

# **CHAPTER : ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Empowerment refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. Empowerment refers both to the process of self-empowerment and to professional support of people, which enables them to overcome their sense of powerlessness and lack of influence, and to recognize and eventually to use their resources and chances.

The Empowerment of Women in Nepal is a growing issue. Many organizations are involving for empowering women. Majority of the women are involving in agriculture. So, the empowerment of women through agriculture is the major issue and possibility to empower women. Female farmers in Nepal have to overcome the societal thinking that they lack the physical skills required to work on a farm. Often they are not taken seriously in the industry and may lack the training opportunities that are offered to men. Unfortunately, women are not able to start on the same equal footing as men because of laws preventing them from owning land, making financial decisions and being able to gain credit. Although, there has been some improvement over the years as one-fifth of total agricultural landholders in 2011 were female. This increase represents a rise of 10 percent since 2001. In this study, the empowerment refers the self-employment of the women through agriculture. They do not get support from any organization till now.

Nepal retains its centuries old caste system. Dalits, the discriminated people under this system, suffer from restriction on the use public amenities, derivation of economic opportunities and general neglect by the state and society. More than twenty Dalit caste groups exists in the country at present. Identifying a caste group is geographical area. One estimate 29.57% and Halkhar the smallest group with 0.12% Dalit women comprise 51% of the total Dalit population. Dalits are discriminated in the religious and cultural spheres.

Female farmers in Nepal have also started a women's group that grows and harvests lemongrass and citronella to produce essential oils. This is allowing them access to export markets. Increasing access to markets and financial literacy training is fundamental for women to make sustainable incomes for their families.

Approximately 40 % of the cultivable land is owned by 10 % of the population. This shows that Nepal's 90% population holds only 60% of the land. Average land holding is 1.09 hectare per family which only provides part time employment. About 4.9% population are unemployed (CBS 1997) while some 45% population are underemployed (UNDP 1998). Land fragmentation, poor soil fertility, lack of irrigation and agro-inputs facilities, and natural calamities greatly contribute to poor harvest as well production". Small and tenant farmers and landless agriculture labors form most of the poverty-stricken population. Altogether it can be seen that overall population below poverty line are 30.9% and unemployment rate is 46% (Nepal GDP data and country report 2011).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The last decade has seen a growing importance of the term empowerment.' While the term had been used for the poor and the deprived groups, it has now been used even more extensively with regard to women's programs. As a matter of fact, most state governments now consider it desirable to offer women's empowerment programs in order to alleviate poverty and to bring about women's development.

Different researches have been conducted by many scholars and organizations related to women's empowerment in Nepal. They have their own significance in their own respected field and area. This research has been conducted with the objective to explore the empowerment of women in agriculture. Agriculture is the major economy of Nepal and the involvement of women in agriculture is approximately high than that of males. Community based agriculture practices are now getting popularity day by day. Many researches were conducted over women's empowerment related to political, social, economic and academic issues in general. The research was conducted to find out the answer of following questions:

- ) How does the agriculture empower the Dalit women economically and socially?
- ) How the decision making power of women go on change through their involvement in agriculture?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objectives of this study is to identify the empowerment of Dalit women through agriculture. The specific objectives of the study are follows:

- ) To examine the economic and social empowerment of Dalit women through agriculture.
- ) To analyze the decision- making power of women involving on agricultural activities.

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

Agriculture is the major economic activity of Nepalese people. Foreign employment is for the Dalits who have less access over land and other resources. Most of the responsibilities of the family are carried by the females. Most of the males in the study area are abroad and the women are involving in farming rather than wasting time. This study is to significance for the policy making aspects in concerning working areas, it helps to useful for the CBOs, NGO/INGOs in programming for the women empowerment programs, it helps to create awareness among the Dalit women about their women empowerment. This study may also be helpful for non -Dalits women and would impressed the others.

### **1.5 Limitation of Study**

The research was conducted for the partial fulfilment of Master in Sociology from Tribhuvan University with lots of limitations. It was conducted with limited time, budget, area and limited population. The household survey was conducted for 10 days. There was no any funding agency to support the research. It is self-funded. It was conducted only among 76 Dalit women so the finding of the study may or may not be applicable in other such population and area.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The study has been divided in nine chapters. The first chapter has included background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter is related over the review of the related literature. It includes theoretical review, conceptual review and review of the previous studies. The third chapter is the detail of research methods applied for the study. The fourth chapter includes the general outline of the study area which provides the information about demographic, geographic, academic, historical background of the study area. The fifth chapter is the main chapter which focuses over interplaying factors of empowerment. The sixth chapter includes the interpretation of agriculture. The seventh chapter includes the interpretation of physiological and social aspect and the eight chapter includes the interpretation of decision making and economy. The ninth chapter includes summary, major findings and conclusion. Besides these it includes the preliminary parts and appendixes which have been required for the dissertation.

## **CHAPTER : TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 General Overview**

Among total Nepali population, women cover more than 50 per cent of population. They perform two-thirds of the work and produce 50 per cent of food commodities consumed by the country. They earn one third of remuneration and own 10 per cent of the property or wealth of the country (Reddy et al., 1994). Ever since the advent of Women in Development literature in the 1970s, many researchers have argued that women's empowerment is closely linked to positive outcomes for families and societies (Presser and Sen, 2000). The difference in power relations between men and women results in different gender roles, social roles and socially appropriate characteristics and behaviors. The environment in which men and women operate, it is important to identify gender gaps, particularly working at home or away from home. This is usually connected to freedom of movement and whether one has access to better income generating employment or not. In most societies women are the ones who are mostly working at home in the maintenance of the household or very close to home, doing both household activities and small-scale production and trading. Women empowerment as a concept was introduced at the International Women's Conference in 1985 at Nairobi, which defined it as 'redistribution of social power and control of resources in favor of women'. Mass illiteracy, unemployment, ill health and their limited access to economic assets, mark the situation of women in Nepal. Therefore, women's empowerment in Nepal principally aims at enhancing their social functioning by a quantitative and qualitative change, particularly in the field of educating health and employment.

Agriculture is becoming progressively feminized. Many women engaged in family farms are still reported as economically not active. Nonetheless even according to census figures, the promotion of female labor force in agriculture has increased between 1971 and 1991, women constituted 30.4% of the agriculture labor force. That increased to 36.4% in 1981 and 45% in 1991 (Acharya, 1994). However, extension technologies have not realized such changes.

The impact study of the various program run by the NGOs is few in comparison to their number of program. Kantor (2003) stresses that improved access to income-earning opportunities is a means of facilitating women's empowerment. However, her specific conclusion is "income alone is not sufficient to directly facilitate women's empowerment within the household in urban India" (Kantor, 2003, p 442).

The women play a significant and crucial role in agriculture development and allied fields. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture varied greatly from region to region, even within a region their involvement varied widely among different ecological sub-zones, farming system, caste, classes and stages in the family cycle. The participation of women in agriculture also depends on the land holding, cropping pattern and mode of agriculture.

Women are capable and have great potential but still then it is seen that the objectives to empower women has not been achieved. Dalit women's primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness, low level of literacy, out dated system of production, absence of value systems, sparse physical infrastructure in backward Dalit areas and demographic quality of Dalit areas make the development of Dalit's and Dalit areas essential.

## **2.2 Dalit Woman in Agriculture**

Dalit are rich in culture, custom and tradition. They have their own verbal language to communicate with each other. They have their own traditional dress used in folk performance arts especially in folk drama and dance. The unique style of the culture and tradition gives more attraction for cultural heritage. The economy of this community is based on agriculture and forest. Animal husbandry is the substitute sources of livelihood.

Therefore, we can find pet animals in every home of this community. However, women have started other professions for their livelihood. Some even go out for doing business of their own or working under other company. Thus, women play a significant role in the development of a nation. Without their participation, goals and objectives of cannot be fully attainable. However, it is seen that if women do not manage the household sphere properly men shall not be able to work outside

enthusiastically. So, the role of men and women are interdependent. But overall burden of women is higher than that of men (www.google.com).

In Nepal most of the economic activities are guided by agriculture. The contribution of women to the agriculture economy is greater than male but their contribution is not accounted to the Gross national Product (GNP). The life of Dalit women is dominated in comparison to their male counterpart in Nepal. Dalit women's status in the society results continuous lags in opportunities in education, training, employment, health public life access to economic rights etc. Although Dalit women are very active in household and field works, they have assigned very less status to men. But we see just reverse in the case of Rana Dalits. That is Rana Dalits maintain a female dominant society. Household activities are not considered as economic activities. Dalit women are restricted into their domestic and subsistence activities. The main profession of these women are household shares and agricultural activities. Dalit women also help their male counterpart in collecting food materials such as rice, wheat etc. They substitute for paid labor in activities like repairing and maintaining the house. They also involve in productive works such as kitchen garden, cattle and poultry farming and so on.

Dalit women carry a triple burden in the society: as a production worker, Dalit women contribute directly to subsistence and income as a mother and wife Dalit women care for the children and the family member; as a community worker. They give all leisure time and labor to the society.

### **2.3 The Disempowerment Culture and Attitudes towards Women in Nepal**

It is unclear why, in most societies all around the globe and across history women have been discriminated (Harari, 2014). The fifth of the sustainable development goals, which were set by the United Nations in 2016, is to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” (Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2017). It can be seen as an especially important goal because it also includes that gender indicators are integrated across all the other sixteen goals. Countries like Nepal, which can be labelled a patriarchal society and which face many problems with gender-based discrimination, will not be able to reach nine of the seventeen

SDGs unless there will be a profound change in the view of the status of women in society. Nepal is traditionally male-dominated. This culture has developed over centuries and its development has been supported by Hinduist culture and the Caste system. The deeply embedded caste culture is a major cause for injustice and discrimination against women in society. Their denied equality begins in the family, where boys are preferred to get a good education and are raised to be the decision makers. Girls are taught to become a good wife and implement the decisions of their future husband. The legal system tries to protect even the minimum women's property which is called "Pewa" (Paudel, 2011), but in fact this control is limited due to social customs. Women do not have control over their 'Pewa' or even their dowry. They have to ask their husband or father if they want to sell it. The traditional social customs hinder the development to more equality for women. According to Adler (1997) culture, values, attitudes and behaviour are influencing each other within a society. Values are the factors that influence our decision and can be conscious or unconscious. Values are desired and are based in the culture, such as the caste system in the Nepalese culture. Attitudes are the expression of values and influence how people act in a particular situation. The actual behavior in turn has a large effect on the culture, because it is the behaviour of people and groups within a society. The culture in a society is formed by the behavior of people. Due to the deeply rooted values coming from the Hindu culture, the patriarchal attitude effects on behaviour. This can be found in the legal system and the society of Nepal. It has control over the body, labour, income, mobility, sexuality, ideology and identity of women. Women have less opportunities in education and successively also in employment and leadership. Their low status hinders their admission to education and their low education, in turn, hinders their status within society (Paudel, 2011).

The disempowerment of women begins in childhood. Estimated 75% of the women were married between the ages of 10 and 19 (Nepal CBS, 2011). Consequently, 40% are educated beyond primary school which in turn leads to the problem that women are underrepresented in a lot of areas in society (Nepal where we work, n.d.). While the literacy rate of men in 2003 lied at 66%, only 30% of the women could read (Mahat, 2003). Land also is traditionally inherited from father to son. This creates economic insecurity for women because the primary source of income for most Nepalis is still agriculture and the women are always dependent upon their male



counterparts. Nepal has already made a substantial improvement in the last decades when it comes to education. The primary school enrolment increased by 19% between 2004 and 2009. But still 8% of children remain out of school and dropout rates are still a major concern, especially for girls (Asian Development Bank, 2010).

## **2.4 The Legal Status of Women in Nepal**

Women are also not given equal citizenship rights. The new constitution which was brought on the way in 2015 and widely celebrated as progressive, fails to give women the right to pass on nationality to their children by birth right. Men, on the other hand, do have this privilege (Part 2, Dhara-12, Constitution of Nepal, 2015). This leads to the fact that, already now, 4.8 million people in Nepal are stateless and are denied many basic rights (Desouza, 2015). They are unable to get accepted in society, find employment, and secure their children's future which certainly is a major cause of suffering.

Trafficking and violence are also major problems: Studies estimate that between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepalese women and girls are trafficked to India each year to work mostly in the sex industry or in factories (Asian World Bank, 2010). The problem of trafficking is getting worsened by discrimination of women who return from Indian brothels: They are discriminated against, labelled as untouchable and dirty because many of them have contracted HIV (Graaf, 2015). Other studies have shown that about half of the Nepalese women have experienced some form of sexual violence (Lamichhane, Puri, Tamang, Dulal, 2011) or that about half of the young women (15-24 years old) have experienced sexual violence within marriage (Puri&Taimang, 2010).

