong. In contrast, females are submissive, weak, servant, loving, kind and home manager. This definition is not natural; it is contributed by the traditional male centered society. Anand (2002, p.68) writes, "The men must recognize and accept the fact that women are equal partners in life. They are individuals who have their own identity."

Tyson (2006) says that nobody is being strong and weak by birth rather it is the cause of environment and culture where child grow up. In every domain where patriarchy reigns, woman is others. She is objectified and marginalized, defined only by her differences from male norms and values, defined by what she lacks and that man have. Biology determines our sex, culture determines our gender. Good girls and bad girls are also practice of patriarchal rule; a girl is regarded well if she accepts her traditional gender roles and obeys the patriarchal rules.

If she does not obey patriarchal rules she is a bad girl. A boy can violate social norms and values and regarded as a strong person. Gender issues play a part in every aspect of human production and experience, including the production and experience of literature.

Tyson (2006) argue that women are not born feminist but rather conditioned to be feminist by patriarchy. Moi (2000, p. 92) writes, “One is not born a woman; one becomes woman.” All female activity, including theory and literary criticism has its ultimate goal to change the world by promoting women's equality. Thus all feminist activity can be seen as a form of activism, although the world is usually applied to feminist activity that directly promote social change through political activity such as public demonstrations, voter education and registration, the provision of hotlines for rape victims and shelters for abused women. Beauvoir (1971, p.156) writes, “A much more radical women critical mode was launched in France by which criticize the cultural identification of women as nearly the 'object' or 'other' she views that men treat themselves as 'subject' who is assumed to represent humanity as death in the great collective myths of women in the work of male writer.” March 8th is observed the world over as the international women's day. It is an important occasion for us to ponder over the progress achieved towards gender equality.

Anand (2002) in his book writes about equality, justice and social views. He says men and women are two halves of humanity neither can reach its highest creative excellence without the co-operation of other. Anand rightly points that the fight of women for their rights is not a fight against men. It is a fight against unjustified traditions and the male centered ‘Laxman Rekha’ which women are not supposed to cross. It is different for men and different for women. He advocates CAMA (Change of Attitude, Motivation and Awareness) Men must recognize and accept the fact that women are equal partners in life. They are individuals who have their own identity. Anand (2002, p.65) writes, “The process of gender justice covers rights of women against exploitation and

victimization. The fact is that women's exploitation is a reality and gender justice a fragile myth.” Though law and policy, women have indeed, over the years, secured for themselves many entitlements, but so far they have not been able to defend themselves from crimes committed against them. This negates the whole premise of gender justice. Unless we recognize their rights, their basic human rights gender justice would not be implemented. We must remember that a rapist not only violates the victims privacy and personal integrity, but inevitably causes serious psychological as well as physical harm in the process. Rape is not nearly a physical assault, it is often destructive of the whole personality of the victim, a rapist degrades the very soul of the helpless female.

Similarly, in Lyre's Words (1979, p.31),

The fight is not for women's status but for human worth. The claim is not to end inequality of women but to restore universal justice. The bid is not for loaves fishes for the forsaken gender but for cosmic harmony which never comes till women come.

Constitution of Nepal(2072) guarantees equality of opportunity and equal status to men and women. It directs that women shall not only have equal rights and privileges with men but also that the state shall make provisions both general and special for the welfare of women.

2.1.1 Genre of Literature

Genre refers to the type or style of literature. There are four genres of literature and they are different in their nature of expression. Poetry is a form of literature. It is the most imaginative and rhythmic form. Poetry is an art of composition that evokes emotions and feelings by the use of language arranged in artistic way. Poetry in its purest form uses words to express by the speaker's talking or thinking to himself/ herself rather than to the reader along with the

quality of meditation. An essay refers to a form of literature in which the writer uses words to persuade the readers on a particular topic. Novel is regarded as a form of literature which is based on imagination or facts. It refers to a lengthy, fictional and narrative work dealing with the characters incidents and setting. Drama is one of the genres of literature which is performed on the stage by actors.

2.1.2 Feminism and Literature

Feminism is a social theory and political movement primarily informed and motivated by the experience of women. Feminist ideology focuses that the right, privilege, status and obligation should not be determined by gender. Tyson (2006, p.92) writes, “Nobody is strong and weak by birth rather it is the cause of environment and culture where child grow up.”

Feminism is generally said to have begun in the 19th century as people increasingly adopted the assumption that women are oppressed by male centered society. The feminist movement is rooted in the west and especially in the reform movement of the 19th century. The organized movement is dated from the first women's right convention at Scan Falls, New York in 1848 and till date. Feminism is a political movement struggled for social, legal and cultural freedom as well as equality for the women. Feminist criticism examines the ways in which literature and other cultural productions reinforce to undermine the economic, political, social and psychological oppression of women. According to Millet (1978,p.86), “Western social arrangements and institutions as covert ways of manipulating power so as to establish and perpetuate the dominance of man and the subordination of woman.” Millet (1978) used the term 'Patriarchy' to describe the cause of women's oppression. Patriarchy subordinates the female to the male or treats the female as an inferior member. Millet and other feminists have attacked social scientists who treat the culturally learned female characters like passive, submissive and weak. Millet conducted a political struggle to raise consciousness among the

oppressed and to effect a radical change in the power relations between oppressors and oppressed. Female are represented as powerless objects and given no prestigious position.

