

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Migration is a spatial mobility of people by changing usual place of residence to a well-defined destination. A migrant is a person who moves either from his place of birth to another area or keeps on moving stepwise or circular by changing his/her residence more or less frequently by being either seasonal, temporary, semi-permanent or permanent migrant depending upon the duration of migration and reasons for migration within a defined geographical area.

International migration has become a social reality for many Nepalese people today and is an inevitable phenomenon in the review of the history of Nepal. Now a day large number of Nepalese had at least one of their family members residing abroad, and the number of men is higher than women. Migration is one of the most important ways by which people attempt to improve their living standard. Rural people are attracted by the bright lights of the city; city people move to the countryside to get away from it. Migration is equally important to government planners and policy makers, because the aggregate movements of migrants often cause important shift in the policy, power and economic fortunes of the places they leave and the places to which they go.

The stream of the step migration i.e. from rural to urban, village to city and from country to abroad have been the recent phenomena in Nepal. It studies the non-migrant female member in families, where the young adult male have temporarily migrated abroad. The migration of young adult male influences not only for urban centers to which they migrate, but also in several ways, the organization of their families and the social structure of the community of their origin. Most prominent effects are perceived on the old age parents, females and children of the migrant's household. It provides with a profile of change occurring in the rural areas or rural families, as a result of such migration i. e. changes in the social organization of the family, its authority structures, its economy etc. It should be emphasized that the major concern of this study lies not

with the process of migration of males as such, but with the phenomenon of structural changes in the sex-roles and social organization of the rural families caused by migration.

On the other hand, the number of people going abroad for work has increased in last few years. The major concentration of Nepali migrant workers abroad was traditionally in the Gulf States but the dynamics have changed and while the number of people going to the Gulf States is still significant people have also been migrating to Malaysia over the past 13 years. A class division among the labor migrants is also found to select the country of destination, i.e. poor people are to India, the Gulf States and Malaysia and rich people towards Japan, South Korea, North America and Europe (Bhattarai, 2006).

It provides the high economic power to give the family need and family union. The sense of loss is hopeful. The males have the traditional root that they have to maintain the economic status. Due to that, the nation cannot afford the needs and they search the employment in foreign land. They are compelled to go on foreign land to maintain their basic needs. In this way, it has a kind of solution to improve the economic status. Though there is distance there is love, affection and unity in family members. There is not heartily separation between family members, wives and children. Even though they are separated they are waiting and expecting for the better future of their families.

The researcher took an interest in how migration of men would affect the women left behind as male migration is widespread in Nepal but less studied. The general characteristic of out migration and its impact are not particularly known nor could these be analyses at national level within a limited time. Keeping the view of time limitation and broad aspect this investigation, only could be done in the form of case study. For this purpose the study area is selected Kailali district. In the following, the thesis will refer to international migration, outmigration and emigration as equivalent concepts and should be understood as the move between two countries internationally. The thesis will not examine the impacts of internal migration.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, this means that it struggles with economic and social development. The country's GDP per capita in 2015 was Rs. 27184 (MoF, 2016). Primary sectors of the economy are agriculture, industry and services. Remittances contribute to 29.1 percent of country's GDP (MoF, 2016). The agricultural

sector employs over 75 percent of the working population. Farming is subsistence-oriented and together with small farm sizes it is difficult for many households to meet their fundamental needs (Maharjan, 2013). Poor farmers have small chances to find a job in urban industrial sector. In this situation, new strategy to survive has arisen. International migration has become a strategy to fulfill the basic requirements and enhance the income level of the households. The unemployment rates in Nepal are very high. That is one reason why so many Nepalese males have decided to go abroad in a search for work (Dahal, 2014). Migration process has been greatly influenced by globalization. Migrant workers have earned 617.3 billion in 2015 (MoF, 2016). Money that is transmitted back to developing countries plays an important role in their economic performances. In Nepal, the ratio of remittance inflows (as a percentage of GDP) in 1995 was 1.3 percent, however in 2015 reached 29.1 percent (MoF, 2016). In 2015 Nepal ranked as third remittance-recipient country as a percentage of GDP (World Bank, 2015). Migration is not a new phenomenon in Nepal, however until 1981; India was the only country of destination for Nepalese migrant workers (NIDS, 2011). This is closely connected to a political situation in Nepal. After adopting democratic system in 1990, Nepali government made it easier for people to obtain passports and travel overseas. Additional countries of destination are Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. The population census 2011 reveals that more than 1.92 million Nepalese had lived in foreign countries for more than six months (NIDS, 2011). According to Department of Foreign Employment in Nepal (DoFE) 75 percent of Nepalese migrant workers were unskilled (cleaners, guards, construction workers etc.), 23 percent were semi-skilled (gardeners, waiters, electric and mechanic assistants etc.) and two percent skilled (those who have completed high school or higher: doctors, engineers, scientist etc.). Nepali migrant workers find jobs in industries, factories, construction companies, hospitality industry or agriculture.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The reasons behind migration are almost same in Nepal as in other parts of the world. Poverty, limited employment opportunities, deteriorating agricultural productivity, and armed conflict are some of the motives behind international labor migration. There are

many villages in Nepal where labor migration has been established as a culture of a community; that is, going abroad for work for awhile and returning with some money and the experience of living in a different geographical location. The influence of friends, relatives and well-wishers has also played a prominent role in the promotion of international labor migration (Bhattarai, 2006).

Women's working world continues to differ from men's in the type of work, the pay, the status and the pattern. The biggest difference is that women continue to bear the burden of managing the household and caring for the family.

Women, besides looking after household chores, are to provide child care, to provide food and health care, to prepare and process crops, to market goods, to tend garden and livestock and to weave cloths, carpets and baskets. Much of this work does not benefit from investment, making it very inefficient, and forcing women to work very hard. If a woman spends more time in the labor force, she still bears the main responsibility for home and family care at the cost of sleep and leisure. In Nepal, women work in average 75.7 hours a week, but men work only 52.6 hour per week (UN, 1991). It shows that, in the absence of males in family, a woman has to face more burdens. A UN (1991) report states "Women who remain in rural areas and whose husband was migrate to abroad find themselves with even more family and economic responsibilities".

'Male-only' migration has been a traditional feature of external migration in Nepal. In comparison to the permanent migration of whole family male out-migration is very high in Nepal. A large number of male migrants are moving toward different urban centers of different countries, seeking for job, leaving their family behind at home. The withdrawal of the male head of the family from the family home evidently reduces his ability and authority to control and decide and, wife is likely to step in to fill the gap. To what extent the absent migrant can still retain his control due to absence of head of the family is a matter worthy of investigation.

This paper focused on what are the roles of left behind women after male migration on the social and economic situation? This study is to demonstrate changes in women's roles after being left behind by the migrant. For some women male out-migration may bring new opportunities and more positive changes and for others the burden of keeping

everything under control and managing everything is too big and heavy. Two very important aspects will be taken into consideration; these are economic and social changes in women's lives. Economic changes are correlated with independent income, the opportunity to engage in the labor market, the ability of how to manage money remittances that are being sent back home. Social changes include decision making power, all the knowledge that is gained by women (about agriculture, market etc), new contacts they gain, more burden on their shoulders, mobility, restrictions. However, the research questions of the study are -

- a) What is the role of female in male migrant household economy?
- b) What are the push and pull factors of foreign migration in the study area?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to find out the impact of male foreign migration on role of women in household economy in Tikapur Municipality. However the specific objectives of the study are as follows;

- a) To examine the role of women in male migrant household economy.
- b) To identify the push and pull factors of foreign migration in the study area.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study helps to understand why migrants prefer abroad as their destination. It shows the impact of male migration on role of women. Rural women are dependent on their husband for economic as well as social problems and prospects as a part of tradition. The purpose of the research is therefore to explore how male migration and the remittances may or may not change the role of women left behind. Thus, to understand whether male migration has been or could be a potential source of gender equality and development in Nepal. Hence, the study will be helpful for the government, national planner, policymaker, NGO/INGO, researchers, teachers, students and others who are interested to know about changing role of women in male migrant households. Therefore, there is a big significant role of the study.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

- a) The study is concentrated only in male migrant household.

- b) All sample households of the study area are assumed to be similar characteristics in all respects so that it could represent the rest of all non-sampled women members as well.
- c) The study is concerned with the push and pulls factors of male migrant and thereby enhance in role of women in male migrants household economy.
- d) As the study is based only on the information related to Tikapur Municipality, the conclusion will not be applicable to rest of other urban centers of Nepal.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction that contains background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significant of the study, limitations, organization of the study. Chapter two consists of review of literature that deals with international and national reviews of the study. Chapter three is for research methodology which is divided into two parts; first part is for Introduction of the study area and second part is for research methodology that consists of research design, nature and sources of data, population and sampling procedure, tools and technique of primary data collection, data organization, management and processing and tools and method of data analysis. Chapter four is presentation and analysis of data which contains features of sample households, household activities and decision making, burden on women, attitude towards migration and push and pulls factors. Chapter five includes major findings, conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER - II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A review of literature is an evaluative report of studies found in the literature related to our selected area. The review should describe, summarize, evaluate and clarify this literature. It should give a theoretical basis for the research and help you determine the nature of our own research. We should select a limited number of works that are central to our area rather than trying to collect a large number of works that are not as closely connected to our topic area. A literature review goes beyond the search for information and includes the identification and articulation of relationships between the literature and our field of research. While the form of the literature review may vary with different types of studies, the basic purpose of literature review is to Provide a context for the research, justify the research, ensure the research hasn't been done before (or that it is not just a "replication study"), show where the research fits into the existing body of knowledge, enable the researcher to learn from previous theory on the subject, illustrate how the subject has been studied previously, highlight flaws in previous research, outline gaps in previous research, show that the work is adding to the understanding and knowledge of the field, help refine, refocus or even change the topic.

The phenomenon of population migration is as old as the history of mankind. It is a multi dimensional phenomenon, just as demographic, economic, social and cultural phenomena and each the subject of inquiry about a social science. Migration studies range from purely descriptive and statistical to the rule of operates with in the environment having economic, social, and technological and policy components.

Women's role in household economy plays very important role in the process of development and poverty alleviation. The position of women is a major concern in developing world and it gains more attention from scholars. Women's role in household economy as necessary in development, the importance of women's role in household economy have been acknowledged by international organizations and societies, as exemplained in the Millennium Development Goal, to promote gender equality (MDG, 2014).

2.1 International Context

Hjorth (2011) saw that male migration has both an economic and a social impact on the women and their families left behind. The women expressed the multiple impacts, while at the same time they also expressed that the situation was unchanged after the migration of their husbands. Within the resource-dimension, the study found that remittances have positive economic effects on the women and their families left behind. The increased responsibility entailed greater decision-making authority for the women. However, the study found that this decision-making authority only regarded minor day-to-day decisions, as the women expressed that their husbands would still be the main decision-making authority when bigger decisions had to be taken. Therefore, it could be concluded that women remain in their traditional gender roles and place in the hierarchy even when their husbands are away. Finally, the women experienced a limited freedom of mobility as a result of being alone and living in a society that regards the male as the authority. The women were worried how they would be perceived by the society around them.

Islam & Ahmad (1984) showed that absentee migrants continue to be the heads of the families. Important and major decisions regarding disposal of properties and income are taken by them. Women only take decisions on problems regarding the daily subsistence of the family i. e. to take loans or buying food grains, or borrow food grains from neighbors etc. They further stated that women depend heavily on other male members of their kin group for essential outdoor activities because of religious as well as traditional 'prude' system prohibit them to do so.

The circumstances transfer greater work responsibilities of household to the female but not that status. They puts further that the receipt of money at home by the women during the absence of male afford an opportunity to the women to be involved in deciding family expenses and to control minor purchases. But the traditional values about female role and status within the patriarchal society overshadow these little opportunities and prevent any substantial concession to the women in matters of independent decision and freedom of movement. The subordinate status of women has been institutionalized as part of the social system.

Jetley (1984) showed that the women remain behind has to assume, in addition to her own family and domestic responsibilities, the role of sole 'breadwinner'. The research showed that with the migration of males, the women who have any amount of land have to undertake several activities earlier performed by male. The older daughter has to take over the household chores and play the role of little 'surrogate mother' to her brothers and sisters. The researcher also noted that the dropout from the school is very high of migrants' children because they are mentally prepared to migrate. Researcher concluded that the long absence of these migrants does not perceptibly affect the authority structure of the family.

