

**ROLE OF TEA CULTIVATION ON WOMEN'S LIVELIHOOD:  
A CASE STUDY OF ILAM MUNICIPALITY, SUMBEK, ILAM**

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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that **Ms. Sharmila Rai** has completed his dissertation entitled **“Role of Tea Cultivation on Women's Livelihood: A Case Study of Ilam Municipality, Sumbek, Ilam”** under my supervision and guidance. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final evaluation.

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**APPROVAL LETTER**

We, the undersigned, certify that we have read this dissertation entitled "**Role of Tea Cultivation on Women's Livelihood : A Case Study of Ilam Municipality, Sumbek, Ilam**" and that, in our opinion, it is satisfactory in scope and quality as a thesis for the Master's Degree. The candidate has successfully defended her dissertation during the Viva voce.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

GAD	:	Gender and Development
HDP	:	Human Development Programme
INGO	:	International Non Government Organization
IRDP	:	Integrated Rural Development Programme
NGO	:	Non Government Organization
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
NRB	:	Nepal Rastra Bank
SBP	:	Self-help Banking Programme
SFDP	:	Small Farmer Development Programme
UN	:	United Nation
UNDP	:	United National Development Programme

# CHAPTER -I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.3 Background of the Study

Nepal is an agro-based country and its more than 60 percent of the total population is engaged on agriculture sector. In the beginning, agriculture products were produced only for home consumption, but now days it is the source of the export and raw materials to produce final goods. There are two kinds of crops. These are cereal crops (rice, corn, millet, wheat, maize, paddy, barley etc.) and cash crops (cardamom, milk, potatoes, jute, tea, ginger, coffee, sugarcane, oil-seed and so on.). Tea is one of the best significant exportable cash crops among the above cash crops. Thus, it is the major source of foreign currency which balances the Nepalese economy.

The most popular non-alcoholic beverage is tea , obtained by soaking the processed leaf of tea plant. The word 'Tea' comes from 'Te' which used in the Chinese dialect of the non-alcoholic beverage, tea is the most popular drink being consumed by one-half the world's population. Tea belongs to the genus *Camellia* and family *Camelliaceae*. *Camellia* through includes 82 species, only two species Viz, *C. Assamica* and *C. Sinensis* are the original species of tea. As they were highly crossable with each other, the present day seeding (Jat) are hybrids of these two species and are often referred as *C. Assamica* *Lasiocalyx*. It is an ancient cultivate plant and it is use as beverage in south India and Chin.

First of all the tea was used for medicine to promote all kinds of illness of human physical and mental body. After a long time in the sixth century it was used for drinking. In the thirteenth century it was taken from China to Japan (Qusu). In this way tea speared all over the world. In mid the seventeenth century tea was entered in to the Europe. The word 'TEA' has been derived from the Portugal word 'TCHA' or English word 'TEA'. But all have the same meaning that is 'Tea'. England introduces the tea in Europe. East India Company brought the specialists of tea from China in 1834. But this program was not succeeded because China gave only few special plants or workers. Robert Fortune

entered in to the cultivation in tea of China with Chinese dress who knew the Chinese language in 1835. After four years he returned to India as a specialist with twenty thousand plants of tea and six tea specialists. In this way tea cultivation was start in India. Lewang is the first place of tea cultivation sector in Darjeeling in 1839. Slowly it expanded in the Tarai land of India in 1862. Assam tea Estate was established in 1840. After the establishment of Assam tea estate other tea gardens were established after 20 years. All plants were Chinese. Dr. Campbell and Dr. White started tea cultivation in Darjeeling on their gardens.

The status of rural women is result of economic and cultural practices of the society and it has multiple effects on socio economic behavior of society. Main factors for determining the status of rural woman is education, health, occupation, decision making, political participation etc. Generally the socio economic status of woman refers to the living standard of woman but it covers the area of their educational attainment, occupational involvement ,rural urban place of residence, marital status and their decision making power regarding age at marriage and number of children born to them also reflect their labor force in the world is unrecognized. They have no access for goods and services as well as decision making power.

In Nepal, tea is planted in 28,241 hectares of land producing 24,409,326 kg of tea, with an engagement of 15,103 farmers from over three dozens of districts (NTCDB, [2017](#)). Tea possess high export potential which is helpful for earning foreign currency, eradicating the existing poverty, and thus for uplifting the living standard of the Nepalese farmers.

Cultivation of tea had been expanding over central and western regions (Oli, 2009). Agriculture sector profile prepared by Government of Nepal had projected a possibility of expansion of total tea cultivating area of 62,800 hectares within the next 15 years (NTCDB, [2017](#)). Tea cultivation was marked as most fascinating subsector of agriculture with huge potential of promoting agro tourism. Land suitability for tea plantation was well renowned and recognized for Nepal. Most of the Nepal's topography belongs to mountainous or hilly region where many barren land terrain and terraces are commonly seen. These virgin barren lands could be exploited for the tea plantation based on agro forestry model to reap much benefit and to alleviate existing poverty in mid-hills of

Nepal (Sapkota, 2011).

People's livelihoods are dynamic, involving switches among various strategies depending on time and place. Rural livelihoods in developing countries have been undergoing rapid change in recent decades. Newer economic opportunities created by global drivers of change such as globalization, market integration, increasing access to physical facilities, migration, mobility and exposure to modern culture have provided an impetus for spearheading the change in previously adopted livelihood strategies (Ellis, 2000). Meanwhile, overexploitation of natural resources and the adverse impact of recent climate change have increased the vulnerability of rural livelihoods by limiting natural resource-based livelihood capital and options. Consequently, agriculture and natural resource-based rural livelihoods are being increasingly divorced and diversified.

The nature of change in livelihood strategies, however, is not similar across different groups of society, for example, between men and women. Due to differences in the roles and responsibilities and access to livelihood resources, men and women tend to have different livelihood options, adaptation, coping and mitigation strategies (Mehtar, Mittal & Prasad, 2016). Women are likely to have lower access to productive resources, human capital and decision-making due to cultural norms and taboos which limit them to non-economic and unpaid care work within households and family farming. Hence, they confront a narrower range of labour markets than men making them more poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable in terms of securing sustainable livelihoods. Hence, a prominent difference in changing livelihood activities can be observed between men and women, particularly in developing countries. Nonetheless, only a few studies have focused on changing rural livelihoods and underlying determinants from gender perspectives.

Tea plantation in any rural areas brings about a healthy socio- economic situation. The Tea industry provides employment to the major fraction of the rural population there by checking the influx of migration problems. It further provides business opportunities to another half of the population in a number of ways directly and indirectly. Various link roads needs by the tea estates for their day to day operation 5 also contribute to the

development of rural areas. The industry with its labour welfare program provides the workers or the rural population with education and hospital facilities. Tea farming is also an export oriented industry. Its development would be help in correcting trade imbalances of our country.

#### **1.4 Statement of Problem**

Tea is the best friend for all modern people, is one of the major exportable cash – crops and habitual consuming crop by every person throughout the kingdom. It plays a significant role in the economic life and sustainable development process mainly, tea production plays a major role in the economy of the eastern Hilly and Terai districts of Nepal. There is high demand of organic tea in Internal and external market. The potentiality of tea is high. The social economic condition is suitable for tea in hilly area of Nepal. The cultivation area covered by tea is very small. The organic tea cultivation area covered by immeasurable.