Fetterley (1978, p.99) admits:

Women are estranged from their own experience and unable to perceive its shape and authenticity they are expected to identify as readers with a masculine experience and perspective, which is presented as the human one since they have no faith in the validity of their own perceptions and experience.

Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on grounds of political, social and economic equality to men. It is a range of movement and ideology that shares a common goal: to define, establish and achieve equality. The modern western feminist history is split into three time periods, or waves each with slightly different aims based on prior progress.

First–Wave Feminism

First wave feminism refers to a period of feminist activity during the 19th and early 20th century throughout the world, particularly in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. It focused on legal issues, primarily on gaining women's suffrages, property rights and right to vote (Marsh, 1968).

Kelly (1986, p.133) writes, “Suffragists began to make headway in 1860 when New York passed the married women's property act. The bill legalized property ownership, joint child custody and wage retention for women.” In the USA women's rights activity started around 1848, in Germany the General women's Association was formed in 1865 and in France the society for the demand for women's rights was set up in 1966. The first women's suffrage groups started in Britain. The Association for married women's property rights was formed in

1873. First wave feminism was not limited to USA and Europe but it also started in China, Persia, India and Argentina. International council of women formed in 1888 and the international women's suffrage alliance in 1902.

Second-Wave Feminism

Second wave feminism is a period of feminist activity that first began in the early 1960s in the United States and eventually spread through the western world and beyond. In the United States the movement lasted through the early 1980s. Later it becomes a worldwide movement that was strong in Europe and parts of Asia. Ellaman (1968) writes about the derogatory stereotypes of women in literature written by men and also about the alternative and subversive point of view in what some writing by women. The first wave feminism focused mainly on suffrage and overturning legal obstacles to gender equality, voting rights and property rights. Second wave feminism broadened the debate to a wide range of issues: sexuality, family the workplace, reproductive rights and official legal inequalities. Millet (1970, p.25) argues that:

In all known societies the relationship between the sexes has been based on power. This power takes the forms of male domination over women in all areas of life: sexual domination is so universal, so ubiquitous and so complete that it appears natural and hence becomes invisible so that it is perhaps the most pervasive ideology of our culture and provides it most fundamentals concept of power.

By the late 1960s, a new age of activism was ushered in by student's activity surrounding the Vietnam war and civil rights movement as well as older women's dissatisfaction with domestic restrictions and workplace discrimination. In contrast to first wave feminism, the movement during the 1970s benefitted from the involvement of for more organizations,

encompassing a broad spectrum of political beliefs and ideologies. The National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966 represented one of the largest collections that sprang from the second wave.

According to Millet and Kate (1978) write that the groups such as the New York Radical Women (NYRW), aimed to eradicate sexism by revolutionizing the relationship between men and women in the boardroom and the bedroom. They practiced zap actions or dramatic public demonstration that attracted media attention. In 1968 the first national women's liberation conference took place in Chicago, and in the 1970s, feminist activities began to witness the fruits of their labors.

Third-Wave Movement

The third wave feminism refers to several diverse strains of feminist activity and study whose exact boundaries in the history of feminism is a subject of debate but are generally marked as beginning in the 1990s and continuing to the present. Bryson (1992) writes about how the power shifted to patriarchy from very beginning. She argues that the original shift to patriarchy was simply consequence of men's greater strength, stemming from women's weakness during pregnancy, child birth and location. The movement arose particularly as a response to the perceived failures of and back cash against initiatives and movement created by second wave feminism during the 1960s, 70s and 80s and the perception that women are of many colors, ethnicities, nationalities religious and cultural backgrounds. Third wave feminism has broadened their goals, focusing on ideas like queer theory and abolishing gender role expectations and stereotypes. It diverse the stain of feminist activity seen as both a continuation of the second wave and a response to its perceived failures.

Hardin (2013, p.204) writes, "The shift from second wave feminism came about with many of the legal and institutional rights that were extended to women in addition to these institutional gains." Third wave feminism believed there needed to be further changes in stereotypes, media portrayals and

language to define women. Third wave ideology focuses on a more post-structuralism interpretation of gender and sexuality.

2.1.3 Feminism and Gender Issues

Feminism is the belief and aim that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men. Women raise voice for equality and empowerment in every aspect of society. Feminism is a social theory and political movement which is primarily informed and motivated by the experience of women.

According to Denning (1981, p. 194).

A woman feels as keenly, thinks as clearly as a man. She in her sphere does work as useful as man does in his. She has as much right to her freedom to develop her personality to the full-as a man. When she sits his work is more important in life of the community, her more important in the life of the family. Neither can do without the others neither is above the other or under the other they are equal.

