

**ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUDEHOLD DECISION
MAKING PROCESS
(A CASE STUDY OF LAKHANPUR VDC, JHAPA DISTRICT)**

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In
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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

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Mrs. Kalpana Baral
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ABSTRACT

This study women in household decision-making: a case study of lakhanpur VDC, Jhapa district in primarily based upon the information collected from the field summary with the help of structured questionnaires. Other information from secondary sources are used to complete this task. This study has tried to figure out the status of women in household decision-making process as well as their participation in other local level activities. This study figures out the socio-economic characteristic of female those who are undermined in decision-making role in every occupation in family hood. It is beneficial to analyze the female participation in the decision making process and their present situation. It will help for formulating proper policies and strategies for promoting enhancing the empowerment of women's decision-making status in local level area.

Majority of women are deprived from the roles decision-making process and related activities. Decision making of women is contradictorily low than their role and responsibility in each sector. Male counterparts have comparatively high decision-making power. The decision making process indicates one's status in his/her family. In the study area the decision, making power of the women was found major in some sectors such as buying/selling of agriculture products, cooking, farming and schooling children. However, in these activities their role was found minor.

Females have low participation in different occupation, like in policies, socio-economic field, and decision-making level. Mainly male have predominant role and female are deprived from various facilities and opportunities. They have low access to resources due to lack of low involvement in decision-making process. However, now a day's female's participation in decision-making has been increased due to mandatory provision of government for women's rights but it is not satisfactory in real term. Therefore, we should be aware and empower the women to develop their capacity and increase the socio-economic, political and decision-making status and bring them into the main stream of national affair.

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ABBREVIATION

B.S	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDRD	:	Central Department of Rural Development
CEDA	:	Central for economic Development
CEDAW	:	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
FP	:	Family Planning
GN	:	Government of Nepal
GOs	:	Government Organization
HDR	:	Human Development Report
HHs	:	Households
ICPD	:	International Conference on Population and Development
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
SLC	:	School Living Certificate
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	:	United Nations international council for Education Fund
UNO	:	United Nations Organization
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
DDC	:	District Development Committee

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal is a multiethnic, multicastr, multicultural, multi religious, multi linguistic, independent, and democratic and a small land located with great natural beauty, abundant natural resources and diverse agro-climatic developing country with an area of 147181 sq km covered mainly with rural village (CBS, 2001). The kingdom of Nepal bordered by the people's republic of china in the north and India in the east, south and west. The country is a transition Zone between the densely populated enormous plan of India in the south and sparsely populated Tibetan plateau of china in the north. This geographical situation associated with historical and political components have been and will continue to be the determining factor in the past, present, and future development process in Nepal.

Women's status is a key development indicator. They play key role in the development of a nation. Women are treating as second grade citizen in most of the countries. This perception is remaining in many developing countries like Nepal. However, in recent years people have started realizing the justification of women's participation in the economic and social development. Therefore, it would not be out of context to accept the socio-economic status of women as a variable of development. In many development countries, men and women are considering as two wheels of a cart. Recent changes in the world for women have imposed a positive effect in society due to the long- term attempts made by the national and international women organization and the supports of the feminist movement.

The status of the women in nutritionally, economically, socially, educationally inferior than to men and maternal mortality rate is very high. Nepalese women are married early and over burdened with childcare and rearing practice. Women in Nepal are engaged in domestic child care and economic productive activities added to the burden of child bearing frequent and closely spaced pregnancies and labor intensive tasks, such as carrying water, collecting firewood, planting, harvesting, tending to household livestock, washing clothes, breast feeding, and carrying young children and beside their domestic activities. They spent long hours outside the home in gainful economic activities. Women as a group are generally poor, powerless and disadvantaged, due to deep-rooted patriarchal values, low level of literacy and awareness. In term of food consumption, poor household sustained in an average at just about serving levels but in case of women, they are consuming some watt less than equal share. Female's baby generally gets less care feedings compare to male so the mortality rate of female baby is high. Women's earning are substantially lower than men because of the households division of labor which assigns domestic work mostly to women due to lack of awareness, cultural and social customs also limit female participation to work outside the home. There are substantial pressure with respect to health, education, mobility and job entry, which keep women in lower wage works. Socio-economic status of women even though rising, is still low in Nepal. They still lack adequate access to employment, income, education, health care, nutrition and still require development despite impressive, legislative and constitutional provisions favoring their equal right to work, employment and education. The gender gap in terms of their economic opportunities and participation in public life decision making exists in the society. In under development

and developing countries like Nepal, socio-economic status of women is very low and they treated as a second-class citizen.

In the process of decision making women are backward by men. The family decision-making is mainly by male. They are the main factor of household management and they have to do more than 50 percent work of household (Pradhan, 2005). However, they have low decision-making power. Even 21-st century they are not enjoying with equal decision-making power with their male counterparts. They are discriminated since their childhood old age. In childhood they have no live under their parents, in adulthood they should followed their husband, in old age they have under their childfree. They have to no labret to decide freely in their life. They do more without own decision.

In our country a Nepali woman make an important contribution to the agriculture activities of the country, but their work is not considered productive activities of the country. Women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources but from the lack of power to utilize available resources, lack of power to assert their rights. Females are suffering from exploitations and injustice. To empower women their problem of disadvantaged, deprived as well as social injustice and gender disparity in social-economical as well as decision-making process should be addressed and raise the status of female in the society. Policy and programs should be formulated and implemented property to omit the problems related to women.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In general, women have less access to income, wealth, modern avenues of employment, education and health facilities than men. It is true that human resources should develop to raise the community as the nation for this rapid progress in building the women's capabilities and inclosing the gender gaps in those capabilities is necessary. The status of women in Tibeto-Nepalese communities generally is relatively better than other women. Women from low caste group also enjoyed relatively more autonomy and freedom than that of Chhetri and Brahman women. (Acharya, 1995)

Women engaged more in household chores but they have no decision-making opportunities. The freedom of female within the household sphere is restricted. There is gender bias in terms of decision-making. Females have to work more but they have less chance to decide. It is true that women are capable and they can make important and effective decisions if they are given a chance. In fact, women contribute more labor to the economy than men do but unfortunately, they remain overshadowed by men. (Acharya, 1995) They generally work from sunrise to the late night. Beside agriculture, they have to perform many household works like childcare; cooking, cleaning, washing, water fetching and taking care of livestock etc. In spite of their hard working and loyal nature to their family, women are facing discrimination from the males. They are economically poor, exploited and overloaded.

About the health, the status of women in Nepal is low in general. They cannot do their own decision to go for doctor's advice. They have no their

own decision so they depend on their husband's decision about their health. The human development report, 1998 has shown the poor health status of Nepalese women. About 44 percent of women in Nepal are getting married before the age of 19 years. Among them 42.4 percent, get pregnant before the same age of 19. Most of the pregnant women are suffering from anemia. Very limited numbers of women (less than 33 percent) get vaccinated with Tetanus vaccine (UNDP, 1998)

The world is in 21st century and at the same time; it is shrinking into a global village. People are participating in the process of development globally. There is no nation as well as international boundaries in terms of development. However, Nepal is a country where darkness is prevailing under the light. There exist boundaries of problem, which are discouraging people move forward with freedom. Women's participation in various level of decision-making is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of equality, development and peace. Women constitute about 50 percent of the total population of Nepal but their participation in the various level of decision-making is negligible (Ghimire, 2001).

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to explore the decision-making power of women in study area. There are some other specific objectives, which are as follows

1. To examine the socio-economic status of women in study area.
2. To examine men's and women's involvement in different activities.
3. To analyze the household decision-making role of women in the study area.

1.4 Significance of the Study

As in the world, women constitute half of the total population in Nepal. They are backbone of the society. They have equal roles and responsibilities to make society developed and under developed.

This study is significant to all the concerned stakeholders. It has attempted to visualize the real picture of Lakhanpur VDC in terms of socio-economic status as well as personal affairs of women of the village to a gender extent. Gender discrimination perhaps will be discouraged by the proper implementation of the related strategies desired. The planners in gender issues of the district of Jhapa also will be careful and unbiased if this study is located. Blind believers, civil societies, and male dominant group, will be trusted and disappointed after the proper implementation of the studies recommendations.

All the development activities are people centric. People are the main focal point of development. In most of the society, men have major roles and responsibilities in development activities while females are not enjoying with equal rights and responsibilities. They are deprived of their rights and duties even though they work more than their male counterparts do. Women should be the subject and center of development because have major duties to maintain household as well as society. If women are not treated equally in society, it is impossible to develop society sustainably. It will certainly hamper the way of National development. There should not be gender disparity in society. It is essential to bring them into mainstream of social improvement and National development. People should be aware about gender issues, which is essential to protect the rights and duties of females. Their roles in household, society and in Nation have great significance in terms of

social justice. Integrated approach should be implemented to improve the women's overall aspects. Policy and programs should be directed to focus the issues of women which will be helpful to empower them & the society and economically. It helps to be a guideline for all those national and foreign economists and to boasting sociologists wishing to conduct similar study on women. It will be useful even for planners, policy makers, NGOs/INGOs and other organizations, to visualize the real picture of Lakhanpur VDC in terms of socio-economic status as well as personal affairs of women of the village to great extent. It may be helpful to the student and researchers of gender studies.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This issue of women's participation in decision-making process is very vague issue, which cannot be studied at once. This study was concentrated to analyse the situation of women in decision-making process especially in household, agriculture and socio-economic sector of Lakhanpur VDC of Jape district. The study has focused the females of Lakhanpur VDC having sample size 60 respondents.

This study was based on the field survey of Lakhanpur VDC with questionnaire method depending upon only one VDC, its finding and conclusion may or may not applicable to generalize and product to represent the overall scenario of the related field. This is a micro study due to which is may not be generalized at macro level.

1.6 Organization of the study

The organization of the study has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter includes introduction of the study and second chapter deals with literature review. The third chapter includes methodology of the study.

Whereas fourth chapter includes analysis of socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and the fifth chapter includes the analysis of women in household decision, making process. Chapter 6 includes summary, conclusion and recommendation.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with the available literature about decision-making roles of the women and men. In this section, efforts have been made to review previous publications and documents to our area of study. This section discusses about two topics:

- a. Women in household decision-making process.
- b. Status of women.