Haas & Rooij (2010) discussed that an increase in responsibilities of women is an effect of male migration. Mainly, internal male migration was connected to emphasize the burden on women's shoulders, and international movement was related to the advantages for women (decision-making power, better economic situation etc). They hypothesize that male migration changes gender roles in rural Morocco. International movement and remittances can lead to more comfortable life, security and higher standard of living, however in addition to that, migration brings additional responsibilities, increasing workloads and uncertainty. They conclude that migration may cause temporary revised conditions of life, although on the longer run women are loaded with the burden. They discuss that migration and remittances (as indirect factors), cultural and social transformation can lead to development of women's position.

Deisa (1986) mentioned that long separation will affect the traditional division of labour as well as parental roles and also the economic situation of the women, left behind. The duration of separation as well as prospects for family reunification influence the possibilities for women to cope with family separation. It further put that the absence of men tends to make women more dependent on the financial contribution of their absentee husband because of the disruption of the local economy caused by male out-migration. An example cited before here of Pakistan shows that the wives of migrant become more dependent and feel more constrained than before because of the increased control and more dependency on the in-laws for making important decisions such as purchase of property, children education etc.

Todaro (1979) saw migration is a selective process effecting individuals of certain economic, social, education and demography characteristics. The relative influence of the economic factors may vary not only between nations and regions but also within defined geographic areas and population. Policies play an important role for the migration pattern, sometimes having immediate impact and at other times a long term one. The centrality of the migration phenomenon is to recognize that any economic and social policy that affects the real income of both rural and urban areas will directly and or indirectly influence the migration process. The process in turn will itself tend to alter the pattern of sectoral and geographic economic activity, income distribution and even population growth

Khalaf (2009) has studied about the impact on decision-making and well-being within the family, essentially on the wife left behind when the head of the household emigrates. The study used a sample of 107 women with male migrants as husbands from a national survey conducted by Saint Joseph University in Beirut in 2001. Through a questionnaire, information about the family, its income, the decision-making process, and the wife's challenges and well-being was collected. The researcher concludes that the woman becomes more empowered following the migration of her husband, and that the wife assumes a new role. Nevertheless, the researcher questions that if this new situation can challenge traditional gender ideology as the women are financially dependent on their husbands. The author stresses that research should be seen as exploratory and that the analysis can only shed some light on the issues raised and more in-depth research is needed. Nevertheless, the weakest points of the research are its lack of justification for the different variables used to measure empowerment and the lack of theoretical and conceptual clarity on women's empowerment as an end to the study. Similarly, many of the above-mentioned studies circle around terms like empowerment, emancipation, positive/negative impact, decision-making process or power, gender roles and ideology, and gender equality, but lack a theoretical and conceptual discussion on the understanding of the terms as well as a review of the gender and empowerment literature to frame their work.

Agasti & Patra (2014) concluded that women folk of the migrant households shoulder greater responsibilities, assume an important role in decision making and have a higher

workforce participation rate. The study found that such solo migration and the resultant husbands' absence at home forces and frees their wives to take up roles which they would not have normally undertaken when their husbands not migrated. It increases their household power and control over household management. The findings of their research cleared that wives of solo migrants are able to put aside norms of female seclusion because the husbands' absence increases the need for their participation in household affairs. They found that in the absence of the husbands, the wives' labor force participation increases to compensate for the loss of husband's labor on own farms and of their wages, more so when remittances are inadequate and irregular. Additionally, wives also take added familial responsibilities. They concluded that household structure is a key determinant of the way husbands' migration affects non-migrating wives. Wives residing in nuclear families take on higher responsibilities and enjoy greater autonomy in comparison to those in residing joint families.

Jamie (2008) found that male out-migration had both positive and negative effects on the women left behind. First, the financial outcomes of migration were mixed. A few women received large, steady remittances while the majority received minimal, sporadic remittances. These various financial outcomes had different effects on women's lives. Second, some women experienced marital separation or abandonment, and many others feared this could happen to them. Women also experienced increased 'policing' of their actions. These outcomes had negative effects on most women by placing them in a financially precarious position and limiting their freedom and mobility. Third, women's roles in agricultural production changed in two ways like increased attendance at the monthly community meeting and increased contracting and supervising of day laborers. For most women, however, their agricultural field labor participation did not increase.

Women's new roles created a shift in gender relations, but most women said that they were more 'uncomfortable' with, than empowered by, these new roles. Despite the lack of empowerment noted by the women themselves, it is important to consider that, over time, these changes in gender roles and gender relations may influence gender ideologies (e.g., perceptions of what women can and should do) and increase women's empowerment.

Sarker & Islam (2014) found that men's labor migration had positive relationship with both women decision making and women autonomy in rural areas. So, men's labor migration increases the decision making capacity of wives of rural areas of Bangladesh. This study found that they enjoyed the freedom of movement to participate in social activities. This study concluded that international migration can be considered as a use full aspect for the gender development like rising consciousness about their right and responsibilities. Migrant's family women are participated in many different social activities. Migrant's family women found the authority to spend the money in household activities. They easily manage their household budget. Migrant's family women not only easily spend money for their health matters but also easily manage health matters for their children. Migrant's families are more likely to educate their women and education of girls also will improve the women position in society. This study found that the effect of men's labor migration on women position also depends on the types of family. In the nuclear family, men's labor migration positively effects on decision making capacity and autonomy of the left behind women. But in the joint family, most of the autonomy are enjoyed by the mothers in law or others male members of the household. They are considered as a passive member of the family. They have no role in decision making in household level.

The researchers found that duration of migration have no significant relationship on women decision making capacity and autonomy. This study indicated that landownership is positively associated with women decision making capacity and autonomy. This study reveals that women autonomy and women decision making role is not related with religion. This study also revealed that women age and land ownership are also positively associated with both women decision making role and autonomy in rural areas of Bangladesh.

Iqbal (2014) examined a gender approach on male's labor migration from Pakistan and its impact on their females left behind. Labor migration leads to significant changes in origin areas. The separation of migrants from the family unit, whether it is nuclear or extended, has profound implications for family organization and for individual family members. This study examined the possible impact of migration on the change in the role and decision-making autonomy of women who stay behind. The locale of the present

research was village and the findings of the study showed that migration of male member of family have a sound effect on changing role and women autonomy.

E. C. (2000) examined among five countries showed many similarities in motives for leaving the country of origin. Other events, such as wars and civil conflicts, may generate mass emigration flows from the countries. Furthermore, the role of admission policies and the perception of these policies by migrants may strongly influence to migrate peoples. The geographical situation is to be mentioned as a relevant factor of foreign migration. The main reasons for deciding to leave the country of origin are strongly related to the distinction between men's and women's motives. In general, economic motives predominate for male migrants. The relevance of other reasons, involve educational opportunities. This study reflected the general emigration pattern of the countries, starting with individual migration, primarily involving men looking for a job or education. Economic motives appear to be more important for Ghanaian men. Family reasons are given more often for Turkish and Moroccan recent migrants while the economic is true for Senegalese migrants. But, they found some remarkable differences with the exception of Egypt, the other reasons mostly related to school study. They found that EU countries generally attract fewer migrants for educational purposes.

2.2 National Context

Mahrajan, [Bauer](#) & Knerr (2012) claimed that the effect of male labour migration on left behind women differs from one area to another. Baitadi and Syangja are two districts that are very different from each other when it comes to economic performance. They claimed that women in Syangja district witness reduction of workload in crop farming and responsibilities (as they are able to hire labor from earned remittances) and experience the phenomenon of changing roles. They argued that right after somebody's husband leaves, the situation of women and the family gets difficult, however when remittances start to flow back to Nepal, her position is about to change in a positive way. On the other hand, Baitadi district is defined as "one of the most backward districts in Nepal from a gender perspective" and the effect of male migration is not that positive. In this district, the workload on women is very high, even when a husband is a migrant worker. However, the amount of money that is transferred to women living in Batadi district is

not that high. In this situation family cannot afford to hire labour force in order to replace the lost one (male migrant). They argue that all the responsibilities that male migrant has had, have to be divided between the rest of the family members. The research presented provide with the information that women in Baitadi district have less leisure hours per day than males. In a situation where men migrate, the position of women gets even worse. Women's empowerment plays very important role in the process of development and poverty alleviation. The position of women is a major concern in developing world and it gains more attention from scholars.

Sen (1999) referred to development as freedom. It is a key concept that helps to understand that "freedom to" different actions, things or behaviors are extremely valuable. Freedom is seen as instrument and as the objective. Sen puts the emphasis on expanding human freedoms so that she can live a valuable life. Sen argued that social and economic factors such as basic education, elementary health care, and secure employment are important not only on their own, but also for the role they can play in giving people the opportunity to approach the world with courage and freedom. These considerations require a broader informational base; focusing particularly on people's capability to choose the lives they have reason to value.

CEDA (1973) conducted a preliminary survey in Surkhet region that large majority of the seasonal migrants leave their home in search of temporary work. The poorest among them who have no food at all at home are forced to migrate with the whole family. The report also adds that in those families who have enough food but lack of cash, one or more member of men usually go abroad to work. Impact of the migration on employment, agriculture, ecological aspect and social and partial integration also has been explained.

CNAS (1992) has found hostile climate, insufficient food production from cultivated land, lack of agricultural land is the major factors stimulating the migration towards the outside. The money sent back by earlier migrants is also a cause of migration. In this study the whole population is divided into two groups: migrants and nonmigrants. And among migrants, it is sub-divided into temporary i. e., reversible and permanent (non-reversible). The study have generalized that if there is little migration of any kinds, one

can assume that there is agricultural sufficiency in a region. If there is little permanent migration one can assume that there is little land scarcity.

Hogger (1973) mentioned that the income differential and disparity in economic opportunities is causing a large scale migration within and from the country (Population Projection). Migration cannot simply be considered as an indication of the problems of a developing country. Rather, it is the consequence of a deteriorating ecological, social and economic situation in the hilly and mountainous parts of Nepal. Urbanization has been closely associated with economic development in the history of the now developed nations and each increase in material well-being was associated with a greater proportion of the total population living in urban areas. The main reason for urbanization is that cities can provide many services which rural areas cannot. Cities often attract people who might have equal or better economic opportunities elsewhere. In such cases, the urban economic opportunity stimulates the economic opportunity available in cities.

Lokshin & Glinskaya (2009) examined whether male out-migration affects the labour market behavior of women in Nepal. Scholars argued that two theoretical aspects are taken into consideration in this study. The first model, when the household income is increasing (due to remittances), the participation by women in labor market is reduced. The second, when male migration could decrease or increase women's home productivity although have an ambiguous impact on their labour market participation. They found that the migration of male household member is to reduce women's rates of labour market participation by 5, 3 percentage points. They argue that there are more negative effects on the level of the labor market contribution of Nepalese women in the migrant households.

Kulczycka (2015) showed money remittances and land entitlement is as crucial ones in the process of changing Nepalese women's economic and social role. Agency in this thesis referred to the aspects: role of women in decision-making, mobility and free movement and new responsibilities. The increase in responsibilities was considered as burden for women; however some of them looked at this in more positive way, as a challenge where they can learn new things. The decision-making process has shown that some decisions (not very important ones) were made only by left behind women. But decision-making in many cases included husbands as the one who was in charge of them.

The husband, father in-law, or brother in-law were mainly involved in decision-making. The traditional patriarchy was kept in place, even though the husband was abroad. Some women are capable to use given circumstances and resources in order to change their position in the society. Although many of them chooses remain in the same position as before male migration.

Bhattarai (2009) concluded that, migration is becoming a big problem in today's underdeveloped countries. This is not creating problem only in places of destination, but also this has created various problems in the places of origin also. To get the real picture of problems arising from migration, one should bring their own places of origin not only on the places of destination. Their study proved that effect of male migration has resulted prominent effect and changes at the place of origin too. It has increased work burden on women. The women especially wives of absentee has faced various problems in managing economic activities, household activities, agricultural activities, social activities etc. However, it has some positive effects too. By the male out migration women are empowered by the circumstances to handle every activity freely. They are prominent decision maker in every step of their life, from agricultural decision making to the more important economic decision making. They are, for the first time in their life had opportunities to handle their household freely with their own decisions.