Nepalese women statuses vary according to their socio-economic condition. Their problem role and responsibilities differ and cooperate in terms of their region in which they live in, their education and their economic dependency upon their male counterparts. According to Hindu religion, women are considered as the source of power and are worshiped from the ancient time. It is considered that the life of man is incomplete without women and vice versa, according to Hindu mythology women are regarded as incarnation of god.

The condition of rural women in Nepal is very pathetic. In comparison to male counterpart women at rural area work more but their work is not given due consideration .it is due to lack of education, poverty and existing social norms and values although women actively participate in the household and field work they have been assigned the sub ordinary status to men due to our patriarchal norms and values and they have also burden of fulfilling triple role via production reproduction and social activities. The social constructed gender role being and female limit the women within a household boundary.

Tea is cultivated in eastern part of Nepal and it is one of the major exportable cash crops. But Nepal is unable to acquire enough foreign currency and on the other hand the current production is unable to meet the whole domestic demand. Tea industry has provided

employment in Nepal.

So this study would be helpful for betterment and improvement to the existing condition of women and tea farmer that are facing different types of problem.

- i. What is the existing livelihood status of women?
- ii. What is the role of tea cultivation on women's livelihood?

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of the study is to identify the role of tea cultivation on women's livelihood strategy. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. To describe the existing livelihood status of women.
- ii. To describe the role of tea cultivation on women's livelihood.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This research study is based on a particular ethnic group directly related to the traditional gradational agricultural occupation. It focuses on the changes extremely important for addressing the livelihood issue of the socio-economically disadvantaged cast/ethnic of Nepal particular and the all round development and social welfare of the country as well as many people in the world, even in Nepal, want to know about the life style and living standard of these particular groups, this knowledge can be obtained only from the study of their socio-economic and cultural status and changes in the livelihood.

This study aims to find out their ways of living traditions, occupations, income source and several other aspects of the women. To understand the adaptation strategies of women. This study will give information for planners and policy makers in designing policies and plans to improve the economic and social condition of this particular indigenous group. This study will facilitate for further in depth study on the same group in order to reduce the knowledge gap.

#### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

The study is organized into five main chapters in order to make the study more specific, precise and more impressive. This thesis divided into five chapters as follows:

- Chapter One : Present introduction of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, Justification of the study and limitation of the study.
- Chapter Two : Discusses the relevant literature of different issues related to the Organic Tea Cultivation from the different perspective.
- Chapter Three : Present the methodology adopted for the study to collect data from the field and the method of analysis.
- Chapter Four : Present the research data analysis and presentation.
- Chapter Five : Present summary, conclusion and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Review of the related literature is an integral part of the entire research process. It is the critical assessment of the research topic. It is the foundation of the study and it helps to gather information and develop new knowledge, investigate idea and result. Review is the critical assessment of the research topic. It is a foundation to the study and it helps to gather information and develop new knowledge, investigate idea and results. As a result, it provides the study more strong, supportive and justify. It provides the background information about the research topic.

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

##### **2.1.1 Empowerment Theory**

I have chosen Longwe's framework of empowerment as the analytical framework for the present research. In many parts of Nepal women are deprived even for very basic needs of life and the fulfillment of these basic needs are being taken as granted by men. The status of women is in different layer (hierarchy) in different parts and different economic classes. Although, the aim of this study is not to disclose the various layer of women status, the appropriateness of the study will be proved by comparing the status of women and analyzing it on the basis of Sara's different level of equality.

Foucault (1998), power and sexuality are primary technology of power. He has not given the importance to the economic empowerment and his views on empowerment seem incomplete.

Longwe (1990) argued that the poverty arises not from lack of productivity but instead arises from oppression and exploitation. She conceptualizes five progressive levels of equality, arranged in hierarchical order, with each higher level denoting a higher level of



empowerment these are the basis to assess the extent of women's empowerment in any area of social or economic life. The aim of the framework is to achieve women's empowerment by enabling women to achieve equal control over the factors of production and participate equally in the development process.

According to Longwe (1990), participation is the point where women take decisions equally alongside men. Mobilization is necessary in order to reach this level. Women will be empowered to gain increased representation by organizing themselves and working collectively, which will lead to increased empowerment and ultimately greater control. In fact, empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision-making power and control, and to transformative action.

Lack of access to and control over resources means a woman has no power to invest in productive activities and raise income. For woman's power in decision-making role and influence, control over resources is a must. This is a source of concern especially since its establishment that land as a productive asset is a critical factor in determining women's economic well-being, social status and empowerment.

### **2.1.2 Tea**

Ganguly (2000), Tea plantation in Dargjeeling had started sometime in 1850's as a trial and commercially in 1852, by the Britishers. Since then up to 1960's tea farming was more or less organically précised and gained popularity at EEC. Countries for its excellent aroma which could not be produced in any other part of the globe, because of it's typical climate and soil character under favorable and healthy green environment. Tea estates gradually underwent changes and most of them have become environmentally barren. These transformations were the result of following the philosophy of short term gains. But what could be done now to alter this situation? How this heritage of the queen

of Hills could be saved? Answer is readily available, for a long term sustainability take the route of organic farming.

Joshi (1978) said tea leaves are picked in cheap skilled labors and brought to factory for blending. Blending is done different fashion so as to bring a variety of product which is most for export and others for domestic consumption.

Koirala (1983) showed the total Land under Tea cultivation has been extended considerably during the period of last twenty years. Consequently its production as well as consumption also has increased significantly. Again, he said the people have become more optimistic and more attention has been given to Tea plantation.

Baskota (2009), one hand organic tea production in Nepal is difficult factor, on the other hand it is difficult to marketing. Market of organic tea is not only internal it is based on international.

Gajmer (2009), Eastern part of Nepal is the tea zone of country. The tea plantation was 157 years old, which is in Ilam. Though toe tea cultivation framers economic status and living stander is increasing. Tea cultivation has given an opportunities and job as a half of the total population in this district. But tea cultivation system must be develop as the demand of national and international market.

Sapkota (2011), State that development of agriculture sector mainly depends on modernization and commercialization. To grab the opportunities from the global market, their agriculture product should be competitive. As regard to tea which is high value agro-product and export potential product of Nepalese agriculture it is facing the various problems.

Subba and Ghimire (2011), Organic agriculture is not easy agriculture system. The area of organic is around by buffer zone. The buffer zone must be surrounded minimum 100m

pre-conversion period must be 10 years. It is necessary to calculate the input which are used in conversion period.

Acharya (2012). The Nepal has gone some six decades with the popular paradigm of commercialization of agriculture but gone nowhere-instead embracing such grotesquely destructive green-revolution approach it remained at the bottom end of the overall agriculture development indicator.

## **2.2 Empirical Studies**

Tea is one of the major cash crops in Nepal. Specially, it plays the vital role in the national economy. Due to its popularity in international market and national market, the demand of the Tea in general, is increasing. Therefore it is necessary to develop the country through industrial development by giving emphasis on development.

