

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nepal, officially known as Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, is a landlocked country bordered to the north by the People's Republic of China and to the south, east, and west by the Republic of India. It has covered an area of 147,181 square kilometers and has an approximate population of 27 million. According to Wikipedia, it is the 93rd largest country by mass and the 41st most populous country in the world. Ecologically, Nepal is divided into three regions, these are, mountain, hill, and terai. The area covered by mountain, hill, and terai are 15%, 68%, and 17% respectively. Its altitude ranges from less than 100 metres to 8,848 metre high Mt. Everest; the highest peak of the world. Nepal has tremendous variation in climate which ranges from tropical climate in teari region to fully arctic climate in the mountain region. Subtropical, warm temperate, and subarctic or alpine climate are found between these two extreme regions. Nepali is the official language of Nepal though many other native languages are also spoken.

Nepal is considered as a developing country, one of the LDCs in the world. The economic situation of the country is not satisfactory. According to economic survey, 2011, Nepal has achieved an average economic growth of 4% over a decade in an environment of successful achievement of double digit growth by its neighbors. Political instability has always been overshadowing the economic growth of the country. According to UNDP annual report, 2011, Nepal is ranked 157th position out of 187 countries with 0.458 in terms of Human Development Index (HDI). Per capita income of the country is \$377 per annum only and about one fourth of the total population is living below the poverty line in which women occupy higher portion. The country is divided administratively into 5 development regions, 14 zones, and 75 districts. There were 58 municipalities and 3915 VDCs, however, government of Nepal has declared 41 new municipalities by restructuring 161 VDCs on July 2011. Consequently, the number of municipalities and VDCs have become 99 and 3754 respectively.

Poverty is considered as the prime constraint for the economic development of the country. Poverty alleviation has been a main goal of many of the past five pear plans including the current three year plan 2011/12-2013/14. Thus, this three year plan has

set the goal of attaining the millennium development goal, creating employment opportunities, eliminating economic disparity, attaining regional balance, and eliminating social exclusion in order to reduce the proportion of below poverty population from 25% to 21% till 2015. But, due to the political instability, slow peace process and uncertainty of new constitution, it seems difficult to achieve the goal. Lack of education, unequal wealth distribution, geographical inaccessibility, lack of unity and cooperation, lack of awareness, unnecessary plans and programs, weak implementation of programs, weakness of govt. administration, and poor vision and short sightedness of national politicians are other obstacles of poverty alleviation goal. Most socio-economic indicators of Nepal reflect dismal performance on gender aspect of human development. Nepalese women are extensively involved on agriculture activities. They are involved in triple work responsibilities i.e. reproduction, household chores and employment. However household chores and family care are not considered productive jobs. Due to limited educational skills, social unawareness, and lack of opportunities, majority of women are self-employed in manual agricultural activities in rural areas. However, in recent years, women have been playing vital roles in the family as well as in the society. Their economic and legal status has been changed from unaware housewives to successful professionals such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, pilots, and politicians. They have been economically contributing to their family to a large extent. Only they need is the further strong economic support program from the government as well as from the private sector. Due to lack of education, technical knowledge, managerial skills, and access to formal opportunities, most of the women are involved in self-employed activities which do not create much income to support their lives and reduce their poverty. They need a reliable and consistent source of credit to generate income and reduce poverty.

It is now a widely accepted fact that the small fund generating activities among women are keys to increase economic status and develop the country like Nepal. Microfinance is a well tested and proven instrument for generating small funds and increasing stable source of income for women. It has been recognized as poverty alleviation tool all over the world, especially LDCs and developing nations. Economists, social think-tanks, and philosophers have acknowledged microfinance as highly ranked methodology of poverty reduction. Nobel peace prize has also awarded to the pioneer of microfinance, Dr. Muhammad Yunus considering its importance in poverty reduction and peace building process.

The main objective of microfinance is to provide poor people with the credit facility in order to enhance their income generating activities which will be supportive for poverty alleviation. It is equally targeted towards elimination of gender discrepancy in favor of men; and women empowerment. It aims to empower women not only economically but also socially and politically. Income generating activities and saving behavior of women enable them to gradually transfer the existing power of men towards women. Such transformation of power ultimately leads to the socio-economic and political empowerment of women.

For nearly four decades in Nepal, various agencies have been active in microfinance with Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, playing a pivotal role in policymaking decisions. A rapid upsurge in microfinance programs has been witnessed in the last one and half decades. Within this period, Nepal has introduced various microfinance programs with diversified methods and modalities including: public vs. private sector modality, project based modality, wholesale lending based modality, community and deprived sector based modality, etc. The programs such as PCRW, MCPW, GBBs, GBBRs etc. come under gender-based programs. Likewise, the programs namely PAPWT, TLDP, RMP, CGISP etc. come under project based micro credit programs. The activities of RSRF, RMDC, SKBB, etc are solely based on wholesale micro-credit modality. Likewise, the micro credit activities of SACCOs and FINGOs fall under the modality of community/rural based microfinance.

Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited is one of the prominent microfinance institutions which follow the Grameen Banking Model for individual lending and Self Help Group Model for group lending. It was established with the motto of “the bank for upliftment of the poor” in November 1998 under company act of Nepal. Now operated under BAFIA 2006, NUBL provides microfinance services such as loan, deposit, micro-insurance, and remittance services to the poor families of Nepal. The operation of NUBL is a continuation of an NGO called “Nardhan” which was established after being inspired from Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. There are altogether 92 branches of NUBL. NUBL, Mugling Branch is one of those and it is situated in Darechowk V.D.C. of Chitwan district. This branch was established in 2061-06-19 B.S. It has been providing microfinance services to the poor over Chitwan, Dhading, Gorkha, and Tanahun districts. It has covered two V.D.Cs of Chitwan, three V.D.Cs of Dhading, five V.D.Cs and one municipality of Gorkha, and two V.D.Cs of Tanahun till date. Chandibhanjyang and Darechowk are two V.D.Cs covered by the branch in

Chitwan district. There are altogether 1805 members organized into 83 centres and various groups who have been participating in microfinance activities under NUBL, Mugling Branch.

Darechowk is one of the 36 VDCs of Chitwan district. According to population census 2001, there are 1,648 households and 9,109 populations in Darechowk VDC divided into 4,319 females and 4,790 males. The VDC is famous for orange and vegetable farming which help villagers earning cash. Mugling Bazaar is the economic centre of Darechowk VDC. It is regarded as the doorway to Kathmandu. Hotel business of Mugling Bazaar is quite popular among the people travelling across Prithivi Highway. Microfinance activities in the VDC have been performed by various microfinance institutions, such as NUBL, Sana Kisan Co-operative Ltd., and local co-operatives. Though situated outside the VDC, Chhimek Bikas Bank Ltd., and Deprosc Bikas Bank Ltd. have also been providing microfinance services to the people of Darechowk.

1.2 Focus of the Study

Poverty alleviation and millennium development goal cannot be achieved solely from the central level plans and policies. Proper implementation of such plans and policies are keys to achieve those goals. For this, we have to reach the targeted groups and provide them with the facilities, services, and opportunities. The state has recognized microfinance as the desirable tool for poverty alleviation and gender empowerment. Many MFIs have been working with the poor women to enhance their living standard. These MFIs have been providing easy credit and saving schemes to poor women for their socio-economic and political empowerment. In this context, this research paper has focused to assess the impact of microfinance on women empowerment in Darechowk VDC of Chitwan district under the program of Nidhan Utthan Bank Limited. It has aimed to find the relationship between microfinance services provided by NUBL and socio-political empowerment of women in Darechowk.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Though women are considered as the two wheels of the same cart, they have been marginalized in every aspect of life in the family and the society. They are not allowed to make crucial decisions about their family and about their own lives too. Their mobility has also been made limited by the male dominated society. State has

focused at upliftment of women through its plans and policies. However, these are neither sufficient nor seriously implemented. Still, women lack proper access over finance, health, and education. They are excluded from the right to be empowered. So, this study has attempted to find out the solution of such problems by getting the answers of the following research questions in the context of Darechowk VDC under the microfinance program of NUBL.

1. What is the impact of microfinance on decision making power of women?
2. What is the change in self confidence of women after inception of the microfinance?
3. What changes does microfinance bring in the gender equality status of women?
4. How is the micro-financial impact on social and political participation of women?
5. What change does microfinance make in the awareness level of women?
6. What is the impact of microfinance on women control over income?
7. How is the trend of domestic violence after women participation in microfinance activities?
8. What are the microfinance activities performed by NUBL?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess the impact of microfinance on women empowerment in Darechowk VDC of Chitwan district under NUBL which can be categorized in terms of following specific objectives.

1. To analyze the impact of microfinance on decision making power of women.
2. To assess the change in self confidence of women after the inception of microfinance.
3. To find out the changes brought by microfinance in gender equality status of women.
4. To explore the impact of microfinance on social and political participation of women.
5. To analyze the changes made by microfinance in the awareness level of women.
6. To assess the impact of microfinance on women control over income.
7. To analyze the trend of domestic violence after women participation in microfinance activities.
8. To study the microfinance activities performed by NUBL.

1.5 Significance of the study

Each and every research study is important in itself to attain deep knowledge about something and provide people and scholars with relevant information. It is needed to explore the facts and uncover the truth. In connection to these facts, this study is intended to analyze the impact of microfinance on women empowerment regarding the over-mentioned problems and objectives. It will be beneficial for the research scholars to gain the specific knowledge on impact of microfinance on rural Nepalese women. It will explore the new facts of women empowerment and add new literature to the same. It will help to know whether microfinance is essential for empowerment of rural poor women. It will also be useful to get knowledge about the general microfinance activities performed by MFIs. Furthermore, the study will be useful to the teachers, financial planners, professionals, philosophers, and training providers as well. Over all, this study is most important for the researcher himself to fulfill the academic requirement of the degree of Master of Business Studies.

1.6 Delimitations of the Study

Every research study has its own limitations by geographic location, age, sex, population size, or other similar considerations. Delimitation is used not only to make study better and more feasible but also to help identify constraints or weaknesses of the study which are not within the control of the researcher. This proposed research also has the delimitations as mentioned below.

1. This study is geographically confined within Darechowk V.D.C. of Chitwan District.
2. The study has focused on the microfinance activities conducted by NUBL only.
3. Sample of female participants having membership of more than five years only has been taken to conduct the research.
4. Among various impacts of microfinance, the study has assessed only the impact on women empowerment.
5. The study has taken the financial data of past five years only.
6. It is primarily intended to fulfill the academic requirement of Master of Business Studies.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The study is organized in different chapters and sub-chapters as given below:

Chapter I: Introduction

This first chapter includes background of the study, focus of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, delimitations of the study and organization of the study.

Chapter II: Review of the Literature

This chapter consists of conceptual framework about definition and concept of microfinance, history of microfinance, women focus of microfinance, women empowerment, microfinance and women empowerment, Nepalese women, and microfinance in Nepal. On the other hand, the chapter consists of review of related empirical studies which includes review of research articles, journals and theses/dissertations. Lastly, it includes research gap.

Chapter III: Research Methodology

This chapter consists of the adopted research design for the study in which study area, population and sample size, nature and sources of data, data collection techniques, and data processing, analysis, and presentation have been included.

Chapter IV: Presentation and Analysis of Data

In this chapter presentation and analysis of relevant data is carried out by using various tools and techniques. Tables, diagrams, and graphs are also used to interpret the data to make it easily understood.

Chapter V: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

This final chapter is the major reflection and final output of the study in which major findings of the study are presented from analysis of collected data, conclusions are drawn from such analysis, and recommendations to improve the shortcomings are mentioned.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Conceptual Framework

Finance can be defined simply as management of money or funds management. It is one of the branches of business activity that includes the origination, marketing and management of cash and money surrogates through a variety of capital accounts, instruments and markets created for transacting and trading assets, liabilities and risks. Microfinance, a relatively modern concept, is the provision of financial services to low income clients or solidarity lending groups including consumers and the self-employed, who traditionally lack access to banking and related services. It has been considered as a major tool for poverty alleviation and meeting the millennium development goals in a poor developing nation like Nepal. It consists of a range of financial services like deposit, credit, micro-insurance, and remittance services. Microfinance, specially, microcredit helps poor people to smooth cash flows and increase accessibility to food, shelter, clothing and education. It decreases the vulnerability towards shocks like sickness, theft, or natural disasters. Moreover, it has been proving itself as a fundamental tool for empowerment and financial transformation of women by means of providing capital in their hands and allowing them to earn an independent income and contributing financially to their households and communities.

2.1.1 Definition and Concept of Microfinance

It is difficult to find the uniformity in the definition of microfinance due to its variation depending upon the location, institution and program. Basically, microfinance is made up of two terms, “micro” and “finance.” The term “micro” refers to the very small in quantity and the other term “finance” refers to the art and science of managing money. Hence, simply stated, microfinance is the management of small amount of money.

“Microfinance” is often defined as financial services for poor and low-income clients offered by different types of service providers. In practice, the term is often used more narrowly to refer to loans and other services from providers that identify themselves as “microfinance institutions” (MFIs). These institutions commonly tend to use new methods developed over last 30 years to deliver very small loans to unsalaried

borrowers, taking little or no collateral. These methods include group lending and liability, pre-loan savings requirements, gradually increasing loan sizes, and an implicit guarantee of ready access to future loans if present loans are repaid fully and promptly (www.microfinancegateway.org, n.d-January 11, 2012).

Access to financial services can be an important tool for preventing people from falling into- or moving out of- poverty. As all economic agents, low income households and micro entrepreneurs can benefit from credit, savings, and insurance services. These services can help them take advantage of business opportunities, increase their earning potential , build assets and reduce vulnerability to external shocks. Without access to finance from professional service providers, low income, disadvantaged groups have to rely on informal sources of funding such as family, friends or money lenders and may become targets of predatory schemes. Financial exclusion and restricted access to financial services thus reduces the potential welfare of individuals and the productivity of enterprises in an economy. Formal financial markets typically fail to serve the poor, because low income individuals tend to have insufficient traditional forms of collateral. They are often excluded from financial services offered by banks. High transaction costs relative to the small size of loan typically required by the poor also make microfinance unattractive to mainstream formal financial institutions, particularly in remote areas with low population density. As a rule, traditional formal financial service providers, such as banks, thus often fail to serve low income household and micro enterprises (Bossoutrot, 2005).

The microfinance services may be provided directly to the individual clients or to the members organized in various groups. Commercial Banks, Development Banks, and Finance Companies provide microfinance loans to the poor and low income level individual clients under the Nepal Rastra Bank's provision of deprived sector loan. Whereas, Microfinance Development Banks, NGOs and INGOs, Saving and Credit Cooperatives generally provide microfinance services to the clients who are organized into various groups formed under certain criteria.