Gautam (2006) examined that the major reasons for emigration can be attributed to the following factors; unemployment, food deficiency, increased expenditure and interest of being economically prosperous. The other reasons included family causes. These factors initiate the desire to go to other places specially India and other countries. The pull factors are associated with push factors. The economic factors associated with pull factors i.e.; easy availability of work (unskilled employment), cash payment and other benefits. The social factors are "bright light" of the city", adventure gossip of returned people from India and other countries and from friends and relatives staying in India and other countries. The physical things consumed by the emigrants and various activities including migration to cities attracted each people for emigration to other countries. It has been common to all class, caste and even gender cases.

Joshi (2016) analyzed that during 1950 increased population pressures in the Hills,

causing degradation of natural resources and food shortages emerged as an important push factor, whereas venturing to industrialized centers demanding labors emerged as an important pull factor to attract Nepalese youth from Hills to India. the Maoist insurgency in 1996 - 2006 added another dimension in migration from Nepal. The opening of markets for Nepalese labor force (predominantly semi-skilled and unskilled) in the international labor market and huge differences in wages emerged as an important pull factor to attract Nepalese labor to other destination countries, specifically Malaysia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Similarly, stagnation in Nepalese economy that somehow failed to create investment environment and jobs, decreased agricultural productivity and increased security threats remains a strong push factor that compelled Nepalese youth to leave the country.

Migration is the least researched area in Nepal compared to other demographic dynamics. Despite the fact, many demographic, socio-economic, and political problems are closely associated with the process of international migration. In the above review of literature, there is very less issues related to the role of women in male migrant household. So, the study is helps to fulfill the vacuum of the related issues of male migration to abroad. Hence, the study has covered some important issues on the male migrant household in urban area of far western area of Nepal.

CHAPTER - III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction of the Study Area

a) District Profile

Kailali district lies in the far-western part of Nepal. Kailali is one of the terai District of Far-Western Development Region of Nepal, which is bordered by Bardiya district in the east, Kanchanpur in the west, Doti and Surkhet in the north and India (Uttar Pradesh) in the south (Appendix - I). Kailali districts covers 3235 sq. km. area (Wikipedia). The district head quarter is Dhangadi, about 14 hours by bus from Kathmandu. Dhangadi is linked to the rest of the country by both telephone and road. It is approximately 671 km from Kathmandu (Wikipedia) and linked by black topped road. There are two domestic airports in the district, one is at Dhangadi and another one is at Tikapur. In Kailali, there the political scenarios are as; 6 Constitutional Areas, 1 Sub Metropolitan City, 5 Municipality, 27 VDCs (Wikipedia). According to the census 2011, total households of Kailali district is 142480 and total population is 775709, in which 48.78% is male and 51.22% is female (CBS, 2011). Kailali district is multi cast, multi ethnical and multi religious. In Kailali 94.91% population is Hindu and rest is other religion (CBS, 2011). According to ethnical composition 41.53% is Tharu, 21.13% is Chhetree, 12.53% is Brahman and rest are others (CBS, 2011). The major occupation of Kailali district is agriculture (64.44%) and rest are others (CBS, 2011).

b) Municipality Profile

Tikapur is a city in Far-western Nepal .It is located in the Seti Zone in Kailali district (Appendix - II).It was established in 2053 B.S and is divided in 9 wards. It lies in the Eastern part of Kailali district and near the Karnali River. It is the Municipality declared on 17 Magh, 2053 B.S. (GoN). I did not found the total area of Tikapur municipality. It is closer to the district headquarter that is Dhangadi. The standard of living is generally low; most people are entirely dependent upon subsistence farming. Population of Tikapur municipality is as shown in the table 3.1

Table 3.1

Total Population

Ward No.	Total HHs	Population					Absentees	
		Total	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female	population	HHs
1	402	2287	1101	48.14	1186	51.86	NF	NF
2	180	982	459	46.74	523	53.26	NF	NF
3	403	2310	1122	48.57	1188	51.43	NF	NF
4	415	2133	1007	47.21	1126	52.79	NF	NF
5	313	1806	908	50.28	898	49.72	NF	NF
6	542	3180	1501	47.20	1679	52.80	NF	NF
7	290	1694	788	46.52	906	53.48	NF	NF
8	1379	6778	3180	46.92	3598	53.08	NF	NF
9	7706	34957	16827	48.14	18140	51.86	NF	NF
Total	11630	56127	26893	47.92	29234	52.08	7522	NF

Source: CBS 2011, NF: Not Found

Tharu ethnic group is in majority composing of 39.99%, than Chhetree 22.08%, Brahman 12.70%, kami 7.75%, Thakuri 5.18%, Magar 3.13% and 9.17% others. This composition indicates that whole Municipality is ethnic group dominated.

**Table 3.2
Ethnical Composition of Tikapur**

Ethnical Group	Total Population	%
Tharu	22445	39.99
Chhetree	12392	22.08
Brahman	7129	12.70
Kami	4347	7.75
Thakuri	2906	5.18
Magar	1756	3.13
Others	5152	9.17
Total	56127	100

Source: CBS, 2011

The tables below show the educational status of tikapur municipality;

**Table 3.3
Literacy Status above 5 Years**

Status	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female
Illiterate	5173	19.24	10446	35.73
Can Read Only	511	1.90	671	2.29
Can Read and Write	18746	69.71	15951	54.56

Source: CBS, 2011

Table 3.4

Educational Status

Status	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female
S.L.C.	1747	6.40	1354	4.63
Graduate	587	2.18	224	0.77
Post Graduate	208	0.77	43	0.15

Source: CBS, 2011

Following table shows the health status of Tikapur municipality;

Table 3.5
Health Facilities Status

S. No	Particulars	Status
1	Health Facilities	3 Hospitals
2	Medicine professional	5 Doctors
3	Medicine	Sufficient
4	Examination facilities	Good
5	Most common disease	Diarrhea, Dysentery, Jaundice, Typhoid, delivery cases, blood pressure, Asthma, TB, Leprosy

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The economic activity of the study area is based on agriculture. Horticulture is also practiced by some household to some extent. But this doesn't contribute significantly to their economy due to lack of market facilities for goods, low price level, low production etc. Agriculture, mainly consist of cereal grain production supported by livestock. The main crop of this Municipality is paddy followed by wheat. Some pulses, oil seeds, soybeans, potatoes etc. are also produced.

The majority of the people depend upon agriculture for their primary source of livelihood. This is mainly because in all sorts of surveys or interviews conducted by the authorities (Municipality authority, census authority) the question is usually asked to the head of the household and only his occupation is asked. The other members of household are taken as dependents to the household head. Neither they are asked nor do they ever report their occupation as agriculture because it is already told by the head members of their family. This is the reason behind the data enumerating very low percentage of people reporting agriculture as their occupation.

Table 3.6 shows the major occupation and economically active persons involved in them. The table shows that 53.35percent of the total population mentions their main occupation as agriculture. But all of these persons, who report their occupation as agriculture, are not

fully employed by agriculture sector. Many of them are either dependent or disguised employees. After agriculture, another important occupation of these males are to migrate which is 11.59 percent of total population. Most of the migrant or absentees do not mentioned their jobs because they are temporary wage laborer in various part of India. And rest few percent of the absentee population are working in Gulf Country, but their individual data is not available.

Table 3.6
Major Occupation and Economically Active Population Involved

Occupation	Person Involved	% of total population
Agriculture	29949	53.35
Migrant	6510	11.59
Business	2092	3.72
Carpentry	407	0.73
Tailoring	187	0.19
Others	3991	7.24
Total	43210	76.82

Source: CBS, 2011

The data below shows high rate of migration. Many males are migrated from each home that shows the greater number in male migration. The new generation is also motivated to go abroad for the hope of better future

Table 3.7
Out migration Population

Status	Total	Male	Female	% of Male	% of Female
Absent Population	7522	5713	1809	75.95	24.05

Source: CBS, 2011

Research methodology refers to the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in order to find out the answers of the given research questions, fulfill the given objectives, hypothesis testing and thereby getting conclusion and recommendations. So, it is a systematic and organized way to analyze the research issues that finds out something new solutions about the given issues of the research.

3.2 Research Design

The study is being designed in accordance with the given research questions and objectives of the study. It is fully based on the primary data and information covering

both quantitative and qualitative issues that has been collected by the researcher visiting door to door of sample households. The required data and information has been collected through a field survey with a set of structured pretested questionnaire, informal discussion, formal focus group discussion and participatory observations. Besides, it has also been supplemented by the secondary data for the background information and conceptual knowledge of role of women in male migrant households. The collected data and information was edited, organized, processed and presented with various tables and graphs. The collected data and information has been analyzed through a descriptive method with inductive and individual approach by using various tools of data analysis like tables, graphs, percentage, ratio, average etc.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

The study is fully based on the primary data and information that were collected from the study area. The collected data and information has been used for presentation, analysis and interpretation as it is the body part of the study. Most of the meaning and background information of the study on male migrant households, role of women and its related issues were obtained from the study of secondary documents like books, booklets, journals, census reports, research reports, research articles, magazine, various bulletins, official records, dissertation, newspaper, and websites etc. published by government of Nepal, department of foreign employment, department of labor, National Planning Commission, Nepal Rastra Bank, Central Bureau of Statistics, World Bank, etc.

3.4 Population, Sample and Sampling Procedure

100 male migrant households were selected as size of sample for the study that has been proportionately distributed among the 9 wards of the study area as shown in given table 3.8. Similarly, simple random sampling technique has been applied to select the required number of sample units by assuming all sample households have the similar characteristics and could properly represent the rest of other households who are not selected. On the basis of the list of male migrant households, the total number of sample units was randomly selected for interview by applying lottery method without replacement.

Table 3.8
Sample Distributions in Tikapur Municipality

Ward No	HHs	% of total HHs	Total Sample HHs
1	402	3.46	3
2	180	1.55	2
3	403	3.47	3
4	415	3.57	4
5	313	2.70	3
6	542	4.66	5
7	290	2.49	2
8	1379	11.86	12
9	7706	66.26	66
Total	11630	100	100

Source: CBS, 2011

The researcher did not find any data of male migrant households and populations. So the researcher takes percentage of total households as a basis for sample size.

3.5 Tools and Technique of Primary Data Collecting

The required data and information were collected with the help of four different tools like household survey, informal discussion, formal focus group discussion, and participatory observations.

a) Household Survey

The required data and information were collected through a set of structured questionnaire which is also pretested in the study area before the collection of required data and information. An interview was carried out visiting door to door by the researcher herself. If and in case any sample household is not available during the survey time, the next sample household of the male migrant was drawn out with the same procedure for interview (Appendix- III).

b) Informal Discussions

The household survey has been supplemented by the informal discussions among the sampled and non-sampled households gathering at the common place of the study area during the period of field visit by covering different aspects of the study with a set of guidelines.

c) Focus Group Discussion

In order to understand existing issues and problems of male migrant households and role of women in male migrant household economy at the municipality level, a formal focus group discussion was conducted during the period of field visit with the key informants through a set of guidelines (Appendix-IV). The key informants were municipality level representatives like president of municipality, committee members of each ward, political leaders, social workers, teachers, senior citizens, and other knowledgeable persons of the study area.

d) Participatory Observations

Some visible information at municipality level regarding general life style of the women, socio-economic characteristics, economic activities of women in the study area, women participation in social activities etc. has been closely observed, take photographs and the essential facts applicable to the study as per the set of observation list were noted down during the field visit. However, the main purpose of direct observations is to verify the collected information with the ground reality.

3.6 Data Organization, Management and Processing

The collected data and information was in raw form by nature so that it was not possible to directly present. Hence, it is necessary to process the raw data and convert it into required forms. The collected data and information has been edited, organized, classified, simplified, and calculated in accordance with the nature of collected data and information that will put into one master sheet and processed through the computer package of 'Excel' for data analysis. Then it has been presented through various tables and graphs in order to achieve the desire objectives of the study.

3.7 Tools and Method of Data Analysis

In the study, various tables, graphs and simple mathematical tool i.e. percentage has been used for data analysis and interpretation. Both descriptive and analytical methods have been used for data analysis and interpretation of collected data and information.

CHAPTER - IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 Features of Sample Households

Here this study explains about the features of sample households. The features include; Features of population, cast, ethics, religion, economic and social status which shows the composition and situation of the study area.

a) Demographic Setting of Sample Population

As we discussed in our research procedure, we purposively selected 100 households on the basis of the list of male migrant households, the total number of sample units has been randomly selected for interview by applying lottery method without replacement. Similarly, simple random sampling technique has been used to select the required number of sample units by assuming all sample households have the similar characteristics and could properly represent the rest of other households who are not selected. For the study the sample units has been proportionately distributed among the 9 wards of the study area as shown in given table.