Acharya (2009) found that the organic tea cultivation is based on four principle of ecology. It depends on biodiversity cycle. He also found that organic agriculture production is sustain the health of soil.

Thapa, (2009) found that the women are able to contribute for the betterment of their family both socially and economically. They have been only contributed to domestic duties but also earned money for the support of their families. Due to the lack of proper land, Dalit women were expected regularly to seek paid work for the support of their families. There have been positive changes in the economic status, health condition, education situation and the position of women in the study site. This farming has helped to raise women's status, health condition, education condition and the position of women in the study site. Women ownership and control over saved money was very resonance in study site. They have gained social prestige from vegetable production. Women position in decision-making and other activities in their household and community have become sound.

Parajuli (2011) concluded the study that the occupation of women which can reduce enormous magnitude of unemployment of agriculture labors. Similarly, gender is the other most important social aspect in our society which determines the type of job to be carried out, according to gender. In Nepalese society, the business activities are mostly carried out by men. Marriage, caste, family background and social norms and values also influence on the nature of business to be carried out by the members of the society.

Acharya (2017) has found that most of the organic tea farmers are interested to organic tea cultivation, many farmers has been attracted toward tea cultivation in the study area, tea growers and production has been increasing. In this study area out of 50 hhs 40 Percent households have 0-10 ha. Land, 26 Percent households have 10-20 ha., 20 Percent have 20-30 ha., 10 Percent have 30-40 ha. And 4 Percent households have 40-50 ha. Land. The study also found that farmers are facing many kinds of problems like was economic, marketing and transportation etc. Also, they are facing lots of challenges in tea garden. Desertification, soil erosion, landslide, flood are main challenges in the cultivated area.

The study by Tiwari et al (2017) found that the technical knowledge is very important for agricultural production. He revealed that the lack of good marketing strategy is hamper the production. The production of green leaf in Fikkal area is higher than the Kannyam area. Both area were famous in Production of green and other types of tea.

Mutegek (2019) investigated a relationship between multi-local livelihood strategies and household livelihood conditions by considering the studied populations' material and non-material livelihood aspects. The study's findings show that a variety of livelihood strategies combined coordinated livelihood activities and resources from different geographic locations towards solving of household's livelihood challenges and aspirations. It also shows that the strategies were helping participating households to solve some of their day to day livelihood challenges, but took away time they needed for community service, resolving domestic disputes and generated tremendous fatigue. In addition, it was noted among successful participants that

their self-esteem and confidence had increased when they were able to provide for some of their dependents' livelihood needs.

Spangler & Christie (2020) found that the decision making power is most important for female farmers. Agricultural management is best while man and women were involved if farming equally. This study concluded that the socio ecological condition of women is moderate level. There were difficulties in the working days. This study provides knowledge about the role of women in agriculture.

## CHAPTER – III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter includes the research design, universe and sampling, data collection tools and research process. Research in common parlance refers to a search for knowledge.

#### 3.1 Research Design

This study has been carried out on the basis of exploratory as well as descriptive research design because the study was focused on to investigate the livelihood strategy of women. Moreover the study was found out the occupational change, living Standards, housing condition, profession etc. In this regard, it is an exploratory descriptive research.

#### 3.2 Research Area

Municipality of Ilam District, which is in the hilly region of Mechi zone, in the Eastern Development Region of Nepal. Ilam also acts as the headquarters of Ilam District and Mechi zone. It is famous for natural scenery and landscapes, tea production, and diverse agricultural economy. Ilam municipality is sub-divided in 9 different wards, the major governmental and district office lies in ward number 1 and ward number 2. Ilam also is a major hub for transportation and communication for VDC that lies in the upper part of the district.

#### 3.3 Rationale of Site Selection

Sumbek is a village located in Ilam municipality-2, Ilam District in the Mechi Zone of eastern Nepal. The researcher chose this area where changing strategies of women in term of traditional occupation, and adopted new way of life. The rationale behind selection of this district as well as the wards were as there is high prevalence of land issues and high concentration of target groups of research and the researcher has a close relationship with the women which is important considering the natural and precision of the data used for the study.

#### 3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

The data is qualitative as well as quantitative in nature. This study is based on the primary as well as secondary data, but the focus has been given to the primary data, which are collected from field survey using structured questionnaire, observation and interaction with different respondent.

The secondary data for research are collected from the published, unpublished documents, articles, dissertation, journals, books, economic survey etc. These data have been collected from different places such as District Profile and Municipality profiles.

### **3.5 Universe, Sample and Sampling Procedures**

In the study area, altogether 64 women were involved in Tea cultivation among them 32 women were selected applying simple random sampling method.

### **3.6 Techniques and Tools of Data Collection**

The researcher has several tools of data collections like questionnaires, key informant interview, and oral tradition for collecting primary data. Similarly, the necessary secondary data has been collected from different government offices and non-government organizations, published journals, media, and internet.

#### **3.6.1 Interview**

The interviewer has collected detailed personal information from individuals usually in one to one situations using oral questions. I have chosen 32 respondents to collect the information. It encourages capturing respondents' perceptions in their own words.

#### **3.6.2 Observation**

In this study I observed the that the role of the cultivation in llam district. The main objective of the study is to identify the role of tea cultivation on women's livelihood strategy. The researcher also observed the existing socio-economic status of women and to describe the role of tea cultivation on women's livelihood.

### **3.7 Data Presentation and Analysis**

The Collected information has been processed and analyzed scientifically with the help of computer software like excel as well as manually. Different tables are prepared for different socio-economic variables. The mathematical calculation and statistical operations and tests are performed for quantitative information. The qualitative information is presented in descriptive way.

### **3.8 Limitations of the Study**

Due to the limitation of time, this study covers only 32 households. Similarly, study analyzed the average socio-economic condition and changing dimensions of livelihood strategies due to tea cultivation. The study is limited to the certain socio-economic impacts and its indicators. Thus the validity of the data provided by the respondents hinge upon two main constraints found in the way the data has been collected. Most of the primary data has been collected through the interview and observation everyday life of women. The studies is mostly focuses on the secondary data. This research has been completed within the six months due to the limitation of time and budget. For the field information The researcher collected the information from Ilam District thus, the findings of the research may not be applicable other areas.



## CHAPTER - FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1 Basic Information

Tea in the form of black or green is the most commonly and widely used soft beverage in the household. It acts as a stimulant for central nervous system and skeletal muscles. It is the agricultural product of the leaves, leaf buds and internodes of various cultivars and sub - varieties of the *Camellia sinensis* plant, processed and cured using various methods. “Tea” also refers to the aromatic beverage prepared from the cured leaves by combination with hot or boiling water, and is the common name for the *Camellia sinensis* plant itself. The tea composition depends on a variety of factors, including horticultural practices, climate, season, the type and age of the plant (Acharya, 2009). Tea also contains a variety of phenolic compounds primarily gallic acid, theogalline, chlorogenic acid, ellagic acid, coumaric acid and caffeic acid.