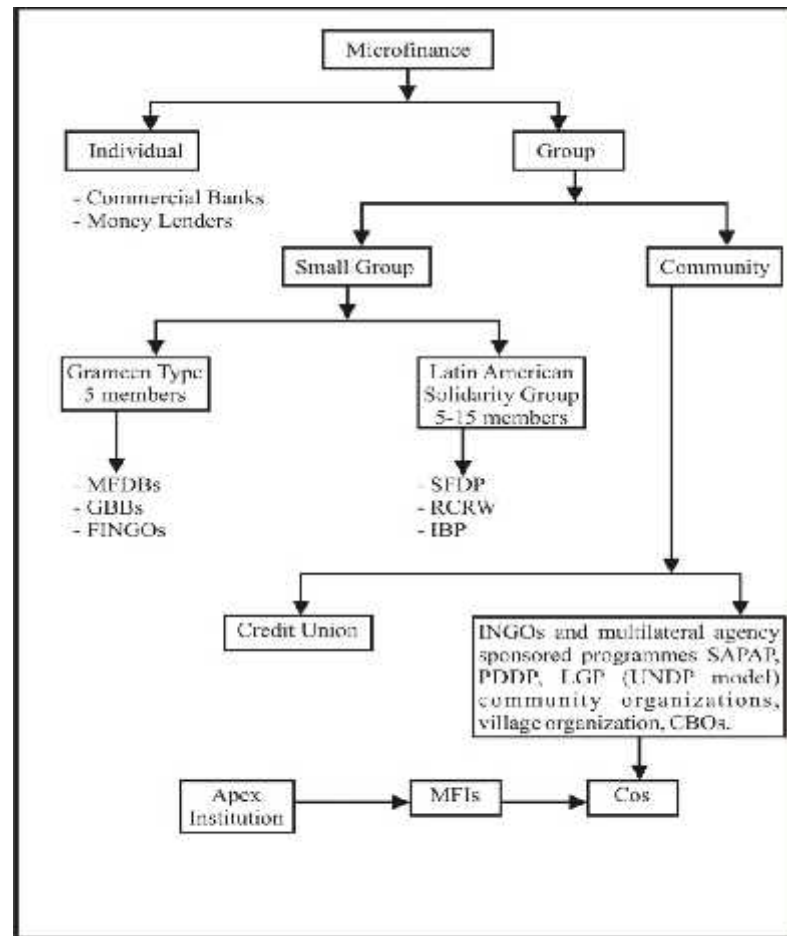
Microfinance is the provision of a broad range of financial services such as deposits, loans, payment services, money transfers, and insurance to poor and low-income households and, their microenterprises. Microfinance services are provided by three types of sources:

-) formal institutions, such as rural banks and cooperatives;

-) semiformal institutions, such as nongovernment organizations; and
-) informal sources, such as moneylenders and shopkeepers.

Institutional microfinance is defined to include microfinance services provided by both formal and semiformal institutions. Microfinance institutions are defined as institutions whose major business is the provision of microfinance services (www.adb.org, n.d.-January 13, 2012).

The general microfinance model is as follows:



Source: Bashyal, 2008: p. 13.

Basically, every microfinance program comprises of 3 Cs as essential elements i.e. Character, Capacity and Capital. Character refers to the members of the groups, especially women, whom MFIs provide small scale loans. Capacity means the various self employment related skills generating training programs provided to the groups. And capital is the small fund provided to the members of the program in terms of micro-credit.

2.1.2 History of Microfinance

The history of microfinancing can be traced back as long to the middle of the 1800s when the theorist Lysander Spooner was writing over the benefits from small credits to entrepreneurs and farmers as a way getting the people out of poverty. Independently to Spooner, Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen founded the first cooperative lending banks to support farmers in rural Germany. The modern use of the expression “microfinancing” has roots in the 1970s when organizations, such as Grameen Bank of Bangladesh with the microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus, were starting and shaping the modern industry of microfinancing. Another pioneer in this sector is Akhtar Hameed Khan (<http://en.wikipedia.org>, n.d-January 18, 2012).

Nobel Prize winner Proffessor Dr. Muhammad Yunus institutionalized the word “microfinance” through the prominent organization, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh while Akhtar Hameed Khan promoted participatory rural development in Pakistan. Earlier to that Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen had started village bank in Germany which is known today as Raiffeisen Bank. Today, there are more than 7000 microfinance institutions all over the world and there are also more than half a billion families benifited or are benefiting from these small loan provisions.

2.1.3 Women Focus of Microfinance

There are many reasons why women have become the primary target of MFIs. The primary reason is that more than 70% of women in the world are poor (World Bank). They are considered as poorest of the poor and more vulnerable in the family and society. They have higher unemployment rate than men. They constitute most of the informal sector of the economy and need microfinance services more than men. Besides, women have proved to be most efficient economic development tools. Those societies who discriminate women and practice gender inequality have to pay the cost of greater poverty, slower economic growth, weaker governance, and lower living standard of people.

Many different rationales can be offered for placing a priority on increasing women’s access to microfinance services.

Gender and Development

Microfinance has come to play a major role in many of these donors’ gender and development strategies because of its direct relationship to both poverty alleviation and women. As CIDA recognizes in its gender policy, “Attention to gender equality is

essential to sound development practice and at the heart of economic and social progress. Development results cannot be maximized and sustained without explicit attention to the different needs and interests of women and men.” As part of its poverty reduction priority, CIDA supports programs that provide “increased access to productive assets (especially land, capital, and credit), processing, and marketing for women.” By giving women access to working capital and training, microfinance helps mobilize women’s productive capacity to alleviate poverty and maximize economic output. In this case, women’s entitlement to financial services, development aid, and equal rights rests primarily on their potential contribution to society rather than on their intrinsic rights as human beings and members of that society.

Women Are the Poorest of the Poor

It is generally accepted that women are disproportionately represented among the world’s poorest people. In its 1995 Human Development Report, the UNDP reported that 70 percent of the 1.3 billion people living on less than \$1 per day are women. According to the World Bank’s gender statistics database, women have a higher unemployment rate than men in virtually every country. In general, women also make up the majority of the lower paid, unorganized informal sector of most economies. These statistics are used to justify giving priority to increasing women’s access to financial services on the grounds that women are relatively more disadvantaged than men.

Women Spend More of Their Income on Their Families

Women have been shown to spend more of their income on their households; therefore, when women are helped to increase their incomes, the welfare of the whole family is improved. In its report on its survey findings the Special Unit on Microfinance of the UNCDF explains, “Women’s success benefits more than one person. Several institutions confirmed the well-documented fact that women are more likely than men to spend their profits on household and family needs. Assisting women therefore generates a multiplier effect that enlarges the impact of the institutions’ activities.”

Efficiency and Sustainability

Arguments have been made for and against targeting women on the grounds of efficiency and sustainability. Proponents of targeting women on the grounds of sustainability cite women’s repayment records and cooperativeness. A collective wisdom has emerged that women’s repayment rates are typically far superior to those

of men. Lower arrears and loan loss rates have an important effect on the efficiency and sustainability of the institution. Many programs have also found women to be more cooperative and prefer to work with them for that reason as well.

Women's Rights Perspective

Women's equal access to financial resources is a human rights issue. Because access to credit is an important mechanism for reducing women's poverty it has been an explicit focus of a variety of human rights instruments. Both the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) address women's access to financial resources. For example, the BPFA includes 35 references to enabling poor women to gain access to credit. International and national instruments that establish women's rights to credit promote government responsibility and accountability in meeting commitments to women's rights.

Empowering Women

Last, but not least, one of the often articulated rationales for supporting microfinance and the targeting of women by microfinance programs is that microfinance is an effective means or entry point for empowering women. By putting financial resources in the hands of women, microfinance institutions help level the playing field and promote gender equality (Cheston & Kuhn, n.d.-January 13, 2012).

2.1.4 Women Empowerment

Empowerment is the process of increasing strength within the individuals or communities. Such strength may be physical, spiritual, social, economic, political, educational, or gender. It refers to the self-exclusion from discrimination based on ethnicity, race, disability, religion, or gender by a individual or a society and active participation in the decision making process.

Some definitions of empowerment start with a discussion of empowerment in relation to delegation of authority. In fact, one definition of 'empower' give in the Oxford English Dictionary suggest that it means to 'invest legally or formally with power: to authorize, license.' However, some writers are keen to distance the definititon from merely intensifying the delegation of authority. Foy (1994) provides a nice example that both helps with the distinction between empowerment and delegation, reveals something of the assumptions and mind set underpinning many aspirations for empowerment. She says, 'If you give your 12-year-old daughter money to buy jeans,

that's delegation.....if you give her a clothes allowance which she can spend as she chooses, that's empowerment.' Stewart (1994) suggests that managers need to draw distinctions between in authority and being an authority. Again she uses a child-parent example to explain differences between being in authority and thereby having the power to make decisions that are to be obeyed, 'as when telling a child to go to bed' (p.2), and being an authority 'on the sleeping habits of children.' Empowering managers act as authorities for empowered employees (Lashley, 2001).

The definition of women's empowerment has certainly lent a new dimension to our understanding of the state, politics, government and democracy. The state can no longer remain a male-dominated institution and its restructuring means including women in the state's power structure. Thus 'a gender-balanced state', may be a more appropriate term to describe the nature of a state attuned to the concept of women's empowerment. This new approach has meant changes in our understanding of politics. Taking into consideration women's growing assertion and intervention in political affairs, politics at present can not be confined to classical definitions such as "the struggle for power", "a game of the political elite", or "the structure of ruler-ruled relations." From a gender perspective, the degree and nature of women's participation become the key variables giving meaning, content and value of politics (Shrestha & Hachhethu, 2002).

Empowerment of women, also called gender empowerment, has become a significant topic of discussion in regard to development and economics. Entire nations, businesses, communities, and groups can benefit from the implementation of programs and policies that adopt the notion of women empowerment (Deneulin & Sahani, 2009).

Empowerment of women may be defined as an increase in participation, control and responsibility of women in various facets of lives. These facets may be social, economic, legal and political (Yunus, 1997).

2.1.5 Microfinance and Women Empowerment

Women work longer hours than men and have a greater range of responsibilities, but the work they do is often neither publicly nor privately acknowledged. Women are not a minority group or special category and, similarly, women's work is just another issue. Although women have been subordinated and marginalized in different ways for much of history, their labour-and the exploitation of that labour- is the foundation

of society's wealth. Women perform the vital function of producing society's producers, and yet this role is made to appear private, marginal, and without economic value. What are the structures that keep men and women in separate spheres, and ensure that the spheres of men are dominant and of women subordinate (Bullock, 1994)?

Empowering women is one of the prime objectives of microfinance among the other objectives, such as, provision of access to funds, encouraging entrepreneurship development, managing risks, etc. Microfinance services have been considered to help women generate small fund and save small amount of money by receiving small loans at their doorsteps in a very simple way which can also be used to build their economic foundation and empowerment. The impact of microfinance generally indicates to the impact of microcredit which has been studied more than the impact of any other forms of microfinance.

Access to credit helps poor to smooth cash flows and avoid periods where access to food, clothing, shelter, or education is lost. Credit can make it easier to manage shocks like sickness of a wage earner, theft, or natural disasters (www.microfinancegateway.org, n.d.- January 11, 2012).

Most MFIs focus on women as target groups for microfinance activities because women are generally proved to be more responsible towards repayment of loans and investment of increased income to the betterment of their family.

Women make up a large portion of microfinance beneficiaries. Traditionally, women (especially, those in underdeveloped countries) have been unable to readily participate in economic activity. Microfinance provides women with the financial backing they need to start business ventures and actively participate in the economy. It gives the confidence, improves their status and makes them more active in decision-making, thus encouraging gender equality. According to CGAP, long standing MFIs even report a decline in violence towards women since the inception of microfinance (Foote, n.d-January 29, 2012).

For microfinance to show an impact on women's empowerment, it needs to be supplemented by microfinance 'plus' or other non-financial services, like training, awareness creation programmes, education, etc. These can empower women to effectively improve their positions within the household, community and society, and not just make them more efficient in their roles defined within the existing norms (Swain,n.d.-January 25, 2012).

Since 1970s, tens of thousands of poor women have started their own business-often with sewing machine-using loans of as little as \$100 from organizations like Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and the Washington, D.C. - based Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA), which has been active in Latin America. The results have been eye-opening: Women turned out to be reliable debtors, and since many who received micro loans squirreled away their earnings to send their children to school and buy more food for their families, the positive impact has rippled through communities.

2.1.6 Nepalese Women

According to preliminary report of 11th national population census 2068, the population of Nepal has reached to 26.6 million and sex ratio has decreased to 94.41. Number of women is more than that of men. However, most of the women are uneducated and excluded from the mainstream of human development.

Gender relations in Nepal continue to be defined by a patriarchal value system, which perpetuates women's subordination. Many women do not question it and to a certain degree believe that men have the right to control their lives and bodies. Women in Nepal are discriminated several times over. They are poorer than men with less access to property, income, inheritance and credit and often with little control over own or overall household earnings. They are less educated and more likely to be engaged in non-skilled work rather than in better paid professional, technical and management-related jobs. Though women's contribution to agricultural production is above 60% the total land holdings are only 8%. Also most women workers, over 70%, are confined to self employed, unpaid and low wage informal activities. Only 12% of women are in the civil service and 1.76 % are in the judicial service (NWCN, 2011).

As elsewhere, recent discussion of development process in Nepal reflects an ever increasing concern with differentiation and its consequences on women's welfare. Sex differentiation is not a new concept. It was always self-evident to those familiar with the process of sexual division of labour in the evolution of human society through the ages. What is new is the suspicion that development has tended to favour men at the expense of women because planning has erred in one or more of the following ways:

-) By omission: that is by failing to notice and utilize the traditional productive roles which women are playing.

-) By reinforcement: of values already in existence in the society which restrict women activities to child-bearing, child-rearing and other household tasks; and
-) By addition: that is by superimposing western values of what is appropriate work for women in modern society on developing societies (Reejal, 1981).

Nepalese society is a patriarchic society. Women are generally subordinate to men in almost every aspect of life. Most of the women are involved in household, agriculture, and livestock related activities. They can hardly manage day to day household expenses. Their living standard is very low and poor. They have been the victim of gender bias by the family and society since long time ago.

In Nepal, like other developing countries, the state of women is not satisfactory. Male dominated family system provides very little scope for the female to assert their identity. They are marginalized from economic and social opportunities due to illiteracy, poverty and conservative social taboos. But things are changing slowly but steadily. Women in development have been accepted since the sixth plan as a national policy. After the restoration of multi party system in 1990 policy makers are giving due importance to uplift the status of women. A separate ministry, to look after the welfare of the women, has been established. Especially after the World Women Conference held in Beijing in 1995, the question of women empowerment has been brought into the limelight (Bhattarai, n.d.- January 16, 2012).

Nepal's gender empowerment measure is only half of the global average and after Pakistan, the second lowest in south Asia. Agricultural feminization in Nepal is caused by de facto rather than de jure reason as the number of female-headed households in rural areas is increasing mainly because of male out-migration and male employed in other sectors (Bashyal, 2008: p.74-75).

According to Wikipedia, the status of women in Nepal within the family and society was much more poor than the men even after the restoration of democracy in 1990s. "The senior female member played a commanding role within the family by controlling resources, making crucial planting and harvesting decisions, and determining the expenses and budget allocations. Yet, women's lives remained centred on their traditional roles- taking care of most household chores, fetching water and animal fodder, and doing farm work. Their standing in society was mostly contingent on their husbands' and parents' social and economic positions. They had limited

access to markets, productive services, education, health care, and local government. Malnutrition and poverty hit women hardest. Female children usually were given less food than male children, especially when the family experienced food shortages. Women usually worked harder and longer than men. By contrast, women from high-class families had maids to take care of most household chores and other menial work and thus worked far less than men or women in lower socioeconomic groups. The economic contribution of women was substantial, but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. When employed, their wages normally were 25 percent less than those paid to men. In most rural areas, their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding, and harvesting. In urban areas, they were employed in domestic and traditional jobs, as well as in the government sector, mostly in low-level positions.Illiteracy imposed the greatest hinderance to enhancing equal opportunity and status for women. They were caught in a vicious circle imposed by the patriarchic society. Their lower status hindered their education, and lack of education, in yurn, constricted their status and position.” (Women In Nepal, 1991)

However, women awareness and literacy levels have substantially increased during past few years. Access of women to education, employment, politics, etc is encouraging. After the success of Peoples Mass Movement (Jana Andolan 2062/063), Interim Constitution 2063 has guaranteed a provision of 33% reservation system for women in government employment and parliament as well. Women have reached to policy making and executing levels. Though the result is not much satisfactory, it will be the milestone for the future development of women and gender empowerment.

2.1.7 Microfinance in Nepal

Microfinance has been considered as an important financial tool in a poor developing nation like Nepal to alleviate poverty, increase self employment, and enhance women empowerment. It is a well tested and proven instrument for generating small funds and increasing stable source of income for women ultimately leading to the financial transformation. It is newly emerged and rapidly growing model in Nepal.