2.1 Women in Household Decision-Making Process

This chapter deals about decision making of buy and sell products, children education, birth planning, children marriage in different caste, spent of own money, about health etc.

Nepal is a poorest country in the world. Except for a few professional and businessperson, and some large farmers, everyone in Nepal is poor women make 1, 15, 85,502 of Nepal's population (population census, 2001). The infant mortality rate is 64.4 out of the 10900 and child mortality rate is 10.0 out of the 1000 live birth. Forty six percent of the population above the age of the six years is illiterate, with 57.5 percent female illiteracy. The maternal mortality rate is 539 out of 100000 and total fertility rate is 4.1 per women (CBS, 2003).

Women have very low participation in decision-making process. 70 percent of household related and external decision entirely made by male member of house (Acharya, 1995).

Acharya and Bennet (1983), highlight upon the fact that women are the primary supporters of the domestic and subsistence sector. The time

allocation studies and the decision-making data reveal women's "Major role in agriculture production both as laborers and as managers of the production process" (Acharya and Bennet, 1983).

The majority of women in Nepal live in rural areas. Rural women as elsewhere play multiple roles. In the domestic sphere, they are household managers, mothers and wives: in community, they maintain social and cultural services predominately on a voluntary basis and in economy, if they are not formally engage as employees or entrepreneurs; they are active in family business and farms. However, they have low access to income, wealth and employment, which are the main cases of their low economic status. It directly and indirectly affects their decision making power (Acharya, Bennet, 1983).

Acharya and bennet (1981) give a wider overview of women's status in their decision making power in household. Acharya and Bennet claim that economic factor affects women's role in decision making both directly and indirectly. If a woman has a greater economic participation, she has a greater power of decision-making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influence the role of decision making e.g. small size of children imply higher economic participation and consequently greater decision-making power for women.

Acharya (1997) states the conventional social custom is one of the major reason obstruction women from participation fully in economic development, which result low decision-making power in the women's hand. Higher the participation of women for economic development, higher will be the decision making power of women. On the other hand, the social conception that only woman are responsible for the reproduction of human beings, connection, delivery and upbringing of the

child has made it extremely difficult for women to participate in the development process as equal member of society. Due to all these reasons, their status compared to male is very low. Even political social and cultural development follows the economic development of a country. In this context, the committee constituted by United Nations in the status of women trying to gain for equal right for women in various field of their social and economic life, suggestion or removal of gender inequalities in legal economic, social and educational matters.

Acharya (1997) concludes that in addition to the activities performed under national and international auspicious activities involving women in developing process, status of women in Nepal can be improved by giving attention to such things as making specific studies about the economic, social and cultural activities of women in Nepalese societies. Providing similar school and curriculum for both girls and boys students, eliminating inequalities in inheritance rights, family rights and all over legal rights, involving the educated women in office and involving them in seminar and symposium from the time to time.

Women in those villages where their work is largely confined to domestic and subsistence agriculture production including the Maithili, Parbatia and to a less extend the Newar had much less decision making responsibility then women in communities like the Rai, Magara and Tamang where women participate actively in the market economy(Acharya and Bennet, 1982).

Female decision-making power in the household, especially regarding the most important category of resources allocation are more positively correlated with the extent of women's participation of crafts for sale than

with women's input subsistence agriculture production or domestic work for the family (Acharya and Bennet, 1982).

According to the CBS, *The status of women in Nepal* (volume II, chapter 7), the role of women in household decision-making and the allocation of the household resource depend upon a number of factors. These factors include type of composition of the household age and lifestyle of the women in question and the number of household males absent from the village (Bennet, 1980).

A higher percent of male was more inactive in comparison to women because they had been engaged in labor force. Out of 24 hours, women were found to be investing 11 hours giving in household works like cattle grazing, collection fodder and fuel collection, fetching water and cooking activities. This absorbed 75 percent of the time worked, with the 20 percent allocated to farming and remaining developed by 5 percent income generating activities. Hill women were found contributing more labor in farming than Terai women, which may be the manifestation of socio-cultural differences of the population, constraints imposed by topography and level of socio-economic development including level of mechanization existing in different districts as poor the study on decision mostly concerning to farm were made by men. It was shown that 58 percent of decision were by men, 11 percent jointly and only 31 percent by

Gender participation of women in decision-making will be a great step towards ensuring women of their right to voluntary motherhood and in turn improve her status. Dahal (1992) summarizes the information from the status of women in Nepal, that among high caste group (Brahmin and Chhetri) the authority structure is male dominated, women cannot make

their own decision and they have no independent sources of income and property. Among the women for Baragaule, Loharung Rai and Kham Magar, they have liberal social structure, which permit in the accumulation of property. Likewise, the Newar, the Tamang and the Tharu women can have their own independent source of property. Out of that, among the Newar of Kirtipur, women cannot make her own independent decision to take her sick baby even to the hospital, without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family (Dahal, 1992).

Krishna Ahooja-Patal speaks of the absolute necessity to bring women's issues into the forefront of development strategies. Although such issues have been denied access in important national and international discussions in the past, she feels that the preliminary term of "Women and Development" now being replaced by "Women in Development", is quite a significant step towards a realistic perception of women and their lives. Ahooja Patal observes that "the collective effect of perceptions, values and lifestyles have distorted women's personality and stunted her growth, reducing her to the size of a "crippled tree" (Krishna Ahooja-Petal, 1982)

Such values and norms have imposed restrictions to her time, energy and space and rendered her status to a "non-status" according to her, this "non-status" of women is "tried to two poles of their immobility: in the work cycle (production) and in the life cycle (reproduction) . These, in turn have led to an overall third immobility: that of be marginalize in both decision making and decision-taking" (Ahoja-patal, 1982). These three immobility is may stem from women's place in the family, in the labor market and their relationship to the society. Although the extent of immobility is imposed on women may vary between families and

societies, the outcome remains the same that of suppressing the integrity and creativity of women at large.

Ahooja patal goes on further to highlight upon the roles of women in food production, industrial work, health provision and education. According to her women constitute the largest number of food producers approximately 50 percent in Africa, 30-40 percent in Asia and slightly less in Latin America. Yet this vital section of the food producers are themselves “the most undernourished and in some places the hungriest part of population” (Ahooja- Patal, 1982).

The industrial scene also provides a picture of the women’s need to struggle for survival. While women occupy the least qualified jobs, almost all qualified jobs are characterized by minimum wages, which accounts for the fact that their earnings are much lower as compared to that of average men.

Beside the heavy manual and menial work that women perform, their energies are further drained throughout their life by the reproductive process. They are also the ones to be highly neglected regarding medical treatment.

However, women’s health problems cannot be resolved unless the perception of her sexuality undergoes a fundamental change. Further, until it is the third party or the male member who decide on her reproductive capacity, there seems little possibility of resolving the health problems faced by these women.

Where education is concerned, one billion women in the third world countries cannot read and write and in some countries as much as 90 percent of the female population is illiterate(World Bank Report, Human

Rights in Nepal, A status Report, 2006). Beside, the female dropout rates increase as they move up the educational ladder from primary to secondary education. Their educational status enhance their inferiority complex in the competitive world a complex which status from home where they have given a low priority in household expenditure and other equally important matters.

Finally, Krishna Ahooja –Patal concludes on a questioning note “can we afford to trace any path of development without pooling the untapped resources of women?” She emphasizes upon women as an indispensable human resources and the necessity to mobilize them for any significant and balanced development of a nation.

UNICEF Report (1987) depicts that women’s contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information which the full development of utilization of their intellectual and productive capabilities. For a large proportion of women, the written world still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do become literate however, will lose their skill because there are few opportunities for them to practice. Low level of educational attainment among the women and prejudice in favor of male recruitment may also negatively affect the formal employment of women. Women constitute less than 10 percent of decision-making position at the National and local level. Men make most of the decisions concerning activities. The study shows about 50 percent of decision made by men, 19 percent jointly and 31 percent by female, which shows very low percentage of decision-making power on the part of women.

Women are more apt to say that their husband make decision alone then to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husbands or

those they have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approved or accepting their husband's decision without questioning does not mean that a decision were made jointly; simply because they express their opinion does not mean that they make a decision. The idea is that women express disagreement because they have an increased sense of their own value and an increase in the level of their confidence in voicing their opinions (Shtrii Shakti, 1995).

According to the Shrestha Niva, (1991) household decision, making power of women is very low. Women of Nepal are so depended to men. Their husbands of number giving shelter to them, this system has made women to helpless, houseless and dependent that without men, they will not survive, so, in this human systemic the right of survival is laid on the heart of men.

Shrestha concluded that only strong status of female may increase the decision making power otherwise they have no play sub-ordinal role of their male partners. Women of Nepal are not suffering from lack of resource in some extent like property rights, the generating income goes to families' pocket, but from the lack of power to use their available resources, lack of power to asset their own rights. They are suffering from exploitation and injustice. To uplift the women from this stage, women's strategies needs like consciousness rising increasing self, confidence-educating people, increased women participation in development should be practice. Only then the decision making power may exist at large extent.

Janice Jiggins (1989) speaks of the Sub-Saharan African women who are involved in almost all-household based agricultural activity which support rural livelihoods. An overall 30 percent of rural households are

estimated to be headed by women who contribute 80 percent of agricultural labor mainly as unpaid labor. They produce 60 percent of the food consumed but rural households and contribute over one third of all household income by small business, trading and casual labor.

However, despite their major input to household food and economic security, patriarchal family and social structures deny women real property rights in land, limit women's access to control over the proceeds of their own labor and constrain their decision making roles (Jiggins, 1989).

The social inequalities evident with the household unit has stressed that women have to struggle even to purpose their personal goals and simple survival in the face of strong restricting social, economic and legal factors which confine them to merely reproductive roles and nurturing their children. Men's preferences for sons were raising the risk and insecurity faced by women (Bruce, 1989).