#### 4.1.1 Tea Development

At present there are 43 varieties of tea grown in Nepal, nine from seed stock and others being clones. There are two main types from the same botanical plant species, *camellia*, *saneness* which had been developed at the Indian Tea Research station and used extensively in Indian Tea garden which have been introduced to Nepal for planting in the two different growing areas. The clone varieties developed from cutting from mother bushes are used in the tea gardens in the Terai regions of Jhapa and Morang districts. There are ideally suited for the processing of CTC variety where the leaf is more succulent. In the Hilly areas varieties from seed stock and used to propagate the nursery plants. These two have been experimented and developed India at their Tea Research station for Darjeeling region and introduced in Nepal. Their leaf is more leathery and during the changing climatic cycles, concentration of juices varies thus giving more aroma and flavor for limited periods.

Tea plantation in Darjeeling had started something in 1850's is a trial and commercially in 1852 by the British. Since then up to 1960's tea farming was more or less organically practiced and gained popularity at E.E.C. Countries for its excellent aroma which could not be produced in any other part of the globe because of its typical climate and soil. Character under favorable and healthy green environment. But unfortunately Darjeeling planters introduced the method of tea farming by applying synthetic fertilizers, plant protection chemicals and weedicides some times in sixties in almost all 86 running tea gardens covering approx 20000 hectors of land to bring down the production cost of tea. The result in terms of productions.

#### **4.1.2 Essential Condition for Tea Cultivation**

Tea is mainly grown in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The following are the geographical limitations beyond which the cultivation of tea is almost impossible. There are three sectors involved for the production of tea in Nepal. They are: i. Government ii. Private sector iii. Small farmers Nepal Tea Development Corporation (NTDC) has been producing tea in Nepal at government sector being given lease to foreign company nowadays. more than 60 private tea estates ()are expanded in Jhapa, Ilam, Panchthar, Terathum, Dhankuta and Morang districts, The third types of producer are farmers who depend on small farmers Development project The project is implemented in Ilam (Fikkal, Jaspire and Mangalbare), Panchthar (lalikharka) Terethum (Solma) (Nationsl Tea and Cofee Development Board, 2020).

After this step, tea production is rapidly increasing in farmer level. Private sector has become more active than government in tea production. Accordingly, the government established Nepal Tea Development corporation and entrepreneurs in the private Sector also began their career as tea entrepreneurs. Before the establishment of government owned NTDC's incorporating seven different tea estates. The private sectors had established five different Tea estates, namely Budhakaran, Giribandhu, Himalayan, Satighatta and Mittal Tea Eastate. A large number of small holder farmer are engaged in growing tea in both areas; the CTC in Terai and orthodox in the hill districts. And their contribution in total production is increasing over the years as more small farmers are being attracted towards tea cultivation due to many reasons, including its profit

stability compared to other subsisting crops particularly in the hill areas. It is estimated that they now account for 26.5% CTC tea production and 67.6% of orthodox tea.

#### **4.1.3 Tea Production Sectors**

There are three sector actively involved for the production of tea in Nepal. They are for the production of tea in Nepal. They are : a) Government sector b) Private sector c) Small farmers of NTDC (Nepal Tea Development Corporation) has been producing tea in Nepal at government sector. More than 70 private tea estates have been producing tea. Private tea estates are expanded in Jhapa, Ilam, Panchthar, Dhankuta and Morang. The third type of producers are farmers who depend on small farmer development project. The project is implemented in Ilam (Fikkal, Jasbire, Mangalbare) Panchthar (Lalikharka) Teharathum (Solma). After this step tea production is rapidly increasing in farmer scale (National Tea and Coffee Development Board, 2020).

#### **4.2 Socio-Economic Status of Women**

This chapter deals with the Socio economic and demographic presentation of respondents obtained from primary sources. This chapter includes social structure, caste, ethnicity composition of respondents, food habit, religion, education, economic structure, occupational structure, family size, age and gender composition. The data have been interpreted descriptively using simple statistical tools like Percent. I have chosen 32 women as respondents for the study. I have presented socio-economic profile of the respondents below:

##### **4.2.1 Religion**

Different types of religions were found in the study they are; Hindu, Christian and others. Mostly, Hindu and Christian people found in the study area which is shown in the table below:

**Table 4.1: Distribution of Religion**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hindu	21	65.62
Kirat	6	18.75
Christian	4	12.5
Others	1	3.12
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey 2021

The table shows that the distribution of religion. Among 32 respondents Hindu 65.62 percent and Kirat includes 18.75 percent, Christian includes 12.5percent, whereas Others includes 3.12 percent.

#### **4.2.2 Caste and Ethnicity**

Nepal state attempted to universalize the caste regulations for all categories of people living in all parts of nation. People belonging to different types of ethnic and tribal groups were ranked into second and third categories while both of these groups termed as the groups of Matwalis, their ranks in the caste order were determined on the sense that their members were immune from punishment into a slave. The caste/ethnic composition of the selected respondents is presented in the following table:

**Table 4.2: Caste and Ethnic Composition**

<b>Caste/ Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Sunuwar	6	18.75
Brahmin	4	12.5
Chhetri	11	34.37
Rai	5	15.62
Limbu	4	12.50
Dalit	2	6.25
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The study shows about the Caste and Ethnic Composition. Among 32 respondents Sunuwar includes 18.75 percent and Limbu includes 12.62 percent, Brahmin includes 12.5 percent and Chhetri includes 34.37percent, whereas Dalit includes 6.25 percent

#### **4.2.3 Types of Family**

Most of the respondents are from joint family in which husband and his parents, brothers, wife and their unmarried children lives together. They all have expressed burden of household responsibility, economy and cultural complexities while living in a joint family. Family size of the selected respondents is presented in the next page:

**Table 4.3: Types of Family**

<b>Types of Family</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Joint	2	6.25
Nuclear	30	93.75
Total	32	100

Sources : Fiel survey 2021

The study shows that the types of family. Among 32 respondents Joint includes 6.25 percent, Nuclear includes 93.75percent.

#### **4.2.4 Marital Status**

Marital status makes differences on women's responsibility and economic work burden. Implicitly, Tea cultivation is influential for people who are in worse condition in their life. This program is usually influential for female members to handle their family responsibility than the male members. The marital status of the respondents has been shown in the following table:

**Table 4.4: Marital Status of the Respondents**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Married	18	56.25
Unmarried	2	6.25
Separated	7	21.87
Widow	5	6.67
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey

The study shows about the Marital Status of the Respondents. Among 32 respondents Married includes 56.25 percent, Unmarried includes 6.25percent, and separated includes 21.87 percent whereas Widow includes 6.67percent.

#### 4.2.5 Age Group of the Respondents

The age ratio of the selected respondents is presented in the following table:

**Table 4.5: Age Group of the Respondents**

<b>Age Group (years)</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Below 29	5	21.87
30-39	16	50
40-49	8	25
50 -59	3	9.37
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The table shows that the age group of the respondents. Among 32 respondents Below 30 includes 21.87 percent, 30-40 includes 50 percent, 40-50 includes 25 percent and 50 -60 includes 9.37 percent.

#### 4.2.6 Educational Status

The following table shows educational status of the respondents:

**Table 4.6: Educational Status**

	Educational Status					Total
	Literate				Illiterate	
	Under SLC	SLC	10+2	Bachelor level and Above	7	32
Number of Respondents	5	12	3	5		
Percent	15.62	37.50	9.37	15.62	21.87	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The study shows about the educational status. Among 32 respondents Under SLC includes 15.62 percent, SLC includes 37.50 percent, 10+2 includes 9.37 percent ,Bachelor level and Above includes 15.62 percent whereas illiterate includes 21.87 percent .