In the last two decades, there has been a progress to change this inequity. There has been a significant success in poverty reduction and human development in general (National Planning Commission, 2017) and the Nepalese government has shown initiative in pushing gender equality by signing several international conventions. For example, the 2007 amendment to the Civil service act reserves 33% of vacant posts (in all sectors) to women. They have also signed the UN convention on the elimination of discrimination in public life and the 2000 Millennium Development Goals which sets out targets for poverty reduction, universal primary education,

gender equality, women's empowerment, and maternal health (Asian Development Bank, 2010). Until 2030, Nepal aims to fully eliminate wage discrimination, sexual violence, and harmful practices such as forced marriage (National Planning Commission, 2017). But progress in law does not necessarily mean progress in reality. Reality shows that The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and their local "Women development offices" do not have enough resources and a weak capacity (Asian Development Bank, 2010). Most administrative offices and police offices, who are responsible for implementing the changes, are dominated by conservative males. Local community officers are often not willing to support women against violence and discrimination by their husbands. Cases of domestic violence are rarely perpetrated (Paudel, 2011). The socio-economic status and decision-making powers of women have not improved much (Mahat, 2003).

It is obvious that this problem is double-edged: It lies not only in the enforcement of certain rules and laws, but also in deep-rooted beliefs and attitudes that might be even harder to change. These attitudes have to be tackled to reach a more profound and sustainable change: Women are also key stakeholders of a sustainable development so it is important to end their discrimination as soon as possible. It is questionable in how far the constitutional rights are getting accepted in the population. For example, while it is a right to freely choose one's partner in Nepal, women, in many cases, are deprived of it: They often have to accept the choice of their family (B. Sharma, personal communication, 19.11.2017).

## **2.5 Women's Participation in Commercial Vegetable Farming**

Unquestionably, women play a significant and crucial role in all realm of life throughout the Third World. In addition to farm work, in which they are actively involved with men, the burden of almost all the household chores falls on them. But despite the global consensus as to their vital role both on the farm and in the household, their importance in and contribution to agriculture are not adequately reflected in the available statistics which perhaps obscure more than they reveal (Das 1995).

The extent of women's involvement in agriculture depends on their social and economic status with factors such as landlessness, size of landholding, farming system, land management practices, labor market forces, and the age and marital

status of women influencing the extent of women's participation in agriculture (El-Fattal 1996). Women in study site, who used to stay at home during the off-season of farming, have effectively utilized income-generating activity such as vegetable production. The participation of woman in vegetable farming and marketing is greater than that of men. They play a predominant role in almost all activities. Majority of them play a vital role in marketing and market related decision-making. Women have played a major role in manure carrying and dispersing, chemical fertilizer application, seeding, planting, weeding, and marketing. Men, however, often assist in land preparation, harvesting and irrigation. Irrigation is less time-consuming task in study site due to well irrigation facility. Only they need to open the irrigation channel. This is a direct result of our patriarchal nature of the society. Men co-operations were increased in domestic chores after adopting this farming. Overwork is recognized as a social disease that affects women in Nepal because of traditional norms (Daniggelis 2003:95). In this study, quantitative data suggest that women workload has been increased because of commercial vegetable farming. In other hand qualitative and quantitative data suggest that their workload has been decreased slightly in household chores. The social and cultural values of the Nepali society do not encourage women to work outside the home. Traditionally, households' chores were women business. But in study site, their role has been diverted from domestic work to productive and communal work to some extent and counselling for her study and so dropped out.

## **2.6 NGO's Efforts in Nepal for Women Empowerment**

NGOs are working hard to change this depressing picture. They are starting empowerment, education and social mobilization programs, for example through the Woman's Pressure group, a coalition of 84 NGOs. The programs include residential care, emergency support and preventive programs for girls at the risk of violence. The Nepalese Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has supported such programs carried out by the NGOs. But the support and mobilization of women in rural areas is very hard because most NGOs are based in urban areas (Mahat, 2003). In the upcoming year, Nepal will also be working on a new citizenship law and on a national action plan to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. This provides an opportunity to set an example in fighting inequality and injustice and in ending the exclusion of women (Bhattarai, 2014).

Women are also starting their own initiatives at getting more independent, for example in women groups, where they can meet and discuss ideas. This leads to more awareness about their own situation and often to the setting up of initiatives to change it. At Nari Chetna Kendra in Kathmandu, for example, women regularly meet to engage in community development and child support programs, to participate in trainings on economics, self-sustainability, agriculture, and advocacy (Women Awareness Centre Nepal, 2012). Another organization is the Women's Foundation Nepal (WFN), a women's rights organization that aims to reduce the inequality between men and women in Nepal. Through a variety of training programs, they want to make Nepali women stronger and more independent. Their goal is to ensure that women become an integral part of the Nepalese society and work hand in hand with men to shape the future of the country. Practical issues of the organization are psychological counselling of women and children that were victims of physical and psychological abuse, and also provide educational programs for children and women. Women that followed programs at the organization go back to their communities, where they act as positive role models to inspire other women to follow educational possibilities (Women's Foundation Nepal).

To summarize, it is useful to identify several barriers that keep women in Nepal from reaching more empowerment. These can be divided into traditions, laws, economic restrictions, and educational barriers. Concerning traditions, Nepal has a modern day patriarchal society. That is why it appears to be very difficult for women and men to accept more progressive values and break through traditional ones. Furthermore, there is also more work which can be done to implement the existing equality laws and to change those that contribute to persisting inequality. This is the job of administrative and political actors. The economic situation of Nepal makes it one of the poorest countries in the world (Reed & Mc Connachie, 2002). This also restricts the inequality problem from being solved, because budgets for intervention programs are not there. For implementing equal opportunities successfully, the abundance of money would be a first step, though of course not a sufficient solution. The fourth influential barrier is formed by an imbalance and shortcomings in the educational sector. The lack of education narrowed the women's autonomy and their occupational outlook. All in all, Nepalese women are trapped in a vicious circle consisting of an interaction from

existing cultural beliefs, legislations (or their lack of enforcement) upholding these beliefs, economic restrictions and limited educational opportunities.

## **2.7 Women are Farmers and Food Providers**

In some parts of the world, 80% of basic food is produced by women. In doing this, women contribute to national agricultural output, general environmental maintenance and, most importantly, family food security. They achieve this despite the unequal access to land, machinery, fertilizers etc. It has been claimed that if men and women had equal access to these resources, there would be substantial gains in agricultural output for both men and women, their families and their communities.

## **2.8 Theoretical Framework**

It is important to closely examine the variable “empowerment”. It can be divided into social, political and psychological power. Social power means that a person has access to different resources like information, knowledge, and skills. Political power means that the person is able to participate in decisions that influence his or her own future. Psychological power means that an individual has a sense of self-efficacy or self-esteem. This can in turn positively influence his or her access to political and social power (Friedmann, 1992). Empowerment as a whole is “the enhancement of assets and capabilities of diverse individuals and groups to function, and to engage influence and hold accountable the institutions that affect them” (DFID/World Bank, 2006, p.9). It happens at the individual level (from below). How can empowerment be achieved? By providing the to be empowered people with the resources, opportunities, vocabulary, knowledge and skills needed to increase their capacity. This in turn gives them the possibility of reaching more economic, social and psychological power in their own particular situation (Tesoriero, 2010).

The GSEA (Nepal Gender and Social Exclusion Assessment) suggests that there are several critical sites where disempowerment can happen: At the individual site (this includes sense of self-worth and self-efficacy and socialized concepts of behavioral norms) at the family site, up to the community, state, and global site (DFID/World Bank, p. 13). The family is seen as the most problematic site for women. If we look at the Theory of Planned Behaviour (Ajzen, 1991), if a person conducts a certain

behavior is influenced by the interplay of her attitudes, self-efficacy and behavioral norms. So, if a woman will do something to increase her own empowerment and become more independent, for example try to educate herself or join a social initiative, depends on what she thinks about this behavior (is it right to do that?), if she thinks she is able to do it, and what she thinks that other people think about this behaviour. Self-efficacy thus is the same as psychological power. If there is an inconsistency between her attitudes or behavioral norms and her actual behaviour, she can be considered to have a low psychological power.

The arrows connect the theories as prerequisites for behavior that increases an individual's empowerment. Equipped with this framework, we want to look at all variables that might play a role in preventing or encouraging such behaviour.

The concept of empowerment rests on awareness-raising, capacity building, and organizing people in order to overcome unequal relationships, in addition to increasing women's decision-making power at the household, community, and national levels. The concept of empowerment as used by many development agencies refers mainly to entrepreneurial self-reliance. It places an emphasis on individualistic values: "people empowering themselves by pulling themselves up by their bootstraps."

John Friedmann, in his book "Empowerment: The Politics of Alternative Development", interpreted broader understanding of empowerment than those focusing on the entrepreneurial self-reliance of individuals. His definition of empowerment includes three different aspects of power: Social, Political, and Psychological. Social power means having access to resources such as information, knowledge, and skills. Political power refers to participation in decision making. Psychological power is defined by an individual's sense of potency and self-esteem, which may positively influence his or her access to social and political power. To apply theory to practice, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has developed a broader women's empowerment framework focusing on five levels of equality. They are Welfare, Access, Conscientization, Participation and Control.

Welfare refers the process of addressing the basic needs of women without considering the structural causes. At this point women are viewed as passive beneficiaries of welfare benefits. This is the first step toward empowerment. Access stresses over providing access to resources such as schooling and micro-credit. Access helps women to progress in meaningful ways.

Conscientization refers the process of helping women to recognize the problems caused by existing socio-cultural arrangements, and their roles and rights to deal with inequalities. Participation means encouraging women to take part in decision-making and working collectively to gain political representation.

Control is the final stage of empowerment where the balance of power between men and women is equal and the contributions of women are fully recognized. At this stage women have the independence to make decisions regarding their bodies, fertility, birth spacing, and the lives of their children. This empowerment framework helps development practitioners determine the point of intervention so as to achieve higher levels of equality and the empowerment of women.

### **2.8.1 The Empowerment Approach**

The empowerment approach, which is fundamental to an alternative development philosophy, places an emphasis on autonomous decision-making for communities, local self-reliance, direct democracy, and experiential social learning. The starting point for empowerment must be at the grassroots level because civil society is most readily mobilized around local issues. The major goal of empowerment is to achieve equality through transforming the structures, systems, and institutions that have maintained inequality. In the case of Nepal, the process of women's empowerment involves many dimensions, including: "increasing access to economic opportunities and resources; strengthening political power through women's organizations, solidarity, and collective action; raising consciousness about the symptoms and causes of prevalent oppressive religious, economic, cultural, familial, and legal practices; and strengthening women's self-confidence." Economic empowerment involves gaining control over productive resources and enabling women to make independent financial decisions. Women in Nepal have already realized the need to be involved in the economic sphere as a means to supplement the household income and gain a certain

level of independence. However, these women are mainly relegated to low-skill repetitive jobs in the industrial sector. This is because of a lack of education and training opportunities, employer biases, and limited

According to the Nepalese constitution, women should enjoy equal rights to employment and equal pay for similar jobs, but this is rare in practice. Political empowerment aims to propel women into offices where they can formulate, execute, and monitor policies and laws. A critical mass of women, at least one-third of the total of political representatives, needs to be at every level of decision-making. However, women have extremely limited power at the decision and policy-making levels of political bodies, as well as in government bureaucracy. Although almost all political parties have formed women's caucuses, no organizations have been able to put gender issues onto the political agenda in more than a rhetorical way.

The government of Nepal has implemented several initiatives to empower women. Shortly following the fourth world conference on women held in Beijing in September 1995, the government established the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare (MWSW) to champion women's issues. The MWSW is a leading agency for the advancement of women through empowerment. The roles and responsibilities of the ministry are to strengthen advocacy, coordination, and support for women's groups in various ministries. The MWSW has set three objectives for the empowerment of women: mainstreaming gender, eliminating gender inequality, and empowering women along the lines proposed by the Beijing Platform for Action.

The activism of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Nepal has increased tremendously and a number of NGO networks have been formed. The Woman's Pressure Group, for example, is comprised of 84 NGOs of various categories. Other networks are issue-oriented and focus on advocacy or specific agendas such as media, HIV/AIDS, and trafficking. One typical example of an NGO working for women's empowerment is the Women's Foundation of Nepal (WF), which works to amend laws that prohibit greater involvement of women in politics. The WF also acts as a networking center and emergency shelter and offers job training, micro-credit loans, and literacy classes. To raise awareness of women's issues, the WF stages seminars, workshops, street plays, and rallies.



One typical example of an NGO working for women's empowerment is the Women's Foundation of Nepal, which works to amend laws that prohibit greater involvement of women in politics. Although the property rights bill was passed recently, providing equal rights to parental properties for unmarried daughters, it still does not protect women's independence since they have to return such parental properties after they get married. While the bill provides a share of a husband's property to those who are divorced and those who are widowed, these provisions are only helpful to those who are capable of accessing legal services.