Feminists raise voice for social attitudes and social practice concerning gender and discrimination. Gender in equality refers to the unequal treatment or perception of individual based on their gender. According to Tyson (2006, p. 92), “While biology determines our sex, culture determines our gender. That is for most English speaking feminists, the word gender refers not to our anatomy but to our behavior as socially programmed men and women.”

Gender issues play a great role in every aspect of human production and experience, including the production and experience of literature. In every society there is discrimination between man and woman in terms of the language use, their job, and so on.

2.1.4 Equality and Empowerment

Gender equality concerns each and every member of the society and forms the very basis of a just society. Human rights issues, which affect women in particular, play a vital role in maintaining the peace and prosperity of a society. Anand (2002, p.11) writes:

The human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economy, social and cultural life at the national, regional and international levels and the eradication of all forms of discrimination of grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.

Today as we stand at the threshold of the twenty first century, we are still unable to boast of a society where there is total gender equality or gender equity. Things are changing but rather slowly.

Women raise, voices for equality and empowerment from the ancient time. The organize movement, first world conference of women held in Mexico in 1975. It is a journey in search of equality, development and grand of rightful place to women throughout the world. The fourth world conference on women held at Beijing in 1995 raise voice for gender equality as a fundamental pre-requisite for social justice. The platform for action at the Beijing conference addressed eleven substantive area of concern: poverty, education, health, violence, armed conflict, economic structures and policies, decision making, mechanisms for the achievement of women women's human rights, mass media and environment.

Constitution of Nepal (2072) also guarantees justice, social, economic and political status for the empowerment and welfare for women.

2.2 Review of Related Empirical Literature

Several researches have been carried out in the literary analysis. I have collected many research works that really help my study. I have decided to carry out research study entitled, '*Feminist Voice in the Poetry: A Case of Poems from New Paradigm*', No one carried out research about this topic. To make in proper shape I collected different sources that are related to my research which are as follows:

Sharma (2007) carried out the research on '*Donne's Attitude to Women: A Psycho-Political Study of his Poetry.*' His objectives were to find out the Donne's attitude towards women and the psycho-political study of his poetry. He used questionnaire and intensive reading as research tools. He found that Donne's Poetry is related to love women and sex. He structured contemporary male dominated society's values and norms. He concluded that women are dominated, neglected by men in every aspect, social norms values are in favour of men.

Gautam (2010) conducted a research entitled '*Gender Issues Written Discourse in Novel: Seasons of Flight.*' The main purpose of which was to analysis the written discourse and determined how language becomes sexist. He conducted the qualitative research on the novel 'Seasons of Flight' by Manjushree Thapa. He used questionnaire and classroom observation as research tools. The major findings of his research were the role and relationship between men and women. These roles are determined by social, economic, political and the linguistics context and not only by Biology.

Lamichane (2010) conducted a research entitled '*Gender Variation on Language Learning Strategies.*' He adopted survey research and used both primary and secondary sources of data. In his research he aimed to discover the gender differences in the use of language learning strategies. For the data collection he selected six campuses of Kathmandu Valley and randomly selected the equal number of male and female students. His study found that

there was significant difference between genders in the use of social strategies. Females are more social than males.

Poudel (2010) conducted a research entitled '*Gender and Sexuality in Magazine Advertising: A Critical Discourse Analysis.*' He adopted survey research and collected forty advertisement found in magazines. He used purposive non-random sampling procedure to selected sample in his study. His study showed that how critical discourse analysis and other linguistic and sociolinguistic tools were arranged in advertisement. This study also found that how gender and sexually, race and colour influence the use of language in particular areas.

Budha (2013) conducted a research entitled '*Gender Issues in Raisin in the Sun: A Critical Discourse Analysis*' He adopted survey research and collected forty different discourses. His objectives were to find out the gender inequality in the discourse and to critically analyze the discourse using non-random judgmental procedure. The tools of data collection were observation and checklist. The study showed the existence of gender discrimination in discourse for example, the use of generic he and man diminishes the visible role of female in the language which is found to be responsible creating discrimination and inequalities.

2.3 Implication of the Review for the Study

Literature review provided me both theoretical and practical background to conduct my research. In literature review, my central focus was to examine and evaluate what has been done before in this area. I also observed what types of tools designs were used in this area. According to Kumar (2009, p. 30), "The literature review is an integral part of the entire research process and makes a valuable contribution to almost every operational step."