Table 4.1 shows the age composition of the sampled household. As we mentioned in research procedure, we took in our study only married absentee and we interviewed with only wives of the absentees. In this table we excluded respondent (absentee's wives and old parents) because here we want to show that the household of the sampled population constitute more dependent and economically inactive population who are mainly dependent on respondents. If we put respondent in table 4.1, it shows the children, who are economically inactive, constitute major portion of the total population, which is 63.01 percent. Likewise 61 years and above aged population, who are also economically inactive, constitute 8.54 percent of present population.

Table 4.1
Population of Sample Household (Excluding Respondent)

Age Limit (Year)	Male	Female	Total	% of Total Population
0-10	73	82	155	35.87
11-60	129	27	156	36.11
61 and Above	8	13	21	4.86
Total	210	122	332	76.85
Excluded Respondent	-	100	100	23.15
Grand Total	210	222	432	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

Economically active populations are only 36.11 percent of total sample population excluding respondent. In this way total dependent on respondent is 40.73 percent of total sample population excluding respondents.

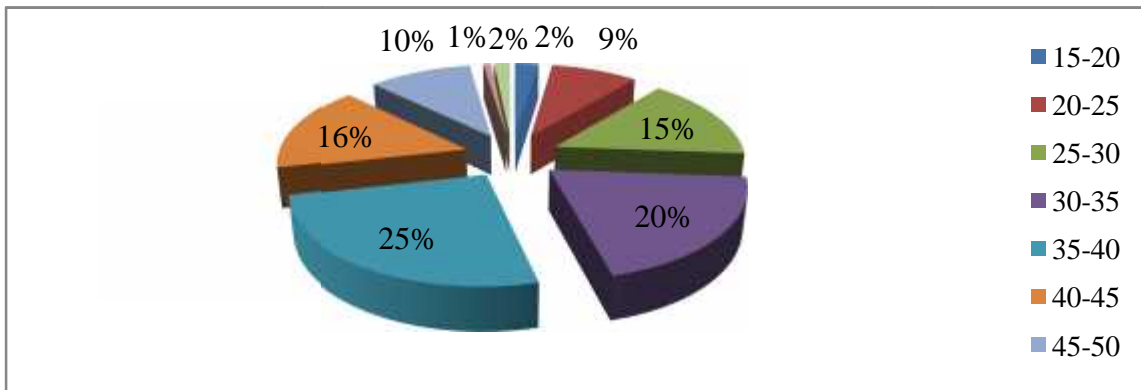
Table 4.2 given below show, age breakdown of the respondents. More respondent lies in age group of 25-45 years and this number represent 74 percent of the total respondents. Generally at the age of 35 and above, women's physical capacity goes on decline, but responsibilities and burdens start to increase. In the rural areas, girls are married at early age and they have to perform a lot of hard works. They become mothers at early ages and mother of many children. As they cannot get good cares and diets after pregnancy or before delivery of child, it renders them weaker and older to their real age. In our case, the data shows that 48 percent of total respondent crossed the age of 35.

Table 4.2
Age Distribution of Respondents

Age group (Yrs)	Number of respondents
15-20	3
20-25	7
25-30	19
30-35	23
35-40	17
40-45	15
45-50	13
50-55	1
55-60	2
Total	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

**Figure 4.1
Age Distribution of Respondents**



This age breakdown shows that when their physical capacity handicap them to do more physical works, their circumstances press them for working more because of the absent of husband who is the actual 'bread winner' of the household and absent of young sons, who could fulfill remarkable portion of labor demanded by the household. With the migration of males, the adult women need to perform their responsibilities as well as their husband's.

b) Nature of Family

Table 4.3 shows the nature of respondent's family. This study found that 59 percent of the total respondents are lived in nuclear family and 41 percent of the total respondents are lived in joint family.

**Table 4.3
Nature of Respondents Family**

Nature	No. of Respondents	% of Total Respondents
Nuclear	59	59
Joint	41	41
Total	100	100

Source: Field survey, 2016.

c) Land Holding

Table 4.4 shows the land holding of the respondents or absentee's households. The land in table is divided into two categories namely; non-irrigated, irrigated. The distribution of land among respondents is so uneven that it is very important to categorize the land.

Table 4.4, given below shows that 17 percent of the total respondents have 1-5 *Kathha* of

non-irrigated, 69 percent have 5-10 *Kathha*. Likewise 5 percent have 10-15 *Kathha*, 3 percent have 15-20 *Kathha* and 6 percent have 20 *Kathha* and more non-irrigated land.

Table 4.4
Land Holding of Sample Households

Non-irrigated		Irrigated	
Land (In <i>Kathha</i>)	Number of Person	Land (In <i>Bigha</i>)	Number of Person
Less than 5	17	Less than 1	87
5 to 10	69	1 to 2	9
10 to 15	5	2 to 3	3
15 to 20	3	3 and Above	2
20 and Above	6	Total	100
Total	100		

Source: Field survey, 2016.

Figure 4.2
Non-Irrigated Land

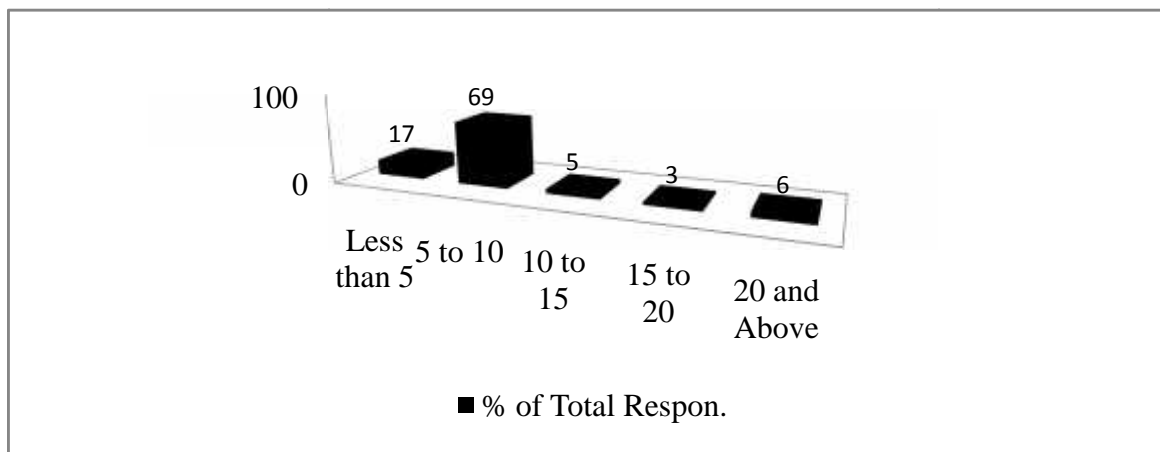
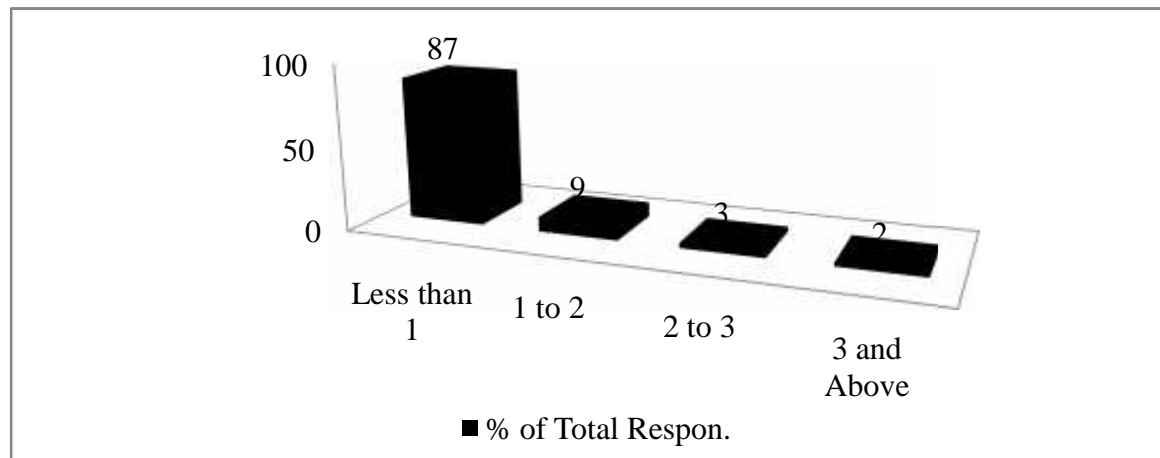


Figure 4.3
Irrigated Land



If we take data on personal level 6 respondents have only 1 *Kathha* of no irrigated land (i.e desert) which is lowest and 1 respondent have 40 *Kathha* (2 *Bigha*), which is highest in our sample population. So far irrigated land or '*Khet*' in Nepali is concerned, 5 respondents do not have any land. 82 percent have less than 1 *Bigha*, 2 percent have 3 *Bigha* and above amount of irrigated land.

d) Food Self-Sufficiency

Table 4.5 provides a look about the food self sufficient of the respondent's household. This data shows that few of the respondents i.e 18% have enough production from their land, which may last for whole year. But 10% of respondents have more than enough production from their land. Table 4.5 shows that 5% respondents have production from land enough only for 1-3 months. 24 percent of the total respondents, have production from land enough only for 3-6 months. Likewise 43 respondents have food production enough for 6-9 months which is the highest and 18 respondents produce enough foods to cover 9-12 months. In this way 29 percent respondent' produce food which lasts for less than six months.

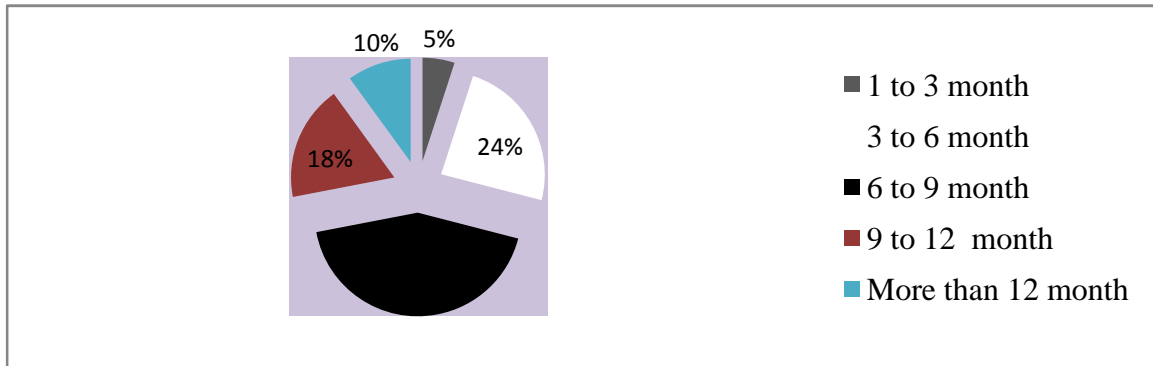
Table 4.5
Month of Food Self-sufficiency of Sample Households

Month of food self sufficient	% of total respondent
1 to 3 months	5
3 to 6 months	24
6 to 9 months	43
9 to 12 months	18
More than 12 months	10
Total	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

Even the respondent, who have 40 *Kathha* of none irrigated land, produce food lasting for 10 months only. Most of the respondents say their land couldn't be exploited to its full yielding capacity. In their opinion, most important cause for least production is their inability to spend sufficient time for their crops. Because the respondents have to spend more time on other different works like; caring children and other family member, looking after livestock etc. some 14 respondents said in various occasions, they were not able to use manure and fertilizers. Thought, they had enough supply as they produced the manure at home, the problem lied in transporting them the field.

Figure 4.4
Food Self Sufficiency of Sample HHs



Unlike in Orokaiva (a South Pacific Island), where husband absence is prolonged and farming affairs could not be managed (Connell, 1980), in Nepal's case the situation is not that much discouraging. Here, women do all kinds of cultivation according to the local agricultural calendar and keep the land fallow only by cycle not by discontinuing cultivation. But 9 respondents give their irrigated field to other persons for cultivation on crops-sharing basis because of inability to care the land by themselves for reasons like the land being in a distance from their homes. Some other says the cause of low productivity due to lack of irrigation facilities, fertilizers, destruction of crops by wild animals i.e. monkey, birds, etc.