According to 1991 census data, more than 36 percent of the female population was categorized as homemakers and dependents. While homemaking activities are essential for the survival of the household, they fall outside the formal economy. The government's attempts to empower women have been limited. The present constitution has made it mandatory for all political parties to field women as at least five percent of all candidates for election to the House of Representatives, as well as for the House of Representatives to elect at least three women members to the National Assembly.

The Local Development Act has also made it mandatory for Village Development Committees to field at least one female candidate in each ward committee. Although women occupy positions at the ward level, their influence in the decision-making process has remained weak.

In principle, the constitution protects women from sex discrimination and exploitation. In practice, however, constitutional provisions lack enforcement mechanisms.

### **2.8.2 Feminist Approach**

Using a feminist interpretivist approach, this study aims at understanding the dynamics of gender equality through empowerment of dalit women by examining and understanding the issues of women's status, notions of patriarchy as well as women's experiences and concerns about the changes they have perceived through the interventions that aim to empower them. The feminist standpoint theory was used, which respects the knowledge and experiences of people from where they are situated, to understand the diversity of experiences that women bring to the concept of

their empowerment, with regard to their culture and context. Feminist standpoint approach also takes into consideration the diversity of women's experiences and differences in how men and women think, what they think about and what they regard as important. From a researcher's perspective, this approach is appropriate in valuing the everyday lived experiences of women and men in Nepal. Therefore, throughout the study and in person interviews, I attempt to bring out the experiences and understanding of what women empowerment means to people in Patneri of ward no. 29 in Pokhara Metropolitan City. This approach is necessary to get a nuanced understanding people's experiences of empowerment and their perceived idea of change in their lives that is acquired through an in-depth interview method. This study is an attempt to explore and build the researcher's commitment to studying women's development and bringing forth a local understanding of empowerment from women's perspectives among dalit women of Nepal.

### **2.8.3 Women in Development (WID)**

Women in development is an approach of development projects that emerged in the 1960s, calling for treatment of women's issues in development projects. It is the integration of women into the global economies by improving their status and assisting in total development. Later, the Gender and development (GAD) approach proposed more emphasis on gender relations rather than seeing women's issues in isolation. This approach calls for greater attention to women in development policy and practice, and emphasizes the need to integrate them into the development process.

## **2.9 Review of Previous Studies**

Women, Development, Democracy - A Study of the Socio-Economic Changes in the Status of Women in Nepal (1981-1993) is a publication of the Nepali NGO Shtrii Shakti which sets out to provide a "selective update" of the data on women presented in the SOWN project of 1981 (p. xvii), in order to examine changes in women's conditions and positions in the intervening 12 years. Specifically, Shtrii Shakti set out to identify areas for development intervention to be implemented, presumably, by women.

According to this study, the duration of maternity leave in Nepal, fixed by the Government at somewhere between 12-14 weeks, is less than half of the average duration of maternity leave at the global level (p.20).

The study conducted by the support of (USAID, the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO)), or other WID agencies. The study's introduction begins with a rather cursory overview of current shifts in development thinking from an emphasis on "growth" to one on "equity". With regard to WID policies in Nepal, this section is critical of "an implicit assumption in development policy that development activities directed towards rural people automatically include women" (p.2). It claims instead that in actually bypassing women, "both women and the development process have suffered" (p.3). Moreover, because of ethnic and cultural variances in the Nepali context, the study (following the SOWN series) underlines the need to relate national statistics to specific geo-cultural situations, in order to form a real understanding of changes in the conditions of women's lives. With regard to its data collection component, the study accomplishes this relatively well.

Women, Development, Democracy's most extensive chapter concerns women in the economy. It recreates the SOWN study's model for the analysis of economically active women using three spheres of activity: the family farm enterprise, the local market economy and employment involving short term migration. SOWN devised this model as a means of circumventing the under-valuation of women's input in the household economy in census statistics. In the Shtrii Shakti study, the unaltered model is utilized to measure changes in levels of women's economic activity in the period since 1981. The consistent pattern emerging from the 1993 findings is that women continue to contribute to the economy at a higher rate than men, as was the case in 1981.<sup>12</sup> Women's contribution is not only higher in terms of the overall household income but also in terms of time input.<sup>13</sup> With a national trend towards the replacement of what used to be a subsistence-based economy with one based on cash, and a real trend of increasing poverty, women's participation in the labour force is now identified as expanding beyond the household into the local market economy.

Adhikari (2007) in his dissertation "Women in Commercial Vegetable Farming" a case study of Hemja VDC concluded that vegetable cultivation appears as one of the

productive enterprises. The main vegetable crops grown in the study site were potato, tomato, cucumber, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, loafs, bottle gourd, beans, etc. Majority of the farmers reported that they commercialize their vegetable farming between 6 to 10 years ago. Vast majority of the women farmers were satisfied with this farming which clearly indicates that this occupation is very sound for rural women, especially in urban fringe.

Majority of the farmers cultivated off-seasonal vegetables and earn more than the seasonal vegetable farming. Most of the Dalit women did not cultivate off-seasonal vegetable because of landlessness. But they can get a little income from selling this production as vendors. Majority of the women reported them as full-time farmers and key person who was involved in this farming and some of them also added that their husbands assist them. Most of the women farmers spend 8 to 11 hours per day for vegetable farming during the vegetable farming seasons. The study revealed that households with no men (due to emigration or death) were forced to buy poultry manure in high rate from their neighbors' men because being as women it is not suitable task for them to bring poultry manure far from the houses, which was imported from Narayanghat, Chitwan District. There is still gender inequality in wage labor between men and women. Men work as a Bause (hoer) and get Rs.200 with one time meal and breakfast in a day. But, women work as a Khetali (weeding, planting work) and being women, they get only Rs.80 with breakfast in a day. These data shows that gender inequality, unequal gender division of labour and practices still exist in Nepal.

Maximilian Schenk and et. al (2018) in their studies” Empowerment of Women in Rural Nepal’ seeks to examine the status and empowerment of women in the rural Nepalese village Bhimpokhara. Research suggests that women in Nepal are oppressed by a patriarchal system and have to face discrimination, violence, and dependency upon males on a daily basis. This may have an influence on their attitudes about gender equality and their attitudes, in turn, may influence the possibility of taking action to become more empowered. In 25 semi-structured interviews, women from diverse backgrounds answered questions about their actual status and about their attitudes. The answers were analysed in detail and compared with each other. While most women had much power within their family and social environment, this was

especially dependent upon their education and caste membership. The economic power was very low for all the women. Their attitudes about gender equality were very progressive and contradictory to the reality they find themselves in. This study shows that for a sustainable development, NGO's and social organizations must take efforts to increase women's independency, self-confidence, and awareness. Some recommendations are given which include the further support of women's groups, the creation of tailored awareness programs, and the distribution of microcredits for most vulnerable women like Dalits and widows.

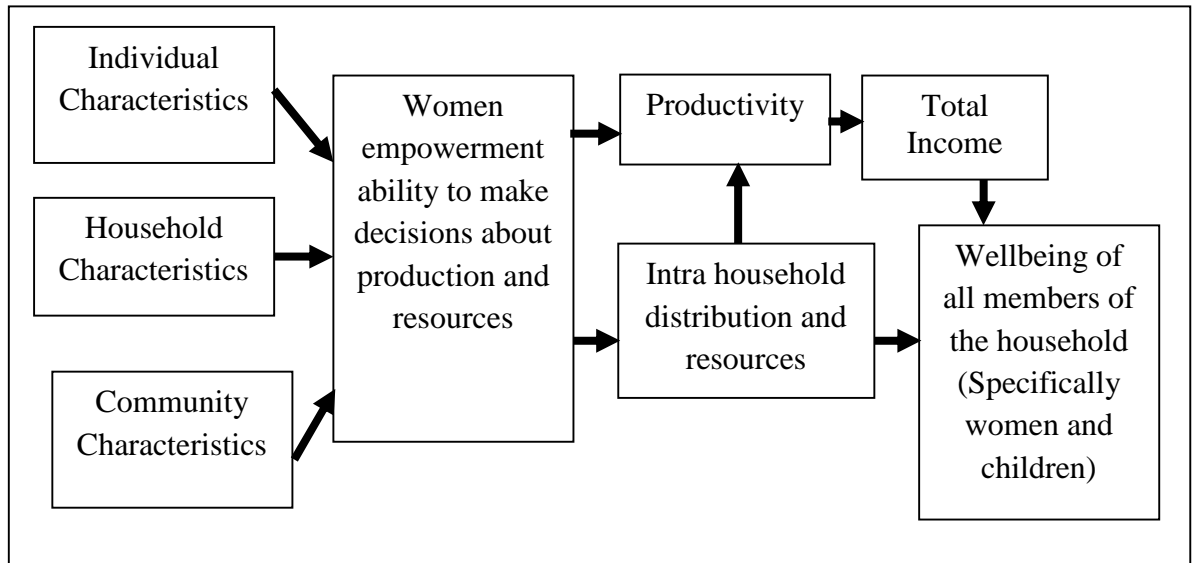
Margaret Becker (2016) from his research entitled "In the name of empowerment: Women and Development in Urban Nepal" concerned with women and Development in Kathmandu. He concluded that Development and social change-oriented goals associated with it have been firmly enmeshed in Nepal since the 1950's. The philosophy and the terms of international development both of which are based on modern western models of society are highly influential in Nepal, inter-wining with sets of social relations and local history to form a nationally shared vision known as Bikas(Development) (Pigg 1922). Particularly since the 1990's, there has been a proliferation of international and internal non- governmental organizations including many, focusing on issues related to women. The terminology of transnational discourses of development pervades the websites and literature of women's development organizations. In particular the language of 'empowerment' - a term that is entrenched in the global development discourse on women-frames the stated objectives and interventions of these organizations, suggesting that this term plays an important role in formulating projects and objectives in gender and development programs in Nepal. In this thesis, he interrogated what is being done in the name of women's empowerment through an ethnographic exploration of two women's NGO's operating in Kathmandu. The data were collected for 12 months on the basis of anthropological fieldwork. He examined women's goals, understandings, and experiences of specific development encounters to explore what this global development concept, empowerment, looks like in the social spaces where women work and live. Key questions were, what ideas of empowerment are generated in the practice of development programs for women and what are the effects on women's lives? His study suggested that understandings of the term empowerment are diverse, contingent and situational, depending on context and a woman's positioning in that

context at any given time. He argued that notions of ‘woman’ are critical to what it means to be empowered in these contexts, in terms of the organizations’ program objectives and strategies and for the women involved with these groups. He demonstrated the way in which different discourses- global discourses of women’s empowerment, local discourses of gender and development, and notions of ‘woman’ in Nepal-intersect and are intertwined in the everyday encounters and experiences of development for women in specific contexts in Kathmandu.

### **Development Aims and Impacts**

This case study is on the Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Project that was developed and implemented in Nepal between 2002 and 2013 by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Department of Women Development of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. The goal is to reduce poverty by empowering poor rural women and members of other disadvantaged groups, such as ethnic and low-caste women. The objective is to improve these groups’ socioeconomic conditions through an integrated process of economic, social, legal, and political empowerment. The project achieved intangible and tangible positive results for women and their communities. Intangible, but not less real, transformations include a decrease in negative beliefs and practices relative to girls’ education, child and early marriage, and the appropriate role of women within and outside the home. The project also led to changes in daily practices of “untouchability.” More tangibly, large numbers of women in the 15 districts of the project have become more productive economically, and their households enjoy higher incomes and improved health status. Socially, women marginalized by caste and ethnic origin have successfully taken on community responsibilities not previously open to them. Their legal rights have been bolstered by increased legal knowledge, by the possibility of seeking easier redress under local dispute resolution systems, and by the possession of personal documentation.

## 2.10 Conceptual Framework of the Study



Participation of Dalit women in agriculture farming activities are affected by various factors. The main factor that makes Dalit women backward is lack of education. In our country the ratio of education status of women is less than the men. The limited income leads to the low economic status. Many Dalit women are backward due to the lack of education by which they can't be self- dependent. They have to depend on their male family member for many situations. This makes women backward in their own family. Women have to follow the decision of the family head, and the self-confidence of the women also became low.

The status of Nepalese women and rural women in particular lags far behind that of men. The strong bias in favor of sons in the country means that daughters are discriminated against from birth and do not have equal opportunities to achieve development. The situation for women is characterized by low levels of access to education, healthcare and economic, social, and political opportunities. Despite increasing efforts from the government, non-governmental organizations and international development agencies to empower women in Nepal, there has been little improvement in the socio-economic status of women at the grassroots level. This paper clarifies the meaning of empowerment and critiques how it is applied in the context of Nepal. Development in Nepal remains impossible unless women achieve equal footing with men in the development process. Gender-based inequalities in access to healthcare, education, ownership of assets, and economic and social

mobility are still profound. Labor and physical exploitation of young girls is widespread. In addition, gender-based violence is often reported in domestic as well as public arenas and is largely attributed to derogatory attitudes towards women, which is reinforced by low socioeconomic status.