A government incentive, provisions for service and market supports has been low for these women. With increasing responsibilities to be fulfilled with in the household on the one hand and meager resources on the other, there activities are increasingly under streets. This probably can be associated with their high mortality rates than in other developing countries besides the inadequate health care provided for women. Although they support the household economy, women are increasingly becoming dependent on self- employment on wage work for survival. This is because the economic, social and legal set-up is such that it provides few opportunities for women being productive. To cite an example, the statuses of divorced and separated women are legally vulnerable. They have less access to credit and social support so much, so

that separated women are not allowed to make economic and financial decisions on the assumption that such authority lies only with the separated husband. The continuing male dominance and unequal households' responsibilities further worsens the position of these women. Although informal sector provides the female entrepreneurship especially in trading or small-scale agro-industry, they are faced with many problems such as interference and manipulation by men, raiding of cash to meet domestic expenditure and competition with licensed state enterprise (Jiggins, 1989).

2.2 Status of Women

This section discuss about the social status, economic status, educational status, health status, marital status etc.

In most of the developing countries, women are deprived from their basic rights and opportunities. As a result, women in these countries are backward, less educated and more depended on their male counterparts. Because of backwardness of women, such societies are also backward. One of the major causes of backwardness and slow pace of development in developing world is the negligence in gender equality (Khanal, 2003)

In Nepalese society, women bear almost all domestic burdens. If a husband helps his wife in those domestic works, it becomes a ridiculous matter to rest of the family members and the society. He is named as “Joi Tingre” which means wife dominated husband (khanal, 2003).

In Nepal Girl's involvement in school is much lower than boys. Dropout rates increase with the level of classes. Girls are even discriminated by teachers. They have the impressions to students as girls are indoor workers and boys are outdoor workers (Khanal, 2003)

In the study of the Nepalese women sociology by Bennet (1983) how women are facing the hazardness situation in family and society as a whole. Similarly, according to (March 1983) how the works of female and male is different and who has given more priority is clearly described that of the Tamang society. Similarly, a research in tradition and change in legal status of Nepalese women (By Lynn Bennet) explains the legal status of women and their legal differences.

Nepali women are daughter wives and mothers, but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity, despite the fact that they are as human as men are. Society has relegated women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role confined to the home and farm and their responsibilities there due to their maternal function. They are discouraged and prevented to take part in public life (Subedi, 1993).

Since the very beginning of human civilization, it realized that men and women are two wheels of a cart. However, in practice women are made to remain inferior in the society. Even the great philosopher Aristotle and the great psychologist Sigmund Freud considered women incomplete still today. Women in general are regarded as second-class citizens all over the world. In Nepal, the situation is rather deplorable. Most of Nepalese women are illiterate, ignorant and superstitious who are confined to the boundary of four walls as childbearing machines (Acharya, 2004).

The role of women in various farming activities is crucial not only because of the number engaged but also because of the variety of agricultural activities they perform. Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grains, vegetables and fruits and live stock farming. The role played by women is significant in the development

of the Nation, but all these works by women are considered voluntary (Gautam, 1998).

A starting point of determine the extent of women's participations in agriculture in the sexual division of labor. In many cases, women are primarily responsible for weeding, harvesting, transporting, storing, processing and marketing, but they often contribute greatly to plugging, planting and fertilizer application as well. In some countries, the sexual division of labor is according to type of crops. In other causes, man and women have complementary labor roles for the same crop. Clearly the agricultural activities of women and men vary according to region the structure of the household and the production resources available (FAO, 1990).

Economically, women have no rights to parental property as well as in the husband's home. They bear 70 percent of the household work burden and yet have no success to economic resources. Even doing the same work, they get lower wages as most of the women work as unskilled labor in carpet and garment factories and get lower paid due to illiteracy (Luitel, 2000).

In Nepal, the minimum legal age of marriage is 21 years for male and 18 years for females without consent of guardian. The age limit is low with consent of guardian such as 18 years for males and 16 years for females. However, it is expected that there is a prevalence of child marriage in the society and there is practice of marriage below those legal age limit (CBS, 2001).

Marital status makes a woman very dependent upon her husband because her right upon the family property is only through husband. About the

women's right upon to property, Bennet (1981) wrote, "men are endowed with the rights to property by virtue of the biological fact of birth. Womens right to property depend almost entirely upon the social fact of marriage (i.e. on their role as a wife). Therefore, womens economic security is entirely dependent on their adherence to strict social norms of proper martial behavior (Bennet, 1980).

Education is the foundation of nation's development. Education creates skilled, qualified and informed citizens who are important agents for social change and development. A country cannot make progress in any part in the absence of skilled and qualitative women resources. Thus, the country's overall development depends upon how we educate our children at present (Pradhan, 2005).

Women have low degree of opportunities for their education and have hardly any access to employment. There is lack of women participation in decision making from house to the executive levels. There is no positive attitude towards women's health and they do not get appropriate nutrition even in the period of pregnancy (UNICEN, 1996). Women get married early and considered as childbearing machines (Sherpa and Rai, 1996) due to early age delivery there in high material mortality rate in Nepal (515 per 100,000) live birth (CBS, 1991). Higher rate of maternal and child mortality shows the lower social status of women. Women have lack of economic power and have lack of decision-making role over their fertility too (Acharya, 1995).

Illiterate women are married at younger age and deprived from any better opportunities. They might born more number of child in their life span. Again they are more burdened from the existing social-cultural and religious practice such as activities related to sex discrimination or sex

preference of children ever born and pressure to give birth to younger ages. On contrary to this, literate women of the same age group do not marry at younger age and give birth to fewer children. Therefore, education is the main factor that can reduce gender disparity (CBS, 2001).

Low enrolment, lower attends and high dropout rates for girls are the main features of women education. They have no professional occupations. At the college level out of 100 students, five are females. Hence, women are far back from education's view (UNICEF, 1991).

Acharya (1995) mentions about the main role of women as a mother and says that infant and child mortality rate are important indicators of women's status. This is because well, on the one hand infant child mortality reflects social attitudes towards males and female children, on the other hand, they throw light on the situation of women as mothers. A comparatively higher female infant and child mortality rate signifies social neglect of female, infants and children. At the same time, a high infant and child mortality rate force women to multiple and wasted pregnancies, this depleting their strength.

There is a great deal of evidence to show that the health experiences of women are different from those of men at all ages and in all societies (Kane, 1991). Between the age of five and 44, women in most developing countries are more likely than men are to die. First, they are more vulnerable than men to communicable diseases. Secondly, during their reproductive years, women are prone to fatal dangers experienced during pregnancy and the act of giving birth. Since 450,000 women estimated to die annually from causes linked to reproduction. Poor health and nutrition during pregnancy is a contribution factor (UNDP, 1995). Lack of

information and lack of access to proper health and family planning services are two other factors affecting reproductive health. Some 350 million women are still without access to a full range of modern method of family planning (UNESCO, 2001).

Luitel (1992) states that the Nepalese women's health is miserable condition in the sense that they are quite neglected from their very childhood stage. The cultural norms, economic conditions and preferential attitude of parents towards the boys are in the centre of the poor health of women (Luitel, S, 1992)

Besides in 2004 B.S. (1947) Adult women have also received the right to vote along with men to elect members of the town and village panchayats. The right to adult franchise has even equal opportunity to men and women. Despite this provision, if we exclude number of the lady members in Rastriya Panchayat and lower bodies representing the reserved seats for women's organization and nominated lady members the number of women representative is almost nil. Similarly, the numbers of women in policymaking bodies of the country are extremely small. Though political rights are equally in various fields of national life is that women have in equal position in the family, the basic unit of the society. The movement of women for equal rights should be best on a struggle for equal economic rights. It is defined that only by enjoying full economic rights can women have free existence in the society (Majupuria, 1996)

During festivals, most married women are allowed to visit their parents' homes, as the women prefer to enjoy the festival at homes where they were brought up. However, before leaving to the parents' home, they have to settle many household chores such as fetching and storing

fodders for cattle and other jobs. There are other male members staying at home who can do these jobs in their absence but they seldom perform such task. In many societies, after the demise of their parents, their brothers and sister-in-laws at their parental home do not welcome them during festival and other occasion (Gurung, 2005).

On the concept of Hinduism, it lies in purity and pollution. Many of the women's natural condition are equated with pollution for which she has to undergo certain purifying rituals as in the case of menstruation or in the birth of child. In the case of the birth of a child, the whole family is supposed to be impure. It is only after the eleven days of the birth of the child or the naming ceremony that the women are considered purified. It is believed that a women's touching a man during her period well place her in a sinful situation. For this entire different situation, she has to keep fasting and worship gods for the prosperity of her family. Only the women required to go through such purifying rituals whereas the males are suppose to gift by god and need not to do any worshipping or go through such rituals (Luitel, 1992).

In some Hindu communities when a son in burn they celebrate" chhairs" on the sixth day of baby's birth to express happiness, but this ceremony is not observed for baby girl. This kind of discrimination against the women is found in many occasions. Similarly, a widow is seen in white dress throughout her life in a gesture to the dedication to her deceased husband. If a widow dares to remarry, she is likely to criticize from the society. On the contrary, a widower is not mocked or derided even hoe marries to another women after 45 day of mourning period of the dead wife (Gurung, 2009).

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter consists selection of the study area, design, sampling procedure, nature and sources of data collection techniques, tools, method of analysis and presentation of data.

3.1 Research Design

This research is exploratory in nature. The study has investigated and focused on role of women in household decision-making process in the study area .It tries to understand men and women’s involvement in different activities. The researcher have described the finding and explained the description of the finding related to the study area.

3.2 Nature and Sources of Data

To achieve the objective of research both qualitative and quantitative data and information were collected from primary and secondary sources. The secondary data have been collected according to the necessity from the available literatures such as study reports, records, publications and other related activities. The VDC record and DDC records also have been used. The primary data were collected from field survey using structured and semi-structured questionnaire.

3.3 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area

This study has based on the role of women in house hold decision-making process in Lakhanpur VDC of Jhapa district. It lies in Mechi zone, which is in the eastern development Region. This study purposively selected due to the following things:

- a. This study area respondent has some characteristics such as socio-economic, cultural and ethnic, so this area is taken for the study.
- b. This area seemed to be multiethnic in nature and women will all types of socio-economic conditions are found.
- c. Most of the women in this ward are illiterate, early married and over workload burdened within and outside home are the main causes of their low rate of social, economic conditions and educational development.
- d. The study area seemed to be very rich in cultural practices.
- e. Researcher is very familiar with the area, it makes researcher easy to gather accurate data and information on time.

