

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF
WOMEN THROUGH MICROFINANCE
(A Case Study of Baijanath Rural Municipality, Banke)**

A Thesis

Submitted to the Central Department of Economics
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University
in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements

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By:

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled **SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH MICRO-FINANCE** (A Case study of Baijanath Rural Municipality Banke) has been prepared by Mr. NAGENDRA RANA CHHETRI under my guidance and supervision. I, hereby, recommended it in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS for final examination.

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APPROVAL SHEET

We certify that this thesis entitled **SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH MICRO-FINANCE** (A case study of Baijanath Rural Municipality) submitted by NAGENDRA RANA CHHETRI to the Central Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said Degree.

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DECLARATION

I, NAGENDRA RANA CHHETRI, declare that this thesis entitled **SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH MICRO-FINANCE** (A case study of Baijanath Rural Municipality, Banke) submitted to Central Department of Economics is my own original work unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged in the thesis. The thesis does not contain materials which has been accepted or submitted for any other degree at the University or other institutions. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged by reference to the author(s) or institution(s).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
TOPIC	i
RECOMMENDATION LETTER	ii
APPROVAL SHEET	iii
DECLARATION	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi-viii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	1-5
1.1 Background of the study	1-2
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study	4
1.4 Significance of the Study	4
1.5 Limitation of the Study	4-5
1.6 Organization of the Study	5
CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	6-24
2.1 Theoretical Review	6
2.1.1 Microfinance	6-7
2.1.2 History of Microfinance	8
2.1.3 Model of Microfinance	9-13
2.1.4 Principles of Microfinance	13-15
2.1.5 Social and Economic Empowerment of Women	15-18
2.2 Empirical Review	18
2.2.1 Review of Articles and Journals	18-22
2.2.2 Review of Thesis	22-24
2.2.3 Research Gap	24

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	25-27
3.1 Conceptual Framework	25
3.2 Research Design	26
3.3 Nature and Sources of Data	26
3.4 Population and Sample	26
3.5 Data Processing and Analysis	27
3.6 Data, Methodology & its Application to Justify Objectives of the Study	27
CHAPTER IV: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	28-53
4.1 An Overview of Microfinance Institutions	28
4.1.1 Mirmire Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited	28
4.1.2 NIC Asia Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited	34
4.2 Demographic Status of the Respondents	29
4.2.1 Age Structure	30
4.2.2 Educational Level	30-31
4.2.3 Marital Status	31-31
4.2.4 Family Structure	32-33
4.2.5 Family Head	33-34
4.2.6 Assets and Livelihood	34-35
4.2.7 Land Ownership	35
4.3.8 Main Profession/Occupation	35
4.2.9 Loan Status	36-37
4.3 Effect of MFP Training	37
4.3.1 Purpose of Joining MFP	38
4.3.2 Income Status	39
4.3.3 Decision Making Role in Family	40
4.3.4 Decision on Sale and Buy Livestock/Agriculture Activities	41
4.3.5 Decision for Buying Goods	42
4.3.6 Having Communication and Media	43
4.3.7 Family Relationship	43
4.3.8 Schooling of Children	44
4.3.9 Decision on Family Member's Treatments	45
4.4 House Figure of the Respondents	46
4.4.1 Nature of Toilet	46

4.4.2 Medical Treatment	47
4.4.3 Change in Sources of Drinking Water	48
4.4.4 Social Involvement	48
4.4.5 Changes in Self-Confidence	50
4.4.6 Changes in Social and Political Participation	51
4.4.7 Change in Control Over Income	52-53
CHAPTER V : SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	54-
59	
5.1 Summary	54-56
5.2 Conclusion	56-58
5.3 Recommendations	59
ANNEX-I	60-61
ANNEX-II	62-67
REFERENCES	68-71