#### 4.2.7 Landholding

Land ownership is mandatory in some banking institutions to get loan. Land is not only an economic variable but also an indicator of social status gained by members. The status of households and land ownership of the selected respondents is presented in the following table:



**Table 4.7: Landholding of the Respondents**

<b>Land Size</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No land	12	37.50
1-7 Ropani	6	18.75
8-14 Ropani	8	25
Above 15 Ropani	6	18.75
Total	32	100
<b>Rented land of respondents</b>		
1-7 Ropani	5	41.66
8-14 ropani	4	33.33
above 15 ropani	3	25
Total	12	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The study shows that the landholding of the respondents. Among 32 respondents 37.50 percent had no land in their name, 18.75 percent had 1 to 7 ropani had used Tea cultivation, 25 percent had 8 to 14 ropani lad used and 18.75 percent had used above 15 ropani.

Likewise, In the case of rented land, among the total 12 respondents had used rented land for Tea cultivation. Among them 41.66 percent had 1 to 7 ropani had used Tea cultivation, 33.33 percent had 8 to 14 ropani lad used and 25 percent had used above 15 ropani for tea cultivation.

#### 4.2.8 Types of House

Housing condition shows the real economic status of the people. From the study area, it is found that the respondents have various types of houses made up stone, mud and tins, cemented house, mud and straw house. If the earning increases then, the housing condition can itself be improved. Whether financial service has played significant role for improving the earning of villagers or not that should be measured with the help of housing condition of its members which is shown in the following table:

**Table 4.8: Types of House**

<b>Types of House</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Stone, Mud and Tins	7	21.87
Cemented House	9	30
Mud and Straw	15	46.87
Tahara/Hut	1	3.12
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The study shows that the types of house. Among 32 respondents Stone, Mud and Tins includes 21.87 percent, Cemented House includes 30 percent whereas Mud and Straw 46.87 percent and Tahara/Hut includes 3.12 percent.

#### 4.2.9 Household Head

Household head has a decision making power in many cultural groups. The family members feel social and livelihood security under family head. To start a new business household support is necessary otherwise it is difficult to proceed ahead.

So, household head is powerful decision maker as well as has owned authority of family. The status of household head in the family is presented in the following table:

**Table 4.9: Household Head**

<b>Household Head</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Husband	19	59.37
Wife	13	40.62
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The table shows about the household head. Among 32 respondents husband includes 59.37 percent, wife includes 40.62 percent.

#### **4.2.10 Main Occupation of the Family**

In Ilam people are engaged in various occupations. Occupation is a factor, which reflects the socio-economic status of a person. Occupation of an individual refers to the kind of work done during a selected refers to the kind of work done during a selected reference time period. Almost, two third of the sample families involved in business.

Main Occupation of Respondents is presented in the following tables :

**Table 4.10 Main Occupation of Respondents**

S N	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Business	8	25
2	Labor	1	3.12
3	Services	2	6.25
4	Agriculture	12	37.50
5	Foreign Employment	8	25
6	Carpenter	1	3.12
Total		32	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The study shows the main occupation of respondents. Among 32 respondents business includes 25 percent, service includes 6.25 percent, agriculture includes 37.50 percent whereas Foreign Employment 25 percent and Carpenter includes 3.12 percent.

#### **4.2.11 Cultivated Area**

In my study area, most of the respondent think that empower means earning by themselves, access to finance, control over resources, making argument with others without hesitation and participation in the decision making process in households as well as community affairs. This has covered the measures of empowerment of Sara Longwe's indicators of control and participation which I have taken to examine the empowerment indicators of the study. Women of my study area think they are empowered because of the Tea cultivation. In their previous life they did not have role in making decision in household as well as in community affairs. Even, they could not argue with others in the society. But now they are able to earn, to make decision inside the home

and in community level, to participate, to argue and now people listen them. They believe it is because of Tea cultivation.

**Table 4.11 Cultivated Area**

<b>Name of Crops</b>	<b>Cultivated area (in Ropani)</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Tea	80	22	68.75
Coffee	30	5	15.62
Maize	20	4	12.5
Paddy	10	2	6.25
Total	140	32	100

Sources: Field Survey, 2021

On the above table it shows that in total 140 ropani land 68.75 percent respondents are grown tea in 80 ropani, 15.62 percent are grown coffee in 30 ropani., 12.5 percent are grown maize in 20 ropani. and 6.25 percent respondents have been grown paddy crops on 10 ropani. land.

#### **4.2.12 Tea Cultivated Area**

On the table it describes about the area of cultivated land from tea farming in various types of land,

**Table 4.12 : Tea Cultivated Area**

<b>S. N</b>	<b>Status of land</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	Hill side	20	62.5
2	Plain side	12	37.5
Total		32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

In hill side 140, ropani of land had been covered for tea farming whereas in plain side it only covers 20 ropani of land. While the area of cultivated land covered for tea farming in hillside seems to be about 62.5.5 percent in plain side only 37.5 percent. All in all, the area covered for tea cultivation has been found in hill side rather than in plain side.

#### 4.2.13 Suitable Place for Tea Plant

The suitable place for tea plant is nursery. Here we can study about nursery management.

**Table 4.13 : Suitable Place for Tea Plant**

Types of place	No. of Respondents	Percent
Nursery	17	53.12
Tea garden	7	21.87
Both	8	25
None of them	0	0
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

On the above table shows that in total 32 respondents 53.12 percent says the suitable place for tea plant is nursery, 21.87 percent tea garden, 25 percent both and zero percent have been says none of them.

**Table 4.14 : Start Cutting of Tea Plant**

<b>Cutting period</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Upto 1 year	11	34.37
1-2 years	13	40.62
2-3 years	6	18.75
After 3 years	2	6.25
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

The table it shows that 34.37 percent respondents says start cutting tea planet upto 1 year, 40.62 percent are 1-2 years, 18.75 percent are 2-3 years and 6.25 percent have been says after 3 years.

**Table 4.15 Profit from Organic Tea in Per Month**

<b>S. N.</b>	<b>Profit (Rs)</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	5,000-10,000	5	15.62
2	10,000-15,000	12	37.5
3	15,000 about	15	46.87
	Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

According to the above table there are 5 respondents profit is Rs. 5,000-10,000, 12 respondents are 10,000-15,000 and 15 respondents have been 15,000 profit in monthly. The result showed taht the rate of profit, 5 respondents is low and 15 respondents have been more profit than others.

**Table 4.16 : Expenditure from the Source of Organic Tea Cultivation**

Expenditure (per month)		No. of Respondents	Percent
4,000	- 5,000	5	15.62
5,000	- 7,000	7	21.87
7,000	- 10,000	10	31.25
10,000 above		10	31.25
Total		32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

The table shows that there are total 32 respondents expenditure on the basis their income from organic tea. It shows that 7 respondents expenditure are 21.87 percent, 10 respondents is 31.25 percent, 10 respondents is 31.25 percent and 7 respondents expenditure have been 21.87 percent per month.