3.4 Population and Sampling

Among the nine wards of Lakhanpur VDC, ward No. 1 and 2 are selected as a study area using purposive sampling method. These wards almost represent all ethnic groups. The sampling random sampling method was adopted to determine the household to be surveyed.

Among the 540 household, 60 respondents including different caste and ethnic groups were selected. Out of total 60 sample 20(33.33) are Males and 40(66.66) are females. Among the 60 sample Brahmin 17(28%), Chettri 12 (20%), Kami 2(3.38%), Damai 5 (8.33%), Rai 7(12%), Magar 5 (8%), Santhal 8(13%), Dhimal 4(7%) are chosen for the study by purposive sampling method.

3.5 Data collection: Techniques and Tools

3.5.1 Techniques

a) Household survey:

The researcher has visited the study area conveniently to collect data. Information have been collected by local people of the related field. Semi- structured questionnaires were used to the respondents in such a way that it generated a large number of information.

b) Key Informants interview:

Key informants interview has been conducted for the study. People having good knowledge on specific issues and the study area were selected the key informants for the study. There were teachers, local teachers, women representative and social workers, VDC mergers etc.

3.5.2 Tools

Questionnaire:

Structured and semi-structured questionnaire schedule have been prepared for the collection of primary data related to the objective of the study.

3.6 Processing and Analysis

Data processing is very important task in research study. The data obtaining from the field were processed with the help of computer software Ms-Excel and Ms- Access. Than outcomes has been presented in different tables, diagram or graph to scenario of study and to conclude the findings.

The data were analyzed using different simple statistical tools and techniques. This was done in descriptive way. Simple statistical tools like average, percentages and differences were used. The result was interpreted by dividing the main topics into sub heading according to nature of data among them according to findings.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

This chapter deals with the socio economic as well as demographic aspects of respondents of the study area. Out of the total 540 households 60 household were taken as sample and structured questionnaires were asked to the respondents for both males and females. In this chapter Age, Sex composition, Ethnic composition, Education, Marital status, Family structure, Type of households, Land distribution, Occupation and other activities are included.

4.1 Physical Features of Jhapa district

Jhapa is one of the four district of Mechi Zone, which lies in eastern development region of Nepal. It covers that land of Mechi Zone which is divided into two parts by Kankai River.

Jhapa district surrounded by west Bangal and Bihar state of India from east and south respectively, Ilam lies in the north and Morang in the west. It lies between 87⁰12' to 88⁰12' east longitude and 26⁰20' to 26⁰50' north Latitude. (District profile of Jhapa, 2008)

Most of the district lies in the Tarai and comprises a narrow strip of alluvial plain having very low altitude ranging from 100ft to 1800ft above the sea level. Major rivers of the district are Mechi, Kankai, Ratuwa and Deuniya. (District profile o Jhapa, 2008)

Jhapa comprises a total area of 1,606 square Kilometer with 1, 37,301 households. Total 6, 88,109 of population, where male population is 3, 41,675 and female population is 3, 46,434(CBS2001). In political

distribution, Jhapa has 3 Municipalities and 47 village Development Committees. The proposed study has been concentrated on Lakhanpur VDC of Jhapa district.

4.2 Climate

The climate of Jhapa district is sub-tropical and temperature. The average temperature varies from 36⁰ to 39^{0c} in summer and 9⁰ to 12^{0c} in winter. The average rainfall is 2,518mm, which occurs mostly during the monsoon from June to September.

4.3 Physical features of Lakhanpur VDC.

The study area is Lakhanpur VDC of Jhapa district, which is situated in eastern development region. According to the census 2001, the population of Lakhanpur VDC was 21,847. Among the total population, 11024 are males and 10823 are females. (Annual report of Lakhanpur VDC 2008) The climate of Lakhanpur is not so different from that of Jhapa district.

4.4 Age sex composition of Respondents

The age is most important factor in demography and it makes difference in working hours, types of work, decision-making roles, social relation and responsibilities. Age has great influence in terms of decision-making and taking part in social activities.

The age groups divided as 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40 and above 40 years of age. The following table shows the age composition by sex of respondents of the study area.

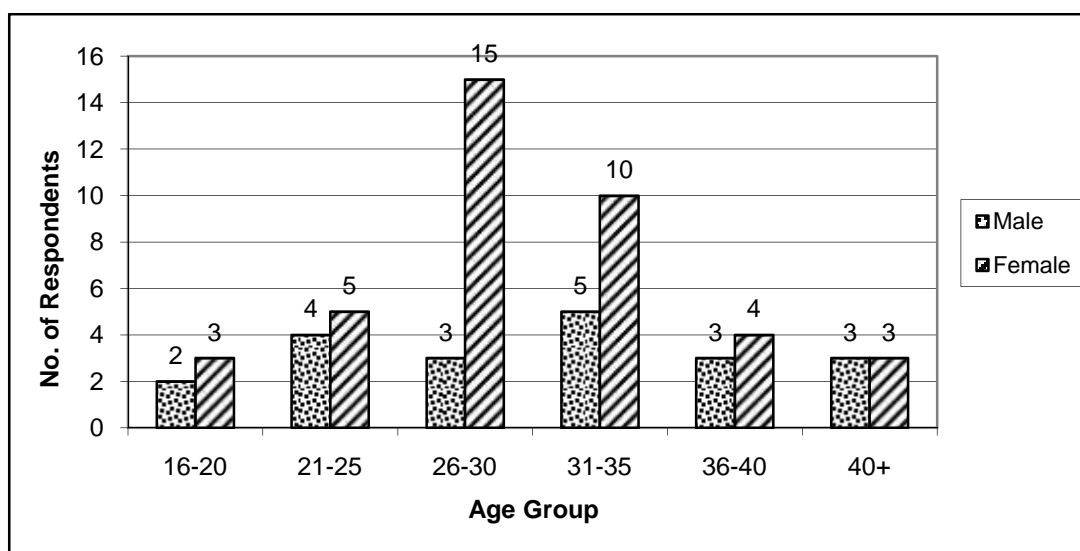
Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Age-sex

S.N	Age groups	Male	Female	No.	Percent
1.	16-20	2	3	5	8
2.	21-25	4	5	9	24
3.	26-30	3	15	18	30
4.	31-35	5	10	15	16
5.	36-40	3	4	7	12
6.	40+	3	3	6	10
	Total	20	40	60	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Table 1 shows the age distribution of respondents by sex in the study area. Out of total 60 respondents 20 are males and 40 are females. There is highest proportion of the respondents in age group 26-30 years. Age group follows it 31-35 years. The lowest proportions of respondents are in age group 16-20 year's .In our society age factor plays dominant role in decision making and other responsibilities. The proportion of female respondents is highest in age group 26-30 years while highest proportion of males in age group 31-35 years. It can be shown in Bar-diagram as follows.

Figure No. 4.1 Distribution of Respondents by Age-Sex



4.5 Ethnic Composition

Nepal is a multi-cast and a multi-ethnic country. It is heterogeneous in its ethnic composition. There are full of cultural diversity. In the study area, there are many ethnic groups such as Brahmin, Chhetri, Kami, Damai, Satar, Dhimal, Rai, Magar etc. These entire ethnic groups were included in the sample.

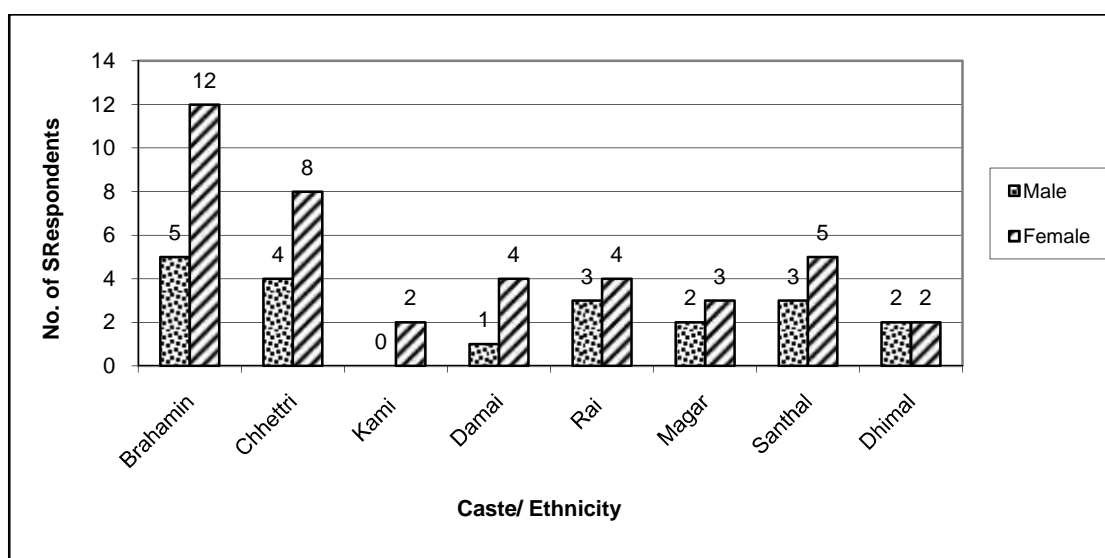
Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents by Ethnicity

S.N	Caste group	Male	Female	Total	Total
				No.	Percent
1.	Brahamin	5	12	17	28
2.	Chhettri	4	8	12	20
3.	Kami	-	2	2	3.33
4.	Damai	1	4	5	8.33
5.	Rai	3	4	7	12
6.	Magar	2	3	5	8.33
7.	Santhal	3	5	8	13.33
8.	Dhimal	2	2	4	7
	Total	20	40	60	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Table 2 shows the ethnic distribution of respondents. Among the total respondent households, Brahman is the highest. Brahman contains 28 percent, followed by Chhettri(20%).The third position is occupied by Santhal(13.33%) which is slightly greater than Rai(12%).The Kami has lowest proportion(3.33%).

Figure No. 4.2: Distribution of respondents by Ethnicity



4.6 Education

Education is the key indicator for reforming society and upgrading its economic and social status. It is that element, which equips a woman with the tool to solve her problems in life and helps her to live in a better life. Education enhances the ability and capability of human being to judge for right and wrong. It also plays the vital role in decision-making process in the society. Those voices are respected who are educated and having higher education background. The following table shows the educational status of the respondents.

Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status

S.N	Educational Status	Male	Female	Total	Total
				No.	Percent
1.	Illiterate	4	16	20	33
2.	Literate	4	10	14	23
3.	Under SLC	4	6	10	17
4.	SLC	3	6	9	15
5.	Above SLC	5	2	7	12
	Total	20	40	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table 3 shows the educational status of respondents. The status is dividing into 5 categories, which are illiterate, literate, under SLC, SLC and above SLC. Those who only can read and write are kept in literate and having school education but did not pass SLC are kept under SLC. Above SLC, respondents are all the level above SLC level education.

Out of total 60 respondents, 33percent are illiterate which are 16 females and 4 males. It was found that only 23 percent are literate among them 4 are males and 10 are females. In the data, 4 males are under SLC and 6 female under SLC. This table shows that higher proportions of female are illiterate.

4.7 Family structure

Types of family play an important role in the women's poverty. Family structure has dominant role in decision-making process. There were mainly two types of the families in the study area, nuclear and joint. Here nuclear family includes husband wife and their unmarried children and it

is comparatively small. Likewise joint family means husband, wife, one or more their married children and other relatives who taken their meal in the same kitchen.

Table 4.4: Distribution of household by family structure

S.N	Family structure	No. of HHs	% of HHs
1.	Nuclear family	34	57
2.	Joint family	26	43
	Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Above table shows that, among the 60 households, 57 percent have nuclear families and 43 percent have joint families.

4.8 Martial Status

Marriage is one of the universal social institutions in our society. Marriage determines the social roles and responsibilities of people. It is the single most important event in the life of men and women. According to Hindu tradition, marriage is essential and compulsory for the all whether male and female. A man's life is not complete without wife and a woman is married before 15 years of age (Acharya, 1995).

Marriage is essential for males and females in our society. Female's role increases in family after marriage. It enhances the decision-making power. The following table shows the marital status of respondents as follows:

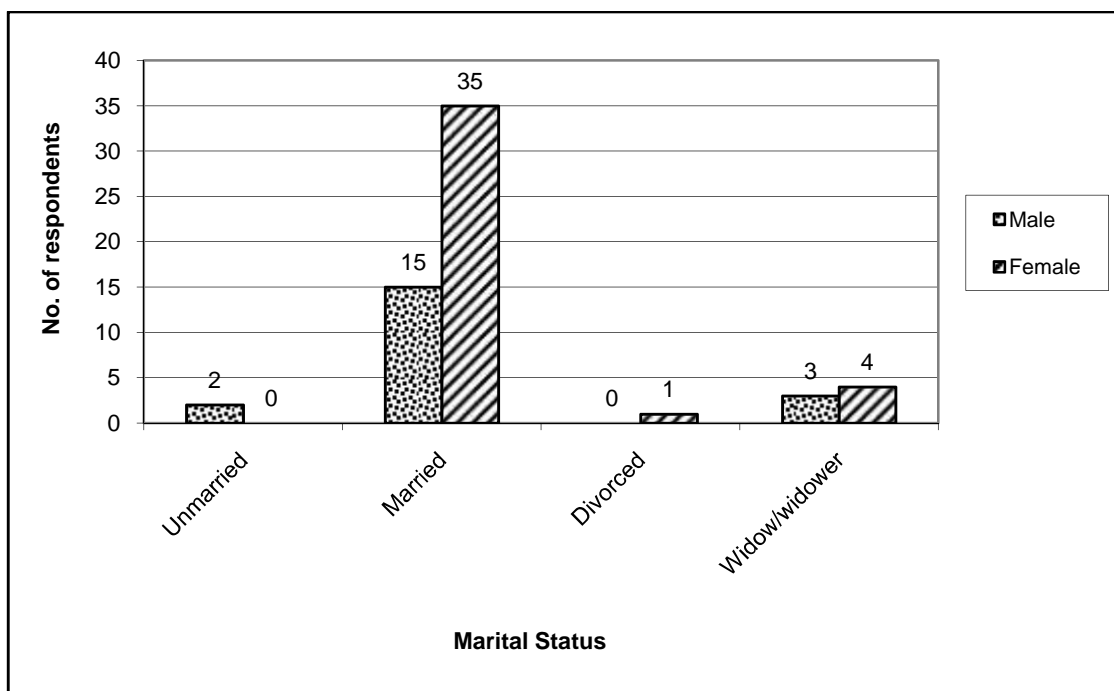
Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondents by Martial Status

S.N	Marital status	Male	Female	Total	Total
				No.	percent
1.	Unmarried	2	-	2	3.33
2.	Married	15	35	50	83.3
3.	Divorced	-	1	1	1.6
4.	Widow/widower	3	4	7	1.6
	Total	20	40	60	100

Source: Field survey,2011.

Above table 5 shows the marital status of respondents. Out of the total 60 respondents, 83.3 percent are married respondents among them 15 are males and 35 are females. Only 3.33 percent are found unmarried. The data shows that 1.6 percent are divorced among them 1 are female.1.6 percent are widow/widower, among them 3 are males and 4 are females.

Figure No.4.3: Distribution of Respondents by Martial Status



4.9 Land Distribution

Generally, Nepal's agrarian economy is characterized by its low output, high man land ratio. In Lakhanpur VDC, most of the peoples are farmers whether small or big. Nepal is agricultural country where more than 80 percent people dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Therefore, in this study area, most of the samples represent farmers. About 80 percent of the respondents were farmers of the study area. The size of family land has been given below.

Table 4.6: Possession of Land by Households

S.N	Land (in kattha)	No of HHs	% of HHs
1	0-5	30	50
2	6-10	10	16.66
3	11-15	8	13.3
4	16-20	6	10
5	21-30	4	6.6
6	30+	2	3.3
	Total	60	100

Source: field survey, 2011.

Above table shows the land holding of respondents. Out of total 60 respondents, most of the households have less than 5 kattha. About 50 percent respondents had small sized (0-5) Kattha land. 16.66 percent households have 5-10 kattha land. Similarly 8 household have 10-15 kattha land and only 2 respondents have 30 kattha above land ownership. Hence, we can say that most of the sampled households have small sized land farming.

4.10 Types of Houses

House is basic need of all the people. Housing has great contribution in maintaining the quality of life of people. It emphasizes the standard of living. In the study there are three types of house, such as: Pakki, ardha pakki and kachhi. It can be seen from the following table.

Table 4.7: Distribution of Households by Types

S.N	Types	No. of HHs	% of HHs
1	Pakki	18	30
2	Ardha pakki	27	45
3	Kachhi	15	25
	Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Above table shows the types of house in Lakhanpur VDC. The concrete (pakki) house is defined as having brick and cement wall and state or link roof. Ardha pakki consists brick and cement wall, wood wall having Jasta roof and Kachhi house is defined as having sticks wall and grass roof. Out of total 60 households 30 percent house was pakki types of house. There are 45 percent Ardha pakki houses and only 25 percent houses Kachhi types.

4.11 Food Production

The economy of Nepal is very dependent on agriculture production and women play a major role as they actively participated in the various farm activities. 98.1 percent of the economically active rural women are agriculture workers, but people are facing the problem of food defect. The following table shows it clearly.

Table 4.8: Distribution of Households by Food Production

S.N	Food production	No. of HHs	% of HHs
1	Sufficient	25	42
2	Not sufficient	35	58
	Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Above table shows the data about food production. Out of total 60 respondents, only 42 percent households have food sufficiency while 58 percent households are facing the food deficiency.

4.11.1 Alternative Source for Fulfillment of Defect of Food Production

It was found that 58 percent households have food defects they fulfill their need for food by different alternatives like services, wage earning, livestock farming, business and debt. The following table shows it clearly.

Table 4.9: Distribution of Household by Coping with Deficit Food Production

S.N	Activities	No. of HHs	% of HHs
1	Business	12	20
2	Services	8	13.3
3	Wage earning	14	23.33
4	Livestock farming	11	18.3
5	Debt	10	16.66
6	Others	5	8
	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows the various alternative ways of fulfilling the food deficiency due to low production in agriculture sector. The main means of compensation for defect production is wage earning which covers 23.33 percent households, followed by livestock farming (18.3%). The third position is occupied by debt (16.66%) to fulfill their need and 13.3 percent are dependent upon their service. It shows the miserable condition of people.

4.12 Land Cultivation

Agriculture is the main source of income of the respondents of Lakhanpur VDC. All of the respondents of Lakhanpur VDC are farmers, but their land for cultivation is very few. They are dependent on the farming of their land. Among them females are busy in their land for cropping but males are not involved than females. The table shows it clearly.

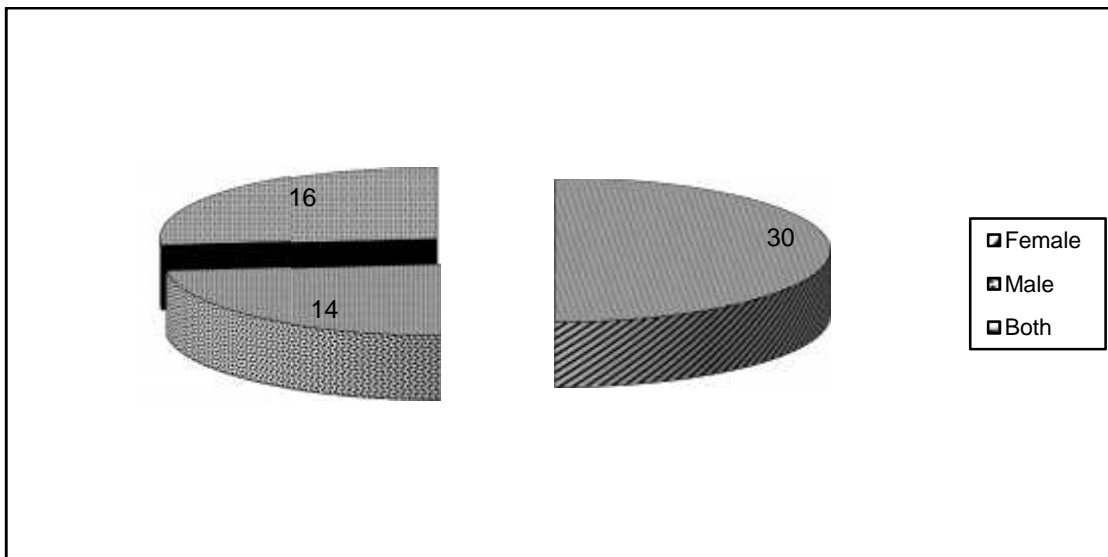
Table 4.10: Distribution of respondents of land cultivation

S.N	Respondents	No of HHs	% of HHs
1	Female	30	50
2	Male	14	24
3	Both	16	26
	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows that, most of household land is cultivated by females. That is 50 percent of lands are cultivated by females and only 24 percent land are cultivated by males. Both males and females are cultivated of land is 26 percent. So, most of the women's are engaged either in agriculture or in household activities. It is clearly shown in this diagram.