The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) under the "Priority Sector Loan Program" (Prathmikta Chhetra Karja Karyakram) directed the commercial banks to provide institutional loans to the Priority Sector in April 1974. Accordingly, they were required to disburse five percent of their total deposit as loans to this sector such as agriculture, cottage

industry and services. In 1975, the Agriculture Development Bank, Nepal (ADB), started Small Farmer's Development Program (SFDP) on a pilot basis in two Village Development Committees (VDCs) of the two districts, one in the hill and the other in Tarai. The success of this pilot testing prompted the then government to expand it to all over the country. The number of Sub-Project Offices (SPOs) reached 422 covering 652 Village Development Committees (VDCs) by December 1996. Now, the SPOs are in the process of transformation into Small Farmers Cooperative Limited (SFCLs). Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Limited (SKBBL) has also been established in 2002 to provide wholesale loans to the SFCLs..... The Government of Nepal (GoN) and the central bank introduced Grameen Bank (GB) approach of Bangladesh by establishing two GBBs, one in the FarWestern Development Region and another in the Eastern Development Region in the year 1992. Soon after 3 more GBBs were also established one each in the remaining three development region. Five private GB-model replicating banks and several Financial Intermediary Non-Government Organizations (FI-NGOs), and Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SCCSs) also came into existence following the GB approach which enhanced the accessibility of the poor to the microfinance services at their doorstep. The group members understand the problems and capabilities of all members, and the Loan Officer, who goes to provide service at the doorstep, also gets an opportunity to closely assess the reality of the local situations. Both these factors help to effectively use the loan funds provided to the group members and a system of close monitoring for productive use of loans is also made possible by the decisions of the group together with the Loan Officer. Since early 1990s, the government of Nepal (GoN) and the Nepal Rastra Bank (the Central Bank of Nepal) have been initiating a number of measures to ensure that supply of credit is made adequately to the targeted families on time and with easy terms and conditions. GoN also made provisions for wholesale lending to the MFIs. The Rural Self Reliance Fund (RSRF), was also established in 1991 to make small wholesale funds available to start up MFIs and another wholesale institution the Rural Microfinance Development Centre Ltd. (RMDC) was established in 1998 to extend larger wholesale funds to MFIs. Since then, RMDC has been playing a major role in the institutional development of MFIs. It has promoted more than 50 MFIs from the scratch and helped them develop the microcredit market. RMDC is focusing more on quality services and sustainability of its partner organizations (POs). It also has been effortful to persuade its POs not only to extend

their services to remote areas. In 1982, the government also launched a women focused microfinance program (PCRW) – 'Production Credit for Rural Women through the Women Development Section of the Ministry of Local Development with the support of the government owned commercial banks for credit. Similarly, the government has been making provision of credit component in several donor assisted rural development projects also for supporting self employment, promotion and income earning activities. These projects include Participatory District Development Program (PDDP), Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF), Decentralized Local Governance Support Program (DLGSP) and many others which had followed the Self-Help Group (SHG)/Community Organization (CO) model of micro financing (RMDC Ltd., 2009) In 2004, the government introduced the Banks and Financial Institutions Ordinance (which was converted into an Act in 2006) which has a provision of licensing microfinance banks also as class 'D' banks. As a result, 21 microfinance banks have been issued license by the NRB till the date. There are 16 Saving and Credit Co-operatives and 38 NGOs, licensed by NRB till the date. NRB licensed MFIs have been shown in the tables below:

Table 2.1
Name of Class 'D' Micro Credit Development Banks

S. No.	Names	Operation Date (A.D.)	Head Office	Paid up Capital (Rs '00000)
1	Purbanchal Grameen Bikas Bank Ltd.	1993/03/28	Biratnagar, Morang	600
2	Sudur Pashimanchall Grameen Bikas Bank Ltd.	1993/03/28	Dhangadhi, Kailali	585
3	Pashimanchall Grameen Bikas Bank Ltd.	1995/04/01	Butawal, Rupandehi	660
4	Madhya Pashimanchal Grameen Bikas Bank Ltd.	1995/04/01	Nepalgunj, Banke	683
5	Madhymanchall Grameen Bikas Bank Ltd.	1996/07/08	Janakpur, Dhanusha	1000
6	Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd.	1999/04/13	Siddharthanagar, Rupandehi	1740
7	Rural Microfinance	1996/12/06	Putalisadak,	3200

	Development Centre Ltd.		Kathmandu	
8	Deprosc Microfinance Development Bank Ltd.	2001/07/03	Ratnanagar, Chitwan	425
9	Chhimek Microfinance Development Banks Ltd.	2001/12/10	Hetauda ,Makawanpur	1234
10	Shawalamban Laghu Bitta Bikas Banks Ltd.	2002/02/22	Janakpur, Dhanusha	1159
11	Sana Kisan Vikas Bank Ltd.	2002/03/11	Subidhanagar, Kathmandu	1288
12	Nerude Laghu Bitta Bikas Bank Ltd.	2007/06/07	Biratnagar, Morang	400
13	Naya Nepal Laghu Bitta Bikas Bank Ltd.	2009/03/20	Dhulekhel, Kavrepalanchok	140
14	Mithila Laghu Bitta Bikas Banks Ltd	2009/04/29	Dhalkebar,Dhanusha	165
15	Summit Microfinance Development Bank Ltd	2009/05/20	Anarmani, Jhapa	140
16	Sworogajar Laghu Bitta Bika Bank Ltd	2009/12/1	Banepa, Kavre	110
17	Frist Microfinance Development Bank Ltd	2009/12/28	Gyaneshwor, Kathmandu	700
18	Nagbeli Microfinance Development Bank Ltd	2010/02/04	Anarmani, Jhapa	100
19	Kalika Microcredit Development Bank Ltd.	2010/07/21	Waling, Syanja	120
20	Mirmire Microfinance Development Bank Ltd.	2010/09/23	Banepa, Kavre	140
21	Janautthan Samudayik Microfinance Development Bank Ltd.	2010/11/09	Butwal, Rupandehi	110

Source: Nepal Rastra Bank

<http://bfr.nrb.org.np/List_Banks_n_Non_Banks.php#home>

Table 2.2
Name of Saving and Credit Co-operatives (Limited Banking)

S. No.	Names	Operation Date (A.D.)	Head Office	Paid up Capital (Rs '00000)
1	Shree Nabajivan Co-operative Ltd.	1993/12/15	Dhangadi, Kailali	538
2	Sagun Co-operative Society Ltd.	1994/10/9	Kathamandu	118
3	Nepal Co-operative Society Ltd.	1994/12/30	Kathamandu	423
4	The Sahara Loan,Savings Co-op.Soc. Ltd.	1995/04/15	Sarlahi	464
5	Bindabasini Saving & Credit Co-operative Society Ltd.	1995/06/21	Khopasi, Kavre	411
6	Mahila Co-operative Society Ltd.	1995/09/27	Kathmandu	173
7	Nepal Bahooddeshya Co-operative Society Ltd.	1995/12/25	Jhapa	373
8	Sahakari Bittiya Sanstha Ltd.	1696/6/16	Nepalgunj, Banke	134
9	Shree Manakamanal Sahakari Sanstha Ltd.	1997/02/18	Banepa, Kavre	120
10	Very Co-operative Sanstha Ltd.	1997/12/25	Nepalgunj, Banke	87
11	Viccu Saving & Loan Co-operative Sanstha Ltd.	1997/02/18	Gaidakot, Nawalparasi	240
12	Kisan Bahoo-uddesyiya Co-op. Sanstha Ltd.	1997/08/11	Lamki,Kailali	102
13	Himalaya Co-operative Ltd.	1998/12/29	Old Baneshowar, Kathmandu	493
14	Star Bahoo-Uddesyiya Saving & Credit Co-op Ltd.	1998/02/13	Biratnagar, Morang	73

15	Upakar Savings & Credit Co-operative So. Ltd.	1998/04/14	Walling, Sanja	295
16	Rastriya Sahakari Bank Ltd.	2010/08/17	Baneshwor, Kathmandu	1628

Source: Nepal Rastra Bank

<http://bfr.nrb.org.np/List_Banks_n_Non_Banks.php#home>

Table 2.3

Name of Non-Government Organizations (Limited Banking)

S. No.	Names	Operation Date (A.D.)	Head Office	Fund and Reserves (Rs '00000)
1	Nepal Grameen Bikas Sanstha	2000/06/05	Kathmandu	-
2	Nepal Sikara Grameen Bikas Karyakram	2000/06/05	Chitwan	756
3	Chartare yuba Club	2000/06/05	Baglung	110
4	Mahuli Samudyik Bikas Kendra	2000/06/12	Saptari	7145
5	Unique Nepal	2000/06/29	Bardiya	-
6	Samudayik Mahila Bikas Kendra	2000/07/14	Saptari	980
7	Grameen Jagaran Manch	2000/09/11	Baglung	156
8	Jan Jagaran Manch	2000/10/26	Rasuwa	111
9	Rastriya Shaichhik Tatha Samajik Bikas Sanstha	2000/10/01	Parbat	-
10	Dhaulagiri Community Research Dev. Centre	2000/10/21	Baglung	-
11	Society of Local Volunteers Efforts Nepal (Solve)	2001/07/10	Dhankuta	833
12	Women Enterprises Association of Nepal	2001/09/24	Kathmandu	1146

13	Center for Women's Right and Development	2002/04/30	Kathmandu	-
14	MANUSHI	2002/05/03	Kathmandu	6029
15	Life Development Society	2002/06/18	Morang	-
16	Mahila Adarsha Sewa Kendra	2002/07/02	Kthmandu	620
17	Patan Buisiness and Professional Women	2002/07/02	Lalitpur	-
18	Women Development Centre	2002/07/02	Chitwan	-
19	Womens Self -Relient Society	2002/07/14	Chitwan	-
20	Women Development Centre of Nepal	2002/07/12	Lalitpur	3236
21	Bhagawan Youth Club	2002/07/23	Kathmandu	35
22	Creative Women Environment Development Association.	2002/07/24	Kathmandu	730
23	Srijana Community Development Center	2002/07/25	Siraha	-
24	Shreejana Development Center	2002/08/22	Kaski	2090
25	Cottage & Small Industries Organization	2002/09/02	Kathmandu	-
26	Adarsha Yuba Club	2002/09/06	Bhaktapur	-
27	Society Welfare Action Nepal (SWAN)	2002/10/25	Dang	-
28	Social Upgrade in Progress of Education Region (SUPER)	2002/10/29	Dang	-
29	Nepal Women Community Service Center	2002/10/30	Dang	-
30	Forum for Rural Women Ardency Development,(FORWARD)	2002/12/30	Sunsari	-

31	Gramin Mahila Bikash Sanstha	2003/04/23	Dang	-
32	Gramin Mahila Utthan Kendra	2003/06/18	Dang	-
33	Gramin Sewa Nepal	2003/09/18	Kailali	253
34	Nari Avudya Kendra	2003/10/24	Chitwan	-
35	Mahila Upakar Manch	2003/10/29	Banke	2131
36	Sawabalamban Bikash Kendra	2004/11/01	Kathmandu	57390
37	Bikash Aayojana Sewa Kendra	2004/11/01	Kathmandu	72500
38	Gramin Swayam Sewak Samaj	2005/11/20	Hariwon,Sarlahi	1955

Source:Nepal Rastra Bank

<http://bfr.nrb.org.np/List_Banks_n_Non_Banks.php#home>

2.2 Review of Related Studies

Several studies have been conducted on microfinance in Nepal and abroad till the date. However, we can find out a limited number of researches on impact of microfinance on women empowerment in Nepal. This section reviews different research papers, articles that were presented in various journals, seminars, websites and books in Nepal and abroad. Various theses and dissertations are also reviewed in this section.

2.2.1 Review of Articles and Journals

This part reviews various empirical studies related to microfinance and women empowerment which has been published in different journals, articles and websites.

Sharma (2004), has published a research paper, 'Microfinance: A Powerful Tool for Social Transformation, Its Challenges, and Principles' in 'The Journal of Nepalese Business Studies' in which he has attempted to explore the role and importance of microfinance in reducing poverty by generating the income of the poor. He has suggested microfinance practitioners and MFI to follow certain principles for making the microfinance services more sustainable in the long run and shed light on the

problems and challenges of microfinance. He has stipulated the following key principles of microfinance collected from various sources so that MFI can deliver the services to the poor more effectively and can be sustainable itself in short and long run by adopting those principles.

-) The poor need variety of financial services, not just loans.
-) Microfinance is a powerful instrument against poverty.
-) Microfinance means building financial systems that serve the poor.
-) Financial sustainability is necessary to reach significant numbers of poor people.
-) Microfinance is about building permanent local financial institutions.
-) Micro credit is not always the answer.
-) Interest rate ceilings can damage poor people's access to financial services.
-) The government's role is as an enabler, not as a direct provider of financial services.
-) Donor subsidies should complement, not compete with private sector capital.
-) The lack of institutional and human capacity is the key constraint.
-) There should be financial and outreach transparency.

He has recommended that Nepalese MFI should work very effectively and efficiently by looking over these principles. He has indicated that Nepalese MFIs are not being able to reach the poorest due to inability of proper identification of the poor and lack of commitment and clear vision of their action. According to him, inadequacy of resources, inappropriate regulations, loss of confidence of depositors, narrow level and area of operation, excessive overhead and ineffectiveness of activities, peace and security situation of the country, strategic planning, government policy environment, operational planning, financial viability and sustainability, operation cost and interest rate, delinquency management, human resource management, evaluation, monitoring and follow up system are the problems that Nepalese MFIs are suffering from. He has suggested Nepalese MFIs to adopt one door controlling and monitoring mechanisms, make effort to link formal and informal financial sectors involved in micro-financing program, enter in a new paradigm of financial market, consider flexibility in financial management regulation, and develop efficient human resource management system in order to address these challenges.

Baral (2004) has published a research article in 'Banijya Sansar' on 'Microfinance: Good Portfolio and Management of Delinquency'. He has defined quality portfolio as the loan recovered in time within or on the due date and indicated the loan recovery rate as a measure of quality of loan. According to him, statistics of many countries shows that the loan recovery rate of microcredit is higher than that of commercial bank and finance company. In microfinance, the term delinquency is used to imply the situation when overdue loan remains unpaid. In the context of Nepal, high loan recovery rate indicates that microfinance institution do not have to face much more problem relating to delinquency. He has identified two kinds of irregularities in both MFIs and borrowers. From the side of MFIs, the irregularities have been commonly found on the selection of target area, identification of target group, formation of group, mobilization of loan on the basis of securities and emphasis on investment and recovery of loan. Whereas misuse of loan, non-repayment of due installment, and repayment of loan from different sources other than regular source are the irregularities from the side of the borrowers. He has acknowledged microcredit programs for the protection of borrowers from the costly interest rate of indigenous bankers though they have added more burden of loan to them. He has suggested that the target area should be selected according to priority of district development plan, an effective monitoring mechanism should be developed, loan should not be provided only on the basis of securities, both group and real assets, and target of investment and recovery only should not be considered by the concerned projects and institutions.