According to the Gender Development Index (GDI), socioeconomic conditions for Nepalese women are worse than for other South Asian women. Moreover, women remain far behind men in Nepal according to the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM). Indeed, women's participation in politics is only one-fifth that of men, and the same pattern prevails in professional occupations and administrative jobs. Although a substantial proportion of women, around 40 percent, is economically active, many are unpaid family workers involved in subsistence agriculture. To raise the status of women in Nepal and push forward the country's economic development, government and development organizations have

Despite increasing efforts from government, non-governmental organizations, and international development agencies to empower women in Nepal, there has been little improvement in the socioeconomic status of women at the grassroots level.



# **CHAPTER : THREE**

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This chapter mainly concerns with the methods of data collection. The emphasis was given for the collection of valid and reliable information. The effort was made to collect primary data. Different, methods and procedures followed with respect to the selection of area for the study, sampling and data collection procedure, different variables under study and their empirical measurements and analysis of data have been described.

### **3.1 Rationale of the Selection of Study Area**

The study is based on practice of Dalit women empowerment through agriculture in Pokhara Metropolitan city 29, Sunar Tole, Patneri nearby Bhandardhik Kaski in Gandaki province. The area was selected because it is the residence area of the Dalit. Majority of the respondents are new migrants. Out of 362 households 155 households are of Dalits and the rest are Tamang, Magar, Gurung, Sarki, Brahmin, Chhetri and Newar. The area is selected because of its homogeneity of the respondents in terms of economy, gender, education, geography and culture. It is easily accessible from Pokhara with a distance of 14 km in the South.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The principal of this research is to assess the empowerment of Dalit Women through agriculture. The existing information about empowerment of Dalit Women in Dalit Setting in the Dalit Community is found on the basis of the descriptive ways and it would try to several pattern of empowerment which is during the empowerment period of Agriculture Farming Women in Dalit Setting in Dalit Community. Another analytical design is selected one stage further of descriptive research and it was found by seeking the reasons behind a particular occurrence by discovering causes relationship through taking the typical questions why and what on the particular occurrence on the basis of the observation and case study. Furthermore, the descriptive research design also used in the study.

### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. The emphasis was given to collect Primary data and less amount of Secondary data were used. Primary data were collected through household survey, observation and Interview. Secondary data were obtained from ward office and from the record of Farming committee of the women.

### **3.4 Universe and Sampling**

In total there were 155 households of Dalit in the study area which was considered as the universe. Out of 155 households, 76 households have been selected using simple random sampling technique using lottery method, which comes to be 50 percentage. Each women from selected household are the unit of analysis for the study. So, required primary information have been collected from those selected 76 women respondents from the study area.

### **3.5 Data Collection Techniques**

Data were collected by using interview schedule. The minor survey was conducted by the researcher for collecting the preliminary information for the major survey. General information regarding the attitude, feeling, co-operation, motivation and perception of the women were trapped through minor survey. It was conducted for 2 days. The structured interview and observation were the major tools of data collection. The demographic data were collected from the ward office as the secondary sources.

#### **3.5.1 Interview Schedule**

Data were collected through semi-structured interview. The questions were asked to the respondents by direct and face to face interaction that helps to judge the confidence of the women and their attitude and perception over agriculture.

#### **3.5.2 Observation**

During the time of household survey, the activities of the women in various activities inside the house and outside the house were observed directly. The level of confidence and the activities in group for agriculture were observed. Observation further helped to know the level of motivation of the women in agriculture.

### **3.5.3 Case Study**

To know about the cause of involvement in agriculture and formation of the group for agriculture four cases have been made. The experience of the women for the changing society and culture has been presented. The cause of involvement in agriculture and positive consequences they had after they established 'Namuna Krishi Samuha' were identified. The cases have been made mainly to know the changing practices of decision- making power of women.

### **3.6 Data Analysis and Process**

To make the collected data more valid and reliable, appropriate methods of presentation and analysis have been used. The data are presented on the table and some statistical presentation tool including pie chart. The collected data are analyzed on the basis of their weightage they cover in respective issues.

## **CHAPTER : FOUR**

### **GENERAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA**

#### **4.1 Agriculture in the Study Area**

The area is plain. It has good facility of irrigation. The soil is fertile so it is better for agriculture and specially for cultivation. Rice, maize and wheat are grown here. Some people grow mustard, buckwheat and barley. The people of the study area are mostly involved in vegetable farming as it is a regular time consuming and vegetables can be sold easily. Vegetable is the major means of earning among the people who are involving in agriculture. Few people are involving in domestication of livestock. Most of the vegetables are grown here. Vegetables are grown in both season and off season. Off seasonal production has good market than seasonal production. Potato, Spanish, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Bitter-guard, guard, onion, tomato, radish, carrot, coriander, beans, peas, soyabeans etc. are grown.

#### **4.2 Household Pattern in the Study Area**

The area is plain and is better for settlement. It is just 2-3 km far from Prithvi Highway. It is the major attraction for the new migrants from other parts of the Kaski district and from the neighboring districts. The cost of land is not too high so it is affordable by medium class people. It has mixed society. Many caste and ethnic group, Dalits are the habitants of the area. The household pattern of the study area is presented below.

**Table 4.1: Household Pattern of Study Area**

<b>Caste/Ethnic group</b>	<b>No. of household</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sunar/Bishwokarma	105	29.00
Tamang	95	26.24
Magar	42	11.60
Gurung	38	10.50
Sarki	28	6.91
Damai	22	5.80
Brahmin	13	3.59
Chhetri	11	3.04
Newar	9	2.49
Others	3	0.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Ward office, Ward No. 29, Pokhara Metropolitan City*

The table 4.1 shows that the study area has diversity in terms of Caste and Ethnicity. However, the number of Dalit households is 155. Among Dalits, Sunar has the majority. Tamang is the second dominating group with 26.24% of the total households. Magar has 11.60% of households. Gurung has 10.50% households. Likewise, Sarki and Damai has 6.91% and 5.80% households respectively. In the study area only 3.54% households are of Brahmins and 3.04% households are of Chhetri's households. Newar has 2.49% households and others including Gharti, Jalari, Pode, have 0.83% households i.e. single household of each. The new migrants are almost the relatives of the people who have already been settled in the area. Sunar is the dominating group because the migrant also like to settle in the area in which the people would have similar characteristics as they have.

### **4.3 Social Formation of the Study Area in Terms of Origin**

The study area is mostly occupied by the new migrants who have been migrated from many districts. The origin of the households in terms of their home district has been presented below.

**Table 4.2: Migration situation in the study area**

<b>Home district/Origin</b>	<b>No. of households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Local/Kaski	109	30.11
Baglung	58	16.02
Parbat	45	12.43
Tanahun	42	11.60
Gorkha	36	9.94
Lamjung	31	8.56
Myagdi	21	5.80
Others	20	5.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:-Tol Sudhar Samiti, Patneri, 2021*

The table 4.2 shows the trend of migration in Patneri from other areas for settlements. Most of the households have shifted here from the same districts. About 30.11% shifted from other parts of Kaski district. The number of households which have their origin in Baglung and Parbat was 16.02% and 12.43% respectively. 11.60% households migrated from Tanahun district Was 9.94%. Likewise the number of households shifted from Lamjung and Myagdi was 8.56% and 5.80% respectively. The others rest have been migrated from Jhapa, Syangja, Nuwakot, Dhading and Rasuwa. The flow of people from Dhaulagiri Zone is high due to the affordable cost of the land and the area is in the process of urbanization. The area is plain and fertile. It is safe and wouldn't have any problem of Flood, landslide and so on. It is open and flat so has the facility of irrigation. The people who involve in agriculture have also been attracted. Most of them have been migrated for better facilities than that of their previous area and some have been migrated for agricultural purpose.

## CHAPTER : FIVE

### INTERPLAYING FACTORS OF EMPOWERMENT

#### 5.1 General information of the Respondents

All the respondents were Dalit women. In spite of the homogeneity, they had many variations. The variations have been discussed under the following topics.

##### 5.1.1 Age-wise Distribution of Respondents

Age is the key factor that determines the potentiality of a person. The age composition of the respondents is given below on table no 4.1. The respondents were selected from the active population group and have been categorized below.

**Table 5.1: Age-wise Distribution of Respondents**

Age (Years)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
20-25	10	13.15
25-30	30	39.47
30-35	16	21.05
35-40	12	15.79
40 above	8	10.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 5.1 shows that majority of the respondents are under the group 25-30 years that covers 39.47 percent of the total. The second largest age group is 30-35 years that covers 21.05 percent. The age of the senior respondents is low which covers only 10.52 percent of the total. The priority was given for physically active and efficient respondents. The area is almost occupied by the youths as youth have interest to have good and comfort life. The youths are almost involving in foreign employment. For the better facilities than in their home pulled them to have settlement in Patneri. The representation of old generation is low as they do not want to shift from their home ground.

### 5.1.2 Marital Status

It is the real identification of a person. It is believed that one would be matured only after marriage. The composition of the population in terms of marital status is presented on the table 5.2 below.

**Table 5.2 : Marital Status of the Respondents**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Married	62	81.58
Unmarried	10	13.15
Widow	4	5.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 5.2 above shows that most of the respondents were married which covers 81.58 percent of the total. The number of unmarried respondents was 10 and the rest 4 respondents were widow. Due to the trend and practice of late marriage it was measured that the respondents under the age group 20-25 years and 25-30 years are still unmarried. The respondents are the women who involve in agriculture so the rate of respondents who got married is high and the early age marriage still in practice and high among Dalit than higher caste group. Widows are the elder group who lost their husband by age, diseases and some by the accident.

### 5.1.3 Educational Background

Education has been considered as the qualitative indicator of development. Educated people are found to be active and efficient than uneducated people. It is also the key factor to empower people. The educational background of the respondents is given below.

**Table 5.3 : Educational Status**

<b>Education status</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Literate	56	73.68
Illiterate	20	26.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*



From the table 5.3 it was found that 56 respondents were literate which is 73.68 percent of the total and 20 respondents were found illiterate having percent of 26.32. In which we could say that the literate percent were more than illiterate. The literacy rate of the whole nation is increasing rapidly. The literacy rate of the women is high now due to the implementation of plans and policies of the government for girl's education. The culture to teach girls has been developed and the level of awareness is high among the respondents.

#### 5.1.4 Academic Qualification

The respondents who are literate also have diversity. The level of their qualification is different. There were the respondents ranging from primary level qualification to Bachelor level qualifier. The table below shows the academic condition of the respondents.

**Table 5.4: Educational Attainment of Respondents**

<b>Educational attainment</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Primary	24	42.86
Lower secondary	18	32.14
Intermediate/+2	12	21.43
Bachelor	2	3.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

According to the table 5.4, the 24 respondents have attained the primary level education and their percentage was 42.86, 18 respondents have attained the lower secondary and their percentage was 32.14, 12 respondents have attained the intermediate and their percentage was 21.43, only 2 respondents have attained the bachelor level and their percentage was 3.57. The literacy rate is comparatively high but the trend to drop-out from the school was popular for the seniors because the early marriage was practiced. The response to care the child and to perform household activities enforced them to left school without completion. Literate women didn't complete higher level because of social, cultural, economic and psychological barriers.

### 5.1.5 Structure of the Family

Family has been considered as the basic unit of society. It was realized that family would also play the key role for the involvement of a individual in various types of activities.

**Table 5.5 : Family Size**

<b>Types of Family</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Nuclear	58	76.32
Joint	16	21.05
Extended	2	2.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 5.5 above shows the family structure of the respondents. It shows that most of the family are nuclear which is 58 in number among 76 in total. The number of joint family is 16 and 2 are extended. The family has been changed all over the world. The area is mostly occupied by new migrants and couple who had been migrated with their child from their home districts and area. It would be burden to take other members with them in new place and area. The cause to have extended family was the lack of his/her own son to care for them. They have been settled in their daughter's home where her fathers in law and mothers in law have already been there with them.

### 5.1.6 Ruling the Family

Each family has to be ruled by a person. The success or failure of the family would depend upon the rulers. To empower some members of the family the head could play the crucial role.