Figure No. 4.4: Distribution of respondents of land cultivation



4.13 Collection of Grass and Fodder

Most of the people have an alternative source of income in the rural areas. In the study area, Grass/Fodder collections are considered as the female's main responsibility. Most of the females engage in this activity. Only few proportion of male share to collect. It can be seen from the following table

Table 4.11: Distribution of Respondents of households by collecting Grass/Fodder

S.N	Respondents	No of HHs	% of HHs
1	Male	8	13.4
2	Female	42	70
3	Both	10	16.6
	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows, the 70 percent of female engaged to collect grass and fodder. In spite of only 13.3 percent males engaged to collect Grass and fodder. On the other side male and female, both are involved to collect Grass and Fodder is 16.6 percent. It shows that females are actively involved in collection of Grass and Fodder.

4.14 Taking care of Livestock

There are various types of livestock in surveyed area such as cows, Buffalos, goats, pigs, Chicken etc. The data shows in the following table.

Table 4.12: Distributions of Respondents about Taking care of livestock

S.N	Respondents	No of HHs	% of HHs
1	Male	12	20
2	Female	42	70
3	Both	6	10
	Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Above data, shows that the large proportion of females were involved taking care of livestock. Out of 60 respondents 70 percent, females were active in taking care of livestock. On the other hand only 20 percent Males are involved in taking care of livestock, Both are 10 percent involved taking care of livestock.

4.15 Energy Consumption

Energy is a kind of ladder to uplift the development of overall human beings. Energy is essential to economic and social development and

improves quality of life. Most of population that is 85 percent total population lives in rural areas in Nepal. Most of them are using fuel wood.

In our country Nepal 78 percent, people used to traditional source of energy i.e. firewood for energy purpose. Very few people use modern means of energy as LP Gas, Electricity etc.

4.15.1 Firewood Collection

In our country firewood, collection is our traditional source of energy. Most of women in our country are involved in firewood collection. Male and female both are involve in collection of firewood, but the large numbers of females are involved to firewood collection. The data shows the reality of involvement of respondents to firewood collection.

Table 4.13: Distribution of household collecting firewood

S.N	Members of HHs	No of HHs	% of HHs
1	Male	17	28.33
2	Female	34	56.66
3	Both	9	15
	Total	60	100

Source Field Survey,2011.

Above table shows that out of 60 respondents 56.66 percent females are engaged in firewood collection. On the other side only 28.33 percent male involved in collection of firewood. Male and female both are 15 percent involved in firewood collection. Therefore, it can say that female's workload is very high in household activities.

4.16 Cooking Activities

In Nepal, most of females are engaged in household chores and agriculture activities. Because of Nepali culture female have less access to education. They active only in cooking activities, taking care of children, firewood collection etc. They do all household activities but their decision power is very low in our society. The following table shows the involvement of male's female is in cooking activities.

Table 4.14: Distribution of households by cooking activities

S.N	Respondents of HHs	No of HHs	% of HHs
1	Male	15	25
2	Female	31	51.66
3	Both	14	23.33
	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows that out of 60 respondents 51.66 percent females are involved in cooking activities. Male are 25 percent and both are 23.33 percent involved in cooking activities. Here also the data shows that the female's involvement of cooking activities is high in percentage.

4.17 Keeping of Household Income

Both males and females need to have equally responsibility for household activities and they need to share equal benefits in family. Principally both are having equal rights and duties but in our society, males have dominant roles. Females have to follow their male counterparts in decision-making. Females are engaged in household activities, livestock

caring, and agriculture activities and males go outside and earn. The following table shows the clear data.

Table 4.15: Distribution of Households by Keeping of Household's Income

S.N	Respondents of HHs	No of HHs	% of HHs
1	Male	31	51.8
2	Female	16	26.6
3	Both	13	21.6
	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

The table shows that out of 60 respondents 51.8 percent income is keeping by male and 26.6 percent income keeping by female and both male and female are 21.6 percent income are keeping. It is due to the male's domination in the family as well as in society; women status of keeping income is not good

4.18 Respondents Source of Loan

Women's conditions about social, educational and cultural etc. are always affected by their economic status. If they have more or sufficient money, they can participate in every social program that leads them to upward their life style. So meet to taken loan from different social institutions i.e. Bank, community saving institutions and relatives as well. The following table shows it clearly.

Table 4.16: Distribution of Respondents Source of Loan

S.N	Source	Respondents	Percent
1	Relatives	3	30
2	Banks	5	50
3	Others	2	20
	Total	10	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

[Note: 10 of the sample household were taking loan.]

Above table, shows that most of the respondents 50 percent were taking loan by Banks. 30 percent of respondents were taking loan by relatives and 20 percent were taking loan by other sectors.

4.18.1 Purpose of Taking Loan

In the study area found different task performed by wealth. In the study area the purpose of taking loan has being categorized in different sector i.e. treatment, house expenditure, education, business and others. The following table shows the purpose of respondents taking loan.

Table 4.17: Distribution of Respondents Purpose of Taking Loan

S.N	Purpose	Respondents	Percent
1	Treatment	2	20
2	House expenditure	3	30
3	Business	1	10
4	Education	2	20
5	Others	2	20
	Total	10	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

According to the table, most of respondents 30 percent households were taking loan for household expenditure. Similarly 20/20 percent respondent were expenditure their debt in treatment, education and other sectors. Only 10 percent respondents were taking loan for business.

4.19 Family Planning

Use of family planning is essential to balance population and environment. In development countries, the food scarcity is increasing and there is a lack of power utilization of available resources. Therefore, people are attracted towards family planning. Family planning is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people. The family planning is getting popular recently to maintain the small family.

4.19.1 Knowledge of Family Planning

Out of 60 respondents, the question had asked about the knowledge of family planning. The following table shows the knowledge of family planning in the study area.

Table 4.18: Distribution of Respondents by Knowledge of Family planning

S.N	Knowledge of FP	No. of respondents	% of respondents
1	Yes	41	68
2	No	7	12
3	Not stated	12	20
	Total	60	100

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Out of 60 respondents, 68 percent gave in positive answer and 12 percent in negative answer while 20 percent respondents did not reply. They hesitated to take about FP. Therefore, they cannot react about it.

4.19.2 Use of family planning method

Above data shows that the people have knowledge about FP, method but they may not use FP method properly. Among the 60.3 Percent have knowledge about FP. The following table shows the distribution respondents who used FP device.

Table 4.19: Distribution of respondents who used FP devices

S.N	Use of FP devices	No. of Respondents	% of respondents
1	Yes	30	73
2	No	7	17
3	Not stated	4	9.75
	Total	41	100

Source : Field Survey, 2011.

Above tale shows the distribution of respondents who used FP method. Out of 41 respondents 73 percent, respondents were found using FP devices and 17 percent respondents did not use it. Among them 4percent respondent did not provide any answer about it.

4.19.3 Method of FP

On the field survey, we use two types of method of FP that is Temporary and permanent. The temporary method consists different devices of contraceptives.

Table 4.20: Distribution of family planning users by FP method

S.N	FP methods	Male	Female	Total No.	Total %
1	Temporary	3	21	24	59
2	Permanent	12	5	17	41
	Total	Total	26	41	100

Source Field Survey, 2011.

Above data, shows about the method of FP. Out of total 41 respondents who have knowledge about FP, 15 percent males are FP users, and other hand 26 percent females are used FP method. On the table, temporary method users are 3 males and 21 are females. However, permanent method users are females are 5 and males are 12.

4.20 Medical Treatment

In our country rural areas people are no easy access to basic medical facilities. With the modernization, medical science has developed lots of methods and medicine for treatment. Nevertheless, in Nepal people are doing basic facilities of medicine. They are even depending upon the traditional method of treatment of diseases. They have no money for buying medicine and use it. However, in urban areas most of the people are getting treatment with doctor due to increases in literacy and getting aware about their health. The following table shows the distribution of respondents by medical treatment.

Table 4.21: Distribution of Household by Medical Treatment

S.N	Hospital treatment	No .of HHs	% of HHs
1	Yes	49	82
2	No	11	18
	Total	60	100

Source : Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows, out of the 60 respondents 82 percent respondents provide in positive answer, only 18 percent people replied in negative answer. In the field the question was asked to the respondents that did they been to hospital for treatment? The table shown that most of the respondents were visiting to the doctor for their illness because they aware about their health and medical treatment are available in the market now a day. On the other side, still some respondents were not visiting doctor because of lack of money, lack of awareness, case of superstition etc.

4.21 Household Activities

In Nepal, more females are engaged in household activities. Females spent more time in household activities. The females are mainly engaged in cooking, livestock farming, child caring, collecting grass, washing clothes, agriculture activities, firewood collection, washing diseases etc. The following table shows the household activities of the people of Lakhanpur VDC.

Table 4.22: Distribution of respondents by HHs chores

S.N	Member of HHs	No. of HHs	Percent of HHs
1	Male	8	13
2	Female	39	65
3	Both	13	22
	Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows the household activities of respondents. Out of 60 household 13 percent male are engaged in household activities on the other hand 65 percent females are engaged in household activities and 22 percent both are engaged in HHs activities. This table shows that females involved in HHs activities are more than males.

4.22 Conclusion

Female is a wheel of a cart. Females cover more than half of the population. Even they remain centered on their traditional roles like taking care of children, active in cooking, livestock caring, collection firewood, active in agriculture and other so on. Women of Nepal have various problems which are centuries old. They suffer much superstition; they suffer work burden and depression. Very few women are luckily getting opportunity to engage in job. However, most females are surrounded by household activities.