Sharma (2007), on his paper "Microfinance and Women Empowerment", has examined the effects of women's participation in group-based micro-credit programs on a large set of qualitative responses to questions that characterize women's autonomy and gender relations within the household. He has carried out a special survey in hill and terai of Nepal. He has set some criteria of women empowerment based on women's involvement in decision making, change in self-confidence level, women's status, change in social and political participation, change in control over income, change in awareness of social issues and problems, and family relationships and domestic violence. He has measured the changes in those criteria before and after the inception of the MFIs programs and found out that the results to be consistent with the view that women's participation in micro-credit programs helps to increase women's empowerment. He has concluded that credit program participation leads to women taking a greater role in household decision-making, having a greater access to

financial and economic resources, having greater social networks, having greater bargaining power compared with their husbands, and having greater freedom of mobility. Results have also shown that female credit also tended to increase spousal communication in general about family planning and parenting concerns. He has noticed higher impact of microfinance on women's empowerment in the terai than in the hills. According to him, relatively lower social and economic status of terai women at the time of program initiation compared to that of hills may be the cause of higher impact because even a small change in their status would get reflected distinctly. By the type of MFIs, private-initiated MFIs have been seemed to be relatively better than government-initiated MFIs in this regard. However, the study has indicated that there is no significant change in women's involvement in decision making and women's status in gender equality before and after the initiation of the programs. On the other hand, all the other measures have shown the significant changes before and after the initiation of the programs.

Shrestha (2007) has published an article in an 'Agricultural Credit' journal on a topic 'Microfinance: A Tool to Fight with Poverty'. This paper has briefly reviewed the targeted programs and initiatives undertaken for creating conducive environment for institutional credit system, particularly microfinance in the rural areas. The research paper has found that poverty decline is sharper in the thousands with lesser number of children, households with bigger land holding, and also in the households with educated household heads. Collateral based lending practice of commercial banks and development banks has deprived the poor people from institutional sources of credit. However, institutions such as Productive Credit for Rural Women, Microcredit Program for Women, Rural Development Banks and other Grameen Bank Replications, etc. have privileged the poor people with reliable sources of credit. According to the study, outreach and disbursement of credit by microfinance activities have shown that substantial amount of saving could be generated from rural saving and credit schemes. Consequently, proportion of household taking loan has increased substantially, particularly in the rural areas.

Swain and Wallentin (2007) have published a working paper, 'Does Microfinance Empower Women? Evidence from Self Help Groups in India in which they have investigated the impact of microfinance on women's empowerment using 2000 and 2003 Indian household survey data. They have argued that there are methodological bias and flaws in the measurement and interpretation of women's empowerment in

many of the empirical researches, for example, impact of a women's decision to buy cooking oil for the family is different in nature from her participation in a decision to buy a piece of land. Both these decisions have different implications and magnitude of impact on her empowerment. As such giving equal weight to both these decisions does not make sense. At the same time, suggesting an arbitrary weight for these decisions is also inappropriate, as it is not for the researchers to decide the factor by which the latter decision contributes more to women empowerment. In their article, the authors have used a technique to estimate empowerment as a latent rather than an observed variable. Their model has estimated the mean level of women's empowerment for 2000 and 2003, measuring the impact of the Self Help Group (SHG) program on women's empowerment. Their analysis has indicated that on average there is a significant increase in women's empowerment of the SHG members group. No significant change has been observed on average for the members of the control group. The elegance of the result lies in the fact that even though the degree of change and the pace of empowering women are likely to vary, the group of SHG members experiences a significant and higher empowerment. It is difficult to say which factors are more important for empowering women. The differences in pace of empowerment might be a result of various factors: household and village characteristics, cultural and religious norms within the society, behavioral differences between the respondents and their family members; and the kind of training and awareness programs that women have been exposed to. For SHG programs, the results seem to indicate that the minimalist microfinance approach is not sufficient. Additional services like training, awareness raising workshops and other activities over and above microfinance programs that merely focus on financial services are also an important determinant of the degree of its impact on the empowerment process of women. They have suggested that future research needs to identify which factors in SHG programs have a greater impact on women's empowerment.

Chowdhury (2009) has published a working paper, 'Microfinance as a Poverty Reduction Tool- A Critical Assessment' in which he has attempted to provide a critical appraisal of the debate on the effectiveness of the microfinance as a universal poverty reduction tool. The paper has argued that while microfinance has developed some innovative management and business strategies, its impact on poverty reduction remains in doubt. According to him, microfinance, however, certainly plays an important role in providing safety-net and consumption smoothening and the

borrowers of microfinance possibly also benefit from learning-by-doing and from self-esteem, however, for any significant dent on poverty, the focus of public policy should be on growth-oriented and equity-enhancing programs, such as broad-based productive employment creation. He has urged that there is broad agreement about the need for complementary factors for microfinance to have some positive impact on poverty reduction. The supply of microcredit does not necessarily ensure the availability of complementary factors in adequate quantities and quality. Some microfinance institutions and non-government organizations (NGOs) seem to have understood the need for such factors and, therefore, also offer training to build management and entrepreneurial skills. There are also NGOs (such as BRAC in Bangladesh) which provide basic education in rural areas using innovative methods. These are all potentially positive developments for poverty reduction efforts. He has recommended for the effective complementary demand side factors- such as vibrant, well-functioning domestic market, effective macroeconomic, trade and industry policies and supply side factors- such as good infrastructure, training of business and entrepreneurial skills, access to marketing information and need of the important mediator role of the state in design and operation of an inclusive financial sector as the majority of SMEs and micro-entrepreneurs will not be able to afford the market-determined fees for such training or marketing information.

2.2.2 Review of Theses and Dissertations

Sharma (2002) has conducted his Ph. D. Thesis on, 'Microfinance practices and Their Sustainability in Nepal'. He has assessed the sustainability and financial efficiency of private, public microfinance institutions and non-government organizations. He has focused his study on the efficiency of these institutions on delivering their services to the poorest of the poor. He has found out that the MFIs have not been able to reach the poorest of the poor due to inability of the proper identification of the poor and lack of commitment and clear vision of their action. According to him, MFIs have been suffering from the problems such as inadequacy of resources, inappropriate regulations, loss of confidence of depositors, narrow level and area of operation, excessive overhead and ineffectiveness of activities. He has added, peace and security situation of the country, strategic planning, operation cost and interest rate, delinquency management, as other challenges for sustainability of Nepalese MFIs. He has suggested that MFIs need to enter in a new paradigm of financial market and

develop business planning and practice efficient management of human resources within the institution. He has further suggested that strategic approach should be adopted in order to address management challenges, enhance controlling and monitoring mechanism, link formal and informal sector involved in micro-financing program and apply flexibility in financial management regulation.

Acharya (2007) has done her master's thesis on, 'Impact of Microfinance: A Case Study of Microcredit Program for Women in Bhadaure Tamagi VDC, Kaski' with the main objective to explore the role of microcredit program for women of Bhadaure Tamagi VDC, Kaski and other specific objectives, such as, to analyze the position of existing credit; to analyze the relationship in between investment and income; to measure the perception of users group towards the program; to assess the effect of microcredit program on living standard of the people; and to assess the financial sustainability of the program. She has found the positive impact of microcredit on women's earning and their living standard. Their clothing and sheltering facilities have been found to be enhanced after the intervention of the microcredit program. Loan recovery rate has indicated the regularity of loan repayment as only 4% of the sample women among the loan takers have been found not to repay both interest and principal. This study has shown that the highest proportion of the total investment is on poultry farming, which is 35.95%, followed by buffalo keeping and retail business. The lowest proportion of the total investment is on goat keeping, which is 18.21%.

Paudel (2007) has worked out his master's degree thesis on the topic, 'Impact of Micro Finance on Women Empowerment: A Case Study of Micro Finance Project of Dhaulagiri Zone' in which he has attempted to examine the socio-economic impact of micro finance project on rural women, to analyze the political impact of micro finance project on rural women and to evaluate the perception of women about MFIs, in the operational area of NESDO. He has taken income level, saving behavior, occupational movement, consumption pattern, clothing pattern, drinking water facilities, toilet and bathroom users, and fuel consumption as the indicators of socio-economic empowerment of women and found that all these indicators have shown the positive impact of microfinance after the inception of the program. Likewise, decisional role of women regarding food and clothes, entertainment and education, sale and purchase of land, sale and purchase of agro-product, sale and purchase of livestock, taking of bank loan and repayment, health and treatment, and participation role of women regarding family planning, daughter's marriage, schooling of daughter, daughter's

mobility, discussion on social issues, support to inter-cast marriage, clothing and marriage of widow, voice against racial discrimination, social and household sanitation have been considered as the indicators of political empowerment of women. The study has proved the political empowerment of women after the intervention of the microfinance program of the project. The study has also indicated that the women have positive responses towards MFIs because these are very supportive to fulfill small household expenses, to enhance the positive response of the society towards their community participation, leadership and mobility, and decrease the dependency level of women on their male counterparts.

Thapa (2008) has done his thesis, 'Impact of Microfinance on Women: A Case Study of Putalibazaar Municipality Syangja under Grameen Bikas Bank'. His objectives are to analyze saving and its mobilization pattern of women, to explore mode of loan, loan disbursement and repayment practice, to analyze the relationship between investment and income and in between loan disbursement and recovery and to assess the impact of microfinance on the poorest of the poor women's financial condition. He has found that most of the women have saved their money in group saving rather than in individual saving and the main source of saving has been found to be agriculture and retail business. Likewise, the mobilization of loan has been found mainly on agriculture sector and women have increased their income by the utilization of the loan. The overall study has shown that the microfinance program has made the positive impact on living standard of women by generating employment and increasing productivity. It has suggested that lending should be made on the basis of requirement of the stated projected and not on the basis of target achievement and priority should be given to the poorer women. It has recommended to widely extending the health and education facilities to the poor women. It has further suggested raising the loan disbursement to highly productive and profitable sectors to ensure the proper and timely recovery of the loan.

Bhandari (2010) has prepared his thesis, 'Socio-economic Impact of Microfinance for Women: A Case Study of Prabhavkari Women Development Saving and Loan Co-operative Ltd.' with the objectives of exploring the contribution of co-operative on women empowerment, analyzing the position of existing micro-credit, analyzing the relationship between investment and income of women, measuring the perception of users group towards the co-operative and assessing the effect of micro-credit program on living standard of women. He has found that micro-credit has helped poor women

in asset creation, such as addition in the numbers of small livestock like chicken, goats and renovation of their home. However, poor women have not been able to add land. There has been found remarkable increment in the creation of other assets, such as television, toilet, shop, tap, bicycle and motorcycle. Women have been well acquainted with the saving behavior as well. There has been found significant change in the food security situation of sample women due to micro-credit. Though women have not been found to produce their own food due to insufficiency of land, they have been found to increase their capacity to buy food from the income of their regular business run due to micro-credit program. The income pattern has been shifted from daily wage earning and sale of livestock to small scale business and sale of agricultural products which is consistent with the notion of microfinance program that has financed for agricultural production, small scale business and livestock development. Not even a single loan has been found to be default which has indicated well discipline of the clients and assured return from their investment. The study has shown that micro-credit has helped women to become self-employed in business, cultivation, and small enterprises and reduced the vulnerability against incidents, such as drought, family illness, death of livestock, feasts and festivals and so on. He has found that decision making and participation on household affairs, awareness level on basic household issues, access to and control over resources of women has been increased while discrimination at household level has been decreased due to microfinance program. Mobility, social awareness, social exposure have been increased after participation in microfinance program. However, the study has postulated some drawbacks of the program, such as exclusion of bottom poor women, client duplication by various MFIs, lack of support services like awareness raising campaigns, vaccination campaigns, literacy programs, skills development trainings and so on.

Paudel (2011) has done his thesis on topic, 'Micro Finance and Women Enterprises Development under Village Development Programme: A Case Study of Nirmal Pokhari V.D.C. Kaski' in which he has tried to analyze the situation of women enterprises, explore the repayment status of the loan, analyze the socio-economic impact of micro credit to different groups, and evaluate the effective utilization of loan amount. He has found out that women have taken loan on four sectors, agriculture, trading, livestock and manufacturing among which investment on agriculture is high each year. He has also found that income level has been

substantially increased due to VDP program. Loan repayment rate has been found high, that is 91%. The program has provided training facilities to around 34% women related to their nature of enterprises. The study has indicated that about 76% women have involved in decision making by regularly participating in their meeting of the community organization. They have to decide about loan, training, and other issues which they have been facing in the meeting of CO. Only 24% women have been found to depend on their family members to make such decisions. The living standard of sample women have also been found to increase after involvement in VDP program because majority of women have access over health post facility, 60% have drinking water facility and 50% have bio-gas facility. According to the study 80% women have been found to fully utilize the loan and only 20% women have misused the loan. He has recommended training facilities to all members, seed grant money for infrastructure development like water resources and road construction, longer payback period of loan, increment of loan in trading and manufacturing enterprises, reward for successful dalit women entrepreneurs and so on to uplift the present living standard and set guidelines for further planning and implementation of micro credit practice in Nepal in the sector of women enterprises.

2.3 Research Gap

Research, a quest of searching again and again, is a never ending process. Each and every research tries to add some new literature in the field of its study by giving new findings and conclusions so that other researchers in the future could get new paradigm and platform of exploration. A lot of researches have been conducted in the field of microfinance and women empowerment by different scholars, however this research tries to find out the relationship between these two variables, microfinance and women empowerment, in the context of Darechowk V.D.C., Chitwan; a typical place of Nepal. This study, to some extent, tries to draw the conclusion about impact of microfinance on women empowerment on the basis of purely a qualitative measurement of women empowerment.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It is a science of studying how research is done scientifically where we study the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in studying his/her research problem along with the logic behind them. Accordingly, to achieve the principal objective of this research, that is, to assess the impact of microfinance on women empowerment in Darechowk V.D.C., Chitwan under Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd., following sections have been considered as the essential steps of this chapter.

3.1 Research Design

A research design is concerned with turning a research question into a testing project. The best design depends on the research questions. Every design has its positive and negative sides. The research design has been considered a "blueprint" for research, dealing with at least four problems: what questions to study, what data are relevant, what data to collect, and how to analyze the results. The research design serves as a framework for the study, guiding the collection and analysis of the data, the research instruments to be utilized, and the sampling plan to be followed.

This study has adopted descriptive cross-sectional analytical research design. Descriptive research design has been used mainly to conceptualize the research problem and assess the opinions of the sample to find out the fact. Cross sectional research design has been used to study the sample at a particular point of time. While analytical research design has been used to analyze the collected quantitative and qualitative data and find out the association between variables. Hence, design has been used to describe the extent of association between the variables at a particular point of time over the same group of samples. More precisely, the adopted research design has been used to describe the extent of association between microfinance and women empowerment before and after the involvement of sample groups into microfinance activities.

3.2 Study Area

Area of this study is confined within Darechowk V.D.C. of Chitwan district under the microfinance program of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. Data collected for the research has been taken from last five fiscal years only. Sample has been taken from the member women of various groups for more than five years in NUBL and analysis has been done on the basis of the same.

3.3 Population and Sample

A statistical population is a set of entities concerning which statistical inferences are to be drawn, often based on a random sample taken from the population. Population or universe refers to the entire group of people, events, or things of interest that the researcher wishes to investigate. A sample is a collection of items or elements from a population or universe. Hence, a sample is only a portion or subset of the universe. It comprises some observations selected from the population.

Population for this study comprises of all members of the women groups of NUBL within Darechowk V.D.C. of Chitwan district. A sample size of 110 women have been selected from the population by using a random sampling method. The sample size has been selected considering the limitation of budget, time and area of the study. The distribution of the sample women according to their related centres and area is shown in the following table.

Table 3.1
Distribution of Sample Women of NUBL in Darechowk

S.N	Name of Centres	Ward No.	Sample No.
1	Chumaling	7	11
2	Kebalcar	3	6
3	Kuringhat	7	10
4	Kurintar “Ka”	3	5
5	Kurintar “Kha”	3	4
6	Lewatar	3	1
7	Mugling “Ka”	4	9
8	Mugling “Kha”	4	9
9	Mugling “Ga”	4	5
10	Mugling “Gha”	4	6
11	Mugling “Nga”	4	9
12	Mugling “Nga” Kha	4	7
13	Mugling “Cha”	4	9
14	Naya Basti	3	11
15	Fishling “Ka”	8	8
	Total Sample Women		110

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

This study is mainly based on primary data. Both qualitative primary data and quantitative primary data have been collected, however, the study highly relies on qualitative data. Secondary data for the study have been collected mainly from office software, brochures, and annual reports of NUBL. Various research studies, dissertations and articles related to the study are the other sources of secondary data.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques

Various primary and secondary data collection techniques have been used to collect the relevant data for the study purpose.