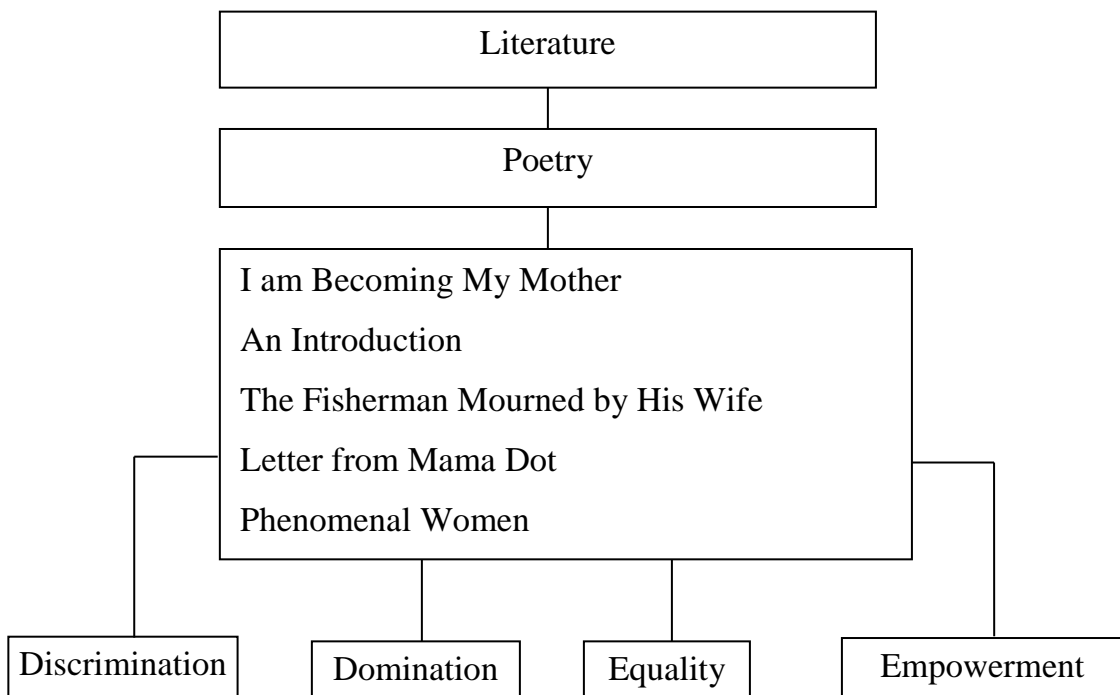
To carry out this research I reviewed theoretical as well as empirical literature related to my research. The review of literature helped in a number of ways.

First, it helped me to develop theoretical knowledge which brought clarity to my research problems. Secondly, it helped me to improve my methodology. It also helped me by broadening my knowledge.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework is the representation of the understanding of the theories by the researcher. It provides conceptualization of relationship between different variables. Conceptual framework is a written or visual presentation that explains either graphically, or in narrative form, the main things to be studied the key factors concepts or variables and the presumed relationship among them. According to Kumar (2009, p.37), “The conceptual framework stems from the theoretical framework and concentrates usually on one section of that theoretical framework which becomes the basis of your study.”

It demonstrates his/her understanding of the theoretical and research issues related to their search questions. The present study was based on the following conceptual framework.



CHAPTER: THREE

METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY

Research design is the overall plan of the study which helps the researcher to complete the work perfectly. It is a framework of the study. According to Kumar (2005, p. 50) “A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collections and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure.” A research design is a fixed set of procedures of conducting a research. According to Best and Kahn (1993, p. 204), “Qualitative research focuses on in-depth interviews, observations and document analysis.” The main purpose of qualitative investigation is to describe some problems and analyze them.

3.1 Design and Method of the Study

Survey research requires that the researcher should be trained personal. It is usually done in natural setting. According to Hutson (1990, p.132), “Survey research is the method of collecting information by asking a set of pre-formulated questions in a pre-determined sequence in a structured questionnaire to a sample of individual so as to be representative of a defined population.” I adopted survey research which is popular in social science in the field of education. Surveys are the most commonly used of descriptive methods in educational research and may vary in scope from large-scale governmental investigation. Surveys are used in large scale researches where a huge populations is required to be included in the research. It is usually done in natural setting. According to Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2010, p. 205), “Survey gathers data at a particular point in time with the intention of describing the nature of existing conceptions, or identifying students against which existing conditions can be compared or determining the relationships that exist between specific event.”

According to Kerlinger (1986, p.107), “Survey research is a kind of research which studies large and small population or universe by selecting and studying sample chosen from the population to discover the relative incidents, distribution and interrelationship of social and psychological variables.” Survey research has wide and inclusive coverage. The notion of survey implies the idea that the research should have wide coverage. The findings are generable and applicable to the whole group. In my research I collected data by observation and intensive study of poems. I analyzed data using descriptive approach.

3.2 Population, Sample and Sampling Strategy

The populations of the study were the poems from *New Paradigm*. The researcher selected five poems to fulfill the objectives of the study. These five poems were selected by using non-random judgmental sampling procedure. The reason behind selecting the five poems was to raise the gender issues and responses from the women’s side. The selected poems were *I am Becoming My Mother*, *An Introduction*, *The Fisherman Mourned by His Wife*, *Letter from Mama Dot* and *Phenomenal Woman*. I read these poems intensively and collected data from the poems. I categorized data into different headlines and analyzed descriptively.