**Table 5.6: Heading/Ruling the Family**

<b>Head of the family</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Self	30	39.47
Husband	19	25.00
Son/ daughter	12	15.79
Others	10	13.16
No one particular	5	6.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 5.6 shows the heading practice of the family among the respondents. 30 respondents were the head of the family themselves. It was because of the absence of their husband who were working in foreign countries. Few women are leading the family even in the presence of their husband. 9 respondents had reported that their husband headed the family. The 12 households were headed by son or daughter as they became more capable technically as well as academically. In case of joint and extended family it had been headed by the senior members. Only 5 respondents reported that there is no particular head in their family. As per need everyone headed on particular aspect.

### 5.1.7 Causes of Heading the Family by Women

The question was asked among 30 respondents who reported that they were headed the family. The table below shows the causes of heading the family by females.

**Table 5.7 : Cause of Heading the Family by Females**

<b>Cause of heading</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Absence of husband	12	40.00
Responsibility handover by husband	7	23.33
Do not trust over husband	5	16.67
Death of husband	4	13.33
Lacking a person to head the family	2	6.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 5.7 shows that most of the females were headed the family. Their husbands were outside the country so they should compulsorily head the family. As their husband were outside the country. Among 30 respondents 7 respondents reported that they were headed the family after their husband handover the responsibility. The main cause to handover the responsibility to the female was their trust towards women and sometimes they were busy every time. women reported that they were headed because they didn't have trust over their husband due to their drinking habit. 4 of them headed because of the death of their husband and 2 of them reported that there was no anybody to head the family so, automatically they headed.

### 5.1.8 Occupation Background of the Family

The people of the study area were involved in various occupations. The majority of the respondents were found to be involved in agriculture and household works. Agriculture is not sufficient for them to survive. The occupational pattern of the members of the family is presented below.

**Table 5.8 : Occupation of the Family**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Foreign Employment	43	56.58
Agriculture	41	53.95
Daily wages	24	31.58
Indian/Nepali army	13	17.11
Private job	11	14.47
Business	8	10.53
Government job	4	5.26

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The above table 5.8 shows the occupation of the family. Most of the family had their family members in foreign employment that is 43 by number. 41 families were involved in agriculture, 24 families had their members involved in daily wages. 13 respondents had their family members in Nepalese and India army. 11 respondents had their family members in private job. 8 respondents reported that they had small business. Only 4 members from the study area were engaged in government job. The people were found to be involved in various occupations as single occupation was not sufficient for them and the trend to involve in diverse population is becoming popular day by day. Even the literate people didn't have a higher level of qualification. The earning from the single job is comparatively low and difficult to manage daily expenditure of the households. The level of awareness is also increasing and time management is the major concern.

### 5.1.9 Income of the Family

The involvement of the respondents in various jobs and professions determines their income. The family income of the respondents is presented below.

**Table 5.9: Monthly Income of the Family**

<b>Income in rupees</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
10,000-15,000	8	10.53
16000 - 20,000	12	15.79
21,000 - 25,000	12	15.79
26,000-30,000	14	18.42
31,000-35,000	18	23.68
36,000-40,000	9	11.84
Above 40,000	3	3.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 5.9 shows that 10.53 percent respondents had their family income Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 rupees. 12 respondents reported that their family income was Rs. 16,000 to 20,000 and the same number for 21,000 to 25,000. 14 respondents reported that their family income was Rs. 26,000 to 30,000. Maximum number of respondents estimated Rs. 31,000 to 35,000 as their monthly income which is 18 by number and its percentage is 23.68. About 11.84 percent had responded Rs, 36,000-40,000 as their monthly income and 3 respondents reported that their family income was more than Rs. 40,000. There is at least one male member is in outside the country. Some of the households have two members in foreign employment. Some of the households have their male members in Nepalese and Indian Army. The Income of the family has been determined by the size of the family and their job and profession. Those who do not have fixed job and who involve in daily wages have low level of income.

#### **5.1.10 Duration of Settlement in the Study Area**

Most of the respondents were new migrants. They had shifted in the study area from different sides of Pokhara valley. Some of them were migrated from other neighboring districts like Syangja, Parbat, Baglung, Gorkha, Lamjung, Tanahun.and some from Jhapa district too.

**Table 5.10: Duration of Settlement in the Study Area**

<b>Duration of involvement</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than-3 years	7	9.21
3-6 years	15	19.74
7-9 years	20	26.36
10-12 years	16	21.05
More than 12 years	18	23.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

Table 5.10 shows the duration of settlement of the respondents. The duration of most of the respondents is 7-9 years which is 20 in number. 18 respondents reported that they have been settled here more than 12 years. Likewise, 16 respondents responded that they have been on the study area for 10-12 years. Only 15 respondents were there who have been there for 3-6 years and only 7 respondents are new settlers. It shows that most of the respondents are early settlers. The table shows that the rate of migration is still increasing because of its medium level of facilities and affordable cost of land. It is better for the people to involve in agriculture which has access facility of irrigation.

#### **Case Study- I**

*My Name is Goma B.K. (Name Change). I am 40 years old woman. she has been residing here for 20 years. I was observing lot of changes here. The major change is the increasing in housing pattern. Most of the houses were tin roofed but now most of the houses are cemented. The number of households is rapidly increased. Most of the land of Patneri was bushy and was not cultivated. I had to go ' Kuwa' near the Seti river to fence water for domestic use. Now, we have access on drinking water and irrigation both. There was the domination of patriarchy on every aspect. We didn't have school and shops. The number of shops is increasing day by day. To buy some goods for daily use, we had to go Bhandardhik but now we are getting all types of provisional items here. Until 10 years before, males were involved in wages labor for construction activities. The literacy rate was low so the other types of job wouldn't be obtained. Now most of the males are abroad for employment. There is at least one*

*member in abroad from each household. Some of the families have two members in abroad. I was jobless and didn't involve in other extra activities except household work before Namuna Krishi Samuha" was established in 2074 B.S. Some of we discussed about our wastage time. Majority of the participants had positive attitude for the establishment of the Samuha. After it was established, it inspires me to involve in agriculture. I am getting full support from the family members. Most of the time I engaged in various activities of agriculture. It controls and manage the wasting of time. I have money now after I sell some agricultural goods. I do not need to ask for money with my husband or others. I am able to manage household expenditure. I have to ask with husband for large scale of expenditure. Before 2 years for the admission of my son in college I asked for money with my husband. I found that people have positive attitude and response towards me. I am happy and fully enjoy in agriculture.*

## CHAPTER : SIX

### INTERPRETATION OF AGRICULTURE

#### 6.1 Analysis of Information Related to Agriculture

Agriculture is the major occupation of people in the area. It has been practiced since many years before to till now. Some aspects have changed but some aspects remain the same as they were before. The agricultural practices in the study area by the women in terms of empowerment has been discussed and analyzed through the following topics.

##### 6.1.1 Duration of Involvement in Agriculture

Agriculture is still the major occupation of Nepalese people. The rate to change the occupation is increasing. Other professions are more respective than agriculture. The duration of respondents involving in agriculture is presented below.

**Table 6.1 : Duration of Involvement in Agriculture**

Duration of involvement	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Less than-3 years	7	9.21
3-6 years	15	19.74
7-9 years	20	26.36
10-12 years	16	21.05
More than 12 years	18	23.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 6.1 above shows that the duration of their involvement on agriculture. It can be observed that agriculture came in to practice for commercial purpose only after 8 years. Most of the respondents were found to involved for 7-9 years which is 20 by number. 18 respondents were found to be involved for more than 12 years and similarly 16 respondents reported that they have been involved for 10-12 years. 15



respondents reported that they were involved for 3-6 years. It showed that the trend of agricultural practices is getting popularity as it doesn't require high level of qualification and it could be easily obtained than other job and profession. People do not have high level of qualification, skill, experience so they do not get job in other sectors. Vegetables farming is also better for earning. The time that should give for agriculture is also low and one could manage house too.

### 6.1.2 Causes of Involvement in Agriculture

It was considered more important to know the cause of involvement in agriculture. The respondents were found to be involved with lots of expectations. The table 5.15 below shows the various causes and conditions.

**Table 6.2 : Motivational factors to Involve in Agriculture**

Causes of Motivation	No. of respondent	Percentage
To get different products	50	65.79
To earn money	45	59.21
To be self-depend	36	47.37
To upgrade social status	34	44.74
To change public attitude towards women	25	32.89

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 6.2 shows that 50 respondents were involved because they were expected to get various vegetarian and non-vegetarian item in their own farm. 36 of them were had the expectation to be self-depend. 45 of them had the expectation to earn money. Likewise, 34 were expected to upgrade social status and 25 of them reported that they would able to change the public attitude towards women. It is difficult to get fresh vegetables in the market and the cost is too high. It inspired them to involve in agriculture. Those women who were conscious of their wasting time also joined in agriculture. Vegetable farming is also the means of earning. It was in practice as the alternative source of income so that they could manage daily expenditure.

### 6.1.3 Sources of Inspiration to Enroll in Agriculture

The women are found to involve in various agricultural activities all over the world. Most of the activities related with agriculture have been conducted by women in.

politically and so on. The sources of their inspiration to involve in agriculture has been presented in the following table.

**Table 6.3 : Sources of Inspiration to Enroll in Agriculture**

Sources	No. of respondents	Percentage
Self	26	34.21
Husband	23	30.26
Local institutions	12	15.79
GO/NGO Agencies	9	11.84
Other family members	6	7.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Sources: Field Survey ,2021*

The table 6.3 shows that 34.21 percent of the respondent were self -inspired. About 30.26 percent of the respondents reported that they were motivated by their husband. Government and non-government organizations motivated 9 women and 6 of them were motivated by their son/daughter and elders. It shows that the self- awareness is high and effort have been made by various organizations to enroll in agriculture. There are so many institutions and organizations which have been launching different programs for women empowerment. Each individual wants to do better and others are also trying to make them better. The trend to participate in different interaction programs organize by different organizations is getting popularity and it resulted to involve in agriculture.

### **Case Study - II**

*My name is Rita Sunar (Name change). I am 34 years old. I complete my bachelor in 2070 BS. I got married on the same year. My natal home is in Syangja. My husband is also a bachelor scholar. He was teaching in BMG Boarding School. The salary was low and therefore not sufficient to manage the expenditure fully. We were 6 members at home. Father- in law was worked in constructive activities. It was difficult to manage the family. My husband is the eldest son. There were one brother-in law and a sister- in law. Due to the difficulty to manage the family, my husband went to Dubai. I didn't think about the job as I had lot of responsibilities at home. After 2 years of my marriage, I gave the birth of my first son. He is now 6 years old and studying in class one in Siddhi Vinayak Secondary School. The gap of my two children is 2 years. The*

*youngest child is daughter. She is running in 4 years. She has joined in child care center. The brother-in law and sister-in law both got married. The brother-in law has been separated with us. Both father-in law and mother-in law are here with me. I was worried about the management of time. I joined in Namuna Krishi Samuha and using my time in agriculture. I am giving 4-5 hours daily on agricultural activities. We had vegetable farm which is managed and conducted by our community. I have 6 anna land at home which is also used for growing vegetable. I give more time here at home and give little time in common agriculture farming. The production of home is sufficient for us and sometime in season I sell some of the product in pick season. The common production of goods are sold and we share the income. I am able to earn Rs.8,000-9,000 per month from commonly managed agriculture. The earning is used to pay the fee of children and rest has been used to buy goods for domestic purpose. I am happy with my enrollment in agriculture. The wasting time is used properly. I am getting support from the family members. My husband is happy for my enrollment. I don't need to ask for money with husband for general situation. I am feeling proud to do so. We do not need to spend the earning of husband every time and situation. We are now able to save. The earning of husband is used to pay school fee of the children.*

#### **6.1.4 Dimensions of agricultural Practices**

Agriculture has various dimensions. To fulfil the demands of agricultural product people have to be involved in various sectors. The sectors of agriculture that the respondents were involved have been presented in the table below.

**Table 6.4 : Different Sectors of Agricultural Involvement**

<b>Part of Agriculture</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Vegetable	58	76.32
Crops/cereals	28	36.84
Livestock	25	32.89
Poultry farm	10	13.16
Cash crop	6	7.89
Bee keeping	4	5.26

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 6.4 shows that majority of the respondents were involved in vegetable farming. 76.32 percent were involved in it. Crops and cereals occupied second priority. 36.84 percent of the respondents involved in it. About 32.89 percent respondents reported that they were involved in livestock such as goat, cow, buffalo and pig. 13.16 percent were involved in poultry form. 6 respondents were involved in cash crop occasionally including ginger, mustard etc. Only 4 respondents kept bee hives and involved in bee keeping. They practice various activities related to agriculture as they are interrelated with one another and single practice is not enough to get all requirements. Majority of them involved in vegetable growing because it is easy and fast way to grow and easy to sell the products than others. They didn't have the large cattle farm. Few numbers of cattle are kept. Some produced cereals by taking the land of others in contract and lease. Poultry farm is the growing trend all over the country. Local, Broiler and Giriraj are the species of hen kept in Patneri.