3.5.1 Primary Data

As the study is highly depended on primary data, different primary data collection techniques have been adopted. These techniques can be mentioned as below:

- **Questionnaire:**

A structured questionnaire has been used to get qualitative as well as quantitative information from the sample women. This questionnaire has supplied most of the information related to this study for analysis purpose.

- **Personal Interview:**

Direct personal interview method has been used to collect the additional information of women empowerment, if needed.

- **Field Observation:**

Direct field observation has been done to interpret the socio-economic condition of sample women.

- **Case Study:**

Some cases have been discussed if something new arrive in course of field observation.

3.5.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data have been collected from reports, brochures, and softwares of NUBL. Various journals of microfinance, published books, unpublished books, theses, newspapers, articles, and web sites are the other sources of secondary data.

3.6 Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

Data itself gives no meaning. It should be analyzed and interpreted by using different tools and techniques. The purpose of analyzing the data is to change it from an unprocessed form to an understandable presentation. As far as this study is concerned, the collected data has been edited, classified and tabulated in appropriate form. Processing of such data has been done by the help of computer using Microsoft excel. Descriptive statistical tools, such as, percentage and mean; and inferential statistical tools, such as, chi-square test have been used to analyze and interpret the data. Bar diagram, and pie chart have been used for the presentation of data.

3.6.1 Percentage

A percentage, usually denoted by a % sign, is a way of expressing a number, especially a ratio, as a fraction of 100. It can reduce everything to a common base and thereby allow meaningful comparisons to be made.

3.6.3 Chi-square (X^2) Test

X^2 test is a mathematical way of examining a classification table to see whether the arrangement of values within the table is unusual in some way. This test explains the magnitude of discrepancy between expected frequency and observed frequency. It involves a comparison of frequencies of two or more responding groups. We can use this test to determine whether two attributes are independent of each other. The squared deviation between observed and theoretical numbers are measured in terms of frequencies or cells of a table, determining whether such deviations are due to sampling error or some interdependence or correlation among the frequencies. This test can thus be used to see whether or not two nominal variables are related. The X^2 statistic can be obtained by the following formula:

$$X^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

Where,

O_i = an observed frequency;

E_i = an expected (theoretical) frequency, asserted by the null hypothesis;

n = the number of cells in the table.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 Introduction

This chapter has tried to analyze the gathered data using various tools and techniques. The unprocessed data collected using questionnaire, field survey, case study and direct interview have been transformed into meaningful information to draw the conclusion. The analysis process and contents of the study have been determined as per the objectives of the study.

4.2 General Information about Women

This section consists of general information about respondents, such as, age, educational status, marital status, and distribution by cast and ethnicity. They have been shown in tables and percentage analysis has been done.

4.2.1 Age of Women

Age represents the productivity of human. There is difference in productivity among the persons having different ages. There is inverse relationship between age and productivity of human. As the person become older, his or her productivity becomes lesser. The study has tried to find out what age of women is more likely to participate in microfinance activities of NUBL. It has found the age of women respondents as scattered into six different ranges. The percentage analysis has been done to make the data simpler to understand. The distribution of women according to age has been shown in the table below:

Table 4.1
Number of Women According to Age

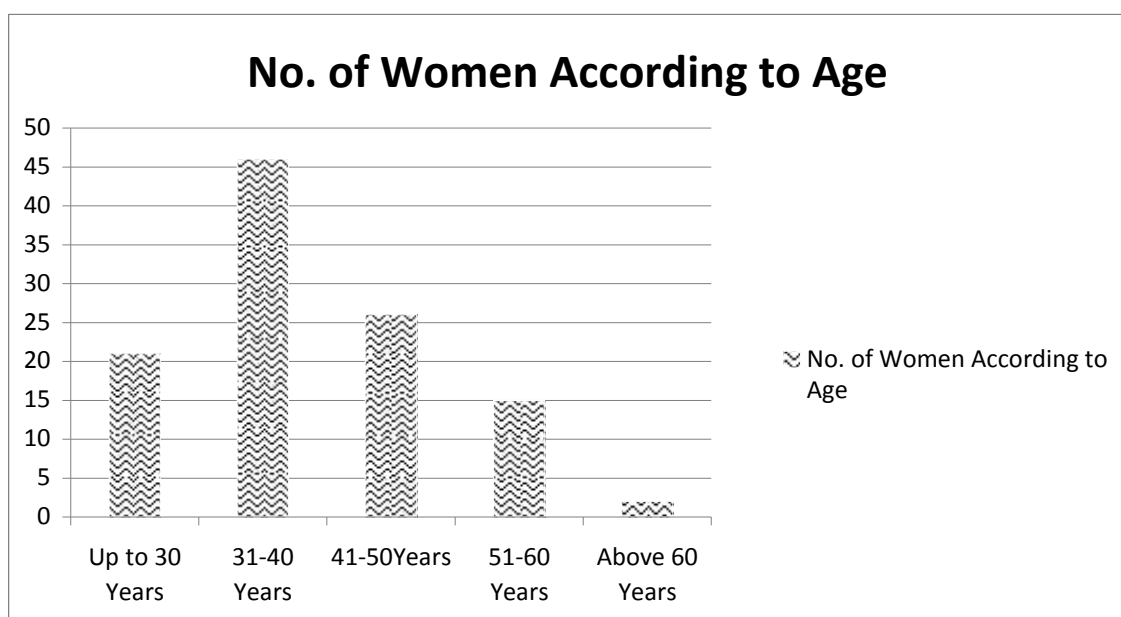
Age	Up to 30 Yrs	31-40 Yrs	41-50 Yrs	51-60 Yrs	Above 60 Yrs	Total
No. of Women	21	46	26	15	2	110
% of Women	19.09	41.82	23.64	13.63	1.82	100

Source: Field Survey

It has been found that most of the women members, that is 41.82%, of the group are 31-40 years range. Similarly, 23.64%, 19.09%, 13.63%, and 1.82% women belong to the range of 41-50 years, up to 30 years, 51-60 years, and above 60 years respectively. So, mainly women having the age between 31 to 40 years have been found to participate in NUBL program.

The distribution of women according to their age has been shown in the bar diagram below:

Figure 4. 1



The above bar diagram shows that mostly 31 to 40 years aged women are participating in the microfinance program of NUBL in Darechowk V.D.C. According to the diagram, least number of women who are involved in the program falls under above 60 year category.

4.2.2 Educational Status of Women

Education is the backbone of national development. Female education is very important for the gender empowerment in a developing country like Nepal. Government has also focused on female education through various programs and policies and a lot of budget has been allocated every year to make the girls get at least school level education. This study has allocated women respondents into five different groups according to their educational status which has been shown in table below:

Table 4.2
No. of Women According to Educational Status

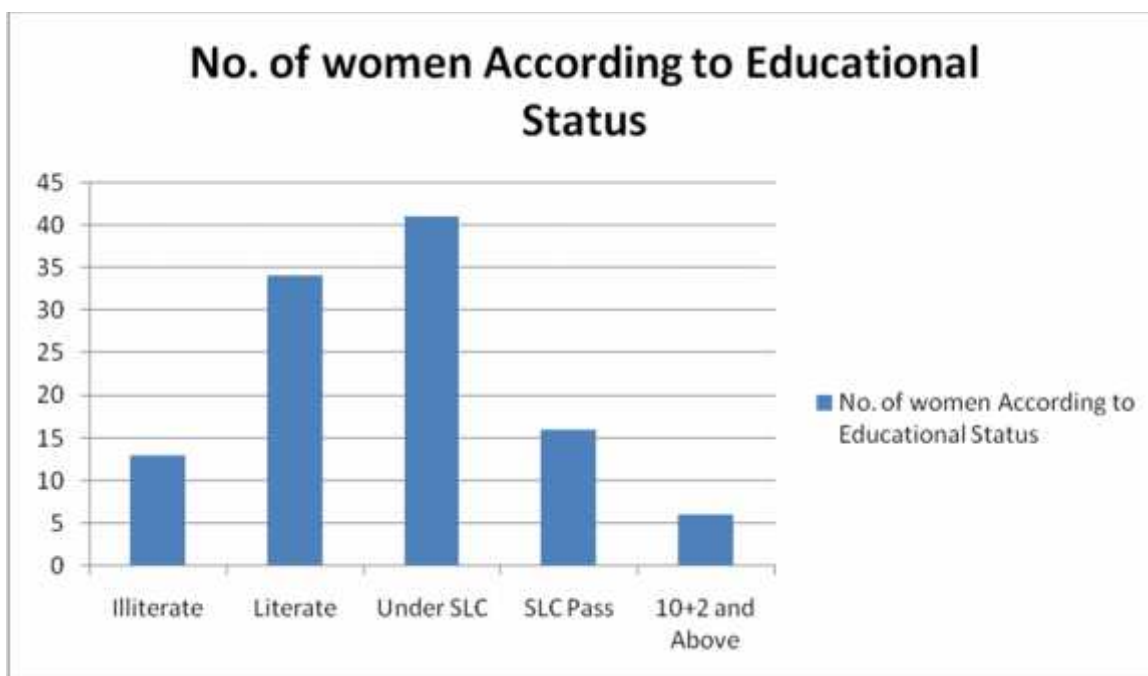
	Illiterate	Literate	Under SLC	SLC Pass	10+2 and above	Total
No. of Women	13	34	41	16	6	110
% of Women	11.82	30.91	37.27	14.55	5.45	100

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that most 37.27% women are under SLC who are participating in the program. Similarly, 30.91% women are literate, 14.55% are SLC pass, 11.82% are illiterate, and only 5.45% are 10+2 and above. It indicates that most of the women are under SLC educational background and very few women are 10+2 and above.

The above table 4.2 can be presented in bar diagram as shown below. The bar diagram also shows that majority of the women involved in the program fall under the under SLC educational status and least number of women who have involved in NUBL program are found to fall in 10+2 educational status.

Figure 4.2



As per diagram, there are literate, SLC pass, and illiterate women respectively in the descending order.

4.2.3 Marital Status of Women

Some programs may be marital status specific. There is a compulsory provision for the women to be married to participate in the microfinance program of NUBL. The marital status of member women has been shown in the table below

Table 4.3
Marital Status of Sample Women

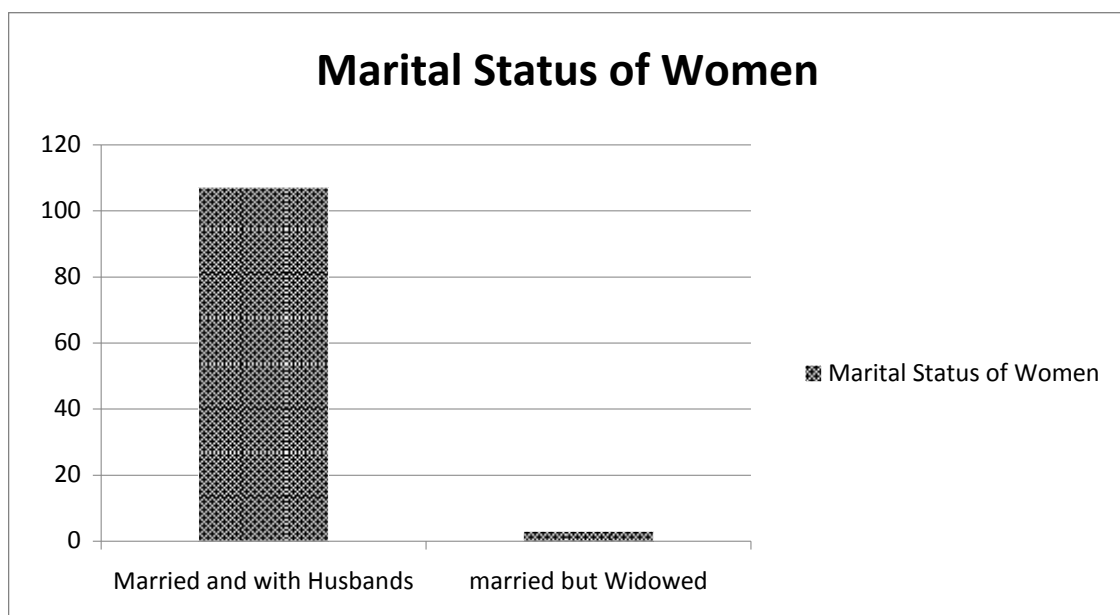
	Unmarried	Married and Still with Husbands	Married But Widowed	Total
No. of Women	0	107	3	110
% of Women	0	97.27	2.73	100

Source: Field Survey

It has been found from the above table that 97.27% women involved in the groups are married and still with their husbands and only 2.73% women are married but widowed. The study has found no case of divorce and living separately.

The table 4.3 has been shown below in a bar diagram chart:

Figure 4.3



The above bar diagram also shows that majority of women are found to be married and still with their husbands and very less women are married but widowed.

4.2.4 Cast and Ethnicity of Women

Every program should focus to the persons from different cast and ethnicity to promote the equal ethnic development. Otherwise, some ethnic group only may take advantage of the program and the other may be marginalized from the opportunity. NUBL program has also focused to women from all casts and ethnicities. Women have been divided into higher class, middle class, and lower class according to their cast and ethnicity. Brahmin and Chhetri have been considered as higher cast. Similarly, Gurung, Magar, Thakali and Newar have been regarded as middle class whereas Chepang, Kami, Sarki, Damai, and Muslim have been regarded as lower class. Their distribution has been found to be scattered as shown in the table below:

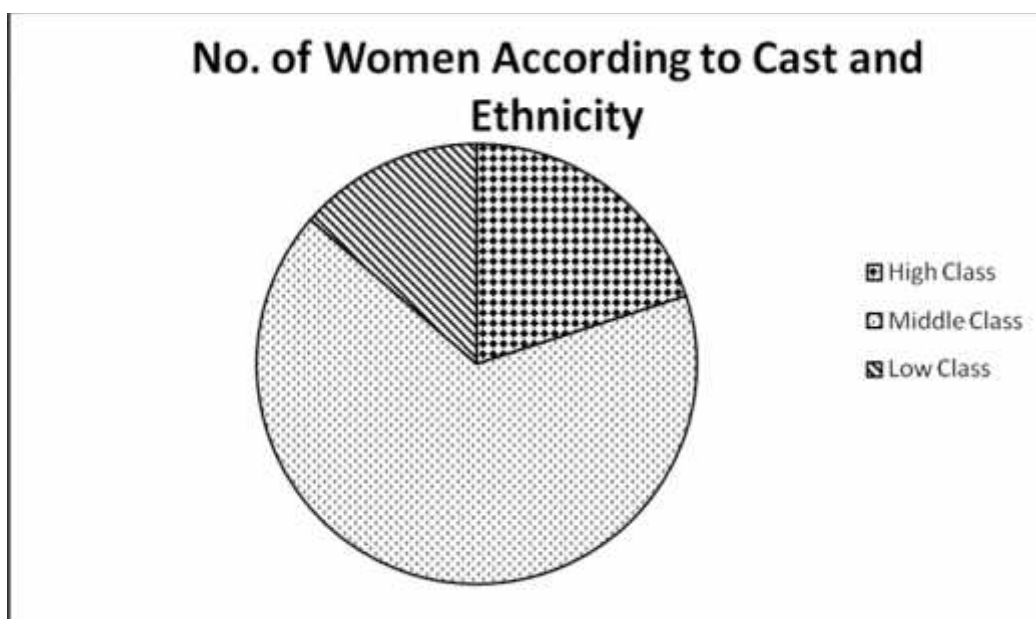
Table 4.4
No. of Women According to Cast and Ethnicity

	High Class	Middle Class	Low Class	Total
No. of Women	22	73	15	110
% of Women	20.00	66.36	13.64	100

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that the program has included mainly middle class women based on their cast and ethnicity and their percentage has been found to be 66.36%. Similarly, 20% women have found to be of high class and 13.64% women have been found to be of low class. The above table 4.4 has been shown on pie chart as below:

Figure 4.4



From the above pie chart, we can conclude that NUBL program has focused to the women from middle class as there are the majority of women from such class. There is minority of women in the program who represent the lower class. High class women are found to be in between the middle class and low class as per their representation.

