

**DECISION MAKING ROLE OF WOMEN IN  
HOUSEHOLD LEVEL:**

**A Case Study of Amalachaur Village of Baglung Municipality**

**A Thesis Submitted to:**

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**2018**

## RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled **A Study on Women Participation in Household Decision Making Process** has been prepared by **Rabina Sharma** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby forward this thesis to the evaluation committee for final evaluation and approval.

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Date:30-03-2018

# APPROVAL LETTER

The thesis entitled **A Study on Women Participation in Household Decision Making Process** submitted by **Rabina Sharma** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree(M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**A STUDY ON WOMEN PARTICIPATIN IN HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING PROCESS**” submitted to the office of the Dean ,faculty of management ,Tribhuvan University, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervisonof my supervisor **Mr.Umesh Acharya**.I have made acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis.The result of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes.I assure that no part of the contents of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The study was conducted to analyze the role of women participation in household decision making process in Amalachaur VDC of Baglung district. The study aims to examine the socio-economic status of women & to explore the problems of women in decision making process. Thus, this study is the key study to find out the situation of women in rural Nepalese community. This study was based on the qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The data were described on descriptive and exploratory method. This study aims to meet the target objectives with the help of primary and secondary data.*

*In the domestic sphere they are household managers, mothers and wives, in community they maintain social and cultural services, predominantly on a voluntary basis and in economy, most of them are not formally engaged as employees or entrepreneurs; they are active in family business and agriculture. Due to low access to own economic activities their economic status is low. Which directly affect the decision making process. More than 45% respondents have less than 5 ropani land and only 22% respondents have ownership of land. 29% respondents have education above SLC who are quite active in household decision making process. In fact, the women who were higher in socio-economic status had opportunity to lead their family. Also find that the female headed family or the family in which male members are outside the country women make household decision significantly.*

*The finding showed some inherent factors of decision making. Among all the respondents 27.78% respondents give first position to illiteracy, 22.22% believe poverty is the main reason to make them less decisive, similarly 25.93 % gives conservative social norms first position, and 24.07% believe lack of access & control over land and property causes their low role in decision making process. These components were the main fences for women in making decision*

*In conclusion, the study found that the status of women in Amalachaur VDC was measerable in decision making process in their family. The main causes of not getting decision making power are illiteracy, conservative social norms & values, poverty, less involvement in income generating activities. Thus the important thing to consider is educating the women and let them to involve in income generating activities. Conservative social norms and values should not be taken into practice for the betterment of the women and the society.*

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<b>CBS</b>	Central Bureau of Statistics
<b>CEDA</b>	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>UN</b>	United Nation
<b>VDC</b>	Village Development Committee
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>WSSAP</b>	Women and the Subsistence Sector, Economic Participation and Household Decision Making in Nepal
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization
<b>RD</b>	Rural Development
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>SLC</b>	School Leaving Certificate
<b>WDTW</b>	Women and Development in Third World

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Women have been significantly participating to the cultural and social development of mankind throughout the history despite their roles often been seen as secondary to those of men. Since, time immemorial female participation, whether from household viewpoint or in the out sphere have remained significant. Women played important roles in the advancement of civilization since the pre-historic period to this post modern era, but the society do not gives more value to their role. The phrase "overworked and underpaid" is a harsh but true description of women throughout the world. The socio-economic context conditions the relationship of women's individual-level characteristics to decision-making. How much they are capable and potential, their capability and potentiality are not respected if they have low status. Women have low access to resources which make them dependent and it affects their role in households as well as in society. Those women who have higher education and access economic background have higher chances on decision making.

Females are discriminated in various fields. Women have low socio-economic status as well as low decision making power. Women have to bear three responsibilities as households, reproductive and productive. However, their household roles are not consider as productive works. In the changing context of development pattern the social and public participation of women has added 4<sup>th</sup> responsibility to women. In any society the roles and responsibilities of women and men vary. Women usually have less access and control to resources and benefits due to various socio-economic constraints, this is more observed in developing countries where there is clear demarcation of rules and responsibilities and more prominently male domination's. Women, in developing countries are merely respected as their role of mother and housekeeper.

In Nepalese families, income earning was usually the responsibility of males, while the remaining family member usually women and children are economically dependent. Women had no choice but to live in this dependent condition, due to their relatively lower educational levels and fewer marketable skills, the resultant lack of available employment opportunities, and a lack of social acceptance of women earning a living.