3.3 Study Area/Field

My research was based on literary analysis. I purposively selected five poems from *New Paradigm* for analyses. These poems helped me to bring the research in this shape. I observed women’s voices represented in the poems and make notes in to different headlines. The collected data were minutely observed until required information is found.

3.4 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

For the collection of data I adopted intensive reading of poems and selected the phrases which were related to gender issues, domination and inequality.

Moreover I collected women's voices against male dominated society. It helped me to find out the actual voice of woman the tool for data collection was observation and intensive reading of poems. I listed different stanzas in the following headlines.

- i. Women's voices for equality.
- ii. Culture and its role for gender issues.
- iii. Sorrow of women.
- iv. Gender discrimination.
- v. Women empowerment.

3.5 Data Collection Procedure

I adopted following procedures for collecting data.

- i. I purposively selected five poems and read them.
- ii. Phrases and stanzas which were related to gender issues were underlined.
- iii. I collected the voices of women against the male centered society.
- iv. Phrases and stanzas which were related to freedom of men were underlined.
- v. Gap between men and women were listed.
- vi. Cultural role that created gap, discrimination and inequality were listed.
- vii. I grouped collected data in to different headlines.
- viii. Stanzas were minutely observed until required information was formed.

3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation Procedure

My research study was qualitative in nature. So I used the descriptive approach to analyze and interpret the data. I read poems intensively and collected data. The collected data were organized and categorized. Finally, I prepared the list of data and interpreted them separately under difference headlines.

CHAPTER: FOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE RESULTS

This unit deals with the analysis and interpretation of the collected data and the summary of the findings. The detailed analysis and interpretation of the data and the summary of the findings have been discussed below.

4.1 Analysis and Interpretation of Data

This section is mainly concerned with the analysis and interpretation of the data collected from the poems. The data were collected by reading poems and observation. Women's voices, suffering and domination were focused. The data analysis and interpretation procedure is mainly based on qualitative method.

The data analysis and interpretation procedures have been analyzed under the following headlines:

4.1.1 Women's Voices for Equality

Equality refers to the same status and access in every aspect of the nation. There should not be discrimination between man and woman. According to Hindu mythology women are worshipped and honored as the goddess of learning is Saraswati, the goddess of wealth is Laxmi. Nepal Constitution (2072) also guarantees women's rights for equality and empowerment.

Lorna Goodison, in her poem '*I am Becoming my Mother*' writes:

My Mother raises rare blooms

And waters them with tea her

Birth water shank like rivers

My Mother is now me.

The poet says that her mother is totally responsible for her children. Her mother bears all troubles which happens at home. Giving birth to a child is compared with the water sang like rivers. It is a painful condition for the mother. The poet raises strong voices for equal work load in the house both for man and woman. Father's role is not seen in the house especially in household work.

Similarly, Kamala Suraiyya, an Indian poet challenges the patriarchal definitions given to the females' she writes in her poem *An Introduction* :

And then, feel shame, it is I who lie dying

With a rattle in my throat. I am a sinner,

I am a saint. I am the beloved and the betrayed.

I have no joys which are not yours no

Aches which are not yours. I too call myself I.

She ignores all her womanliness and wants to be a complete person. But patriarchal society defines women as a sinner if she ignores social norms. The poet freely expresses her sexual desires and her carefree lifestyle in order to introduce herself. This poem is practice of self-definitions which goes counter to the male dominated society.

4.1.2 Culture and its Role for Gender Issues

Culture refers to the value, assumptions and life style of the society. So, it affects the role and responsibility of man and woman. Male dominated society says: if the woman accepts her traditional gender role and obeys the patriarchal rules, she is a good woman. But if she does not she is bad girl. The main female characters are stereotypes either good girl: gentle, submissive, virginal and angelic. In contrast, bad girl: violent, aggressive Kamala Suraiyya writes in her poem *An Introduction*:

Choose a name, a role.

Don't play pretending games.

Don't play at schizophrenia or

Be a my nympho. Don't cry

Embarrassingly loud when jilted in love.

This stanza shows that women are controlled by culture. They have to obey social norms like be innocent, be kind, sit at home. A good woman places at home.

Traditional culture says that women should have particular role in the society. A woman who plays games, dances in public is regarded as a bad woman. A husband always tried to control his wife. She cannot do any work in the society without the permission of her husband. Kamala does not accept the social roles which are different for men and women. Male centered society defines women as sinner if they go beyond the social norms and values. The poet freely express her sexual desires and her carefree lifestyle in order to introduce herself as a complete person.

Kamala challenges male dominated society by saying women are not waiting for love from men. They are not tireless oceans which bear all good and bad aspects of the rivers.

Who wants a women, just as I am every

Women who seeks love. In him the hungry haste of rivers, in me,

The oceans' tireless

Waiting. Who are you, I ask each and everyone,

the answer is, it is I.

(An Introduction)

This stanza reflects the strong voice of a woman against social discrimination. So, this is a practice of self definitions which goes counter to the male dominated society.