**Table 4.17 : Working in Garden Per Day**

Time (hrs.)	No. of Respondents	Percent
Upto 5 hrs	7	21.87
5 - 8 hrs	17	53.12
8 hrs above	8	25
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

On the above table in all 7 respondents 21.87 percent are working up to 5 hrs, 53.12 percent 5-8 hrs, and 25 percent have been working above 8 hrs in the tea garden on per day.



**Table 4.18 : Types of Work in Organic Tea Garden**

<b>Working types</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Plucking	5	15.62
Plantation	12	37.5
Skipping	6	18.75
Mulching	4	12.5
Others	5	15.62
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

The table 4.18 shows that 15.62 percent respondents have been working pluck, 37.5 percent are plantation, 18.75 percent are skipping, 12.5 percent are mulching and 15.62 percent have been working other types of work.

**Table 4.19 : How Long Working in Tea Garden**

<b>Years of time</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
0-5	7	21.87
5-10	5	15.62
10-15	7	21.87
15-20	13	40.62
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

The table shows that out of 32 respondents 21.87 percent are working since 0-5 yrs, 15.62 percent are 5-10 yrs, 21.87 percent are 10-15 yrs and 40.62 percent have been working 15-20 yrs. in the field in organic tea garden.

**Table 4.20: Another Supporting Source of Livelihood**

Source of income	Income per month	No. of respondents	Percent
Cardamom	5,000	7	21.87
Ginger farming	3,000	10	31.25
Potato farming	1,500	5	15.62
Milk	1,000	8	25
Tomato farming	500	2	6.25
Total	11,00	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

First of all, in total 32 respondents percent income source is 21.87 cardamom, 31.25 percent is ginger farming, 20 percent is potato farming, 16 percent is milk and 12 percent have been earned tomato farming. All in all cardamom has been found to be the main source with a highest income rate per month while tomato farming as a source with lowest income rate per month.

**Table 4.21 : Own Land with Organic Tea Farmers**

Quantity of land (in ha.)	No. of Respondents	Percent
0-10	10	31.25
10-20	9	28.12
20-30	4	12.50
30-40	7	21.87
40-50	2	6.27
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

On the above table shows that, 10 respondents have below 10 ropani land, 28.12 respondents have 10 to 20 ropani land, 4 respondents have 20 to 30 ropani land, 7 respondents have 30 to 40 land and 2 respondents have above 40 ropani quantity of land for Tea cultivation. .

#### 4.3 Problem and Challenges

The table shows that in all among 32 respondents who are facing by many kinds of difficulties.

**Table 4.22 Facing the Difficulties on Organic Tea Cultivation**

S. N	Kinds of Difficulties	No. of respondents	Percent
1.	Technical	9	28.12
2.	Financial	11	34.37
3.	Marketing	7	21.87
4.	Others	5	15.62
<b>Total</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

On the above table 28.12 percent respondents facing technical difficulties, 34.37 percent respondents facing financial difficulties, 21.87 percent respondents facing marketing difficulties and 15.62 percent have been facing another problem.

**Table 4.23 : Table Related Organic Tea Farming with Environment**

S. N	Description	No. of respondents	Percent
1.	Related	27	84.37
2.	Non –related	5	15.62
Total		32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

According to the above table in total 32 respondents 84.37 percent says that the organic tea is directly related with environment and only 15.62 percent are says non-related. We can conclude from this table more respondents are related tea farming with environment.

**Table 4.24 : Facing the Problems in Organic Tea Production**

S. N	Types of Problems	No. of respondents	Percent
1.	Social	6	18.75
2.	Economic	15	46.87
3.	Physical	4	12.5
4.	Environmental	5	15.62
Total		32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

The above table shows that out of 32 respondents 18.75 percent are facing social problem, 46.87 percent economic, other 12.5 percent also facing physical and 15.62 percent respondents have been facing environmental problem.

**Table . 4.25 : Main Challenges in Organic Tea Production**

S. N	Challenges in Production	No. of Respondents	Percent
1.	Landslide	9	28.12
2.	Rainfall	6	18.75
3.	Desertification	5	15.62
4.	Soil erosion	10	31.25
5.	Others	2	6.25
Total		32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

The table 4.25 shows that in 32 respondents have been facing many kinds of challenges in organic tea production. They are facing landslide 28.12 percent rainfall 18.75 percent, decertification 15.62 percent, soil erosion 31.25 percent and others 6.25 percent have been facing another challenges.

**Table No. 4.26 Problems in Organic Tea Marketing**

S. N	Facing Problem	No. of Respondents	Percent
1.	High price	2	6.25
2.	Small market	9	28.12
3.	Low income of people	10	31.25
4.	Transportation	11	34.37
	Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

According to the table 4.26 we say that 32 respondents have been facing the many kinds of problem in organic tea marketing. They are facing high price 6.25 percent, small market 28.12 percent, low income of people 31.25 percent and transportation have been facing 34.37 percent.

**Table No. 4.27 : Main Challenges in Organic Tea Marketing**

S. N.	Challenges in Marketing	No. of Respondents	Percent
1.	High competition	13	40.62
2.	Low production	7	21.87
3.	Lack of Knowledge	8	25
4.	All above	4	12.5
	Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

On the above table all 32 respondents have been facing many kinds of challenges in marketing. They are facing high competition 40.62 percent, low production 21.87 percent, lack of knowledge 25 percent and all kinds of challenges have been facing 12.5 percent.

**Table No. 4.28 : Expectation from Government**

Particular	No. of respondents	Percent
Support	18	56.25
No support	14	43.75
Total	32	100

Sources : Field Survey, 2021

According to the table tea farmers are say that support and no support from government. We show that 56.25 percent says support from the aspect of government and 43.75 percent are says no support.

#### **4.4 Role of Tea Cultivation on Women's Livelihood**

This study deals with the participation of women in the Tea cultivation and the impact on their socio-economic life. It also examines the ways in which women workers are marginalized on multiple fronts: actualization of the Tea cultivation upward occupational mobility and political space of trade unions.

##### **4.4.1 Women's Domestic and Community Engagement**

Among the 32 women 22 women said that they were engaged in community activities while there should be program. By developing awareness about the issue, building communities that will not tolerate violence, and taking action to impact the root causes of violence, community engagement at its core builds safer communities. Partnering with other organizations is a great way to support community engagement efforts to end violence against women and girls. It can offer more

creative approaches, expand the number of community members involved, and help develop partner agencies develop a deeper.

Tea garden workers especially female workers, who are engaged with plucking tea leaves belong to an assumed, marginalized community through which they have been contributing economically not only in family but nationally as well. The involvement of women in earning activities considered as a cooperative instrument of empowering women as well as to bring a positive change to their whole life span, especially in terms of boosting self-esteem, dignity, self resilience, freedom of choice, but the question is whether economic activities enhance the sense of women or increase their capacity of voice to ensure their development. This can be considered as a special case that a large proportion of female tea plantation workers of Ilam are marginalized as well as are illiterate or educationally backward. Many empirical studies have shown that tea garden workers in eastern Nepal in general, and women in particular, have, long been at disadvantage, deprived, under-served, exploited and an alienated group. Female literacy is less than that of male workers, as the attitudes of parents towards female education is very much negligible due to the poor economic condition of their family and the unavailability of government opportunities.