4.3 Impact of Microfinance on Decision Making Power of Women

Decision making power of women have been assessed in terms of their extent of participation in making decisions on family affairs like schooling of children, treatment of family members, and sale of cattle before and after participation in microfinance program. The distribution has been shown in the table below:

Table 4.5
Change in Decision Making Power of Women

Mode of decision Making	Before Participation		After Participation	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Schooling of Children				
Male Only	45	40.91	32	29.09
Female Only	12	10.91	20	18.18
Both	53	48.18	58	52.73
Total	110	100	110	100
Family Member Treatment				
Male Only	41	37.27	27	24.55
Female Only	25	22.73	36	32.73
Both	44	40.00	47	42.72
Total	110	100	110	100
Sale of Cattle				
Male Only	43	39.09	27	24.54
Female Only	23	20.91	38	34.55
Both	44	40.00	45	40.91
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey

The above table 4.5 shows that the involvement of women in decision making on schooling of children has increased from 10.91% to 18.18% after participation in the

program. At the same time, the proportion of male involvement on the same issue has decreased from 40.91% to 29.09% whereas joint involvement has increased from 48.18% to 52.73%.

Regarding the female involvement in decision making on family member treatment, it has increased from 22.73% to 32.73% while male involvement has decreased from 37.27% to 24.55%. Joint involvement has increased from 40.00% to 42.72%

Similarly, female involvement in decision making on sale of cattle has increased from 20.91% to 34.55% whereas male involvement in the same issue has decreased from 39.09% to 24.54%. Joint involvement has shown the nominal increment from 40.00% to 40.91%.

From the above table, we can conclude that there is substantial increase in the level of decision making power of women after the participation in NUBL microfinance program.

However, statistically, the calculated value of Chi square has been found to be 4.42 which is less than the tabulated value of Chi square at 2 d.f. and 5% level of significance, 5.99 indicating no significant change in decision making power of women regarding schooling of children after participation in microfinance. Calculated Chi square value for decision making power regarding family member treatment and sale of cattle has been found to be 4.9649 and 7.357 which indicate that there is no significant change in decision making power of women regarding family member treatment as well after involving in NUBL. However, it has been found that there is significant change in decision making power of women regarding sale of cattle after participation.

4.4 Impact of Microfinance on Changes in Self Confidence of Women

Changes in self confidence of level of women have been assessed through their ability to put own interest in family, ability to put own say in family, and ability to put own say in society before and after involvement in microfinance activities. The study has assessed the impact of microfinance program of NUBL on the self confidence level of member women. The distribution has been found as shown in table 4.6. It shows that confidence level of women has been increased after participation in the microfinance program. The proportion of women having ability to put own interest in family has increased from 24.54% to 37.27%. Similarly, the proportion of women that are able to put their own say in family has increased from 20.91% to 29.09% and the proportion

of women having ability to put their own say in society has increased from 10% to 16.37%. At the same time, percentage of women having no ability has substantially decreased from 44.55% to 16.37%.

Table 4.6
Change in Self Confidence Level of Women

Self Confidence Level of Women	Before Participation		After Participation	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Ability to Put Own Interest in Family	27	24.54	41	37.27
Ability to Put Own Say in Family	23	20.91	32	29.09
Ability to Put Own Say in Society	11	10.00	19	17.27
None of Above	49	44.55	18	16.37
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey

Statistically, the calculated value of Chi square has been found 20.8316 which is greater than the tabulated value of Chi square at 3 d.f. and 5% level of significance, 7.82 which shows that there is significant change in self confidence of women after involvement in NUBL.

4.5 Impact of Microfinance on Gender Equality of Women

Impact of microfinance on gender equality status of women has been assessed through their work load regarding caring of children, cooking food, cleaning of house and utensils, and fetching water and washing clothes, before and after involvement in MFI. The table 4.7 shows the gender equality status of women. Caring of children by male has increased from 13.64% to 29.10%, that by female has decreased from 56.36% to 35.45%, and that by both has increased from 30% to 35.45%. Regarding cooking, male proportion has increased from 8.18% to 23.64%, female proportion has decreased from 62.73% to 39.09%, and proportion of both has increased from 29.09% to 37.27%. Regarding cleaning house and utensils, male proportion has increased from 4.55% to 12.73%, female proportion has decreased from 64.54% to 53.64%, and proportion of both has increased from 30.91% to 33.63%. Similarly, regarding

fetching water and washing clothes, male proportion has increased from 4.54% to 6.36%, female proportion has decreased from 74.55% to 56.37%, and proportion of both has increased from 20.91% to 37.27%.

Table 4.7
Change in Gender Equality Status of Women

Household Activities	Before Participation		After Participation	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Caring of Children				
Male Only	15	13.64	32	29.10
Female Only	62	56.36	39	35.45
Both	33	30.00	39	35.45
Total	110	100	110	100
Cooking				
Male Only	9	8.18	26	23.64
Female Only	69	62.73	43	39.09
Both	32	29.09	41	37.27
Total	110	100	110	100
Cleaning House/Utensils				
Male Only	5	4.55	14	12.73
Female Only	71	64.54	59	53.64
Both	34	30.91	37	33.63
Total	110	100	110	100
Fetching Water/ Washing Clothes				
Male Only	5	4.54	7	6.36
Female Only	82	74.55	62	56.37
Both	23	20.91	41	37.27
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey

From the above table, we can conclude that the gender equality status of women has improved after participation in NUBL microfinance activities.

Statistically, the calculated value of Chi square regarding caring of children, cooking, cleaning house and utensils, and fetching water and washing clothes have been found 11.8866, 15.4026, 5.4974, and 8.1736 respectively. The tabulated value of Chi square

at 2 d.f. and 5% level of significance is 5.99. It indicates that there is significant change in gender equality status of women regarding caring of children, cooking, and fetching water and washing clothes. However, there is no significant change in gender equality status of women regarding cleaning house and utensils after NUBL participation.

4.6 Impact of Microfinance on Social and Political Participation of Women

Change in social and political participation of women has been assessed by their membership in social organization, their attendance in social organization meeting, their position in political parties or local institutions before and after participation on MFI, which has been illustrated in table 4.8.

Table 4.8
Change in Social and Political Participation of Women

Change in Social and Political Participation of Women	Before Participation		After Participation	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Membership of Social Organization	15	13.64	36	32.73
Regular Attendance of Social Organization Meeting	10	9.09	22	20.00
Position Held in Political Parties/ Local Institutions	7	6.36	13	11.82
None of Above	78	70.91	39	35.45
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey

The above table 4.8 shows that, women membership of social organizations, such as, mother association, local clubs, NGOs have increased from 13.64% to 32.735 whereas their regular attendance of social organization meeting has increased from 9.09% to 20%. Similarly, women having positions held of political parties have been found to be increased from 6.36% to 11.82%. Women having no social and political participation have decreased from 70.91% to 35.45%. It shows that there is

improvement in the social and political participation of women after their involvement in the microfinance activities carries out by NUBL.

Statistically, calculated Chi square value regarding the change in social and political participation of women has been found to be 27.947 which is greater than the tabulated value at 3 d.f. and 5% level of significance, 7.82. It indicates that there has been significant change in the social and political participation of women after NUBL participation.

4.7 Impact of Microfinance on Control over Income

Change in the women control over income has been assessed by the extent of their holding of their own income and authority to spend it. The pattern of women control over income has been found to be as shown in table 4.9.

Table 4.9
Change in Women Control over Income

Mode of Control over Income	Before Participation		After Participation	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Handover to Husband	40	36.36	22	20.00
Kept by Self and Ask while Spending	55	50.00	67	60.91
Kept by Self and Spend as per Own Need	15	13.64	21	19.09
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey

The table 4.9 indicates that number of women who handover their own income to their husbands has decreased from 36.36% to 20%. Similarly, number of women who keep their own income but ask while spending has been increased from 50% to 60.91%; and number of women who keep their own income and spend as per their need has increased from 13.64% to 19.09%. It shows that there is improvement in the level of control over own income after involvement in the microfinance.

Statistically also, calculated value of Chi square is 7.4062 which greater than tabulated value at 2 d.f. and 5% level of significance, 5.99 and supports the significant change in women control over income after participating in MFI.

4.8 Impact of Microfinance on Women Awareness level of Social Issues and Problems

Women awareness about social issues and problems has been assessed in terms of their level of interest before and after participation in MFI which has been shown in the table 4.10. According to the table, number of women having no interest or knowledge of social issues and problems has decreased from 59.09% to 26.36% after participation in microfinance. Similarly, number of women having a little interest or knowledge of social issues and problems has increased from 31.82% to 53.64% and that having considerable interest or knowledge has increased from 9.09% to 20%.

Table 4.10
Change in Awareness Level of Women of Social Issues and Problems

Interest/ Understanding of Social Issues and Problems	Before Participation		After Participation	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
No Interest/knowledge	65	59.09	29	26.36
Little Interest/Knowledge	35	31.82	59	53.64
Considerable Interest/Knowledge	10	9.09	22	20.00
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey

The table shows that there is improvement in the awareness level of women about social issues and problems after the involvement in NUBL.

Statistically also, there has been found significant change in the awareness level of women about social issues and problems as the calculated value of Chi square, that is, 24.4148 is greater than the tabulated value at 2 d.f. and 5% level of significance, 5.99.

4.9 Impact of Microfinance on Family Relationship and Domestic Violence

Impact of microfinance on family relationship and domestic violence has been assessed in terms of extent of understanding between husband and wife before and after women participation in microfinance activities, which has been illustrated in the table 4.11 which shows that number of women having good understanding with their husbands has increased from 40.91% to 47.27% and that having average understanding has also increased from 39.09% to 42.73% whereas that having no

understanding has decreased from 17.27% to 7.27%. Number of women having no response on that issue has remained constant.

Table 4.11
Change in Family Relationship and Domestic Violence of Women

Mode of Family relationship	Before Participation		After Participation	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Good Understanding Between Husband and Wife	45	40.91	52	47.27
Average Understanding Between husband and Wife	43	39.09	47	42.73
No Understanding Between Husband and Wife	19	17.27	8	7.27
No Response	3	2.73	3	2.73
Total	110	100	110	100

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that there is improvement in the status of women regarding their family relation and domestic violence. However, statistical test of Chi square does not support for the significant change in the family relationship and domestic violence since calculated value of Chi square, 5.1644 is less than tabulated value, 7.82 at 3 d.f. and 5% level of confidence.

4.10 Activities of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited

Various microfinance activities have been carried out by NUBL in Darechowk VDC. These can be categorized as saving, credit, remittance, and micro-insurance. Saving activities and credit activities carried out by NUBL in general have been described in this section.

4.10.1 Saving Activities of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited

Saving is one of the major services provided by any kind of MFI to poor people. MFIs are always intended to enhance the saving behavior of women to facilitate the future

consumption and asset building process. NUBL, Mugling Branch has also provided different saving programs to the members of the groups.

Table 4.12
Saving of NUBL in Different Saving Programs

(In Rs)

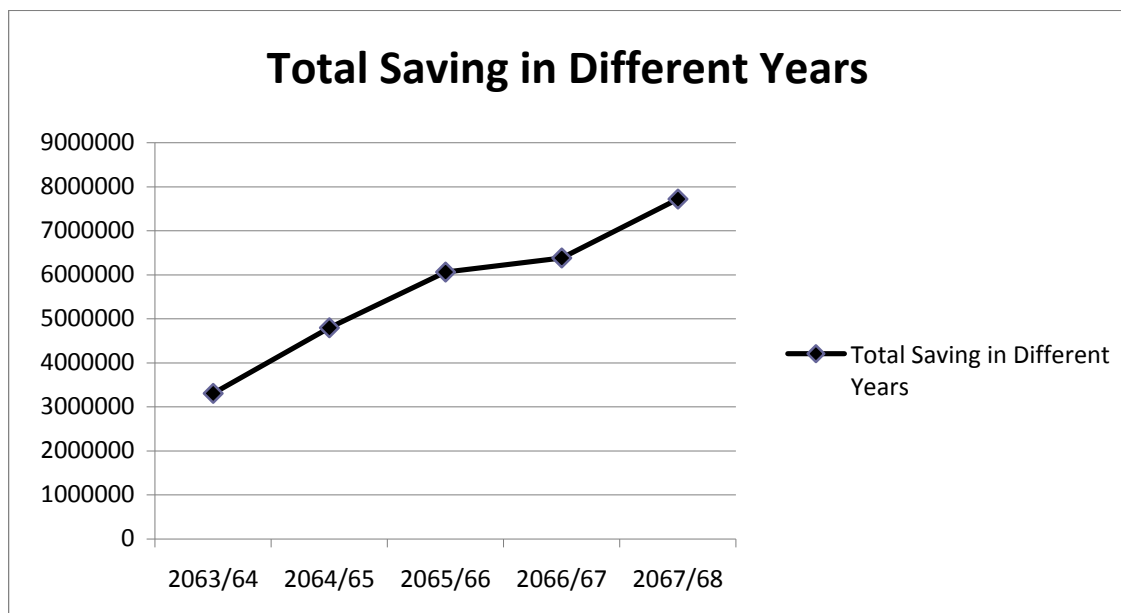
Type of Saving	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68
Compulsory Saving	2381976	3500828	4361263	4778626	5877362
Voluntary Saving	843732	1186395	1566411	1429949	1524003
Centre Fund Saving	85010	110241	130525	160257	203516
Special Saving	-	-	5025	11923	18057
Recurring Saving	-	-	-	-	1211
Staff Salary Saving					93673
Total	3310718	4797464	6063224	6380755	7717822

Source: NUBL, Mugling

These programs can be divided into centre fund saving, voluntary saving, compulsory saving, recurring saving, and special saving. Staff salary saving is the other type that is targeted towards the staffs of NUBL. The saving portfolio of the bank over past five years has been shown in the table 4.12. According to the table, there are only three types of saving programs in FY 2063/64 and the total saving in 2063/64 has been found to be Rs.33,10,718. The total saving in FY 2064/65 has reached to Rs.47,97,464. The bank has started another saving program, called special saving in FY 2065/66 and the total saving has reached to Rs.60,63,224 which has reached to Rs.63,80,755 in FY 2066/67. The total deposit of the bank has ultimately reached to Rs.77,17,822 in FY 2067/68 when the bank has again launched a new saving program for its staff. In every year, it has been found that compulsory saving is maximum followed by voluntary saving, and centre fund saving. Though started lately, staff

salary saving is more than special saving. Recurring saving has been found to be the least among all deposit programs. It shows that the deposit of the bank is in the increasing trend over past five years which has been shown in the line chart below:

Figure 4.5



The above figure shows that total saving of the bank over past five years has increased every year though there is small increase in FY 2066/67.

4.10.2 Credit Activities of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited

NUBL, Mugling has been providing loan up to Rs.90,000 without collateral and upto Rs.2,00,000 by taking collateral to its members. It has been providing up to Rs.60,000 to other clients on collateral basis. The collateral free loan portfolio of the bank over past five years has been presented in the table 4.13 below.