4.1.3 Sorrow of Women

Man and woman are the two sides of the same coin, but in male dominated society women are treated as passive, secondary and house manager. In male dominated society women are suffering from domestic violence, beating, torture, harassment and dowry death. Women's freedom and happiness are controlled by men.

Similarly Kamala Suraiyya writes in her poem *An Introduction*

When I asked for love, not knowing what else to ask for

He drew a youth of sixteen in to the bedroom closed the door

He did not beat me

But my sad woman body felt so beaten.

In this stanza she says all her desires and feelings are controlled by a man. Her desires are not addressed by the man but he did the work as he like. The poet doesn't reject her lover's activities even if she doesn't have freedom and she has to work according to her lover's Intention.

Patrick Fernando shows in his poem 'The *Fisherman Mourned by His Wife*' the tragic feeling of the wife who has lost her husband. At this tragic point the speaker remembers back to her past life which was full of happiness and enthusiasm. The poet says that her life is meaningless without her husband. She lost her happiness with her husband. Crimes against women have existed invariably with time and place even periods of transformation have never been comfortable for them. Women are not only treated as a lower status. In the society but they are used as objects of enjoyment and pleasure. A wife serves

her husband in every action but a husband does not take much interest to his wife's services. A woman cannot express her desires, feelings and emotions freely in the public place. Society neglects such woman they think that a good woman should be loyal, follower, innocent. So, women are compelled to hide their feelings, sorrows sufferings to save from the society. Lorna Goodson writes:

I am becoming my mother

Brown/Yellow woman

Fingers smelling always of onions.

(I am Becoming my Mother)

The poet does not like social norms, values and assumptions but due to the male dominated society she is compelled to do the work. There seems hierarchy between males and females. The poet shows the domestic life of her mother and herself. She expresses the pain and sorrow of her mother she writes:

My mother raises rare blooms

And waters them with tea

Her birth waters sang like rivers

My mother is now me.

(I am Becoming my Mother)

The image like the 'rare blooms' show the suffering and the dry gloomy appearance of the mother. The image of 'tea' means the kitchen life of her mother. The most painful experience of her mother seems when she writes birth water sang like rivers. It shows that the females are treated as the baby producing machines in the male dominated society. In this stanza the poet says

that woman has much suffering no happiness and more household workload. Agosin (2003, p.56) writes, “Women's health is not only influenced by genetics, biology and psychology but also by women's role in society.”

4.1.4 Gender Discrimination

Constitution of Nepal (2072) guarantees equality of opportunity and equal status to men and women. It directs that women shall not only have equal rights and privileges with men but also that the state shall make provisions: both general and special for the welfare of women. Tyson (2006, p.92) writes:

All positive terms and contributions are given to the male. It is said that males are courageous, bold rational, powerful and strong. In contrast, females are submissive weak, servant, loving, kind and home manager. This definition is not natural; it is contributed by the traditional male dominated society.

Lorna Goodison writes in her poem *I Am Becoming my Mother* about the pathetic condition of women.

*My mother had a line dress
the colour of the sky
and stored lace and damask
tablecloths, to pull shame out of her eye.*

This stanza shows the domestic life of a woman. She does not have beautiful dress, and happiness. ‘line dresses’, ‘tablecloths’, ‘to pull shame out of her eye’ all these words show the discrimination, gap and domination by the male.

Agosin (2003, p. 216) writes, “Asian women today continue to be stereotyped as 'sex slaves', 'man-pleasure' or 'playthings' who are passive and lacking moral character.” Kamala writes in her poem *An Introduction*:

*I wore a shirt and my
Brother's trousers, cut my hair short and ignored
My womanliness. Dress in saress, be girl
Be wife, they said. Be embroiderer, be cook
Be a quarreler with servants.*

This stanza shows that women should obey traditional rules. They cannot go beyond the social norms. When Kamala wears trousers and cuts her hair, people said that she should be a girl, she should wear sarees and should be Kamala. It shows that all desires, happiness and feelings of a woman is controlled by traditional male dominated society.

Kamala Suraiyya writes in her poem, men are free to love any women, she met a man and loved him she found that the man was hungry haste of rivers and woman as the ocean. Man is emotionally motivated and woman is passionately waiting for sex. The man is free in society they can drink even in the midnight at a hotel, man can love, can laugh and betrayed if he likes.

Kamala writes in her poem:

*Anywhere and everywhere
I see the one who calls himself
If in this world, he is tightly packed like the
Sword in it's sheath. It is I who drink lonely
Drinks at twelve, midnight, in hotels of strange towns,
It is I who laugh, it is I who make love.(An Introduction)*

This stanza shows that man is free to go outside. He can break the social norms like drinking in midnight at hotel, visiting strange towns. These things are not allowed to woman. If woman do such types of activates, society neglects her and society strongly raises voice against such woman. Women work hard, bear both pain and pleasure but male dominated society treats them as second position. Men can violate social norms. If women violet social norms it will be great matter. Tyson (2006, p.90) writes. “A good girl is rewarded for the behavior by being placed on a pedestal patriarchal culture.”