#### **6.1.5 Income from Agriculture**

The involvement of women in agriculture would able to benefit them directly or indirectly. The income has been considered as the key factor for the success or failure. The measurement on agriculture has been presented on the following table.

**Table 6.5 : Measurement of Satisfaction from Agriculture**

<b>Level of measurement</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Extremely high	8	10.53
High	24	31.58
Average	28	36.84
Not measured	13	17.11
Low	3	3.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 6.5 shows the measurement of income of the respondents. 8 respondents had measured their income extremely high. 24 respondents answered that their income was high and 28 respondents reported that their income was average. 13 of them did not measure their income and 3 of them reported that their income was low. All of the respondents were involved in agriculture in a medium and small scale. The income from agriculture didn't have consistency. The income from the agriculture

was just manageable their family expenditure. Most of the products were consumed at home so they didn't able to earn. Sometimes they could able to earn which would be high in the peak season.

### 6.1.6 Indirect Benefit from Agriculture

Agriculture provides lots of benefit for the respondents. The indirect benefits which the respondent got have been presented in the following table.

**Table 6.6 : Response towards the Benefits of Agriculture**

Aspects of benefits	No. of respondents	Percentage
Fresh and organic vegetables	54	71.05
Meat items	34	44.74
Self- satisfaction	29	38.16
Proper utilization of time	25	32.89
Good health	22	28.95
Milk and milk product	15	19.74
Other animal products	15	19.74

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

Most of the respondent reported that they got fresh and organic vegetables. Which is 54 by number. About 44.74 percent of the respondent reported that they got meat item. 38.16 percent of responded were self- satisfied. 32.89 percent answered that they were able to utilize time properly. 28.95 percent reported that they had good health. 19.74 percent respondent reported that they got milk and milk product as well as 15 respondents reported that they got other products such as dung, urine, eggs etc. In spite of the target goal and ambition sometimes they could got indirect benefits. No one thought that they would able to manage time in such a manner. They also got change in their health because of their labor in agriculture. They would consume different products which they did not expected to consume in such way and manner.

### 6.1.7 Barriers in Agriculture

Every type of activity would have barrier. Agriculture has many barriers. Agriculture is the type of economic activity which has different obstacles. Nepalese agriculture is highly based on rainfall. The average rainfall doesn't have consistency every year. The materials required for agriculture are not easily available. The tools and

technologies are also not scientific and properly not matched in the present context. The women in the study area have lots of barriers. The barriers that have been faced by the women in the study area have been presented and analyzed below.

**Table 6.7 : Agriculture related Barriers**

<b>Aspects of difficulties</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Difficulties to sell the product	45	59.21
Not available seeds on time	42	55.26
Natural disaster	42	55.26
Timely unavailable of human resource	39	51.32
Not getting chemical fertilizer on time	37	48.68
Unavailability of insecticides/pesticides on time	31	40.79
Lacking proper family support	21	27.63

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 6.7 shows that 55.26 percent respondent reported that they did not get seeds on time and the same number of respondents reported that natural disaster was the barrier. 39 respondents didn't get manpower on time. 48.68 percent reported that they did not get fertilizer timely. Likewise, 40.79 percent respondents answered that they did not get insecticides and pesticides on time. 21 respondents reported that they did not get proper family support. There is no access facility of transportation and still not the high level of agricultural production. Due to that the products are difficult to sell for which they have to carry either in Bhandardhik or Baghmara. The animal product specially the milk was difficult to sold because so called higher caste people do not consume milk directly and even do not want to mix the milk product by Dalits in dairy. They were disturbed by natural disaster like raining, wind, hailstone several times. It is one of the important barriers. There is difficult to get human resource as need because most of them have same types of work and their schedule almost like the same. The family members did not support them frequently. There is still not a agricultural materials store. To buy food( Dana, chhokar, Dhuto and Medicine) they have to go to Bhandardhik or Baghmara.

### 6.1.8 Family Support for Agriculture

The respondents were involved in agriculture for many reasons. They got different types of support from the family members. The table below shows the variation in support provided by the family members towards the respondents.

**Table 6.8 : Family Support for Agriculture**

<b>Types of support</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Ploughing/Digging	58	76.31
Watering	35	46.05
Cleaning	35	46.05
Carrying	32	42.10
Weeding	29	38.16
Plantation	26	34.21
Marketing	23	30.26

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 6.8 shows that the respondents got different types of support. Majority of the respondents reported that their family members supported them for ploughing and digging. 35 respondents reported that they had supported for cleaning and watering. 32 respondents had got support for carrying compost manure. 29 of them got support for weeding and only 23 respondents had got support for marketing. They got support mainly for the ploughing and digging which need great physical effort. The males supported them for ploughing and digging while they would free from their work. Their daughters supported them to carry manure and for plantation and weeding. Watering is comparatively easy because the area has excess facility of irrigation. Their sons and daughters supported them technically as they learnt in their academic curriculum and also supported them in marketing as they expected to get money.

# CHAPTER : SEVEN

## INTERPRETATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ASPECT

### 7.1 Psychological Aspect

Different people have different attitude to look over the women who were involved in agriculture. Some people have positive attitude and some of them have negative. Each activity has been interpreted differently by different individuals. The attitude and feeling of different members of the society have been presented and analyzed on the basis of following topics.

#### 7.1.1 Attitude of the Family Members

The level of satisfaction would also determine by the attitude of the family members. The respondents were asked for the attitude of family members towards them. The table below shows the attitude of family members.

**Table 7.1 : Response of Family Members**

<b>Attitude</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Highly Positive	27	35.53
Positive	23	30.26
Have no response	14	18.42
Negative	12	15.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.1 shows the attitude of the family members. 27 respondents got highly positive response from family members. 23 got positive response. The number of respondents who got negative response was 12. Out of total,14 respondents answered that they couldn't judge the attitude of the family members. As whole the respondents got positive response from their family members. The women grow different vegetables which could be sold or consumed. The family members had positive



attitude as they could get many agricultural products in their own farm. Sometimes, the women couldn't get sufficient time for their family and children so that they had negative attitude from their family members.

### 7.1.2 Will Power and Level of Confidence

The question was asked for the judgement of willing power of the respondents. It was asked to know what forms of feeling did they have for their involvement. About 40.79 percent of the respondents felt that their willing power was increased extremely high. 22 reported that it was increased high and 5 of them reported that their level of confidence was decreased and 2 respondents reported it was highly decreased and 15 respondents answered that their level of confidence and willing power was not changed.

**Table 7.2 : Confidence and will Power**

<b>Level</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Extremely high	31	40.79
High	24	31.57
No change	15	19.74
Negative	5	6.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.2 shows that 40.79 percent of the respondents felt that their willing power was increased extremely high. 24 reported that it was increased high and 5 of them reported that their level of confidence was decreased and 15 respondents answered that their level of confidence and willing power was not changed. Those who became success in agriculture had high level of confidence and will power. As they became success the members of the society had positive response towards them which further inspired them and be positive. They did the work in group so they have lot of interaction between them resulted them to be interactive in other sectors also. Those who did not get success due to various problems like high rainfall, hailstone, low rainfall had lost their confidence and had kept negative view forever.

### **Case Study- III**

*My Name is Sangita Nepali is 27 years old. She was married at the age of 20 years. She observed lot of differences in Patneri within 7 years. Physical and social changes are major aspects of changes she observed. She passed 8 class and was not able to continue her study due to the lack of good facility of school in the village of her natal home. She gave much her time for household activities. She helped her mother for cooking, washing, cleaning and even for rearing the livestock. Her parents were illiterate and therefore she didn't get proper guidance from anybody. The economic burden was the major cause so she left her school.*

*After her marriage too no member of her family encouraged her to study. She was fully a housewife before she joined in Namuna Krishi Samuha. She is dividing the time for housework and common works. She is not fully satisfied with her income from the communal agriculture in comparison with the time she spent for it. She is also feeling that the members of her family don't have positive response to her. She shared that the agricultural products are difficult to sell. She carries the products upto Bhandardhik or Bahumara (Someone called as Bagmara) to sell. She left the children at home without care of senior members. I am not able to give sufficient time to the children. I am able to earn little but if we have proper calculation the income is not satisfactory. I have to enroll here every time and I don't get break on special occasion too.*

#### **7.1.3 Feeling of Changes Towards Themselves**

Respondents felt lot of changes among themselves after involving in agriculture. They were found highly motivated in agriculture sector. The feeling of the respondents is presented in the table below.

**Table 7.3 : Thinking in terms of Change Toward Own-selves**

<b>Strength of Change</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Highly positive	24	31.58
Positive	33	43.42
No feeling of change	12	15.79
Negative	7	9.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.3 shows that 31.58 percent of the respondents reported that they had highly positive change in their thinking. Attitude and perception. 43.42 percent of the respondents had the feeling of positive change. 15.79 percent of the respondents reported that they didn't have any feeling of change. 7 of them had negative change in their feeling. Some of them had fully positive change that encourage and motivate them for agriculture. They had the thought that they could do if they want. The respondents who didn't analyze the situation after involvement in agriculture had no feeling of change and those who got different problems and would not able to get benefits from agriculture had negative thought. Some respondents said that they practiced tomato farming in tunnel for 3-4 times but never succeed.

#### **7.1.4 Attitude of Change Towards Society**

Lot of changes were observed among the respondents. It was realized to know the feeling of the respondents for change. The feeling of the respondents about the society has been presented below in the table 5.25.

**Table 7.4 : Attitude towards Social Change**

<b>Types of Feeling</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Highly Positive	31	40.79
Positive	27	35.52
Not change	16	21.05
Negative	2	2.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2022*

The table 7.4 shows the inner feeling of the respondents towards the change they observed in the society. Most of the respondents had the highly positive attitude of change by 31 in number out of 76 which was followed by positive sense of attitude with 27 in number. Among all of them 16 respondents reported that they didn't have any feeling of change and only 2 reported that they have the feeling of negative change. They were opinioned that the social and cultural aspect have been changed highly than other aspects. As the women got succeed in agriculture other members have good respects and behaved well. The respondents have been involved in various aspects of agriculture that changes in their feeling. Most of them had the feeling that if we try, we can do that is the major aspect of change.

### 7.1.5 Dimension of Social Change

Society is dynamic in nature. It goes on change forever. No of the society is rigid. Society has various dimensions. The major dimensions of the society are social, cultural, economic, political, technological, geographical and so on. It would go on change through the change over particular aspects. The speed of change of different society would be different. However, the perception over the dimensions of social change by the respondents has been analyzed below.

**Table 7.5 : Perception towards Social Change**

<b>Dimension of change</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Social	53	69.74
Cultural	46	60.52
Economic	44	57.89
Technological	42	55.26
Psychological	37	48.68
Political	29	38.16

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.5 shows the attitude of respondents in terms of their perception about social change in the study area. Majority of the respondents considered social dimension as the major aspect of change. 69.74% reported social dimension, 60.52% cultural dimension, 57.89% perceived economic dimension. 55.26% reported technological dimension likewise 48.68% reported psychological dimension and only

38.16% of them experienced political aspect of social change. The involvement of the respondents in agriculture resulted to have changes in various dimensions. They could work in group and easily share their feelings and knowledge. The inner feeling inspired and push them to interact. They got social response and could take the decision in social sector.

#### **7.1.6 Judgment towards the Attitude of others**

Society is dynamic. Various aspects of society have been changed. The social behaviour of the people is also changing. The attitude of other members towards the respondent has been presented below.

**Table 7.6 : Feeling towards the Attitude of Others**

<b>Attitude/behaviour</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Highly positive	13	17.10
Positive	27	35.52
No response	17	22.37
Negative	18	23.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.6 shows the attitude and behavior of other members of the society towards them. Most of the respondents reported that they got positive attitude which is 27 by number. 17.10 percent of the respondents felt that the other members of the society had highly positive attitude. 23.68 percent reported that they had negative attitude and 22.37% respondents responded that they didn't have any feeling towards them. Those people who are conscious and can understand the problems of Dalits have highly positive response and the effort made by them is appreciable. Those people who do not have proper judgement had negative attitude. However, majority of them had positive attitude towards females.

#### **7.1.7 Attitude of Husband Towards the Enrollment in Agriculture**

Nepalese societies are still dominated by males. Patriarchy is highly practiced. The family would be success If husband and wife would have good understanding with each other.

**Table 7.7 : Attitude of Husband**

<b>Attitude/Behavior</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Highly positive	25	32.89
Positive	21	27.63
Have no response	20	26.31
Negative	10	13.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.7 shows that 25 respondents reported that they got highly positive response from their husband. 21 respondents reported that their husband were positive. 20 respondents would not judge the attitude of their husband. 10 respondents were negative. However, Most of the husband showed positive response because of their financial and material support for the family. Some of the husband had negative response because of their busy schedule in agriculture.