Now a day the status of the females have been improved but it is not satisfactory. In the world as well as in Nepal, women constitute half of the total population. They are backbone of the society. Though males and females are considered equal having equal rights and responsibilities, there is gender disparity in various aspects as socio economic, political as well as decision-making process.

CHAPTER FIVE

WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Decision plays great role to enhance the social status. It plays important role in terms of people's participation in different activities. In Nepalese society, man has dominant role and female has to support their male counterparts.

Generally, involvement in family decision-making process indicates one's higher or equal status in the family. Status of women is also religiously higher in Nepal, especially in higher caste Hindu families. However, it is only in theory or it can be said that it is true to some extent, when they are in status in daughter. When they inter in the status role of daughter in law, their status is very low. In their role of daughter or daughter in law, women are not accepting as a decision maker outside the kitchen except animal care and some farm activities. When particularly at their old age, performing the role of mother or mother in law, she can take part in decision-making process.

In this chapter deals with the women's status in terms of decision making different aspects of household as well as other activities. Decision regards to purchase household things, cropping system, children education, selling surplus, household expenditure, cropping pattern, lending money, expenditure in children education, family planning, seeking treatment, business investment, buy daily necessities, buying clothes, religious work, taking loan, buy utensils, agriculture work, utilization of saving, saving and different reasons related to women's decision making process.

5.1 Decision on Purchase Household Things

It is said that male and female are equal in family and they have equal roles and responsibilities. However, males have dominance in decision-making process and other social activities. Males alone have greater contribution over the purchasing of household things and its consumption. The following table shows the decision on purchasing household things of males and females.

Table 5.1: Distribution of HHs by decision and purchasing HHs goods

S.N	Decision makers	No. of HHs	% of HHs
1	Male	38	63
2	Female	9	15
3	Both	13	22
	Total	60	100

Source :Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows the distribution on purchasing HHs goods. Out of 60 respondents male were playing a dominant role in decision on purchasing household goods. I.e. Radio, TV, Ornaments, Iron and other essential things. Out of 60 respondent female's role of purchasing of HHs, goods were showing only 15 percent, which is very low decision making power of women. However, there are 22 percent household in which both male and female holds decision. The table shows the males domination in family as well as society.

5.2 Decision on Household Expenditure

In Nepal, most of women are engaged in household activities and they spend more time for these activities. However, male played dominant role in decision on household expenditure. The table shows it clearly.

Table 5.2: Decision on HHs expenditure

S .N	Respondents	No. of HHs	% of HHs
1.	Male	38	63
2.	Female	15	25
3.	Both	7	12
	Total	60	100

Source : Field Survey , 2011.

Above table shows, among 60 respondents, male members made 63 percent decisions about HHs expenditure. Only 25 percent decision about HHs expenditure were made by female and 12 percent both respondents were involved in HHs decision .Therefore, females roles of household expenditure is very low condition.

5.3 Decision on Expenditure of Children's Education

Children are our nation's future. All children are equal in law, but many children are lack of education. According to the field survey, out o total 60 respondents male member have dominant role in decision of sent to children for school. It also showed that gender discrimination between male children and female children. They sent to their son for boarding school and daughter sent for government school. This decision also made by male to their children to go to school. The following table shows it clearly.

Table 5.3: Decision on expenditure of children's education

S.N	Decision maker	No. of HHs	% of HHs
1.	Male	32	53
2.	Female	16	27
3.	Both	12	20
	Total	60	100

Source : Field Survey , 2011.

Out of 60 respondents, male takes 53 percent decisions about expenditure of children educations. Women respondents made only 27 percent decisions. Similarly, both members made 20 percent decision. Males and females both are equally responsible for the children's future but only males' member decided in most of the cases. It may be due to the low educational status of females and their economic dependency.

5.4 Decision for Family Planning

Family planning is essential for control the rising population. However, most of the people who are uneducated and do not know about it. Most of the people in Nepal are worried about large family size, since they wanted to manage their family with higher living standard. Rising population growth decrease the quality of life of the people and resulted different kind of problems, i.e. poverty, food scarcity, illiteracy, unemployment, bad sanitation, helth hazards etc. Now days there are many types of FP for females than males, but male played dominant role in decisions to use FP methods. It has shown in following table.

Table 5.4: Decision of respondents for FP

S.N	Decision maker	No. of HHs	% of HHs
1.	Male	41	68
2.	Female	6	10
3.	Both	13	22
	Total	60	100

Source :Field Survey, 2011.

Above table, shows that the 68 percent male take decision for using FP method but only 10 percent female are involved to take decision for FP method .however, 22 percent both of them are involved in taking decision for family planning. Thus, female have lag behind to use decision about family planning method.

5.5 Decision on Treatment for Sickness

Health is very sensitive for human being and it is affects all the other activities. Now, women's health is a social issue. Improving women health and well-being improves not only their own life but also those of their children and contributes to improve household and community welfare.

Now medical science has developed many kind of medicine for treatment for diseases. The life expectancy of people has been increased due to modern medical facilities. However, females are not success to own decision about their health. They follow the permission of their husband's. The following table shows the male domination in decision for treatment.

Table 5.5: Decision on treatment for sickness

S.N	Decision maker	No of HHs	% of HHs
1.	Male	34	57
2.	Female	11	18
3.	Both	15	25
	Total	60	100

Source : Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows that the decision for treatment for sickness are done by males. Males are decided to take treatment for sickness of women. 57 percent decision are made by male but only 18 percent female are involved in decision of treatment for own sickness. However, both males and females make 25 percent decisions. Therefore, it can clearly show that females have low decision-making power for using treatment for sickness.

5.6 Decision for Cropping System

The role of women in various farming activities is crucial not only because of the number engaged but also because of the variety of agriculture activities they perform. Women participated in all farm activities required to grow food grain, vegetables, fruit and livestock farming. The following table shows the decision on cropping pattern of women.

Table 5.6: Distribution of Household by Decision on cropping pattern

S.N	Decision makers	No of HHs	% of HHs
1.	Male	13	22
2.	Female	35	58
3.	Both	12	20
	Total	60	100

Source : Field Survey , 2011.

Mostly females are engaged both in household chores as well as in agriculture activities. More females are involving in decision making about cropping pattern in agriculture. Out of 60 respondents, 58 percent of the decision for cropping pattern in agriculture were made by females, while 22 percent decision for cropping pattern were made by males. Both males and females occupy slightly lower. However in 20 percent household both males and females jointly take decision for cropping pattern.

5.7 Decision on Money Landing

Male in our society practices most of the decisions about money landing. Our society is being male-headed society. However, most o the decisions are made by males. The following table shows the situation of decision for lending money.

Table 5.7: Decision on money landing

S.N	Decision makers	NO of HHs	% of HHs
1.	Males	5	50
2.	Females	3	30
3.	Both	2	20
	Total	10	100

Source : Field Survey , 2011.

Above table shows that, out of 60 respondents, 10 respondents had provided loan to fulfill their needs. In data 50 percent male are decided to take loan and 30 percent female decided to take loan and 20 percent both male and female decided to take loan. Above data shows that males are head to take loan in our society. Males made most of the decisions religiously providing loans because males are more active in economic activities and they earn more than females.

5.8 Decision Making in Selling Surplus Food Grains/Agricultural Products

Out of the total 60 respondents, only 19 household had surplus agricultural products to sell. As regards, selling of these surplus products mostly 63 percent decisions were made by male members. Only 26 percent females decided to sell such surplus products and in some household's 11 percent, joint decisions were made in selling surplus food of the household. Since, selling activity is related to outside home and has to go to market, which is far from their residence and male dominate in this activity. Females rarely go to market to sell things. The following table shows the decision made by males and females in selling goods.

Table 5.8: Distribution of household by decision on selling surplus agricultural products

S.N	Decision makers	No of HHs	% of HHs
1.	Male	12	63
2.	Female	5	26
3.	Both	2	11
	Total	19	100

Source Field Survey, 2011.

5.9 Role of Women in Decision Making Process for other Activities

Women in our rural society there are not any fixed type of work routine for women. Being working load women cannot read easily for their livelihood age. They have to perform two-third part of total work, which occurs in the daily life. The following table shows that the role of women in decision-making process.

Table 5.9: Role of women in decision-making process

S.N	particular	Total HHs (Male)	%	Total HHs (Female)	%	Total HHs	Total Percent
1.	Buying clothes	12	20	48	80	60	100
2.	Buying utensils	2	3	58	97	60	100
3.	Religious work	25	42	35	58	60	100
4.	Buying ornaments	18	30	42	70	60	100
5.	Animal care	5	8	55	92	60	100
6.	Face social meeting	51	85	9	15	60	100
7.	Use of pewa, daijo	25	25	35	75	60	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Above table shows that, most of women have involved in kitchen related or household chores i.e. buy daily necessities, buying clothes, buying utensils etc. on the other hand most of the male have involved in decision making of some important issues i.e. religious work, buying ornaments , face social meetings etc.

5.10 Conclusions

In general, it is said, “man and women are two wheels of cart”. However, it is not practiced in behavior. The conservative tradition, illiteracy and poverty of women save their husband smoothly without any comment. However, male and female are born equally yet women are discriminated in the society since their birth. They are not treated as equally as their husband is in the family as well as in the society. Their roles and responsibilities are determined because of sex difference. Male child is respected in the family while female child does not get that opportunity as that of her brother. Females are discriminated in socio-economic sector as well as decision-making process. Male child has legal rights of paternal property while female child have not received that right.

Females have low decision-making power in every aspect of their lives. Some females have participated in decision-making process, and in some households played a leading role. In most of the cases, males have a dominant role. It is due to lack of awareness, lack of education and low socio- economic status of females in our society. Our society is male dominated and it is considered that females are the sub ordinates to males. They have to follow their male partners. They are engaged in household activities, surrounded by household activities, and surrounded by household boundaries. The findings of this study show that females have low decision-making power and they are not capable of exercising

their right and responsibilities. More or less, this situation can see in other society and all over the country.

The study above concludes to explore women's participation in decision-making process. It was found that females have low decision-making power in comparisons to their male counterparts. However, it is essential to empower women to make them able in decision-making process in the household and society as well. Unless the female's participation in decision-making has increased, their status in the family and in society will not increase. It is possible to develop the society properly with social justice in the society.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

This study analyzes the women's participation in decision-making process of Lakhanpur VDC of Jhapa district. This study based upon the primary data collected from the field survey. There are 540 households in Lakhanpur VDC. Sixty households were taken as sampled household to collect information. This study is an attempt to analyze the socio-economic status of females and their roles and participation in decision-making process. This study mainly focused upon the women's participation in decision, which taken in household as well as other social activities.