The study showed that there was not a single respondent who could have enough food for the whole year. In our patrilineal family system, male is responsible to feed their family in any situation. But in the absence of husbands, wives have to take the responsibilities to manage foods for their family for the remaining scarce months.

e) Involvement in Non-Farm Economic Activities of Respondent

Table 4.6 shows participation of respondent in economic activities other than farming their own land. The table shows that only 53 respondents are engaged in economic activities out of the total respondents.. They said that even though their income is low in amount they feel freer and less dependent on their husbands because of self earning. They don't have to wait for remittance from their husband in any minor as well as major economic problems. 47 percent of the respondents are not engaged in any sort of economic activities other than farming their own land. To a question, most of them

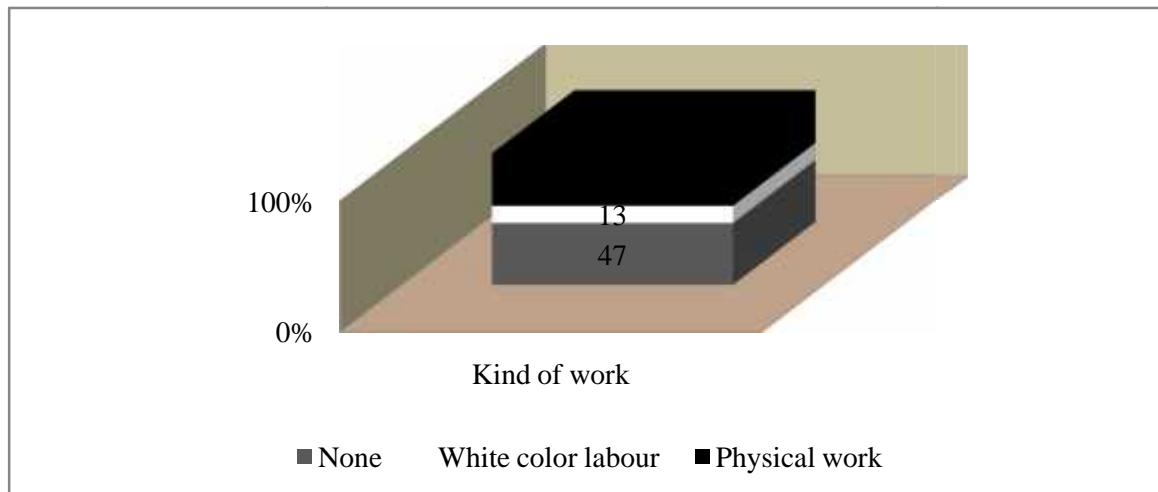
answered that they do not have enough time to spend on other activities rather than their household chores. They have to take care of their house, animals and members of the family. Second thing, if they go out from their household chores, the older kin family members and neighbors will talk behind them. Yet another fact is that they cannot find any sort of work which will generate money for them.

Table 4.6
Involvement of Respondent in Non-farm Economic Activities

Kind of work	% of total respondent
None	47
White color labour	13
Physical work	40
Total	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

Figure: 4.5
Involvement of Respondent in Non-farm Economic Activities



f) Returning Interval of Absentee

Table 4.7 shows the time period in which absentees return home. 21 persons out of 120 total absentees return in an interval of 6 month to 1 year. 44.17 percent absentee return between 1 to 2 years of interval which is the highest percentage in our sample size.

Table 4.7
Home – Return Interval of Absentees

Interval of return	Number of absentee	% of total absentee
6 month – 1 year	21	17.5
1-2 years	53	44.17
2-5 years	39	32.5
More than 5years	7	5.83
Total	120	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Likewise 32.5 percent return after 2-5 years and 5.83 percent or 7 absentees are not returned since more than 5 years.

g) Duration of Stay of Absentee at Home

Table 4.8 shows that the duration of stay of absentee at their homes when they return from their work. The table shows that 26.67 percent of absentee stay at home for less than 1 month. 49.16 percent stay for 1 to 2 months and 19.17 percent stay for 2 to 4 months. Likewise, only 5 percent stay for 5 months and above. There is not any significant relationship between interval of returning and duration of stay.

Table 4.8
Duration of Home Stay of the Absentees

Duration of stay (In month)	No. of absentee	% of total absentee
Less than 1 month	32	26.67
1 – 2 months	59	49.16
2 – 4 months	23	19.17
4 months above	6	5
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

The absentee who is absence for 1 year or less from their home also tend to stay for 1 or 2 months upon return and those who return at the interval of 2-5 years and above, they sometime stay only 15 days to one month. This means that the duration of stay at home is very short in comparison to theirs absent period. This has significant effect on respondents because they have expectations that when husband comes, he will manage the problems, set all things that wives are facing alone. But their presence is so short that they even do not have enough time to stay with their own family. The family members can not have enough pleasure of rejoining. The absentee hand over money & other goods which they bring to the wives and finish their job. The wives are responsible for

maintaining rest of the things with the limited resources at their disposal. Again, the wives remain the bearer of burden.

h) Remittance

Table 4.9 shows the remittances received at intervals and the amount received by respondents, in general. In our study, remittance receivers are all respondents, which mean wives of the absentees. Here, we talk about husband of the respondents; in this regard their sons are excluded. Because, all 11 respondents, whose sons are absentees, replied that their sons spend most of their incomes for themselves, and only sometime, they send a little amount or bring home along with them when they return home. The table shows that 108 respondents or 90 percent of total respondents are receiving remittance in different time intervals. 12 respondents are not receiving any amount, because their husband themselves bring money when they return home.

Table 4.9
Interval of Remittance Receiving and Amount Received

Amount received (In Nrs.)	Month / Number of respondent						Total
	0	1-4	4-8	8-12	12-16	16- above	
No receives	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
5000-20000	-	11	1	-	-	-	12
20000-40000	-	4	15	21	-	-	40
40000-60000	-	1	9	5	3	-	18
60000-70000	-	-	2	16	-	-	18
70000 – above	-	-	-	1	7	12	20
Total	12	16	27	43	10	12	120

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.9 shows that 13.33 percent of the respondents receive money in 1 to 4 months of interval and the amount varied from NRs 5000 to 60000. 22.5 percent respondents receive money at the interval of 4 to 8 months and the amount is from NRs. 15000 to NRs. 70000. Likewise 35.83 percent receive at the interval of 8 to 12 month and the amount ranging from NRs. 35000 to 80000. 8.33 percent receive at the interval of 12 to 16 months and amount ranged from Rs 55000 to 80000 and 10 percent of respondents receive money at the interval of more than 16 month and amount is NRs 70000 and above.

We previously mentioned about the food deficit problems of the respondents. That shows 43 percent respondents' production from their own land is enough only for 9 months and

less. It means a major portion of remittance should be spent on foods. And the remittance should also be spent on clothing, medicine, education, repaying loans or credits etc. respondents have to manage and balance their meager budget on such several necessities which apparently is difficult task. Remittance for respondents is not enough for every time. Sometime respondents manage with the amount but at many time they cannot. In such circumstances, they take loan to manage with their needs. When agricultural production or the harvest of crops is good, they need not spend more on foods and they are able to manage their needs from received remittances.

When harvest is bad, the received remittance fails to meet their necessities and they take credits or loans in form of cash as well as goods from neighbors, or shopkeepers. So the received remittances cannot be said to have been solving the respondents' need in crisis. Although the table 4.9 shows a certain amount received in certain months, it is a general trend. Sometimes, the interval of time for receiving remittances may change.

i) Literacy and Contact with Migrant

In our sample size of 100 female respondents, maximum no. of respondent is literate. Among the total 100 respondents, only 18 respondents have gone with migrants at their destination. Among them 5 respondents have gone two times and the rest, once.

j) Attitude towards Migration

In our sample population of 100 respondents, we found mixed attitude toward migration. 62 percent of respondents replied that the migration of their husband was essential and they preferred continuing their activities without their husband. But 38 percent replied that, although it was the main source of cash income, it would have been nice for them if their husband stayed at home. These respondents, preferring their husband's stay at home, argued that though the life would have tougher, yet it would have a great pleasure to manage the house together and live happily. On contrary, those preferring migration argued that what their husbands could do by staying in the village. For them, it would have been unimaginable to survive had the husband not migrated.

Likewise 97 percent of respondents replied that they missed their husband on the occasion of different festivals and religious ceremonies. And 75 respondents replied that

they needed them most at times of illness and scarcity of money and goods. Although all of the respondents agreed with the necessity and importance of husband's presence in the household, for them, the financial necessity out-weighed the husband's presence at home. In this way, it shows some changes in the structure of labor division by sex to some extent, by the migration of males.

4.2 Household Activities and Decision Making

Decision making is the process of selecting a logical choice from the available options. When trying to make a good decision, a person must weigh the positives and negatives of each option, and consider all the alternatives. For effective decision making, a person must be able to forecast the outcome of each option as well, and based on all these items, determine which option is the best for that particular situation.

4.2.1 Economic Activities

Economic activities indicate the actual role and position of women in the household. Here, we describe economic activities of women in three forms. One is women's participation in money earning activities, participation in managing household economic activities or rather say, the disposal of available economic resource for several household purposes and participation in saving and credit activities. Here, we'd focus more on the second one. In our sample size of 100 women, only 53 respondents participated in earning activities, and the rest respondents are engaged only on subsistence agriculture, which is not considered as economic activities by policy makers. There are no other working members in their households to involve in economic activities except the absentee. But, if we go by the UN, 'Sub-Saharan African women are generally more economically independent in their households than the women in other regions. And as men migrate to cities and towns for wage labors, more women become the primary providers for the household' (UN, 1991).

In our case too, more of the respondents are the primary providers but not economically independent. Because, they are not engaged in informal sector activities and their agricultural production are not enough to feed their family for the whole year. So they have to rely women's income source but with their role and degree of participation in

economic behavior of their household. Example from the Philippines say “Even when remittances are made more or less regularly, a women may exercise little, if any, control over the management and use of such funds. Usually remittances are made directly to the elder male of the extended family or kin group who decides the proportion to be used, to support the worker's wife and family, and that to be used for other purposes” (ILO, 1982).

Table 4.10 shows the degree of participation of respondents in economic decision making process. It shows that economic participation of the respondent is very high. As we mentioned earlier, food production of our respondent is not enough for whole year so they have to borrow food or cash to feed their family for rest of the scarce month. 89 respondents of the total respondents are independent decision maker who decide where the necessary food much be borrowed from or in which form it must borrow, either as cash or as goods. Rest 11 respondents ask with their elder family members in this regard. Absentee are not involved in this process because they are not present at home to advice their wives and other family members. To fulfill, small day to day necessity of food or cash, respondents borrow from their neighbors or kin members which is known as '*Sapat*' for cash and '*Paincho*' for goods. 93 percent of the total respondent independently decides in this regard too and 7 percent of the total respondents seek advice from their elder family members.

It is found that, 98% respondents are also involved in small credit group in which they can save some money and from which they can borrow loan in low interest. This small credit group helps them to be independent in financial crises. In most of the cases this saving habit is developed after migration of their husband.

Table 4.10
Independent Decision Making by Respondents

Decision regarding	No. of respondent
Borrow credit from market or shops	89
Borrow goods & credit from neighbors	93
Decisions regarding agricultural activities	98
Repay loans	93
Major economic decisions (i.e. to buy cattle, land etc.)	87

Source: Field survey; 2016

Although the crops pattern and the cropping routing is fixed one, even some decisions are needed there, i.e., whom to call for work, when to ripen crops, when thrashing must begin, whether barley should be sown with wheat, mustard and pea or whether wheat is sown or not etc. In this regard 98 respondents are dependent decision-makers and only 2 respondents' takes advice from their elder family members. Likewise, in repaying loans 93 percent of the total respondents decide themselves for repaying loans and debts. And for major economic decisions like buying cattle, land etc. 87 percent of the total respondents decide independently.

The study shows that our respondents are very independent and their position in household is excellent. 13 percent of total respondents are not independent decision-makers in this regard (major decisions). They take advice from their elder family or kin members as well as from their husband, too. But the final decision is, of theirs. 38 respondents replied that even if they asked with their husband, the husbands ask them to decide on their own. Major reason for this greater independence of our respondents in decision making process is the long absence of husband from the market economy which also caused lack of intimacy of absentee with other neighbors. Another cause is the family structure where elder family members are not present, mainly father-in-law and mother-in-law.

