WOMEN AND DECISION MAKING : A HOUSEHOLD LEVEL STUDY OF THARU COMMUNITY, SAPTARI

A Thesis

Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Kritipur, Kathmandu, Nepal, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in

SOCIOLOGY

By SHYAM NAND CHAUDHARY Roll No. 227/2066 Symbol No. 283171 Reg. No. 6-1-225-42-2004

RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. Shyam Nand Chaudhary has prepared the dissertation entitled "Women and Decision Making : A household Level Study of Tharu Community, Saptari" : under my supervision and guidance. I forward this dissertation for examination and approval as per the regular procedures of the Department.

Date:

.....

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Basel Central Department of Sociology

Tribhuvan University Central Department of Sociology

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This thesis entitled "Women and Decision Making : A household Level Study of Tharu Community, Saptari": Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, University Campus, by Shyam Nand Chaudhary for the partial fulfillment of Master's of Arts in Sociology has been accepted.

Supervisor

.....

(Bishnu Prasad Basel)

External Examiner

.....

(Sudeep Singh Nakarmi)

Head, Central Department of Sociology

.....

Ass. Pro. Dr. Tika Ram Gautam

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The dissertation entitled "Women and Decision Making : A household Level Study of Tharu Community, Saptari" : has been undertaken into study for the Master Degree of Arts in Sociology. For this research work, I could not escape without mentioning the names of those individuals whose supports, advice, enhancement and motivation have became life long guidance to me. I could like to express my deep gratitude to all of them.

First of all, I would like to extend sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Basel, Central Department of the Sociology, T.U. Kirtipur, who offered me excellent and expert guidance for my dissertation. Likewise, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Tika Ram Gautam, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, and all the teachers and administrative staffs of the Department for their kind cooperation.

I appreciate the people of Hardiya village and especially the women for giving me information on household decision making process. Without their co-operation, I could not have moved ahead in this project.

Most importantly, my hearty thanks and gratitude goes to my parents and family members for their unconditional support, encouragement and guidance. If there is any mistake or insufficiency it is my own, advice and criticism are welcome.

Shyam Nand Chaudhary

CONTENTS

REC	COMMENDATION LETTER				
APP	PROVAL SHEET				
ACH	KNOWLEDGEMENT				
CON	NTENTS				
LIS	T OF TABLES				
ACF	RONYMS				
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION					
1.1	Background of the Study	1			
1.2	Statement of the Problem	3			
1.3	Objectives of the Study	3			
1.4	Research Questions	4			
1.5	Rational of The Study	4			
1.6	Organization of the Study	5			
CHA	APTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	6			
2.1	Status of Women in Nepal	6			
2.2	Tharu Women in Nepal	9			
2.3	Decision Making Role of Women				
2.4	Conceptual Framework	13			
CHA	APTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	15			
3.1	Selection of the Study Area	15			
3.2	Research Design	15			
3.3	Nature and Source of Data				
3.4	Universe and Sample				
3.5	Methods of Data Collection	16			
	3.5.1 Interview Schedule	16			
	3.5.2 Focus Group Discussion	16			
3.6	Data Analysis 17				
3.7	Limitations of the Study 1				

CHAPTER FOUR: PARTICIPATION AND DECISION				
	MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN IN THARU			
	COMMUNITY	18		
4.1	Location of the Study Area	18		
4.2	Saptari District: An Overview	18		
4.3	Population	19		
4.4	Caste / Ethnic Composition	20		
4.5	Educational Status			
4.6	Family Size and Structure			
4.7	Marital Status			
4.8	Occupation			
4.9	Land Distribution			
4.10	Sufficiency of Food Production	27		
4.11	Decision Making Role of Women			
	4.11.1 Household Activities	28		
	4.11.1.1 Women's Participation in Household Activities	28		
	4.11.1.2 Women's Participation in Family Affairs	30		
	4.11.1.3 Women's Participation in Farm Management	31		
	4.11.1.4 Women's Participation in Socio-Cultural Practices	32		
	4.11.2 Role of Women in Decision Making	34		
	4.11.2.1 Decision Making in Household Management	34		
	4.11.2.2 Decision Making in Family Affairs	36		
	4.11.2.3 Decision Making in Farm Management	37		
	4.11.2.4 Decision Making in Socio-cultural Practices	38		
	4.11.3 Factors Affecting Women in Decision Making Process			
	4.11.3.1 Household Factors	40		
	4.11.3.2 Social Factors	41		

СНА	43	
5.1	Summary	43
5.2	Conclusion	46
REFERENCES		49
APP	52	

LIST OF TABLES

Table No. 1	:	Population of Surunga Municipality	19
Table No. 2	:	Population of Ward No. 2 (Hardiya Village)	20
Table No. 3	:	Caste / Ethnic Composition of	
		Ward No. 2 (Hardiya Village)	21
Table No. 4	:	Educational Status	22
Table No. 5	:	Family Size of the Sample Household	23
Table No. 6	:	Marital Status of Tharu Women	24
Table No. 7	:	Occupation Distribution of the Sample Households	25
Table No. 8	:	Distribution of Sample Households by	
		Land Distribution	26
Table No. 9	:	Cropping Pattern of Sample Households	26
Table No. 10	:	Distribution of Sample Households by Sufficiency	
		of Food Production	27
Table No. 11	:	Women's Participation in Household Activities	29
Table No. 12	:	Major Family Activities	30
Table No. 13	:	Farm Management	31
Table No. 14	:	Women's Participation in Festival and	
		Religious Ceremony	33
Table No. 15	:	Decision Making Role of Women in Sample	
		Household Management	35
Table No. 16	:	Decision Making Role in Family Affairs Activities	36
Table No. 17	:	Decision Making Role in Farm Management	37
Table No. 18	:	Decision Making Role in Socio-Cultural Practices	39

ACRONYMS

Central Bureau of Statics
Centre for Economic Development and Administration
Forum for Development, Law and Development
His Majesty of Government
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
National Planning Commission
Production Credit for Rural Women
United Nation Development Program
United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations International Children's Education Fund
Village Development Committee