Table 4.13
Collateral Free Loan of NUBL in Different Loan Programs

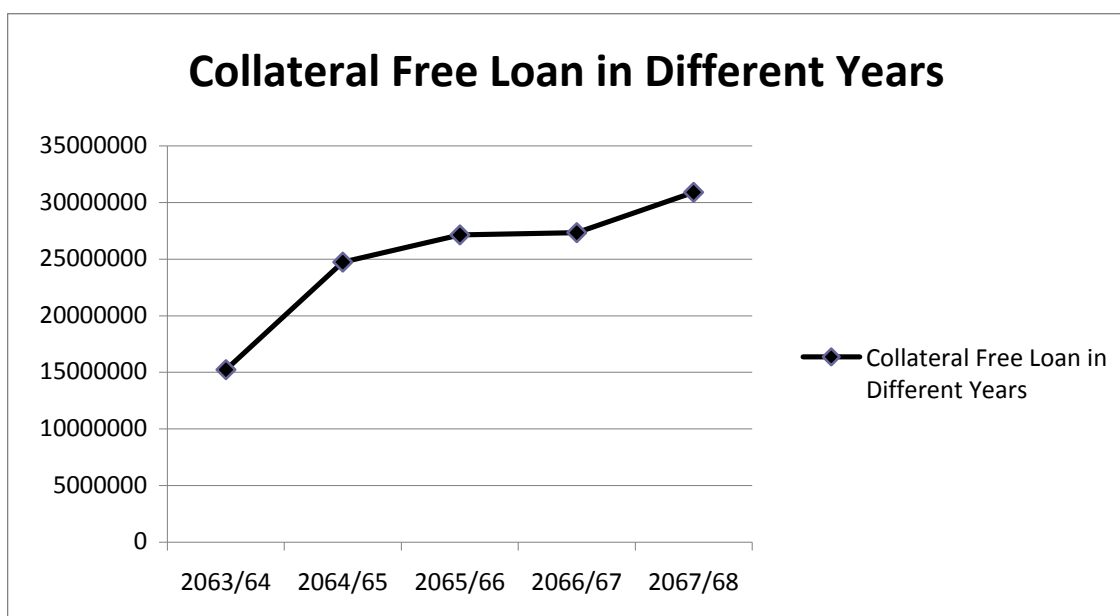
(In Rs)

Type of Loan	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68
General Loan	15217246	24616028	27002339	26880640	30709074
Seasonal Business loan	-	2977	79966	119536	3911
Sanitary Loan	-	12122	9730	51648	2060
Biogas Loan	-	93077	54137	290839	185317
Emergency Loan	17685	7720	-	-	-
Total	15234931	24731924	27146172	27342663	30900362

Source: NUBL, Mugling

From the above table, it has been found that there are five types of collateral free loan provided by NUBL, Mugling. The overall collateral free loan has been found to be Rs.1,52,34,931 in FY 2063/64 which has increased to Rs.2,47,31,924 in FY 2064/65. There has been slight increase in FY 2065/66 and 2066/67 which are Rs.2,71,46,172 and Rs.2,73,42,663 respectively. In FY 2067/68 the collateral free loan has increased to Rs.3,09,00,362. According to their type, there is highest amount of general loan in every fiscal year. There are only two types of collateral free loan in FY 2063/64, these are general loan and emergency loan. There is no emergency loan in FY 2065/66 and onwards. Biogas loan is in second rank in every fiscal year except in FY 2065/66 when seasonal business loan is in the second rank. The above table can be presents in a line chart as shown in the figure 4.6. According to the figure, there is increment in the total collateral free loan of NUBL over past five years.

Figure 4.6



The above figure shows the highest increment in FY 2064/65 and least increment in FY 2066/67.

The collateral based loan portfolio of NUBL over past five years has been shown below in table 4.14. According to the table, there are three types of collateral based loan that has been provided by NUBL, Mugling Branch. These are house maintenance loan, micro enterprise loan, and foreign employment loan. The overall collateral based loan has been found to be in increasing trend till FY 2066/67, from Rs.4,97,640 in FY 2063/64 followed by Rs.13,26,393 Rs.33,16,187, and Rs. 50,48,321 in FY 2064/65, FY 2065/66, and FY 2066/67 respectively. In FY 2067/68, it has decreased to Rs. 30,50,000 only. There is only micro enterprise loan in FY 2063/64 and there is no foreign employment loan in FY2064/65. In FY 2064/65, house maintenance loan is greater than micro enterprise loan. In FY 2065//66, there is highest amount of house maintenance loan than micro enterprise loan and foreign employment loan. In FY 2066/67, micro enterprise loan is greater than other types of loan, house maintenance loan and foreign employment loan. In FY 2067/68 also, micro enterprise loan is greater than other two types of loan. There is the least amount of foreign employment loan in each fiscal year than other types of collateral based loan of NUBL.

Table 4.14
Collateral Based Loan of NUBL in Different Loan Programs

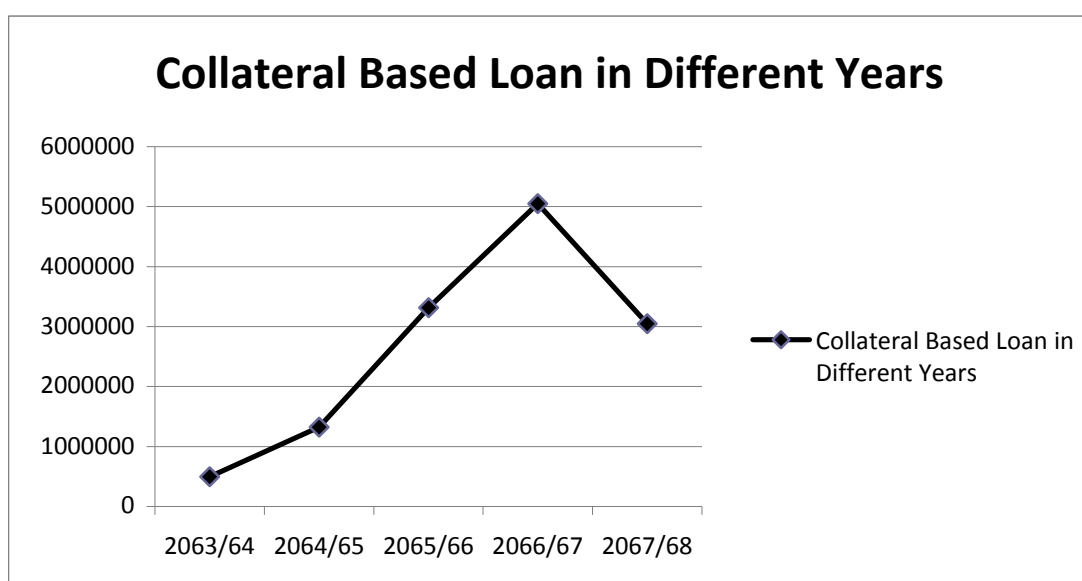
(In Rs)

Type of Loan	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68
House Maintenance Loan	-	997276	1967277	1080326	175281
Micro Enterprise Loan	497640	329117	1271832	3891745	2734136
Foreign Employment Loan	-	-	77078	76250	140583
Total	497640	1326393	3316187	5048321	3050000

Source: NUBL, Mugling

The above table can be presented in the line chart which has been shown in figure 4.7 below.

Figure 4.7



According to the above figure, the overall collateral based loan has increased every year except in FY 2067/68 when it has decreased. There is the highest increment in FY 2065/66 and least increment in FY 2064/65.

4.11 Major Findings of the Study

Every research draws some findings on the basis of analysis of collected data. Such findings are the output of the research and answers of research problems. Major findings drawn from the study and analysis of the sample women and financial report of NUBL can be mentioned as below.

-) The women involved in the microfinance program of NUBL have been mainly found to belong to the age group of 31 to 40 years and they constitute % of the total women
-) Most of the women has been found to be of the under SLC educational background and their proportion is %
-) The study has found that all the sample women are married, out of them % are still with their husbands and % are widowed.
-) The study has divided sample women into three categories based on their cast and ethnicity. It has been found that most of the women belong to the middle class and their proportion is %.
-) The study has found that decision making regarding schooling of children by female only was 10.91% only before participation which has increased to 18.18% after their participation in NUBL. Decision making by male only has decreased from 40.91% to 29.09% and that by both has increased from 48.18% to 52.73% after participation in microfinance. But statistically, the study has found no significant change in the decision making power of women regarding schooling of children after participation in microfinance.
-) The study has found that decision making regarding family member treatment by female only was 22.73% only before participation which has increased to 32.73% after their participation in NUBL. Decision making by male only has decreased from 37.27% to 24.55% and that by both has increased from 40% to 42.72% after participation in microfinance. But statistically, the study has found no significant change in the decision making power of women regarding family member treatment after participation in microfinance.

-) It has been found that decision making regarding sale of cattle by female only was 20.91% only before participation which has increased to 34.55% after their participation in NUBL. Decision making by male only has decreased from 39.09% to 24.54% and that by both has increased from 40% to 40.91% after participation in microfinance. Statistically also, the study has found significant change in the decision making power of women regarding sale of cattle after participation in microfinance.
-) The number of women that has the ability to put their own interest in their family has increased from 24.54% to 37.27%. Similarly, the number of women having ability to put their own say in the family has increased from 20.91% to 29.09% and that having ability to put their own say in the society has increased from 10% to 17.27% after participation in NUBL. The number of women having no ability has decreased from 44.55% to 16.37%. The result is supported by the statistical test also.
-) It has been found that gender equality status of women regarding caring of children by female only was 56.26% before participation which has decreased to 35.45% after their participation in NUBL. Caring of children by male only has increased from 13.64% to 29.10% and that by both has increased from 30% to 35.45% after participation in microfinance. Statistically also, the study has found significant change in the gender equality status of women regarding caring of children after participation in microfinance.
-) It has been found that gender equality status of women regarding cooking by female only was 62.73% before participation which has decreased to 39.09% after their participation in the program. Cooking by male only has increased from 8.18% to 23.64% and that by both has increased from 29.09% to 37.27% after participation in microfinance. Statistically also, the study has found significant change in the gender equality status of women regarding cooking after participation in microfinance.
-) The study has found that gender equality status of women regarding cleaning house and utensils by female only was 64.54% before participation which has decreased to 53.64% after their participation in NUBL. While that by male only has increased from 4.55% to 12.73% and that by both has increased from 30.91% to 33.63% after participation in microfinance. However, the study has

found no significant change in the gender equality status of women regarding cleaning of house and utensils after participation in microfinance.

-) It has been found that gender equality status of women regarding fetching water and washing clothes by female only was 74.55% before participation which has decreased to 56.37% after their participation in the program. Fetching water and washing clothes by male only has increased from 4.54% to 6.36% and that by both has increased from 20.91% to 37.27% after participation in the program. Statistically also, the study has found significant change in the gender equality status of women regarding fetching water and washing clothes after participation in microfinance.
-) The number of women that has membership in the social organization has increased from 13.64% to 32.73% after participation in the program while number of women who has regularly attended the social organization meeting has increased from 9.09% to 20% and the number of women having membership of political parties and local institution has increased from 6.36% to 11.82%. The number of women having no social and political participation has decreased from 70.91% to 35.45%. Statistical test has also supported for the significant change in social and political participation of women after participation in the program.
-) The number of women who handover their income to their husband has decreased from 36.26% to 20% and that who keep their income by self and ask while spending has increased from 50% to 60.915 after the participation in the program. Similarly, the number of women who keep their income and spend as per their need has increased from 13.64% to 19.09%. Chi square test has also supported the result that there is significant change in women control over income after program participation.
-) Regarding awareness level of women about social issues and problems, the number of women having no interest and knowledge has decreased from 59.09% to 26.36%, that having little interest and knowledge increased from 31.82% to 53.64%, and that having considerable interest and knowledge has increased from 9.09% to 20% after participation in the program. The statistical test has also supported the result.

-) The number of women having good understanding between husband and wife has increased from 40.91% to 47.27% and that having average understanding has increased from 39.09% to 42.73%. Similarly, the number of women having no understanding between husband and wife has decreased from 17.27% to 7.27% and 2.73% women gave no response on this matter.
-) Saving and loan are the major microfinance activities of NUBL. There are six types of saving programs in the bank. Total saving of the bank in FY2063/64 has found to be Rs.33,10,718 which has increased to Rs.77,17,822 in FY 2067/68.
-) Bank has been providing collateral free and collateral based loan. There are five types of collateral free loan and three types of collateral based loan. Total collateral free loan was Rs.1,52,34,931 in FY 2063/64 which has increased to Rs.3,09,00,362 in FY 2067/68. Total collateral based loan in FY 2063/64 was Rs.4,97,640 only which has increased to Rs.30,50,000 in FY 2067/68.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Nepal is one of the least developed countries in the world where about 25% population lives below the poverty line. Unemployment, political instability, weak governance, and lack of education are the constraint of economic development of the country. Outreach and delivery of financial services to the poor is a challenging job. Nepalese women are significantly poorer than men. They lack of economic opportunities and authorities. They are predominantly confined to domestic and agricultural activities. Microfinance has proven itself as a fundamental tool for poverty alleviation and women empowerment. It provides poor women with the income generating opportunities, enhance their saving behavior, and enable them to be socio-economically and politically empowered. Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. is one of the leading microfinance institution of the country operating through 92 branches. Mugling branch is one of them which operates in Darechowk V.D.C. of Chitwan district along with other many V.D.Cs of Dhading, Gorkha, Tanahun, and chitwan districts. This study has intended to assess the impact of microfinance on women empowerment in case of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. in Darechowk V.D.C.

5.1 Summary

Like in many other V.D.Cs of Nepal, poverty is most common in Darechowk V.D.C. of Chitwan district. Women living here are highly marginalized and unprivileged. They belong to poor socio-economic and political background. Many MFIs have been operating in Darechowk and NUBL is one of them. This study has set the main objective to assess the impact of microfinance on Women empowerment in Darechowk in case of NUBL. This study has also focused on general activities of NUBL, like loan and deposit.

Conceptual review and review of related studies, articles, journals, and dissertations have been carried out in order to know the previous endeavor of different scholars in order to find out the research gap so that something new could be added to the existing stock of literature on microfinance and women empowerment. Descriptive cross-sectional analytical research design has been adopted and percentage and Chi square analysis have been done to analyze the collected primary and secondary data.

The findings drawn from the analysis of data can be summed up in the following points.

-) Decision making power of women regarding schooling of children, family member treatment, and sale of cattle has been improved due to the inception of microfinance program by NUBL. However, statistical test has supported the significant change in decision power of women regarding sale of cattle only. There has not been found significant change in decision making power of women regarding schooling of children and family member treatment.
-) Self confidence level of women has been increased after participation in microfinance and it has been confirmed through Chi square test also.
-) Gender equality status of women has been improved after the women involvement in microfinance program. The sole responsibility and burden of women on caring of children, cooking, and fetching water and washing clothes have reduced substantially and theses have been confirmed through Chi square test also. However, Chi square test has not supported the improvement in gender equality status of women regarding cleaning of house and utensils.
-) The study has shown that the social and political participation of women after their participation in NUBL has been substantially improved. This has been confirmed through Chi square test.
-) It has been found that women have strengthened control over their own income after the involvement in NUBL. It has been supported by the statistical Chi square test also.
-) Awareness level of women about social issues and problems has been improved after their involvement in microfinance program. Chi square test has also shown that the improvement is significant.
-) Family relation has been improved and domestic violence has been reduced after inception of microfinance program of NUBL. However, the change has not been significant by Chi square test.
-) It has been found that NUBL has been providing saving and credit services to women along with remittance and micro-insurance services. There are six types of saving programs. Total saving of NUBL over past five years has shown the increasing trend.

-) It has been found that there are collateral free and collateral based loan which are provided to member women and other people. There are five types of collateral free loan and three types of collateral based loan. Total collateral free loan has increased over the past five years and total collateral based loan has increased over past four years and decreased in last fiscal year.

5.2 Conclusion

This study has assessed the impact of microfinance on women empowerment in Darechowk V.D.C. in case of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. The following conclusions can be drawn on the basis of analysis of collected data.