Figure 4.6
Independent Decision Making by Respondents

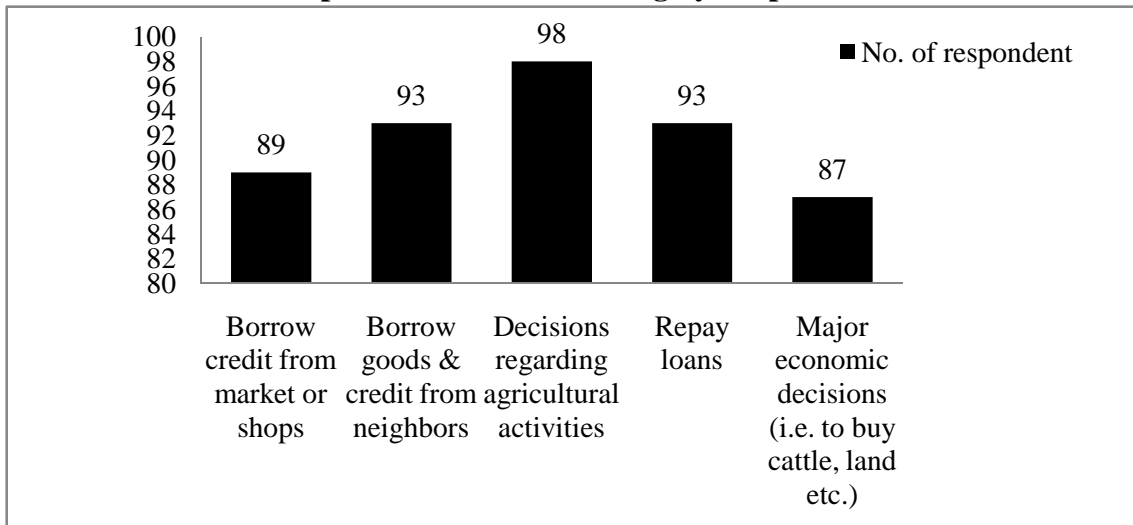


Table 4.11 shows the age wise distribution of independent decision making of the respondents. Table 4.11 shows that, 25 respondents out of 29 made decision independently who lie in the age group 15-30. Similarly, in the group 30-45, 54 respondents out of 55 made independent decision about regular household activities and 13 respondents made decision independently who lie in the group 45-60.

Table 4.11
Age Wise Distribution of Independent Decision Making

Age group	No. of Respondents	No. of women making decision Independently	% of women making decision Independently
15-30	29	25	27.17
30-45	55	54	58.7
45-60	16	30	14.13
Total	100	92	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

But even in those 21 households, who have these members, they (wives) enjoy greater independence because these members are physically unable to handle household affairs. Another important thing is access to economic resource. In this respect too, respondents' husbands are only money earner, and first control over it is of their wives. The study shows that our respondents are much free and independent in any kind of economic activities and decision making process.

It may be worth mentioning some example to compare our situation with others. Sample study of India puts the situation as 'In the absence of males, women have control over what they earn in kind, but it is doubtful that they gain any substantial power in the family. More often it is the male who decides the expenditure on different items (Jetley's, 1984). Sample study of Thailand put the situation as 'The pattern of decision making does not seem to have changed because of male migration. Barring day to day affairs regarding routing decisions, all major decisions are still taken by the husband although of course in consultation with the wife (Paranakian, 1984). Similar case studies conducted in Bangladesh by Islam and Ahmad (1984) found the result same as above. If we compare these examples with our study, we found a remarkable change in our women's position. Our respondents are freer and more independent in every kind of activities than of those mentioned above.

4.2.2 Household Activities

The household being the epicenter of work for women, it involves different kinds of activities, for example, subsistence agriculture, production of goods for trade etc. it also accounts for the unpaid housework. So much work load is at home and the women caught up with the daily routine household affairs that it is often difficult to measure women's work load accurately.' The women themselves never know or remain uncertain about whether they should be counted as economically active as the traditional measures do not cover unpaid housework' (UN, 1991). The following paragraph mention the situation regarding women's household activities; the following paragraph mention the situation regarding women's household activities; their work burden and under evaluation of their works. The UN's report further states that 'Women everywhere retain the primary responsibility of household work even though they equally share economic responsibility inside and outside the home'.

The case here is the same as the Indonesian case mentioned by Kathy Robinson as 'Apart from intensive child care, the work of running a household is much more labor intensive than in advanced industrial societies. All of these activities add up to long day house works. In sociological theory demarcation in sex roles between males and females is stronger. Every sort of household work from cooking to care of children, animals, weeding of land is supposed to be women's work.

Outdoor activities like managing of field labors carry crops and foddors from fields etc. are regarded as men's job. But these demarcations do not work is practical life. Circumstance and situations change the sex roles and responsibilities. Men also do cooking, care of children, animals and other many household activities when women are found busy in other activities. Women also do every outdoor activity, which fall to men's share like preparing field's wall and thrashing of rice except the plunging of land.

Notwithstanding the men's role in household works, major portion of the household activities is supposed to be the women's work. In the absence of male partner, a woman might not feel burden in carrying out household activities because they have been doing such activities in the presence of males or rather say, they are socialized from their childhood to perceive such household works as their duty and responsibility. But one

thing is sure; they are excluded from their husband's co-operation in such works which are considered as household, therefore, of women's. The absence of male, does not affect women, so remarkably in this regard, but it is necessary to mention them here, because, it helps us understand the burden on women in conducting other activities i.e. agricultural, economic etc.

Table 4.12 shows the daily works and time schedule of a wife of the absentee's family in off-farm season. The working hour of a wife or respondent in off farm season is extended from 5 am to 7pm evening. In this time span of 15 hours, various works are performs by the wives with the help of other family members. There is no clear demarcation of responsibility for performing these tasks.

The wives are responsible for collecting grass, from own grassland. In our sample population, 8 respondents have only sons, and 6 have only daughters. Those respondents who have sons only go themselves for fetching grass as well as preparing lunch though, sometimes, sons also extend helping hands. Those having daughters only, their daughter prove more helpful. In many occasions, the wife takes the responsibilities of both grass collection and children's care.

Table 4.12
Work Routing of Absentee's Wives During Off-Farm Season

General works	Approx. time
Wake up, sweep house	5 am – 6 am
Clean cattle shed (Goth), collect milk from cattle and put fodder	6 am – 7 am
Make lassie, boil milk and ghee, prepare breakfast, eat and wash dish	7 am – 8am
Wash cloth, if not then rest	8 am – 9 am
Prepare lunch, eat and wash dish	9 am - 11 am
Collect grass from grassland, cut down tree's grass	2pm – 3 pm
Prepare Tiffin, clean house	3 pm – 4 pm
Clean cattle shed, collect milk, put grass for animals	4 pm – 5 pm
Prepare dinner, eat, wash dish	5 pm – 7 pm

Source: Field survey; 2016

Some of our respondents are also job holders, and they have to perform in household activities as well as in their work at office.

Although, collection of grass and preparation of food is considered as women's task, the wife prepares food only when and if the husband is present at home. In these households, where husbands are present, the women are not requires to do outdoor activities. They

need not worry about economic or other problems. Even more, they get the help in doing household work too. Though for only short period, this opportunity is available for only 65 respondents because other 35 respondents' husbands do not work even when they are present at home. So in these household, where husband is absent, the wife has to take care of every activities, getting help from children and from other family members, if they are.

In 2 pm to 3 pm time period there are two different works; collecting grass and cutting down of the tree's stems and leaves. In the absence of husband, if children's school is closed, the first task is done by children and the next their mother. If husband is present, the next one done by him. In caring animals, children are also involved occasionally, but mainly mother is responsible for it. It shows that male absence is influencing women and children in household activities too, which is considered as women's work by our traditional values. .

4.2.3 Agricultural Activities

A lot of research work has been done regarding the role of women in agriculture sector, but our concern here is to find out if there has been any significant change in agricultural activities and in work burden of women over the years, particularly wives of the absentee male. In Orokaiva, a South Pacific Island, if the husband's absence prolonged, some kind of agriculture works could not be maintained (John Connell, 1980). A study mentioned the situation as ' In many rural places, migration of male and other changes in farming systems are placing even greater burdens on women as mainstays of small scale agriculture, the farm labor force and day to day family subsistence. It noticed women's importance in agriculture as the role for millions of women in third world agriculture is helping their families survive on small subsistence holding with little access to services, or through livestock rising. Our case here is same. These difficulties are compounded for women whose international living patterns have been altered by the departure of husbands (FAO, 1985).

UN also stated this situation as 'Indeed' some studies show that women may have become even more important in food production in recent years as a result of men's increased migration to cities and towns (UN, 1991). These all works proved that women's role in

subsistence agriculture is very important and males' migration creating more burden for women, in agricultural activities. Now, we see what our studied say.

Typology of subsistence cultivation described characteristics of Asian agriculture as 'male farming system' referring women as one released from agricultural burdens and confined to domesticity, sometimes actually excluded as a symbol of prestige and honor, (Kandiyoti, 1985). This view is difficult to be agreed with, since the bulk of daily agricultural work in these villages is done by women and men's work is usually seasonal and generally short term in nature....'(Dahal & et al, 1977). This is not situation of only these two villages, Dhap and Hikla of far-western development region, but the situation of whole Nepal. As in the case of Indonesia, where women are notionally excluded from those areas of agricultural production deemed to involve heavy physical work (Robinson and Manderson, 1983). In Nepal too, women are excluded from such heavy work as plunging, and several phases requiring intense physical labor known in local dialect as '*Aali lagaune*', '*Hilyaune*', '*Aali taachne*' etc.

Others either are too young or too old to plough the field by themselves. 72 respondents are dependent on Niebuhr or relatives and 9 respondents give their irrigated field to other persons for cultivation. When the time for tilling begins, the respondents have to rush from one door to the other for managing bullocks and labor for tilling their land. Sometimes, they have bullocks but not the able person and sometimes the situation is just reversed. Even if the respondents have bullocks, they themselves are unable to plough because they are traditionally restricted to do so.

Another important things here is only those respondents could find bullocks that are able to return that help in form of works that is called '*Parima*' in local dialects or labor exchange. This practice is the main factor in helping the wives of the absentees to survive her family and herself. The rate of '*Parima*' is 3 persons in exchange for 1 pair of bullock with tilling man and 2 people in exchange for only a pair of bullock. The field should plough for 6 to 8 or 10 times in a whole year for different crops. This means that these respondents, who have little land, they have to pay less '*Parima*' and who have more they have to pay more. None of the respondents are self able to complete her crop production without taking '*Parima*'. Although some respondents are capable of hiring labors but due

to high rate of migration young male is not available in village for works in pay-off. Respondents replied those 8-10 years ago, there was not such scarcity of labor. These persons, who have very little land to support their family, were available for work on low wage rate. But by the migration and high wage rate in destination in comparison to the village, workable male population started to abandoned the village, as the result finding labor in pay-off basis have become difficult.

4.2.4 Social Activities

Under this topic, we deal with relationship of respondents with their neighbors and matrilineal kin group. Female participation in different cooperatives like water users groups, forest users group, small credit groups, Participation in politics is also included in our study.

The relationship with neighbors has changed dramatically since the migration of husband. The neighbors are more dependent on each other. In every sort of problems, like illness of any family member, in exchange of '*Parima*', necessity of cash and goods etc., respondents first ask their neighbors for help.

The relationship is very harmonious and intimate compare to pre-migration period. The relationship of respondents with husbands' kin members has also changed to some extent. The respondents have to be more careful in this regard. Even a slightest up and down in the relationship may land respondents in trouble. They must participate in any sort of activities, conducted by husband's relatives, as a representative of absentee's family. But respondents do not feel comfortable with the relation with their husband's kin while comparing it to their relations with the neighbors. Although, the husband's relatives must act as security shield for respondents, we find unseen tensions between brother and brother. (in 44 percent respondent's case). The main dispute is because of property division and jealousy about absentee's income.

Regarding relationship with respondent's natal home, which is always a sensitive issue for our married Nepalese women; we also find some changes taking place. Natal home of the respondents is usually far from their husband's. Not all respondents can visit their natal home at their own will because there is not any able person behind her to handle the home. Even when there are calls from their natal home in various occasions i.e. ,

religious work (*Pooja*) and other different festivals, they are unable to attend the function, because of their own problems, which makes them physically far from their natal home but mentally more near than before.