Our society is male dominated and majority decisions are made by male even in the household and society. The unequal division of labor and responsibilities within households based on unjust power relations also limits women's potential to find the time and develop the skills required for participation in decision making in wider public forums. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) aims at 'removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all sphere of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision making at home and in the workplace.

To meet the aim of removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all sphere of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making' specific strategic objectives were identified along with actions to be

implemented by governments, financial and development institutions such as the World Bank, national and international NGOs, women's groups, and the private sector.

Nepal has also approved the declaration. Tea cultivation has proved itself as an empowerment agent to poor women in Nepal too. It has made the access to capital and control over resources to the rural women which I had discussed in the earlier section. But only access to and control over resources is not the sufficient measure of empowerment. What is the impact on participation and decision making status of women in Ilam? Has it helped to achieve the objectives such as participation in decision making activities in household affairs and the community/societal affairs? Following section explains in which level, women of my study area are empowered.

#### **4.4.2 Participation and Decision Making In Household**

At the individual and household levels, other important indicators of empowerment have been used, within the domestic domain, for example, the relative value of a woman's economic contribution is used much less often than the simple fact that she brings in an income or has control over resources. Acharya and Bennett (1983) demonstrate a relationship between time spent in market versus non-market activities and women's decision-making power. Kabeer describes "the conceptualization of empowerment that informs the research touches on many different aspects of change in women's lives, each important in themselves, but also in their inter-relationships with other aspects.

Accordingly, many approaches have been emerged for better understanding about the concept and process of women empowerment. However, capability approach is mostly used and well-articulated for understanding gender inequality and empowerment of women in the context of world of work.

It is important that all household members take part in the household decision-making as familial decisions potentially affects the welfare of the individual member and the household as a whole. The study attempted to know the decision making role of the tea garden women in family planning and education of their children. To this end, they were asked how they take part in the



family's decision-making and to what extent they feel their participations are respected. The responses were also found almost similar in both gardens in both aspects. Some women described that their male counterparts solely decide familial matters. Usually, they are not asked for opinions and only informed about the decision. Furthermore, some of them do not feel they shall be involved in familial decision-making that their husbands know better. On the other hand, several women told that their husbands usually seek their opinions and suggestions in deciding important familial matters.

In such families, women were found very active in deciding the schooling of their children. Although the mother's role in continuing their children's education has no evidence. Mothers were found playing a vital role in the education of their child at early ages. One woman explained that her decisions get priority over the other family members in selecting school and private tuition of children. She also added that her husband also supports her.

One respondent saying that my words are given more importance. If I tell my husband to enroll the children in a school than the other school where children would get a good education, he will accept it. The descriptions of interviewed women about their participation in family planning did not reveal any factual data. Several women simply stated that they jointly decide on family planning with their husband, though none of them explained further. However, some women told that they can decide the contraceptive that best fits their individual needs in discussions with their husbands.

One woman explained that the use of a contraceptive lies with a woman and that she should feel her necessities and informs her husband. As she was saying that these (use of particular contraceptive) are advantages and disadvantages to me, because I will use it. I have to understand my aspects. If I tell my husband that I do not feel comfortable with it particular contraceptive, then he tells me to use the one that feels good to me. In widow headed families, widows actively participate in the familial decision-making process.

Widows explained that the absence of male counterpart left them as the only guardians as well as sometimes the only bread earners of their families. Hence, they act as the key role in deciding familial issues. Furthermore, widows living with adult children described that they discuss with their children in deciding familial matters and their children also obey and respect their decisions.

It touches on women's sense of self-worth and social identity; their willingness and ability to question their subordinate status and identity; their capacity to exercise strategic control over their own lives and to renegotiate their relationships with others who matter to them; and their ability to participate on equal terms with men in reshaping the societies in which they live in ways that contribute to a more just and democratic distribution of power and possibilities".

Although women and girls enjoy greater rights and opportunities today than at any other time in history, gender inequality persists around the world. We know that women and girls' lives are often limited in the countries and communities that produce tea. Gender equality is a basic human right. Investing in women empowers them to fully contribute to society, accelerating social and economic progress. As in many agricultural industries, tea relies on female labour. While women make up most of the workforce they are underrepresented at a senior level, with few opportunities to progress. This puts them at risk of discrimination, exploitation and gender-based violence. Safety is not just an issue in the workplace. The number of women who have experienced domestic violence in tea-producing countries is high – often over a third of the population.

Women's aspirations are usually limited at home too: they tend to have little say in financial decisions. Women and girls are typically the ones tasked with looking after the family. This unpaid responsibility can take them out of school and curb their potential. They improve women's lives by making sure that where they work is safe and free of harassment, with appropriate and effective grievance systems in place.

Tea cultivation is empower women financially: working together to better their incomes, access badly needed finance and develop their understanding of business so that they can have more control over financial planning. This is changing not just women's lives, it's also supporting the

next generation as mothers invest in their children's health and education. Women make up a significant proportion of the small-scale tea farmers who take part in our practical agricultural training programme. It is mainly women taking up this opportunity, and they are often the ones leading the schemes within their communities.

#### **4.4.3 Women participation and decision making in household**

Decision making is an important feature of women empowerment. The research presented about the household decision making in the control over resources part. Apart from the decision making about the resources mobilization for household activities decision making regarding participation in societal affairs has also the value in empowerment. So, I have asked the respondents about the decision making on children's education, decision regarding health, participation on various society meetings etcetera.

#### **4.4.4 Household Dynamics of Women's Public Participation**

These observations are made on prior to and after joining the co-operative. The women's role in economic decision were very less prior to joining the co-operative which I have presented in above table. This economic dependency has restricted her decision making power in all the spheres not only economical but also in other family and social affairs.

The results found from key informant interview, I examined the impact of Tea cultivation in empowering the women on the basis of three questions. What is their status in making decision within the household affairs? Is there any different result based on caste/ethnic group? Are women from any caste/ethnic group more empowered through Tea cultivation in terms of decision making? Following section, I have described their role in decision making in household affairs in three caste/ethnic groups.

The physical labor of female tea gardeners is the only means through which they get access to credit. The day long hard physical labor is paid with a miserable daily wage. However, this wage is crucial for their survival as well as contributing to reduce the male-female disparity in

economic productivity. Even so, it is found that all women do not have equal control over their own income. However, a woman may receive some suggestions from her husband, or parent in spending the earnings yet maintains a certain degree of control. The responses were almost similar for both tea gardens. While several women told that they hand over their earnings to their husbands, only a few women told that they can spend their earnings as per their wishes.

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In widow headed families, widows can keep their earnings with them, and they can spend it as they wish. Their entire earning is spent to purchase food and other necessary commodities. They also said that the absence of male counterpart as the reason behind their sole control over own earning. According to widow respondent ' My husband passed away; No one is there to ask me anything about my spending. At the same time, they rejected that all working women in tea garden would be able to exercise the same amount of control over own earning. The rejection becomes evident when women said that they hand over their income to their husbands who spend the cash as per their decision.