NUBL is a D-class microfinance institution licensed by Nepal Rastra Bank. It has been providing various microfinance services, such as saving, loan, remittance, and micro-insurance to the poor women organized into various groups and centres. It has been providing microfinance services to the married women. Most of the women in the groups are found to be of 31 to 40 years of age and of under SLC academic qualification. Most women are from middle class ethnic groups based on their cast and ethnicity.

NUBL microfinance program has played vital role in the empowerment of poor rural women. Their decision making power, self confidence level and gender equality status has been improved after participation in NUBL. Similarly, social and political participation of women, their control over own income, their awareness level about social issues and problems, their family relation has also improved to a large extent. However, the change has not been found significant in case of women decision making power regarding schooling of children, and family member treatment; their gender equality status regarding cleaning of house and utensils; and family relation and domestic violence status of women after the participation of women in the program.

NUBL has shown the overall increment in the total saving and loan portfolio over the last five years, however, total collateral based loan has decreased in FY 2067/68.

5.3 Recommendation

The study has found that microfinance program of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. has been effective in women empowerment in Darechowk D.D.C. of chitwan district. It has

enhanced the gender status of women. However, following recommendations have been put forwarded on the basis of findings and conclusion of the study.

-) NUBL should enlarge the area of implementation of the program to the remote wards of Darechowk V.D.C. so that remote poor women could be benefitted by the program.
-) The program should focus to the uneducated and marginalized women and provide microfinance facilities and services to them.
-) The program should give emphasis to the women of lower cast and ethnicity as much as possible because poverty is most common in lower class people.
-) NUBL should provide management and decision making training to the women to make them able to enhance the decision making power regarding schooling of children, and family member treatment.
-) Awareness raising programs should be provided to the women to make them strong regarding gender equality status.
-) Programs against domestic violence along with microfinance services should be implemented in the operational area.
-) Health and education facilities should be widely extended to the poor people.
-) NUBL should collaborate with other NGOs and INGOs to upgrade the socio-economic and political empowerment process of women.

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Appendix I

म निर्मल पोखरी वडा नं. ५ कास्की निवासी प्रमोद रायमाझीले आफ्नो स्नातकोत्तर (MBS) तहको शोधपत्र (Thesis) तयार गर्ने क्रममा तपाईंहरू समक्ष लघुवित्त सम्बन्धि केही कुराहरूको जानकारी लिन गइरहेको छु । प्राप्त भएका सुझाव सल्लाह र जानकारी नितान्त गोप्य राखिनेछन् । उक्त कुराहरू अनुसन्धानको प्रयोजन बाहेक अन्यत्र प्रयोग गरीने छैन । आशा छ तपाईंहरूले निम्न प्रश्नावलीहरूको उपयुक्त उत्तर भरि दिई मेरो अनुसन्धान (Research) को कार्यमा आवश्यक सहयोग गरिदिनुहुनेछ । धन्यवाद ।

Assessment of Impact of Microfinance on women Empowerment:

A case study of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited in Darechowk V.D.C. Chitwan

प्रश्नावली

१. समूहगत विवरण :

समूहको नाम :

कुल सदस्य संख्या :

वडा नं. :

२. व्यक्तिगत विवरण

नाम थर :

उमेर :

शिक्षा :

जात :

पेशा :

वैवाहिक स्थिति :

३. तपाईंले कतिसम्म पढ्नुभएको छ ?

क) निरक्षर

ख) साक्षर

ग) एस. एल. सी. मुनी

घ) एस. एल. सी पास ड) १०+२

च) उच्च शिक्षा

४. समूहबाट ऋण लिनुभएको छ कि छैन?

क) छ

ख) छैन

छ भने कति?.....

५. छोराछोरीलाई विद्यालय पठाउने सम्बन्धी निर्णय कसले गर्छ?

पहिला

क) आफैं

ख) श्रीमान्ले

ग) दुवैले

अहिले

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

६. परिवारको सदस्य बिरामी हुँदा उपचार सम्बन्धी निर्णय कसले गर्छ?

पहिला

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

अहिले

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

७. कुखुरा, बाखा वा चौपाया बेच्ने निर्णय कसले गर्छ?

पहिला

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

घ

अहिले

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

८. तपाईंको आत्मविश्वासको स्तर कस्तो छ?

पहिला

क) परिवारमा आफ्नो ईच्छा व्यक्त गर्नसम्म सक्थें

ख) परिवारमा आफ्नो भनाई राख्न सक्थें

गो) समाजमा आफ्नो भनाई राख्न सक्थें

घ) कुनै पनि सकिदैनथें

अहिले

क) परिवारमा आफ्नो ईच्छा व्यक्त गर्नसम्म सक्छु

ख) परिवारमा आफ्नो भनाई राख्न सक्छु

गो) समाजमा आफ्नो भनाई राख्न सक्छु

घ) कुनै पनि सकिदैन

१०. छोराछोरीको हेरचाह कसले गर्छ?

पहिला

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

अहिले

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

११. खाना कसले बनाउँछ?

पहिला

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

अहिले

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

१२. घरको सरसफाई कसले गर्छ?

पहिला

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

अहिले

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

१३. पानी ल्याउने, लुगा धुने काम कसले गर्छ?

पहिला

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

अहिले

क) आफैं ख) श्रीमान्ले गो) दुबैले

१३. कुनै सामाजिक तथा राजनीतिक सक्रियता कस्तो छ?

पहिला

क) सामाजिक संस्थाको सदस्य मात्र थिएँ (जस्तै: आमा समूह, उपभोक्ता समूह, क्लब)

ख) सामाजिक संस्थाको बैठकमा नियमित भाग लिन्थेँ

गो) राजीनतिक दल वा स्थानिय निकायको पदाधिकारी थिएँ

घ) केहीमा पनि संलग्न थिईन

अहिले

क) सामाजिक संस्थाको सदस्य मात्र छु (जस्तै: आमा समूह, उपभोक्ता समूह, क्लब)

ख) सामाजिक संस्थाको बैठकमा नियमित भाग लिन्छु

गो) राजीनतिक दल वा स्थानिय निकायको पदाधिकारी छु

घ) केहीमा पनि संलग्न छैन

१५. आफ्नो कमाई के गर्नुहुन्छ?

पहिला

- क) आफैँ राख्थे र खर्च गर्थे ख) आफैँ राख्थे तर सोधेर खर्च गर्थे
ग) श्रीमान्लाई दिन्थे

अहिले

- क) आफैँ राख्छु ख) आफैँ राख्छु तर सोधेर खर्च गर्छु
ग) श्रीमान्लाई दिन्छु

१६. समाजका घटना र समस्याका बारेमा थाहा छ?

पहिला

- क) केही थाहा थिएन ख) अलिअलि थाहा थियो ग) धेरै हदसम्म थाहा थियो

अहिले

- क) केही थाहा छैन ख) अलिअलि थाहा छ ग) धेरै हदसम्म थाहा छ

१७. श्रीमान् श्रीमतिका बीच कति समझदारी छ?

पहिला

- क) खासै राम्रो समझदारी थिएन ख) ठीकै समझदारी थियो
ग) एकदम राम्रो समझदारी थियो घ) थाहा छैन

अहिले

- क) खासै राम्रो समझदारी छैन ख) ठीकै समझदारी छ
ग) एकदम राम्रो समझदारी छ घ) थाहा छैन

Appendix II

Change in Decision Power of Women Regarding Schooling Of Children

Schooling of Children	Before	After	Total
Male Only	45	32	77
Female Only	12	20	32
Both	53	58	111
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
45	$(77*110)/220=38.5$	6.5	42.25	1.0974
32	$(77*110)/220=38.5$	-6.5	42.25	1.0974
12	$(32*110)/220=16$	-4	16	1
20	$(32*110)/220=16$	4	16	1
53	$(111*110)/220=55.5$	-2.5	6.25	0.1126
58	$(111*110)/220=55.5$	2.5	6.25	0.1126
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=4.4200$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix III

Change in Decision Power of Women Regarding Family Member Treatment

Schooling of Children	Before	After	Total
Male Only	41	27	68
Female Only	25	36	61
Both	44	47	91
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
41	$(68*110)/220=34$	7	49	1.4412
27	$(68*110)/220=34$	-7	49	1.4412
25	$(61*110)/220=30.5$	-5.5	30.25	0.9918
36	$(61*110)/220=30.5$	5.5	30.25	0.9918
44	$(91*110)/220=45.5$	-1.5	2.25	0.0494
47	$(91*110)/220=45.5$	1.5	2.25	0.0494
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=4.9649$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix IV

Change in Decision Power of Women Regarding Sale of Cattle

Schooling of Children	Before	After	Total
Male Only	43	27	70
Female Only	23	38	61
Both	44	45	89
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
43	$(70*110)/220=35$	8	64	1.8286
27	$(70*110)/220=35$	-8	64	1.8286
23	$(61*110)/220=30.5$	-7.5	56.25	1.8443
38	$(61*110)/220=30.5$	7.5	56.25	1.8443
44	$(89*110)/220=44.5$	-0.5	0.25	0.0056
45	$(89*110)/220=44.5$	0.5	0.25	0.0056
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=7.357$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix V

Change in Self Confidence Level of Women

Self Confidence of Women	Before	After	Total
Ability to Put Own Interest in Family	27	41	68
Ability to Put Own Say in Family	23	32	55
Ability to Put Own Say in Society	11	19	30
None	49	18	67
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
27	$(68*110)/220=34$	-7	49	1.4411
41	$(68*110)/220=34$	7	49	1.4411
23	$(55*110)/220=27.5$	-4.5	20.25	0.7364
32	$(55*110)/220=27.5$	4.5	20.25	0.7364
11	$(30*110)/220=15$	-4	16	1.0667
19	$(30*110)/220=15$	4	16	1.0667
49	$(67*110)/220=33.5$	15.5	240.25	7.1716
18	$(67*110)/220=33.5$	-15.5	240.25	7.1716
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=20.8316$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (4-1)(2-1) = 3$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix VI
Change in Gender Equality Regarding Caring of Children

Caring of Children	Before	After	Total
Male Only	15	32	47
Female Only	62	39	101
Both	33	39	72
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	E=(RT*CT)/N	O-E	(O-E)²	(O-E)²/E
15	$(47*110)/220=23.5$	-8.5	72.25	3.0745
32	$(47*110)/220=23.5$	8.5	72.25	3.0745
62	$(101*110)/220=50.5$	11.5	132.25	2.6188
39	$(101*110)/220=50.5$	-11.5	132.25	2.6188
33	$(72*110)/220=36$	-3	9	0.25
39	$(72*110)/220=36$	3	9	0.25
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=11.8866$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix VII

Change in Gender Equality Regarding Cooking

Cooking	Before	After	Total
Male Only	9	26	35
Female Only	69	43	112
Both	32	41	73
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
9	$(35*110)/220=17.5$	-8.5	72.25	4.1286
26	$(35*110)/220=17.5$	8.5	72.25	4.1286
69	$(112*110)/220=56$	13	169	3.0179
43	$(112*110)/220=56$	-13	169	3.0179
32	$(73*110)/220=36.5$	-4.5	20.25	0.5548
41	$(73*110)/220=36.5$	4.5	20.25	0.5548
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=15.4026$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix VIII

Change in Gender Equality Regarding Cleaning House/Utensils

Cleaning House/Utensils	Before	After	Total
Male Only	5	14	19
Female Only	71	59	130
Both	34	37	71
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
5	$(19*110)/220=9.5$	-4.5	20.25	2.1316
14	$(19*110)/220=9.5$	4.5	20.25	2.1316
71	$(130*110)/220=65$	6	36	0.5538
59	$(130*110)/220=65$	-6	36	0.5538
34	$(71*110)/220=35.5$	-1.5	2.25	0.0633
37	$(71*110)/220=35.5$	1.5	2.25	0.0633
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=5.4974$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix IX

Change in Gender Equality Regarding Fetching Water/Washing Clothes

Fetching Water/Washing Clothes	Before	After	Total
Male Only	5	7	12
Female Only	82	62	144
Both	23	41	64
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
5	$(12*110)/220=6$	-1	1	0.1667
7	$(12*110)/220=6$	1	1	0.1667
82	$(144*110)/220=72$	10	100	1.3889
62	$(144*110)/220=72$	-10	100	1.3889
23	$(64*110)/220=32$	-9	81	2.5312
41	$(64*110)/220=32$	9	81	2.5312
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=8.1736$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix X

Change in Social and Political Participation of Women

Social and Political Participation of Women	Before	After	Total
Membership of Social Organization	15	36	51
Regular Attendance of Social Organization Meeting	10	22	32
Position Held in Political Parties/Local Institutions	7	13	20
None of Above	78	39	117
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of χ^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
15	$(51*110)/220=25.5$	-10.5	110.25	4.3235
36	$(51*110)/220=25.5$	10.5	110.25	4.3235
10	$(32*110)/220=16$	-6	36	2.25
22	$(32*110)/220=16$	6	36	2.25
7	$(20*110)/220=10$	-3	9	0.9
13	$(20*110)/220=10$	3	9	0.9
78	$(117*110)/220=58.5$	19.5	380.25	6.5
39	$(117*110)/220=58.5$	-19.5	380.28	6.5
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=27.947$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (4-1)(2-1) = 3$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix XI

Change in Women Control over Income

Mode of Control over Income	Before	After	Total
Handover to Husband	40	22	62
Kept by Self and Ask While Spending	55	67	122
Kept by Self and Spend as per Own Need	15	21	36
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
40	$(62*110)/220=31$	9	81	2.6129
22	$(62*110)/220=31$	-9	81	2.6129
55	$(122*110)/220=61$	-6	36	0.5902
67	$(122*110)/220=61$	6	36	0.5902
15	$(36*110)/220=18$	-3	9	0.5
21	$(36*110)/220=18$	3	9	0.5
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=7.4062$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix XII

Change in Women Awareness of Social Issues and Problems

Level of Awareness	Before	After	Total
No Interest/ Knowledge	65	29	94
Little interest/knowledge	35	59	94
Considerable Interest/Knowledge	10	22	32
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	$E=(RT*CT)/N$	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$(O-E)^2/E$
65	$(94*110)/220=47$	18	324	6.8936
29	$(94*110)/220=47$	-18	324	6.8936
35	$(94*110)/220=47$	-12	144	3.0638
59	$(94*110)/220=47$	12	144	3.0638
10	$(32*110)/220=16$	-6	36	2.25
22	$(32*110)/220=16$	6	36	2.25
O=220	E=220			$(O-E)^2/E=24.4148$

Degree of freedom (d.f.) $= (r-1)(c-1) = (3-1)(2-1) = 2$

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns

Appendix XIII

Change in Family relation and Domestic Violence

Good Understanding Between Husband and Wife	Before	After	Total
Average Understanding Between husband and Wife	45	52	97
No Understanding Between Husband and Wife	43	47	90
No Response	19	8	27
Good Understanding Between Husband and Wife	3	3	6
Total	110	110	220

Calculation of X^2

O	E=(RT*CT)/N	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
45	(97*110)/220=48.5	-3.5	12.25	0.2526
52	(97*110)/220=48.5	3.5	12.25	0.2526
43	(90*110)/220=45	-2	4	0.0889
47	(90*110)/220=45	2	4	0.0889
19	(27*110)/220=13.5	5.5	30.25	2.2407
8	(27*110)/220=13.5	-5.5	30.25	2.2407
3	(6*110)/220=3	0	0	0
3	(6*110)/220=3	0	0	0
O=220	E=220			(O-E) ² /E=5.1644

Degree of freedom (d.f.) =(r-1)(c-1)=(4-1)(2-1)=3

Where, O=Observed frequency

E= Expected frequency

RT=Row Total

CT=Column Total

r= No. of rows

c=No. of columns