A. Socio-economic characteristics of respondents

-) Among the 60 respondents, 33 percent are males and 67 percent are females.
-) Majority of respondents are Brahman and Chhettri.
-) About 60 respondents 37 percent are illiterate and 24 percent are literate but 10 percent are under SLC, 15 percent are SLC and 8 percent are above SLC.
-) With regard to family structure, 58 percent have joint family and 42 percent household has nuclear family.
-) Among 60 respondents 3.33 percent respondents unmarried, 1.6 percent is widow/widower.
-) Majority of the respondents are 0-5 Kattha land ownership.
-) Among the total 60 households, 45 percent household is Ardha Pakki, 30 percent Pakki and 25 percent kachhi.

-) Most of the household which is 58 percent are facing the problem of food deficiency and they have fulfill their food deficiency by involving in service, 13.3 percent, business 20 percent , wage earning 23 percent etc.
-) Mostly female are involved in land cultivation 50 percent, male 24 percent and both are 26 percent.
-) Most of the females are involved to collect grass and fodder. Among them 70 percent females, 13 percent males and 16.6 percent both are involved to collect Grass and Fodder.
-) 70 percent females are involved in taking care of livestock, 56.66 percent females are involved in firewood collection and 51.66 percent females are involved in cooking activities.
-) Males control the household income. In 51.6 percent, males keep household income and 26.6 percent by females while 21.6 percent by both members.
-) About 60 respondents 10 respondents were taking loan. Among them 50 percent loan taking by banks, 30 percent loan taking by relatives and 20 percent respondents taking loan by other sectors.
-) Out of 60 respondents, 68.3 percent have the knowledge about family planning and 73 percent use contraceptives.
-) Most of the users use temporary method which 59 percent and 41 percent respondents have practiced permanent method.
-) Most of the respondents of Lakhanpur VDC, visiting to doctor for their treatment, which is 82 percent.
-) More women are involved in household activities. Among them 60 percent females, 18 percent males and 22 percent both involved in household activities.

B. women in decision-making process

In most of cases, females have low decision-making power with compared to their male counterparts. The following are the major findings with regard to participation of female's household decision-making.

-) Males have higher decision-making power for purchasing household goods (63 %) with compared to females (15%).
-) More than 63 percent decision for household expenditure is taking by males.
-) Only 25 percent females are involved in decision for household expenditure.
-) Regarding expenditure on children's education, more than half males make decision.
-) Only 27 percent females make decision about expenditure of their children.
-) Male played dominant role in decision to use family planning method. It is 68 percent and female involved in decision-making process of FP method are only 10 percent.
-) Males for sickness for treatment make 57 percent decisions while only 18 percent decision by females.
-) Higher proportion of females (58 %) is engaged in decision with regard to cropping.
-) Males are engaged in decision with regard to cropping pattern are only 22 percent.
-) There are 26 percent females decide for selling surplus production, and both are 11 percent.
-) Males take more than 50 percent decision for household expenditure.

6.2 Conclusion

In our country Nepal, most of the women are found backward than men in social, economic, educational and other aspects of life. Until now, it is found that women's education is given less priority than males. Those females who get chances for education are not able to complete their study like males. Most of women have problems of early marriage, hard working, misbehavior from their own family members, and lower status in the society. They waste their time and energy for taking care of their family member and house.

Women are known in different names like mother, sister etc, which are taken as very reputable words, but they are always treated as second class people in the society especially in under developed countries like Nepal. In the decision making process, they are given chances only in minor decision-making process. Males always take the major decision making roles. Nepalese women do not have their own identity. They always have known only by the name males. Male domination and female subordination pervades women's full life cycle.

As this study is concentrated to analyze the decision-making power of women in terms of social as well as household activities, it can be concluded that females have lower decision-making power. They have sub-ordinate role in family and in society. They are deprived of their right and responsibilities. They have lower decision-making power than their male counterparts do. In major household activities, men played a dominant role in decision-making. The females who have higher educational background and employed have higher decision-making power than merely illiterate households do.

It can also be concluded that females have low socio-economic status and thus lag behind men in household decision-making. Therefore, it is

essential to improve their ability and capacity to participate in the major decision-making process. Unless females are brought into the main stream of development process, it is impossible to develop society as well as the Nation. For this, education and empowerment play an important role. This study shows that females have to work more in household having less decision making right. They have to response their male partners' decision in most of the cases. Though they have responsibility to complete the work, they have no chance to decide for it. If there is any difficulty to complete the work, they cannot decide. At that movement, they have to ask for it with the males.

6.3 Recommendations

This study indicates the women's participation in decision-making process. This study had been carried out to analyze the women's situation in decision making in household as well as other activities. However, women's decision-making power has been increased in recent days but it is not satisfactory. Many governmental and non-governmental organizations are involving to empower the females socially as well as economically but result is not as desired. Therefore, the governments, NGO/INGOs have to work to empower and increase the potentialities of females. It is essential to implement the exciting policies and programs properly and new appropriate policies and program to enhance the capability of females.

Based on findings of the study, the following recommendations can be suggested to improve women's status and to increase their participation in decision-making process.

From the study, the necessary issues and shortcomings according to the field study and secondary information, which have been found, are recommended as followings:

-) First, we must kick out our social superstition, which is present, in our society.
-) To empower women in decision making issues women should have access over land and property.
-) The interest free loan as a micro-credit should be provided to the poor women by the government.
-) Eliminate the gender discrimination existed in the society.
-) Create awareness to the people of both genders about the women's rights.
-) Women should make aware of economical, cultural and social exploitation through the medium of the education by the government and non-government organizations.
-) To achieve better literary status of women, literary program should be implemented. Government and non-government organization should provide free and compulsory education for the females.
-) Males have to participate for household chores.
-) Bring them into mainstream of development.
-) Do not harass them for their mistake.
-) Encourage them to be involved in social activities and give them chance.
-) Make them aware of their rights and responsibilities.
-) Respect their voice in society.
-) Share the idea of females in the development activities. Women should not be bounded in household and agriculture area only.

-) Educate people i.e. increase educational status of both male and female.
-) Change the traditional values norms and customs.
-) Encourage them to decide freely.

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QUESTIONNAIRE SCHEDULE

Personal information

- a) Name: c) Age
b) Sex : Male/female
c) d) Marital status : Married/unmarried/divorced/separated
e) caste/ethnicity
g) Family structure: Nuclear/joint

Detail information:

1. Family information:

S.N	Name	Sex	Age	Education	Main Occupation	Secondary Occupation	Relation of Respondents

2. What type of your house?

- a) pakki b) Ardha pakki c) kachhi d) others

3. do you have own land.

- a) Yes b) No

4. How much land do you have? (kattha)

- a) 5 Kattha b) 5-10 Kattha c) 10-15 d) 15-20 e) 20 -25

5. Is the food production on your land sufficient for consumption for a whole year?

- a) Yes b) No

6. If No, from where do you fulfill food defect?

- a) Service b) business c) livestock
d) wage earning e) other

7. What is your marital status?

- a) Married b) unmarried c) divorced d) widow/ widower

8. What is your main source of income?

- a) Agriculture and livestock b) service business
c) wage earning d) others

9. What is your secondary source of income?

10. Do you have any business?
 a) Yes b) No
11. Who engaged in business activities?
 a) Male b) Female c) Both
12. Who decide the business?
 a) Male b) female c) both
13. Who keep the household income or money?
 a) Male b) female c) both
14. Who decide the expenditure of household?
 a) Male b) female c) both
15. Do you have given money/ loan to anybody?
 a) Yes b) No
16. If yes who decide? What is the source of loan?
 a) Male b) female c) both
 d) Relatives e) banks f) others
17. Do you have following things?
 a) Radio b) T.V c) Toilet d) Electricity e) ornaments
18. Who decide to purpose above items if you have any?
 a) Male b) female c) both
19. Who cultivate the land in your family
 a) male b) female c) both?
20. Who decide the cropping pattern?
 a) Male b) female c) both
21. Who decide in livestock farming?
 a) Male b) female c) both
18. Who looks after livestock i.e. cutting grass, collecting fodder,
 growing animals etc?
 a) Male b) female c) both
19. Do you sell surplus food, milk product, vegetables, fruits, eggs etc?
 a) Yes b) No

20. Who decide for it?
 a) Male b) female c) both
20. Have sent all your children school?
 a) Yes b) No
21. Who decide for children's education?
 a) Male b) female c) both
22. Who decide for expenditure of children's school?
 a) Male b) female c) both
23. Do you know about family planning?
 a) Yes b) No c) stated
24. If yes, what kind of method do you know?
 a) Temporary b) permanent
25. Which method do you use?
 a) Temporary b) permanent
26. If method is permanent, which method do you use? Who decide for family planning?
 a) Condom b) pills c) injection d) others
 a) Male b) female c) both
27. Who collect the firewood in your house?
 a) Male b) female c) both
28. Who decide for it?
 a) Male b) female c) both
29. Who collect the grass or fodder?
 a) Male b) female c) both
30. Who cooked the food in your house?
 a) Male b) female c) both
31. Who decide for cooked the food veracities?
 a) Male b) female c) both
32. Do you know about medical treatment?
 a) Yes b) No
33. Do you go for medical treatment?
 a) Yes b) No

- 34 Do you go to treatment for sickness?
a) Yes b) No
35. Who decide on treatment for sickness?
a) Male b) female c) both
36. Do you go to market?
a) Yes b) no
37. Who perches the goods/commodities from market?
a) Male b) female c) both
38. If yes who decide for it?
a) Male b) female c) both
39. Do you have any pewa/daijo?
a) Yes b) No
40. Who decide to use it?
a) Male b) female c) both
41. Do you engage in social activities?
a) Yes b) no
42. Who decides to go in social activities?
a) Male b) female c) both
43. Who works more in home?
a) Male b) female c) both
44. Can you decide freely in household activities?
a) Yes b) No
45. Who decide freely in household activities?
a) Male b) female c) both