4.1.5 Women Empowerment

Empowerment is viewed as a process, the mechanism by which people, organizations and communities gain mastery over their lives. It is an accomplished state of self-responsibility and self determination. Women empowerment is a process that helps to uplift the life style of the women. Robert (2008, p. 16) defines, “Empowerment: the capacity of individuals, groups and communities to take control of their circumstances, exercise power and achieve their own goals and the process by which, individually and collectively they are able to help themselves and other to maximize the quality of their lives.” Women get skills, resources, authority, opportunity, motivation as well holding them responsible and accountable for outcomes of their actions will contribute to their competence and satisfaction. Women empowerment provides the women to be self confidence, decision maker and strong. Kamala Suraiyya writes in her poem, *An Introduction*:

Don't write in English, they said

English is not your mother tongue

Why not leave me alone, critics, friend,

Visiting cousins, everyone of you ?

Why not let me speak in

Any language I like, the language I speak

Becomes mine it's distortions, it's queenesses

All mine, mine alone.

In this stanza the poet reflects the strong voice of a woman. She said she could speak any language but people interfered her to speak English. They said not to write in English because English is not her language. Kamala rejected their saying and started to write any language she likes. This is a process of self confidence self determination. In which women raise their voice against discrimination, inequality and domination.

Shrestha (2008, p.115) writes following points to uplift the women's life style.

- i. Female awareness programs.
- ii. Capacity building of women.
- iii. Increasing female participation in income generating profession by mobilizing input and services.
- iv. Increasing women's access to credit, technology knowledge and marketing facilities.
- v. Revising the laws which discriminate against women.

4.2 Summary/ Discussion of Findings

Gender discrimination is prevailing in the society from the beginning. Women are dominated by patriarchy economically, politically socially and psychologically. Tradition says a woman is a good if she accepts her traditional gender role and obeys the patriarchal rules.

Culture determines social norms, values and assumptions. Man is considered as a brave, courageous, bold and violent. In contrast, woman is loving, kind, obedient and home manager. These roles are created by male centered society. Women are not born feminine but rather conditioned to be feminine. Women

are raising voices against tradition that have chained them. It is a fight against proverbial 'Laxman Rekha' which is different for women. Women want to be equal partner in life; they are individuals who have their own identity. Women constitute half the world's population but their role is not found in decision making process. The state has enacted many women specific and women related legislations to protect women against social discrimination, violence and also to prevent social evils like child marriage, dowry etc. Traditional culture and heavy household workload hinders the women's progress. Women are controlled within the four walls of a house. They don't have freedom as a man to go outside. Women do not have access to assets and control over resources. Traditional society says a good woman should stay at home; she should care to their children and her husband.

CHAPTER: FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This part of the study deals with the conclusions derived from the study and the recommendations for different levels.

5.1 Conclusions of the Study

Poetry is a form of literature, it is an art of composition that evokes emotions and art of composition that evokes emotions and feelings by the use of language arranged an artistic way. So poetry is a powerful medium to express human feelings, emotions and desires. We stand at the middle of the twenty first century; we are still unable to boast of a society where there is total gender equality or gender equality. This debate is limited only in the theoretical discussion. Still there is gap, discrimination and domination between man and woman. Man dominated society defines man as a brave, rational, courageous and change agents but woman as loving, kind, weak and home manager.

This study entitled '*Feminism Voices in the Poetry: A Case of Poems from New Paradigm*' was conducted to analyze inequality, discrimination and domination between men and women. On the basis of the analysis and the interpretations of the data, the following conclusions have been made. Gender is a social construction which is constructed and reflected through the use of language, action and behavior. This critical analysis of poems helps to document and raise the gender issues. This study investigated the operation of gender issues by using certain parameters which mainly favour male then female. The whole study has been concluded with the following major findings that were drawn from the study.

- i. The poem '*I am Becoming My Mother*' the poet writes her mother as a woman wearing yellow brown dress and working in kitchen, Her mother bears all troubles and pain that occurs at home. The poet does not like the customs of society and traditional culture.

- ii. The poem An Introduction the poet says that traditional society has not allowed any freedom to women so she raised voiced of challenges. She ignores all her womanliness, wears brothers shirt and trouser, cut her hair but patriarchal society wanted to make her a discipline girl as be wife, be embroiderer, be Amy or be Kamala.
- iii. Man and woman are the two sides of the same coin but in male dominated society women are treated as passive, secondary and home manager.
- iv. All positive terms and contributions are given to the male, it is said that males are courageous, bold, rational, powerful and strong. In contrast females are submissive, weak, servant loving and kind. This definition is not natural, it is contributed by society.
- v. Traditional culture and heavy household workload hinder the women's empowerment.
- vi. Lack of access to assets and control over resources.
- vii. Women are raising voice against male dominated society for freedom equality and empowerment.