Our respondents are also involved in cooperatives. 43 percent of total respondents are involved in water users group, and 21% of total respondents are involved in forest users group as their husbands are not here to participate in such outdoor work, the wives have to involve in such work. Our study shows that this participation in outdoor activities improved them (the wives) socially. They started argue and talk without any hesitation in front of the public. 98 of our respondents are also involved in small credit groups which helped them economically and they are being able to manage their home finance.

The political scenario is different; only one of our respondents is actively involved in politics. Others are also participates in the programs organized by the political parties but are not actively involved. We found some reasons behind this are; husband's restriction and their own uninterested attitude most.

4.3 Burden on Women and Attitude towards Migration

Women's workloads reach at the peak during planting, weeding and the pre-harvest and post-harvest periods. But, at all times of the year, women need to work full days in secondary agricultural and on-agricultural work and domestic tasks (FAO, 1985). With the male head of the family away, the women have to shoulder greater responsibility and their importance and role also increased (Islam & Ahmad, 1984).'. their burden increases not only by looking after the home and children but also of supporting the family; (Jetley, 1984). 'The workload of women increased with the migration of males. Those who have operational holding have to undertake several activities earlier performed by men.' Due to the large scale migration and the severe shortage of labor force in the village, caused by migration, the women's workload has increased considerably (Cho, 1984). These examples may give an idea of the burdens shouldered by the women, where the husband is away from home. Now, we see what our respondents say in this regard.

4.3.1 Physical Burden

'A man's absence means the loss of an adult working member and fundamental changes in the male/female division of labor' (FAO, 1985). It means that the portion of work, which one man does in normal situation, is shifted on the head of his wife after he migrates. The women who were previously laden with several responsibilities are forced to bear extra burden with their husbands' departure which means more physical burden on them. Because in a less developed country's subsistence agriculture sectors, like our study area, every sort of work from field to the home, demand more physical strength. In farming season our respondents spend 10 to 12 hours a day only in the field. And at home also, they have to perform regular work with the little help coming from their children. In our previous section, we gave full description of women's work in field and at home. From that section, we can find how more physical burden a women is bearing by the absence of husband.

But, if the husband is at home, one labor force is added to home which, in turn, reduces their personal '*Parima*' to large extent. If husband is present at home, in various occasions, women are free to do only household work. Particularly, in the case of irrigated land, which generally lies at some distance from home, the husband take care about the farming works and workers and wife just have to prepare foods for them and they have to take load of their own job. Whenever, any child is available at home, she does not have to go to the fields. But with the absence of husband, the wife has to take care of all works from home to fields. She has to manage '*Khetala*' herself, manage necessary agricultural tools, prepare food for '*Khetala*', and go to the field with them and work with them. Most of our respondent replied that, 'if they do not go with '*Khetala*' they will not do the work well. So they go to supervise their works and work hand to hand with them. Transporting crops and fodder up to the home from the field is considered as man's job, but in our situation, women and her elder children with the help from neighbors and '*Khetala*' have to perform those tasks also. For performing all those activities, one needs a lot of labors, which is fulfilled by '*Parima*' system. Women have to take '*Parima*' from their neighbors, which must be returned whenever the '*Parima*' given person calls for work. They cannot return '*Parima*' in kind or cash or crops because of labor shortage.

For the females in the family, work is not a privilege but a traditional hardship. These women spend most of their lives in finding food and fodder for cattle. In this way migration of the husband has increased the physical burden on women.

4.3.2 Economic Burden

From women's childhood, they are assigned works like, washing floors, washing dishes, caring for younger siblings, transporting field products, cooking food, collect grass etc. They are not involved or participated by family members in any major economic activities and decision making process. Marriage also, does not affect any immediate change in women's daily work. So, they are, from their childhood, excluded from major sort of activities or responsibilities related to economic decision making. But after marriage, when her husband migrates, she has to take over different physical works as well as economic activities. The women who are never entrusted with economic responsibilities naturally have tough time coping with them when their husbands migrate.

Table 4.5 above the food sufficiency situation of the respondents household which shows that 28 of the respondents have enough food production to feed their family for the whole year but large no. of respondents (i.e.72) don't have enough food production to feed their family for the whole year. They have to manage foods anyhow for rest of the scarce month. They cannot let their family member die from hunger. So, it is the most important economic burden for them. Table 4.13 shows the means by which the respondents solve their problem.

Table 4.13
Major Means for Solving Food Scarcity Problem of Respondent

Means	No. of respondents	% of total respondent
No scarcity	28	28
Credit from shops	12	12
From saving	14	14
Loan from small credit group	23	23
From self earning	23	23
Total	100	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

It shows that 28% of the total respondents have no food scarcity. 35 percent of the respondents solve their problem by taking foods in credits from shops and taking loan from small credit group. Rest 37 percent of respondents solve their problem by self

earning and saving. But sometimes, their earning might not solve their problem, so they have to manage from other sources. Likewise table 4.9 shows the situation of remittance which our respondents get at different intervals, sent by their husbands. The women have to manage anyhow to run their house from that meager amount and sometime without remittance. To take credit from other is not easy job. For it, they (respondent) have to do a lot of hard work.

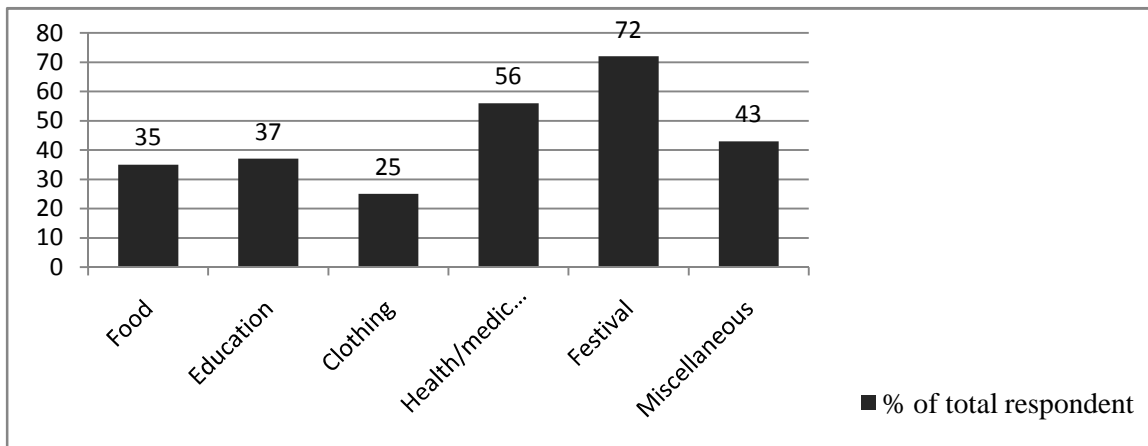
Table 4.14
Loan Taken by Respondent for Different Purpose

Particular	Number of respondent			
	In goods	In cash	Total	% of total respondent
Food	12	23	35	35
Education	-	37	37	37
Clothing	16	9	25	25
Health/medicine	8	48	56	56
Festival	5	67	72	72
Miscellaneous	12	31	43	43

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.14 shows the number of respondents taking loan for different purposes in form of cash or goods. It shows that majority of the respondents or 72 percent of them take loan or credit for Festival. Among them 5 respondents take the credit in form of goods and 67 in form of cash. Likewise 56 percent of the respondents take credit for Health/medicine. Table 4.14 shows that 37% of the respondents take loan for Education in the form of cash. 35 percent for food and for miscellaneous purpose 43% of the respondents take loan in the form of goods and cash.

Figure 4.7
Loan Taken by Respondent for Different Purpose



All these show that our respondents are managing different economic problems. It is burden for them not only because they have to encounter several other problems to solve it but because it is new responsibility for them. They have never been involved in such activities before. For them the situation itself is burdensome and to solve the problem is a bigger burden.

4.3.3 Social Burden

As in the economic affairs, women are excluded from different social affairs also. 'Women may not perform certain essential funeral rituals; they are also barred from direct participation in the worship of *Durga* or the lineage god [*Kul Devata*]' (Bennett and Singh, 1979). With these discriminatory practices, they may have to face certain problems in their affinal families. Man is the main concerning line for woman in their affinal families. Generally men are responsible for any affair related with their kin group. But in the absence of males, women have to take over those responsibilities.

Our respondents, as married women, have to respect every member of their affinal families. In this regard, it is out of question to call any member of the family system for work at their home. But, the member of the related family can call her, and she must attend even by leaving her most urgent work at own home. If she disagrees or defies, she might be subjected to several social harassment. In various cases our respondents told that they (other members) shed ills to the ears of their husband against them, and that land them in other problem. Likewise, wives are the main responsible person in the family after their husband. So, she has to take good care of guests who come at the home. They have to respect them valuing their relation and behave in good manner.

Women have to maintain very harmonious and pleasant relations with members of her society. Because they are the people who help them when they run into trouble and need help. Society itself keeps a close eye on her every behavior because she is not only a family member of a household, but she is the representative of the absentee male, and is the responsible person after her husband. So, in the absence of husband, a woman has to take different social burden on her head.

Men are the core persons in our patrilineal family system, around which, every functions of households and society involves. So that, it is not amazing fact to see some structural

changes in our traditional family system only by the absence of male member. For that it is necessary to see some definitions about structure that is social structure. A study states, In order to achieve certain objectives, all group and societies organize their activities in a social structure (Schrage and others, 1968). Heberle, defined social structure as 'an attribution of roles and positions within the group to its various members a mere factual arrangement which may not be formally reorganized, not regulated by status, constitution or other formal rules of conduct. The researcher further puts Even a group which is not organized will have a social structure that is spontaneous division of functions, which originates by more or less tacit agreement among members. Because the nature of the group's activities demands it and because individual members are inclined or gifted for different roles, hence, a social structure arises easily (Heberle, 1951). In a large and complex social collective, there is usually found several subgroups, some organized some not. This is another aspect of structure.

In Radcliffe-Brown's opinion social structure refers to some sort of ordered arrangements of parts or components and the components are persons and a person is human being who occupies position in a social structure (Brown, 1988). Merton defines social structure as 'that organized set of social relationship in which members of the society or group are variously implicated' (Merton and Ritzer, 1992). Strauss puts it as; the term 'social structure' has nothing to do with empirical reality but with models which are built up after it". In his opinion structures are creations of observers and the structure that are created do not exist in the real world. Ultimate structure in Strauss word is the structure of the mind (Strauss, 1967).

Authority in an instrument which helps to control and maintain basic rules and regulations of any institution, organization, structures, which is bestowed upon some particular persons by prevalent norms, values and regulations, within any structure. Under family structure too, traditional norms and values creates some sort of authority structure wherein some member, in any family, is given total authority to maintain basic structure and regulate them. In Dahrendorf's opinions that various positions within society have different amounts of authority and authority does not reside on individuals but in positions (Dahrendrof, 1992). For example, in extended family, most elder male person is the main holder of authority and power, i.e. father, under whom every other

family members, mother, children and grand children are bounded together. Likewise, mother also has some sort of authority in family, and sons have too. Likewise, in nuclear family, husband is the main holder of authority, but wife also have some authority. But they are different from that of ultimate power holder. Process regarding decision-making is also related with the holding of authority and power. In this way, these all make an unseen structure of authority which is regulated and directed by traditional norms and values.

In this study, we found dramatic change in authority structure while comparing to that of traditional one. As we mentioned previously, men are the control point for every aspect, in matrilineal family system. Man is regarded as the 'bread-winner', head of the house and ultimate position of the authority. But in the context of disintegration of larger families into smaller ones caused by the migration of males, women assume some authority. Above cited study present that although the women take the position of men, they still don't get the authority and status. But in our study, our respondents have not only taken that positions but exercised control over every activities and authority powers, too. Table 4.10 shows the involvement of respondents in decision-making process. The table shows that 93 percent and above respondents independently decide about regular activities and 87 percent of respondents independently decide about major activities.

One could argue in this regard saying, they (respondent) are the head of the household, so they are doing so. But in those households, where mother-in-law are present, respondents are equally free to decide on different aspects. They are also running their home smoothly taking little advice from their elder. Even those who are not deciding on major aspects, their participation in decision-making process is prominent and their decisions are final. In various cases, our respondents replied that they first decide about what they would do and later seek their husbands' advises.