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1: Age structure of the Respondents	30
Table 4.2: Educational Status of the Respondents	31
Table 4.3: Marital Status of the Respondents	31
Table 4.4: Family Structure of the Respondents	32
Table 4.5: Family Head of the Respondents	33
Table 4.6: Land Holding Status of the Respondents	34
Table 4.7: Land Ownership of the Respondents	35
Table 4.8: Main Profession/Occupation of the Respondents	35
Table 4.9: Loan status of the Respondents	36
Table 4.10: Purpose of Loan Taking by Respondents	36
Table 4.11 Effect of MFP Training to the Respondents	37
Table 4.12: Purpose of Joining MFP	38
Table 4.13: Monthly Income Status of the Respondents	39
Table 4.14: Decision Making Role in Family Activities	41
Table 4.15: Decision for buying goods	42
Table 4.16: Communication and Media	43
Table 4.17: Family Relationship	44
Table 4.18: Schooling of the Children	44
Table 4.19: House Figure of the Respondents	46
Table 4.20: Nature of Toilet of the Respondents	46
Table 4.21: Medical Treatment of the Respondents	47
Table 4.22: Change in Sources of Drinking Water	48
Table 4.23: Social Participation of the Respondents	56
Table 4.24: Change in Self-Confidence	50
Table 4.25: Change in Social and Political Participation	51
Table 4.26: Change in Control Over Income	52

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.1: Marital Status of the Respondents	32
Figure 4.2: Family Structure of the Respondents	33
Figure 4.3: Family Head of the Respondents	34
Figure 4.4: Purpose of Taking Loan by Respondents	37
Figure 4.5: Monthly Income of the Respondents	40
Figure 4.6: Decision on Sale and Buy Livestock/Agriculture Activities	41
Figure 4.7: Decision on Family Members Treatment	45
Figure 4.8: Social Participation of the Respondents	49

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
BIDS	:	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
Cos	:	Community Based Organizations
GB	:	Grameen Bank
IFPRI	:	International Food Research Policy Institution
MLBSL	:	Mirmire Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited
LDF	:	Local Development Fund
MFI	:	Micro Finance Institutions
MFP	:	Microfinance programme
NBL	:	Nepal Bank Limited
NRB	:	Nepal Rastra Bank
PAF	:	Poverty Alleviation Fund
PDDP	:	Participatory District Development Project
RBB	:	Rastriya Banijya Bank
SCCs	:	Saving & Credit Cooperatives
SDGs	:	Sustainable Development Goals
SFCL	:	Small Farmer Cooperative Limited
SHGs	:	Self-Help Groups
VB	:	Village Bank

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the thesis is to highlight the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women through Microfinance. The study is a descriptive study design. Many developmental activities and programs are implemented in the society but microfinance programs are strong rural based and deprived women oriented and targeted to the marginalized people. Microfinance is an effective and powerful instrument for women empowerment. Women who could gain access to microfinance services have been able to create self-employment opportunities and have been economically and socially empowered through increased income through small projects.

This thesis examined how far micro financing services positively affect the empowerment of Nepali women living in the Baijanath Rural Municipality Banke. Microfinance has a profound impact on the economic status, decision making power, knowledge and self-worthiness of women, community activities and self-help group programs. In social empowerment variables included decision making role in family, social and political participation, societies perception towards them, social awareness, awareness in health and sanitation and improvement in livelihood. This study is based on primary data through structured questionnaire to the women in Baijanath Rural Municipality. Data are analyzed by using percentage analysis as well as describe by tables and figures. Descriptive research design has used to collect the opinions and to know about behaviour of respondents by simple random sampling technique.

This study investigates the social participation improvement and decision making power of women after involvement in MFPs. The results show a positive impact on all variables. 58.18 percent women have their own land ownership, 53.64 percent involved in retail business, 45.45 percent had earn up to Rs 10,000 per month. Similarly, 23.64 percent women are access to internet facility, 48.64 percent have their own television. The effect of MFP training is very helpful which is 62.73 percent. 49.10 percent women are greatly improved their family relationship after joining MFP. The number of womens decision making on schooling of children is 53.64 percent, medical treatment is 74.45 percent. The study concludes that microfinance institutions plays a positive role on women by increasing them social well-being, access and control over their resources, consumption and investment, self-confidence, decision making ability in family as well as in society.