5.2 Recommendations

Poetry is a form of literature, it expresses human feelings, emotions and desires in artistic way. Mainly love, war social issues are the topics of the poem. In this study I analyzed five poems which are related to discrimination, gap and inequality between man and woman. I investigated men are superior, rational and change agents but women are inferior, follower and home manager. Culture, social rules are in favour of men. Men are free to do any types of work in society but women are limited by certain social norms. Women are raising voice against traditions that have chained them, it is a fight against attitude that are ingrained in the society, it is a fight against proverbial 'Laxman Rekha' which is different for men and different for women.

Gender inequities throughout the world are among the most all pervasive though deceptively subtle forms of inequality. Gender equality concerns each and every member of the society and forms the very basis of a just society. The constitution guarantees equality of opportunity and equal status to men and women. It directs that women will not only have equal rights and privileges with men but also that the state will make provisions: both general and special for the welfare of women. Women should get opportunity for employment and education. So, this is a fight for justice by females or cry gender equality. Men must rise to the occasion. They must recognize and accept the fact that women are equal partners in life. They are individuals who have their own identity.

On the basis of the findings the researcher has pointed the main implication of the study on three different levels as below.

Policy Related

The main implications of the study at this level were as follows:

- i. The government of Nepal can utilize the study to make women specific and women related legislations to protect women against social discrimination violence and atrocities and also to prevent social evils like child marriages dowry, rape etc.
- ii. Women related agencies will be benefited to make policies in favour of women.
- iii. The curriculum designer can utilize this study to design a non- sexist curriculum of language.
- iv. This study will be effective to make the policies against gender discrimination.

Practice Related

The main implications of the study at this level were as follows

- i. This study will be beneficial for the people who raise the voice for equality and justice.

- ii. This study will be helpful for the teacher to treat the girls and boys equally in the classroom.
- iii. This study will be helpful to show the woman as a full human being capable of doing everything.
- iv. It will be helpful for the text book writer to use the gender free language.
- v. This study will help students to develop critical thinking.

Further Research Related

This study reflects how women are treated in the male dominated society and how they are raising voices for freedom equality and empowerment. Only few studies are conducted in the field of literacy analyses especially in feminism. This study will be also helpful to agencies who are working for the welfare of the women to make appropriate policies for women empowerment. Moreover, this study helps to conduct researches about gender discrimination, race discrimination and class discrimination.

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APPENDIX I

Women's Voices for Equality

And then, feel shame, it is I who lie dying
With a rattle my throat. I am a sinner,
I am a saint. I am the beloved and the
Betrayed. I have no joys which are not yours no
Aches which are not yours. I too call myself I.

(An Introduction)

My mother raises rare blooms
And waters them with tea
Her birth waters sang like rivers
My mother is now me.

(I am Becoming My Mother)

APPENDIX II

Culture and its Role for Gender Issues

Choose a name, a role.

Don't play pretending games.

Don'ts play at schizophrenia or

Be nympho, Don't cry embarrassingly

Loud when Jilted in love.

Who wants a woman, just as I am every

Woman who seeks love. In him, the ocean's tireless

Waiting. Who are you, I ask each and everyone

The answer is, it is I.

(An Introduction)

APPENDIX III

Sorrow of Women

When I asked for love, not knowing what else to ask
For he drew a youth of sixteen in to the
Bedroom closed the door. He did not beat me
But my sad woman body felt so beaten.

(An Introduction)

I am becoming my mother
Brown/yellow woman
Finger's Smelling always of onions.

My mother raises rare blooms
And waters them with tea
Her birth waters sang like rivers
My mother is now me.

(I am Becoming My Mother)

APPENDIX IV

Gender Discrimination

My mother had a line dress
The colour of the sky
And stored lace and damask
Table cloths to pull shame out of her eye.

(I am Becoming My Mother)

I wore a shirt and my
Brother's trousers, cut my hair short and ignored
My womanliness. Dress in sarees, be girl
Bewife, they said. Be embraderer, be cook
Be a quarreler with servants. Fit in.

(An Introduction)

Send a box soon. Pack the basics.
Flour, for some roti; powered milk;
And any news of what's going on here
No luxuries please, people only talk, shoes
Can wait till things improve.

(Letter from Mama Dot)

APPENDIX V

Freedom of Man

Anywhere and everywhere
I see the one who calls himself
If in this world, he is tightly paced like the
Sword in it's sheath. It is I who drink lonely
Drink at twelve, midnight, in hotels strange, towns
It is I who laugh, it is I who make love

(An Introduction)

You are a traveler to them
West Indian working in England
Friday, Tonto, or punkawallah
Sponing off the state our language
Remain pidgin like our dark third
Underdeveloped world.

(Letter from Mama Dot)

APPENDIX VI

Women Empowerment

Don't write in English they said
English is not your mother tongue
Why not leave me alone, critics, friend
Visiting cousins, everyone of you?
Why not let me speak in
Any language I like, the language I speak
Becomes mine it's distortions, it's queerness
All mine, mine alone.

(An Introduction)

Men themselves have wondered
What they seen in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery
When I try to show them They still can't see.

(Phenomenal woman)