Although it is very hard to decide whether circumstances create such situation in favor of women or male and other family members are availing the opportunities to them, yet it is true that absence of male from household changed the traditional authority structure, giving more power and freedom to women to exercise in their day to day life.

Given prevailing cultural assumptions and methods of data collection in most countries, women are not enumerated as heads of households unless they are either living alone or there is no adult male in the household. Since it is usually assumed that household heads have primary authority and responsibility for households, available statistics considerably understate women's household responsibilities (UN, 1991). Women's working roles are, at best, secondary or complimentary to the family income; the reality in developing countries is that women increasingly are the heads of households with full responsibility for their own and their children's survival (Buvinic, 1981). Yet others point to the uniformly negative cultural evaluation of what women do so that whatever women do is considered less valuable than what men do' (Kandiyoti, 1985).

These are some example about in what way our society and culture evaluates the works of women and it also presents the situation of under-estimation of women's work and their position of house headship in statistics. But our study suggests that underestimation of women is not society's doing, but by the women themselves. As mentioned above 'household's heads have primary authority and responsibility for household', our respondents are fulfilling these responsibilities, yet they are not in position to declare themselves as the head of the household. To a question, about the head of the house, all of the respondents replied – 'husband'. While on field survey, we tried to convince them about their status and position in the household and society. We briefed them saying 'if you are doing all sort of activities yourself as the head of the house, you should have the ultimate authority. But 78 percent of the respondents underestimate their works, saying, 'these are our regular job, nothing new. They themselves give less importance, for whatever they are doing. They are not in a position to assume themselves as the 'household head'. They want to keep that position only for their husband. A main reason for this is partly because of traditional structure, and the women's perception of patrilineal structure, where males are main person and, partly because of innocence of the respondents. But 22 respondents accept themselves as the household head. So, these all proves that although they are eligible to claim themselves as house head. They are not in position to claim. So, practically, the structure of house headship has changed with male migration, though principally it remains the same in majority.

The study does not found remarkable changes in the structure of sexual division of labor in any concrete form. Those work, which are regarded as men's are still being carried out by women. It is marked that changes in division of labor is only seen in management of economic resources and necessary good and services needed for household. If we regard these as works, then we can find very important changes. In our patrilineal society, major economic resources are owned by males mainly. And managing every economic affairs of the household is the responsibility of men. However, these work largely done by women these days. With the absence of males, women have to take over all that works whether they are economic needs or regulated services and other agricultural tools. And these are major and important works for survival which are shifted from men to women.

4.3.4 Child Rearing

It is only when a married women achieves motherhood, there by justifying her sexuality and proving her ritual worth to her husband's family, then her status begins to improve (Bennett and Singh, 1979). It shows that in our society motherhood is very important aspect for women. But, to rear children in our society is not so that task for women as in the case of Indonesia as Robinson puts it, tere is one cardinal rule in respect to women's work; any work, including housework, ideally takes second place to the primary responsibility for the care for her children until they reach about two years of age (Robinson, 1983).

This study found the same case as mentioned above. In our sample population 3 respondents do not have any children. They didn't face any problem in child rearing, but they might in future. And majority of the respondents' children had crossed the age of 5, hence, intensive care not required.

But most of our respondents faced the situation previously and 26 respondents still facing the situation at present. And some of our respondents have 2 child of age group 0 to 5. They suffer several pre-natal problems too. They don't usually have balance and nutritious diet, which is necessary for pregnant woman, and they cannot have complete rest when they need (after 5 or 6 month of pregnancy). 2 respondents replied that they lost their one child, prematurely, before delivery. Apparently, this is due to heavy physical burden on them.

After the birth of child also, they do not have any comfortable situation. After 18 or 20 days from the delivery of child, they start their regular job, gradually leaving their child to the care of their elder children or other family members if they are. 17 respondents are very fortunate in this regard because they have workable mother-in-law at their homes, who can handle her child excellently, when mother is far away. Women can give more time for their baby at off-farm seasons. So it proves that child rearing process is also a burdensome task for our respondents in the absence of their husbands.

4.3.5 Psychological Problems

Among the most negative consequences of the separation of the families are the emotional and psychological ones that wives of migrants have to endure. Mental illness has been found to be particularly acute in the so-called "Golf pockets" of the state of Kerala.' A major reason for psychiatric disorders is the incompatibility of these young women with their husband's parent, in the absence of their husbands'. Similarly it was reported in Pakistan that the head of psychology department in a hospital dealt 1450 such patients over a six-month period. The patient suffered from a variety of psychosomatic illness, and the younger patients experienced a high degree of sexual frustration (DIESA, 1986).

This example proves that absence of husband creates various psychological problems to their wives. To one question, regarding psychological problem, the respondents replied as listed in table 4.15. The table shows 46 percent of respondents replied that they felt alone by the absence of husband. 26 percent replied that they are worried about migrants' security at their places.

Table 4.15
Psychological Problem Faced by Respondent

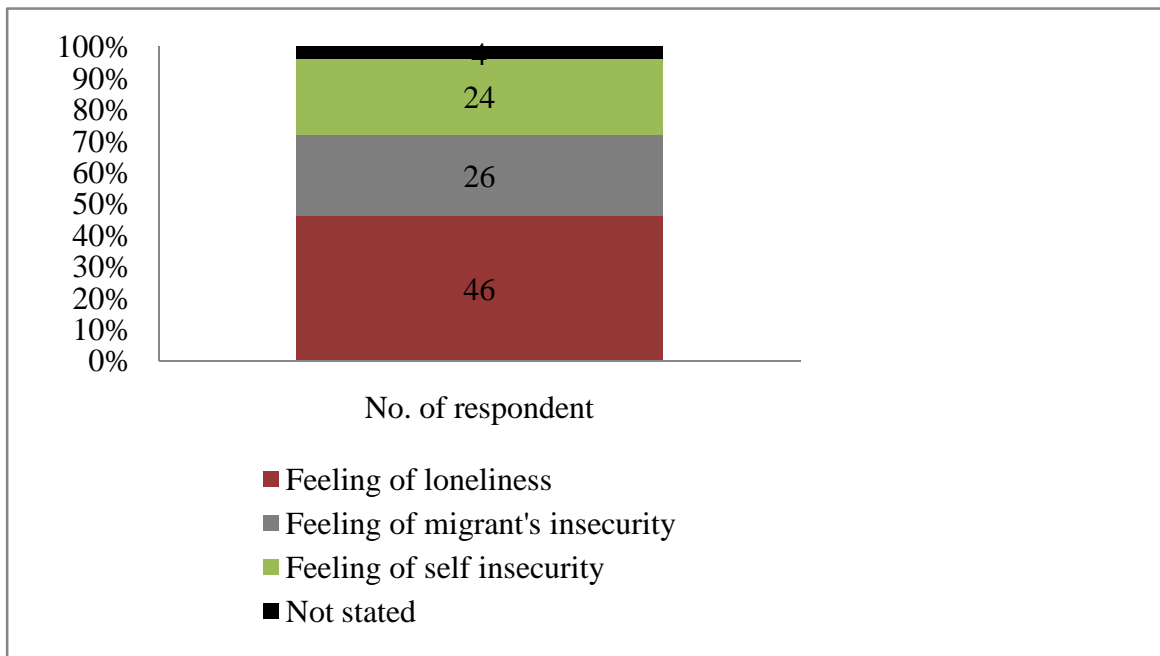
Major problem	No. of respondent
Feeling of loneliness	46
Feeling of migrant's insecurity	26
Feeling of self insecurity	24
Not stated	4
Total	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

Likewise 24 percent replied that they felt insecure in the absence of their husband. 4 percent of respondents didn't state any problem. Even though they could not express their

feelings or hesitated to do so, their feelings and their behavioral attitude simply showed that they suffered from psychological burden. First of all, the absence of husband itself is an adverse situation for women which produce psychological burden. Moreover, to conduct different agricultural activities, the women have to think seriously about managing bullocks' necessary *Khetala*, returning *Parima* etc. They have to think seriously about how to feed their family in food scarce month, to manage credit, and expenditures. These all activities create a lot of mental tension for them, but they don't usually regard them as burden because they think these activities fall in their regular routine.

Figure 4.8
Psychological Problem Faced by Respondent



4.4 Push and Pull Factors of Migration

Push and pull factors are those factors which either forcefully push people into migration or attract them. A push factor is forceful, and a factor which relates to the country from which a person migrates. It is generally some problem which results in people wanting to migrate. Different types of push factors can be seen further below. A push factor is a flaw or distress that drives a person away from a certain place. A pull factor is something concerning the country to which a person migrates. It is generally a benefit that attracts people to a certain place.

4.4.1 Push Factors

A push factor is when people are driven out of their country because of a job or land or something. Some push factors in the context of study area are explained below;

a) Economic factors

The economic factors such as lower income level, low wage rate, lower productivity of land, heavy loan are the main economic push factors of study area.

b) Social Factors

Feeling of being inferior in the society, social conflict, social insecurity, border side conflict etc. are the major social push factors in context of study area.

c) Natural Calamities

Flood, Earthquake, wind storm, fire are the major push factors related to natural calamities of the study area.

4.2.2 Pull Factors

Any Conditions that attract people to a new area is considered as pull factors. Pull factors are responsible factor to attract people to any place. Some pull factors found in study area are described below:

a) Migrated Friend's Suggestion

Friends who are migrated in the search for good jobs suggest people to migrate. They show the wages and facilities given by companies, their improved economic status and life style which attract people to migrate from the country of origin to other countries. This is the main pull factors found in the study area.

b) Education

Various universities and college are equipped with better quality of courses and education system. Many universities have many technical subjects which are not available in our cities. Even the job placement opportunities in the foreign universities are exemplary. These are the main education pull factors associated with the study area.

Table 4.16 below shows there are all total 120 absentees from 100 sampled households. There are single absentee from 73 household, 2 persons from 6 household (husband and

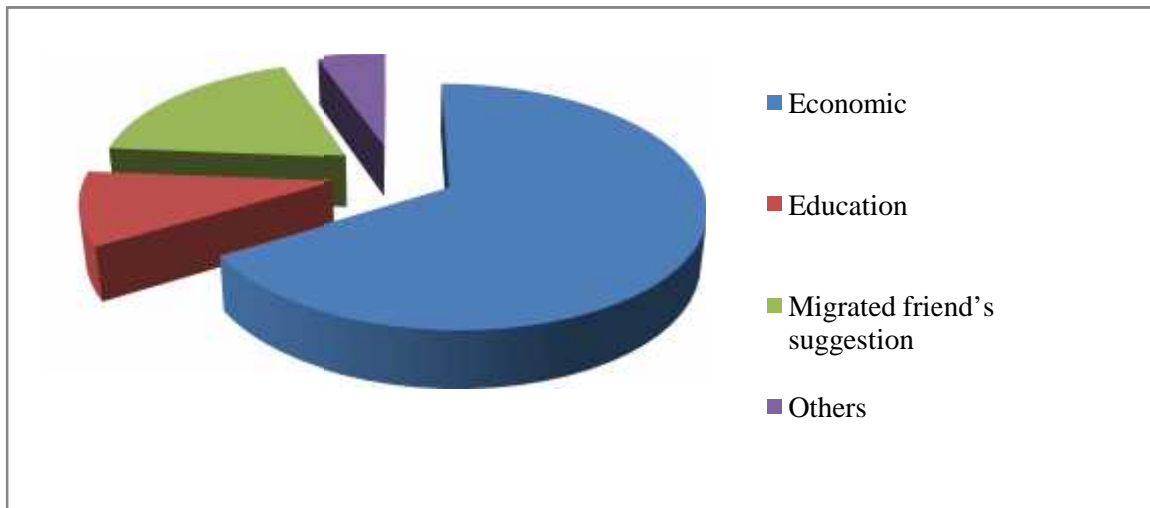
son) and 3 absentee from 5 household (husband and two sons). Table 4.16 shows the pulling factors i.e. education, migrated friend’s suggestion and others which motivated the people to migrate. The core factor is economic which has 66.33%. The economic condition is main reason that is pushing the people to migrate to increase their economic status.

Table 4.16
Reasons Behind Migration

Reasons	Populations	% of migrated population
Economic	79	66.3
Education	12	10
Migrated friend’s suggestion	22	18.33
Others	7	5.34
Total	120	100

Source: Field survey, 2016

Figure 4.9
Reasons Behind Migration



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