#### **7.1.8 Level of Satisfaction of the Family Members**

Family is the basic unit of society. The family members were also found to have different level of satisfaction over the involvement of women in agriculture. The attitude of the family members was measured. The table shows the level of satisfaction of the family members. However, the attitude of the family members was not measured individually. It was measured in general.

**Table 7.8 : The Level of Satisfaction of Family Members**

<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Highly satisfied	23	30.26
Satisfied	29	38.15
Not judged	14	18.42
Not satisfied	10	13.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.8 shows that the family members of 23 families were highly satisfied. Members of 29 families were satisfied. 14 respondents reported that they didn't

measure the satisfaction level of the family members. Members of 10 families showed negative response towards the female who involved in agriculture. The table represents the high level of satisfaction of the members.

### 7.1.9 Personal Judgment Towards Their Own Involvement

Every event would have positive and negative consequences at all. As the respondents involved in agriculture, they had special feeling inward. The feeling of the respondents sometimes energized them and sometimes demoralized. However, the inner feeling of the respondents has been presented below on the table.

**Table 7.9 : Personal Analysis of Change**

<b>Criteria of judgement</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Time management	43	56.58
Easy to take decision	39	51.31
High confidence level	32	42.10
Getting good respect and response	32	42.10
Feeling easy to share own views	31	40.79
Strengthen economic level	28	36.84
Difficult to manage family	25	32.89
Bearing low social responsibility	21	37.63

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

Table 7.9 shows that majority of the respondents about 56.58 percent judged that they were able to manage, 39 of them reported that they felt easy to take any types of decision. 32 of them reported that their confidence level was upgrading and they got good response from others. 31 respondents reported that they could easily share their views on mass with others. 28 out of 76 respondents were realized that they Would able to increased their economy. 25 of them felt that they wouldn't manage family properly because of their busyness in agricultural activities and 21 respondents had the feeling that thy couldn't able to give time for social activity. After involving in agriculture, they could manage the time which they wasted before. The level of confidence is high so they could able to take decision. Members of the society have positive response towards them. Some could earn money from the agricultural activities. After joining in the group, they could share their opinion and interact with

others as need. They are feeling comfort to share their views and some of them couldn't manage the time at home and in the agriculture together. They felt themselves irresponsible as they couldn't give sufficient time for the society and social activities.

## **7.2 Involvement in Social Organizations**

The society changing day by day. Various aspects of society have been changed in their own ways. The culture is the major part of the society. Culture is also changing in its own dimensions and speed. The trend to enroll all the peoples in any type of organization is also changed. The involvement situation of the respondents in other social organizations has been analyzed below.

### **7.2.1 Involvement in other Social Organization**

The respondents were found that they were involved in other organizations too. The table shows the condition of their involvement.

**Table 7.10 : Involvement in other Social Organizations**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	29	38.16
No	47	61.84
Total	76	100

*Source Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.10 shows that 38.16% respondents were involved in other social organizations. Some of them were involved in local level organizations only. Some of them were involved in ward level organizations and few of them were involved in Metropolitan level. 61.84% were not involved in other social organizations except their local level organization.

### **7.2.2 Positions in Other Organizations**

The trend to organize people through various organizations is getting popularity. Community based organizations have crucial role for development. There are few numbers of organizations in the study area. The women also have involvement in these organizations. All the respondents were the members of local level social



organizations like Aama Samuha and Tol Sudhar Samiti. They would be the member automatically for these organizations. Some of them became the member of ward level organization like Water Consumer Committee, and Road Construction Committee. Few of them were the members of Metropolitan level like Dalit Forum, Jana Jagaran Abhiyan etc.

**Table 7.11 : Position in Other Social Organizations**

<b>Position/Post</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Chairman	2	6.89
Vice-chairman	6	20.69
Secretary	4	13.79
Joint secretary	5	17.24
Members	12	41.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.11 shows that 41.38% of the respondents were the members only in other social organizations. Their ethnic, financial, academic and social aspects enforced them to be the members only. 6.89% reported that they hold the post of chairman. Who were active and would able to motivate others got the key post. 13.79% were the secretary and 17.24% were the joint secretary. They did not get the top position because of the domination of higher caste members in other social organizations.

### **7.2.3 Political Approaches for the Membership**

Women were able to brought lot of changes. Some of them had the capacity to lead. Their level of confidence and skill inspire the political organization. The approaches made by the politician and political parties has been presented below.

**Table 7.12 : Political Approaches for the Respondents**

<b>Approach</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	25	32.89
No	51	67.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.12 shows that 25 respondents were got political approach. Majority of the respondents about 32.89 percent did not have any approach Local level politicians had approached the key person of the respondents to be the member of the party. The leaders evaluated the effort of the women they used in agriculture. Their activeness and leadership skill to lead the group inspired them.

#### **7.2.4 Situation of Political Involvement**

The respondents were approached politically by different political parties to be their members. These parties did lot of exercises to motivate the Dalit women in the study area. The enrollment of the respondents in politics has been presented below.

**Table 7.13 : Political Activeness of the Respondents**

<b>Level of involvement</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Highly active	6	24
Active	12	48
Just involve	7	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 7.13 shows that 25 respondents who had approached for politics 6 of them were actively involved in different political parties which approached them. About 48% i.e. 12 respondents were just involved and 7 of them were not involved actively because of their busy schedule at home and in farm.

## CHAPTER : EIGHT

### INTERPRETATION OF DECISION MAKING AND ECONOMY

#### 8.1 Decision Making

##### 8.1.1 Schooling of the Children

Schooling of the children is the key aspects of the social change and empowerment of the respondents. Schooling has been considered essential for every child. All the respondents were found to be interested to educate their child up-to bachelor level.

**Table 8.1: Condition of Schooling the children of School age**

<b>Enrollment in School/college</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	57	75.00
No	19	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 8.1 shows that about 75% of the respondents reported that all their children getting education of different levels. Those whose family size was small would able to offer the facility of education. The major cause of schooling is the level of awareness among the respondents. 25% of them were not able to offer education for all the children because of their large size of the family. Some of their child were dropped out and didn't continue their study. Some of the respondents still not conscious and so did not send their children in school.

##### 8.1.2 Decision Taken for Spending the Budget

The success or failure of the family highly based upon the decision made by the head. The decision made in the family of the respondents has been presented below.

**Table 8.2 : Financial Decision in the Family**

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Self	30	39.47
Husband	20	26.31
Joint Decision	10	13.15
Son/Daughter	9	11.84
Others	7	9.21
Total	76	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2021*

The table 8.2 shows that 46.05% of the respondents take the financial decision by themselves because of the absence of their husbands at home. They take the decision for minor aspects but concern with their husband for major aspects. 26.31% respondents reported that their husband took the decision as they have patriarchal mind. The son and daughter also made the decision among 11.84% respondents because of their qualification and awareness about various situations. About 13.15% responded reported that they took the decision jointly with their husbands. Among the respondents who had joint and extended family the senior members used to take the decision.

#### Case Study-IV

*My name is Maya Sunar is 50 years and has one son and two daughters. Her husband is jobless and works with her as a farmer. This household has no other sources of income except vegetable farming. They have only 10 annas of land. They have obtained other's 1,5 Ropani of land and cultivated vegetable in the land. The Sunar couple has faced many difficulties in rearing their three children. But, they earned Rs.60 thousand and more for last five years from vegetables. With the help of that money, the couple managed the wedding ceremony of one daughter last year where dowry system still exists. She reported that ' If we did not adopt this farming in time, now we would not be here. Because they had to sell their land for their daughter's marriage ceremonies and maintain other ceremonies. Besides this, they now have the money to manage for clothing, medicine and schooling for their remaining children. She has received two trainings. She also has become a member of Mother Group and saving-credit group. Therefore, she has not only saved her land but also raised social prestige from vegetable farming and marketing.*

### 8.1.3 Interfere Over the Decision

The decision which has been made by a person may or may not be followed by all. It is highly based upon the decision which would made to apply. The response of family members over the decision which the respondents made has been presented below.

**Table 8.3 : Interfere Over the Decision of the Respondents**

<b>Response/Interfere</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	30	39.47
No	35	46.05
No active reaction	11	14.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source Field Survey, 2021*

The table 8.3 shows that 39.47 % respondents got interfere in their decision. They were interfered because of the knowledge gained by the interferer from various sources and sometimes were interfered by the dominating attitude. 46.05% of the respondents reported that they were not interfered and only 14.47 of them reported that they did not get such situation. They were not interfered because the other members did not have any ideas and knowledge for agriculture.

### 8.1.4 Interferer of the Decision

Respondents make the decision related to agriculture by themselves. They have been interfered in few contents by the family members. The interferer over the decision has been presented and analyzed below.

**Table 8.4: Interferer over the Decision**

<b>Interferer</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Son/Daughter	15	50.00
Husband	12	40.00
Others	3	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source Field Survey, 2021*

The table 8.4 shows that most 50% respondents were interfered by their son/daughter as they had negative attitude to look over agriculture and agricultural activities. As the respondents became busy in their farm their children show negative response. 40% of them had interfered by their husband as they had patriarchal attitude. Only 10% were interfered by others means Father-in-law and Mother-in-law because of their cultural practice.

## **8.2 Economy**

### **8.2.1 Ownership Over the Property**

The ownership over the resources and property plays the significant role to motivate a person in his/her profession. Nepalese societies are almost patriarchal so there is the domination of males over property rights. The condition of ownership over the property among the respondents has been analyzed below.

**Table 8.5 : Ownership Over the Property**

<b>Condition of Ownership</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Grand Parent	33	43.42
Self Ownership	29	38.16
Joint Ownership	14	18.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source Field Survey, 2021*

The table 8.5 shows that 43.42% respondents didn't have their personal ownership over the property as the families are still patriarchal and patrilineal. 38.16% reported that they had personal ownership over the land and houses and 18.42% had joint ownership with their husband because the trend to practice conjugal family is getting popularity.

### **8.2.2 Situation of Managing Household Expenditure**

The condition of the family is determined by its management practices. Proper management helps to have lots of progress. Financial management is the key aspects of the family. The financial management of the respondents has been presented below

**Table 8.6 : Management of the Household**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Easily Managed	42	55.26
Neither easily nor hardly Managed	25	32.89
Hardly Managed	9	11.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source Field Survey, 2021*

The table 8.6 shows that 42 respondents were able to managed their household easily after their involvement in agriculture. 25 respondents didn't observe any changes for managing households and 9 respondents reported that they hardly managed their households. Those respondents who got full support from other members had easily managed and those who didn't got support and didn't success in agriculture could not manage their household properly.

### **8.2.3 Access over Modern Technology of Communication**

The use of various means of communication is the indicator of development and is now considered as the essence of human life. The means of communication play the important role to aware and empower people. The access over the means of communication has been presented below.

**Table 8.7 : Access over the Technology**

<b>Technological items</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Mobile	68	89.47
Television	59	77.63
Wi-Fi/Internet	35	46.05
Telephone	12	15.79

*Source Field Survey, 2021*

The table 8.7 shows that about 89.47% respondents had access over mobile. It helped them to have communication with others easily as they need. Mobile is the easy and cheapest means of communication. 77.83% respondents reported that they had television access as it was used to watch News, Serial and Dohori by the elders and

Movies by the youths and Cartoon by the children. 46.05% reported that they had Wi-Fi. They connect Wi-Fi due to online class of their children during the pandemic. The users of telephone were only 15.79% as it has been replaced by online calling on messenger.

#### **8.2.4 Lifestyles of the Family Members**

The lifeways of the people all over the world has been changed due to various causes. The level of awareness is increasing and the attitude and behavior has been also changed. The changing over the life ways of family members of the respondents has been presented and analyzed below.

**Table 8.8 : Life Styles of the Family Members**

<b>Life style</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Better	29	38.16
Average	43	56.58
Bad	4	5.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source : Field Survey, 2021*

From the table 8.8, 38.16% respondents found that the lifeways of their family members are now better due to the access of the family over various things. The income level of the family is increasing so they offer money for making the life better. 56.58% respondents were satisfied as the life is going easily. They didn't have problems of food, dress, medicine and others. 5.26% of the respondents reported that their life became bad. The respondents who couldn't do progress in agriculture mostly had this response.



## **CHAPTER : NINE**

### **SUMMARY, MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

#### **9.1 Summary**

This study is about the empowerment of Dalit women through agriculture in Pokhara, Metropolitan City ward 29, of Kaski district. The objectives of this study are to prepare the socio-economic condition of Dalit women, the main sectors and levels' of participation in agriculture and women's role in agriculture activities and to compare the work amount between male and female. Patneri of Pokhara, Metropolitan City ward 29 Kaski is the universe and 76 respondents are selected for this study. Female of the household were the respondents of this study.