In addition, some women explained that they do not even feel to ask how or where their earnings would be spent. Other women told that they spend their earnings in discussion with their husbands in various familial needs. Some of them also believe that the money they earn shall be spent in discussion with their husbands. Another woman said that 'It earning is required to be spent in discussing with my husband. How much to be spent in different household needs ...like installment debt electricity bills, etc. are decided by both of us'.

Furthermore, women also told that their husbands' handover a part of their earnings to them for family expenditure. They generally decide together how to spend the entire amount. One woman said that her income stays with her, while husband also handed over his income to her. They, then

spend the total following joint discussions. As she was saying that my husband hands over his income to me. My income also stays with me. Then we spent it discussing with others which is important needs for us.

The interviews with tea garden management revealed that women's control over their own earnings has improved over the years and more couples now spend their earnings after discussing with each other. Spending money after discussion with their husband demonstrates the existence of women's control over own earnings to a certain degree as well as their participation in family decision making.

The role on decision making in household expenditures like buying daily consumables, jewelries, buying and selling assets and livestock rearing has already been described in the previous part. Tea cultivation of women on children's education and health, attending social meetings and decision regarding borrowing loan from According to women respondents, they admitted that their role in household decisions regarding children's education and health treatment, attending social meetings has become higher after involving in the Tea cultivation institution. Before joining the tea cultivation women did not have any role on deciding children's education and health treatment but after joining the involvement in tea cultivation women decide either solely or jointly with their husband or father. It proves the drastic change in women's role in household decision making. In the interview time, they added that their husbands ask/consult every time in taking decision in each of household activities.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

### 5.1 Summary

Tea is an important consumption items. Its demand with in the domestic market is growing over time. Because of inadequate supply from the local sources, the country is even bond to export Tea from foreign countries thus draining the hard earned foreign currency. Tea production involves two broad phases like. Cultivation phase and industrial phase each having sub phases. They are planting pruning plucking relating and flushing related to cultivation phase. Withering Rootling fermentation, Drying Grading, Staving and Packing are related with the industrial phase. These phases are to be followed in proper way. Nowadays there are many Tea producing countries in the world.

I have chosen Longwe's framework of empowerment as the analytical framework for the present research. In many parts of Nepal women are deprived even for very basic needs of life and the fulfillment of these basic needs are being taken as granted by men. According to women respondents, they admitted that their role in household decisions regarding children's education and health treatment, attending social meetings has become higher after involving in the Tea cultivation institution. Before joining the tea cultivation women did not have any role on deciding children's education and health treatment but after involvement in tea cultivation women decide either solely or jointly with their husband or father. It proves the drastic change in women's role in household decision making. In the interview time, they added that their husbands ask/consult every time in taking decision in each of household activities.

### 5.2 Conclusion

This study concluded that the role of the cultivation in Nepal is growing steadily despite various problems they encounter. All most all the villagers of eastern part of Nepal and other region have Tea plantation in this own land Presently farmers have started to plant Tea even in their growers have several problems at the field, transportation problems financial problems, unsteadily policies technical problems etc However, the interest of Tea plantations rapidly growing among the

farmers of Nepal. They believe that Tea cultivation is sustainable means of uplifting their life standard.

The role on decision making in household expenditures like buying daily consumables, jewelries, buying and selling assets and livestock rearing has already been described in the previous part. Caste/ethnic group wise comparative decision making role before and after joining the Tea cultivation of women on children's education and health, attending social meetings and decision regarding borrowing loan from Tea cultivation, attending the meetings of agriculture and their views have been described below.

According to women respondents, they admitted that their role in household decisions regarding children's education and health treatment, attending social meetings has become higher after involving in the Tea cultivation institution. Before joining the tea cultivation women did not have any role on deciding children's education and health treatment but after joining the involvement in tea cultivation women decide either solely or jointly with their husband or father. It proves the drastic change in women's role in household decision making. In the interview time, they added that their husbands ask/consult every time in taking decision in each of household activities.

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## ANNEX 1

### INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

#### A) Personal Information

Name:

Address

Age

Date of interview

Religion

Cast

#### B) Socio economic Status

1) Family size

2) Marital status

a) Married

b) Unmarried

c) Widow

d) Divorce

3) Education status of respondents.

a) Literate

b) Illiterate

4) Which crops do you cultivate in your land mostly?

a) Tea

b) Coffee

c) Maize

d) Paddy

5) In which place you find appropriate for cultivate tea farming?

a) Hill side

b) Plain side

c) Both

6) Which place suitable for tea planet?

a) Nursery

b) Tea garden

c) Both

d) None of them

- 6) After which period grown of tea plant start cutting ?
- a) Upto 1 year                                  b) 1 - 2 years  
c) 2-3 years                                      d) Other
- 7) Which material using to prepare organic tea ?
- a) Modern tools                                  b) Manually
- 8) Have gat any profit from organic tea garden ?
- a) Yes    b) No
- 9) If yes, how much profit do you get form tea cultivation per month ?
- a) Rs 5,000 - 10,000                      b) 10,000 - 15,000                      c) 15,000 above
- 10) ow many hours do you work in garden on daily basis or per day ?
- a) Upto 5 hours                                  b) 5 - 8 hours                                  c) above 8 hours
- 11) What kind of work you have to do ?
- a) Plucking                                      b) Plantation  
c) Skipping                                      d) Mulching                                  e) Others.
12. Have you received any training before the work.
- a) Yes    b) No
- 13) How long you have been working in tea cultivation ?
- a) 0-5 year                                      b) 5-10 year  
c) 10-15 year                                  d) 15-20 year
14. Have you other supporting source of livelihood ?
- a) Yes    b) No If yes, please specify .....
- 15) Are you satisfied with your work
- a) Yes    b) No
- If why no ?
- .....

16) How many members of your family are employed in garden ?

.....  
.....

17) Can you afford your family by your garden ?

.....  
.....

18) Do you have own land ?

.....

19) Do you face any problem in organic tea production regarding ?

- a) Social problems                      b) Economic problem
- c) Physical problem                      d) Environmental problem

20) What are the main challenges in organic tea production ?

- a) Landslide                              b) Rainfall
- c) Desertification                      d) soil erosion                      e) Others

21) What are the problems of organic tea marketing ?

- a) High price                              b) Small market
- c) Low income of people              d) Transportation

22) Is there any changes in women's domestic and community engagement activities?

- a) Yes                                      b) No

23) if yes, what kind of changes

.....  
.....

24) Is Tea cultivation activities helps to make households decisions?

- a) Yes                                      b) No

25) if yes, what kind of decision did you made?

.....  
.....

**ANNEX II**

**KEY INFORMATION INTERVIEW CHECKLIST**

- 1) What you want to say about organic tea cultivation is the source of good income from other crops ?

.....  
.....

- 2) About how many households are engaged in organic tea cultivation in this area?

.....  
.....

- 3) What is your role for promotion and development of tea cultivation in your area ?

.....  
.....

4. In your opinion how can we increasing tea production and attracted toward tea cultivation ?

.....  
.....

- 5) How other I/NGO, organization, government are helping in tea cultivation for betterment in this region and what are the reaction of peoples by those help provided by organization ?

.....  
.....

- 6) What is the attitude of local people toward tea cultivation ? 7. What is their expectation for the days to come?

.....  
.....