Although, the area is not too far from the Prithvi Highway, it is less developed. The number of households is increasing day by day. There is road but no transportation facility. Road is still rough and not pitched. There is no facility of school, college and health post. There is still not a large provisional store. To get such facilities the people have to go either in Bhandardhik or Baghmara. Most of the people of the area are the migrants who came from different parts of the country. They don't have ownership over large area of land. Agriculture is the major occupation of the people. The major problem is insufficiency of the food. Most of women of new generation are literate but engaged in agricultural activities. They didn't complete their academic level. The people who are engaging in agriculture cultivated in their own small size of land and some of them cultivated after taking on rent. The common cultivation practice is getting popularity. Large area of land has been taken in rent and cultivated commonly as the risk per person would be minimize. Modern tools and technologies have been used. Tractors of large size and small both are used. Namuna Krishi Samuha has bought a small hand tractor for ploughing. It is mostly used for common agriculture purpose. It can also be used by individual with minimum charge. The agricultural products are sold by taking either in Bhandardhik or Baghmara. Little quantity has been consumed within the area and large quantity has to be carried out.

Foreign employment became popular among people of the study area. There is at least a member from each family in foreign country. They are mostly in Arabic

country. Low level of academic qualification and lack of high-cost affordability for European and other countries they prefer golf countries for work. Some of the males of the study are in Nepalese and Indian army. Few males are still wage laborers. They didn't want to take risk to invest 1-2 lakhs for foreign employment. They thought it is better to be here in our country. Some people are raising livestock. Cows and buffaloes have been domesticated. Some of them have goat and some domesticate pig too. Poultry form is the popular once as little time has to be given for income. Agriculture makes the people financially strong than before. The involvement of women is high due to the absence of male in the family. Some of the women are taking it as burden because they wouldn't be free any time. Females can use money by their own wishes. They feel themselves strong and capable for earning. They could easily send their children to school. The lifestyles of all the members of the family is upgrading.

The attitude of the people towards female is changing. Males are also supporting females in agricultural activities. They do not interfere the decision of the females at all.

## **9.2 Major Findings**

The research was conducted among the Dalit women in Patneri ward no. 29 of Pokhara Metropolitan City. The objective of the research was to explore, how the agriculture empowers women? The effort was made to make the collected data more valid and reliable. Scientific methods of data collection, presentation and analysis were used. The major findings of the research are pointed below.

- Most of the households in the study area were of Dalits. They had 155 households out of 362 households.
- There was diversity of caste and ethnicity in the study area. Kami, Tamang, Damai, Sarki, Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung, Magar, Newar were the identified caste and ethnic groups.
- Most of the respondents were from the age group 25-30 years. Which was 39.47 percent followed by the age group 30-35 years.
- 81.58 % of the respondents were married, 13.15% of the respondents were unmarried and 5.26% of the respondents were widows.

- Among the respondents, 76.68% were literate and only 26.32% were illiterate.
- From the 56 literate respondents, 42.86% of them completed primary level followed by Lower Secondary level with 32.14% and 21.43% of them completed +2 level and 2 of them were the bachelor scholar.
- None of the respondents had particular and single job. They were found to be involved in various jobs and occupation. However, Foreign employment was the dominating source of income followed by agriculture.
- The income of the majority of households was Rs. 31,000-35,000. Which was 23,68% of the total 76 respondents followed by the level Rs.36,000-40,000.
- The duration of residing of 26.36% respondents was 9-12 years followed by the respondents who had settled in Patneri more than 12 years before.
- 31.58% respondents were involved in agriculture for 4-6 years which was followed by newly entered respondents having the time of involvement only 0-2 years with 21.05%
- Among the respondents, 34.21% were self-inspired to involve in agriculture followed by the inspiration of their husband which was 30.26% and only 11.84% were inspired through GO/NGO.
- About 40.79% of the respondents had got highly positive change in their feeling. 21.05% didn't have any change and 2% had negative change in their feeling.
- The change in social aspects was identified by majority of the respondents which was 69.74% followed by cultural change with 60.52% and only 38.16% felt political change.
- 76.32% respondent had nuclear family followed by joint family with 21.05% and 2.63% respondent had extended family.
- 39.47% respondents were the head of the family followed by the husband as the head with 25.00% and 6.58% respondents did not have particular head.
- Majority of the women became head due to the absent of their husband which was 40% followed by handover the responsibility by their husband which was 23.33% and 6.67% became the head as there was no any person to be a head.

- 85.79% respondents were involved in agriculture for getting agricultural products by own-self followed by utilization of time with 59.21%, 44.74% were involved for upgrading social status and only 46.05% were involved for earning money.
- 35.53% respondents got matching in their expectation, 32.89% respondents got their expectation highly matched and 7.89% got their expectations were not matched.
- The support for getting from family for ploughing and digging was high which was 76.31% followed by support for watering with 46.05%. Only 32.89% got technical support from the family members.
- 35.53% respondents got highly positive response from the family members. 30.26% got only positive response and 15.79% got negative response from the family members and 18.42% of the respondents didn't got any response for their involvement in agriculture.
- The income of 31.58% respondent was highly increased, 36.84% had average income, 10.53% had extremely high, 17.11% didn't measure where as 3.95% of them had low income.
- 40.79% had extreme increase in level of confidence and will power, 31.57% had high level of confidence and will power and 6.58% had low level of confidence and will power.
- 76.32% of the respondents involved in vegetable farming followed by involvement for growing crops/cereals production and only 4 respondents were involved in bee-farming.
- 31.58% respondent had highly positive thinking, 43.42% had only positive thinking, 6.58% had negative thinking and 2.63% had highly negative thinking towards themselves.
- 71.05% of respondents got fresh vegetable after their involvement, 44.74% got meat and 38.16% were self- satisfied.
- The goods were difficult to sell which was reported by 59.21% of the respondents as the barrier. Natural disaster and timely unavailability of seeds was the second barrier and 27.63 percent did not get family support on time.
- 75% respondents provided education facility to all of their children and 25% respondents not provided education to all of their children.
- Only 29 respondents i.e. 38.16% were involved in other social organizations.

- 6.89% of them got the post of chairman, 20.69% got the post of Vice-chairman and majority of them i.e 41.38% were the members only.
- 32.89% of them got highly positive response from their husband, where as 27.63% had positive response. 13.15% had negative response from their husband.
- The family members of 30.26% were highly satisfied. 38.15% were satisfied where as 18.42% didn't judge and members of 13.16% were not satisfied.
- 56.58% respondents were able to manage and utilize their time, 51.31% could easily take the decision and 37.63% felt that they wouldn't be types of social activities.
- 39.47% of the respondents took the decision of family expenditure by themselves whereas 26.31% of the respondent reported that their husband took the decision.
- The decisions of 39.47% of respondent were interfered and 46.05% of the respondent didn't get interfere over their decision.
- 50% of the respondents' decisions were interfered by their children and 40% were interfered by their husband and only 10% by others.
- 43.42% respondents didn't had property under their own name where as 38.16% had property under their name and 18.47% had joint ownership over the property.
- 55.26% respondent reported that their family was easily managed followed by the response of managed in average and 11.84% reported that their family was hardly managed.
- Almost all about 89.47% respondent had the access on mobile, 77.63% had access on Television, likewise 46.05% had access over WiFi and Internet. Only 15.79% had access on Telephone.
- 38.16% had the life of family members better than before whereas 56.58% had average life and only 5.26% had the life of family members bad than before.

### **9.3 Conclusion**

The study entitled "Women's Empowerment Through Agriculture" A Sociological study of Dalit Women in Pokhara-29, Patneri was conducted among 76 Dalit women who were involved in agriculture. Both exploratory and descriptive research design

were used. Non-probability and accidental sampling technique, Semi-structured interview, Participant observation were used.

The study explores the diverse socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Majority of the women were literate and were habitant of the area more than 12 years. Among the Dalit women, most of them from lower caste called Sunar. The key factor enforced them to involve in agriculture was to obtain fresh vegetable items and non-vegetarian items. Most of the respondents had got positive change in their feeling and thinking. The confidence level and will-power of the respondents was increased. The respondents also got political approach by the local leaders. The women got different support continuously from the family members. Most of the women are now able to take the decision by themselves. They don't have to ask their husband for money. The women are getting good response by the members of society. Respondents were involved in different agricultural activities as single and particular job was not sufficient for them. Although they were Dalit their monthly family income The membership of the respondents towards the ward level and metropolitan level is going on change rapidly. The women have high level of motivation towards agriculture.

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# APPENDIX I

## Questionnaire Schedule

Namaste, I am Sarita Devkota. I am a student of Master level in Sociology of Prithvi Narayan Campus Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences. I am coming here for my dissertation entitled “Empowerment of Dalit Women through Agriculture”. I am going to study about your involvement in agriculture. I want to know; how does it help to empower you? So kindly provide me the information you know. The information which you provide would keep secret and your feeling, attitude and perception would be analyzed without any change.

1. General information of the respondents
  - a. Name: - (Optional)
  - b. Age: -
  - c. Literate/Illiterate
  - d. Marital status
  - e. Type of family: -
  - f. Size of the family
2. How long do you have been residing here?
  - a. 0-5 years
  - b. 5-10 years
  - c. 10-15 years
  - d. 15-20 years
  - e. More than 20 years
3. Do you feel any changes during the period?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. No response
4. If yes, please mention the changes you observe.

## Agriculture Details

5. How long do you have been involved in Agriculture?
  - a. 0-2 years
  - b. 2-4 years
  - c. 4-6 years
  - d. 6-8 years
  - e. More than 8 years
6. What benefits do you get after you involve in agriculture?
7. Would you please, mention the indirect benefits of the agriculture.
8. What are the causes of involvement in agriculture?

9. Do you feel better to involve in agric
- a. Yes                    b. No                    c. No response (what to say?)
10. If yes, why do you feel better? (Please mention the causes)
11. If no, why do you feel boring?
12. Do you get support from the family members?
- a. Yes                    b. No                    c. No response
13. If yes, who is supporting you?
14. Do they support with/without hesitation?
15. Is there any changes in your income?
- a. Yes                    b. No                    c. No response
16. If, yes how it is changing?
- a. Increasing                    b. Decreasing                    c. Not calculated properly yet
17. Does the income from agriculture support to manage daily expenditure?
- a. Yes                    b. No                    c. No response
18. If yes, how does it support?
19. What forms of response do the family members have to look over your involvement in agriculture?
- a. Positive                    b. Negative                    c. Both                    d. Not notice
20. If positive, how do they response?
21. If Negative, how do they response?

**Leadership and ownership Details**

22. Who is heading the family?
- a. Me                    b. Husband                    c. Son/Daughter                    d. Other                    e. No specific head

23. Who is almost take the decision?

a. Me                      b. Husband                      c.                      laughter                      d. Others(If any mention them

24. Did you feel that your decision has been interfere?

a. Yes    b. No

25. If yes, Who interfere it?

a. Husband    b. Son/Daughter    c. Other members

26. Is there any changes in your family before and after your involvement in agriculture.

a. Yes                      b. No

27. If yes, mention the changes you feel.

28. Do you have any property in your name?

a. Yes    b. No

29. If yes, how do you have the ownership?

a. Personal    b. Joint    c. Husband

30. Did you feel any pressure and threaten by keeping property in your name?

a. Yes    b. No

### **Social organization Details**

31. Do you involve in any social organization?

a. Yes                      b. No

32. If yes, would you please mention the name of the organization.

33. Which position has been designated?

a. Chairman    b. Vice- chairman    c. Secretary    d. Treasure    e. Member only

34. If you hold any key position (a or b or c or d) how do you feel?

35. How do other member response you? (Before and after holding the positions)

a. Positive    b. Negative    c. No changes

36. Do you feel any changes in your willing power?

- a. Yes                      b. No

37. If yes, please mention your feelings.

**Politics Details**

38. Do you know, what is politics?

- a. Yes                      b. No

39. How is the response of political parties over you and your group?

- a. Highly positive   b. Positive   c. No response   d. Negative   e. Highly negative

40. Would they approached you to be the member?

- a. Yes                      b. No

41. If you involved in Politics, How do you involve?

- a. Actively involved   b. Not actively Involved   c. Just Involved

42. Have you ever been opposed by your husband in your decision?

- a. Frequently   b. Sometimes   c. Never   d. opposed before but not now   e. No response

43. Do you want to say something?

**Thank you very much for taking part in my research and kind co-operation.**

## **APPENDIX-II**

### **NAMUNA KRISHI SAMUHA (Executive Committee)**

Chairman : Sumitra B K

Vice chairman : Ram maya Sunar

Secretary : Anju Sunar

Treasure : Asmita Sunar

#### **Members:**

Buddhimaya Sunar

Sarita Sunar

Hiramaya Pariyar

Babita Sunar

Mithu Sunar