There have been growing concerns today on women rights, their empowerment and their economic condition. The literature on women has grown with the increasing awareness that women's development is the vital for the overall development of the society. Women now have more influence than before in the world, but for all the gains they are still struggling for parity with men. Women still have fewer social options for survival other than marriage. According to culturally defined ideas getting married and producing children are the ultimate goals for women. All other options including education and employment are only secondary (Acharya, 1997). Women are involved in politics but they still do not have an equal influence in policy making. Men continue to hold the majority of the parliamentary seats and key government position throughout the world.

Socio-economic and demographic factors have a strong roles in terms of decision making power, women are not in leading roles; they are considered as second grade citizen and play subordinate role in the society. They are less comfortable in decision making field. They have low access to resources which make them dependent and it affects their role in household as well as in society. Their problem, role and responsibilities differ and cooperate in terms of their region where they live in, their education and their economic dependency upon their male counterparts

The situation of Nepalese women is no different. Nepalese women are under privileged and disadvantageous in terms of their socio-economic standing compared to their male counterparts. However, the universal declaration of Human Rights has crossed a half century along with the global call for Gender Equity. Nepalese women, who constitute even more than half of the population, are still confined within the four wall of their houses. Likewise the estimated literacy rate of men is 75.1 percent but that of women is only 57.4 percent (CBS 2012). Most literate women are situated in urban areas while majority of them live in rural areas where choice of livelihood is limited to agricultural work in fields which are mostly owned by their father, husband, brother or landlords.

Nepal is one of the poor agricultural country in the world. The majority of women in Nepal live in rural area where the choice of livelihood is limited to agricultural work on the farms which are owned in most cases either by fathers, husbands, or brothers. Only 19.74% women have ownership in house and land (Census 2012). As women do not have land in their name due to lack of other sources of income, they are dependent upon their husband or other male household head. Women have the accessibility regarding land resources but when it comes to control of benefits it is the male who still exercises the control because our society is male dominated where major decision are taken by male household head. Even women have to ask to their male partners to spend their own income also. In Nepal unequal rank and power in decision making and benefits sharing are traditional legitimized by traditional society norms.

Women are heavily engaged in domestic chores along with socio-economic activities. They have major role in household management and they have to do more than fifty percent of household work but they have low decision making power. Even in 21<sup>st</sup> century they are not enjoying equal decision making power with their male counter parts. They are discriminated since childhood. In childhood they have to live under their parents, in adulthood, they should follow their husband and in old age they are under child. They have no freedom to decide freely even their own. Very few women are economically independent and they have a little bit higher decision making power.

The economic contribution of women was substantial, but largely unnoticed because their traditional role was taken for granted. When employed, their wages normally were 25 percent less than those paid to men. In most rural areas, their employment outside the household generally was limited to planting, weeding, and harvesting. In urban areas, those migrating from rural areas or with a lower economic status were employed in domestic and traditional jobs, as well as in the government sector, mostly in low-level positions.

The needs of uplift women in Nepal were realized lately and steps to meet these needs were taken only recently. Various incentive programs and women empowerment programs have been launched. New schemes introduced to a new situation. Some of the major activities are surveying of households ,formation of groups, preparing village profiles and involving women in educational, health and income generating activities both at rural and urban areas. Efforts are made to develop women's social prestige, self confidence and feelings of equality by educating

them and aiming to set their commanding status over the society as well as their family. Constitution of Nepal (2015) guaranteed that there will be no discrimination against any citizen in the application of general laws as well as in respect of political and civil rights, on the ground of religion, race, sex. Similarly, the constitution of Nepal (2015) in Article 38-4 stipulates that “women shall have the right to participate in all bodies of the State on the basis of the principle of proportional participation.”

As a result several milestones have been passed recently on the political representation of the women. Women became the head of the state and judiciary, about 40% women were elected in local election due to allocation of percent of candidacy of women in election by political parties.

Women in Nepal are not suffering from the lack of resources but from lack of power to utilize available resources and lack of power to assert their rights. For the development of society and nation male and female should have equal opportunity for decision making process from household level to higher level of policy making, plan formulation, and implementation as well. Besides, women in Nepal work 10-13 hrs against 7.51 hrs for men (CEDA 1981) and hence there is a growing need to provide them sufficient right in decision making authority within or outside home affairs. Furthermore the importance of women's participation in household management are playing an important role for upliftment of their status in the society. Therefore this study will attempt to highlight the present role of working women (those women who are economically active, have a continual source of income and contributing economically to their family) and non-working women (house-wives) in their household decision making

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

At present Nepalese women faces many challenges in participating in decision making process where illiteracy, ignorance and civil aspects of patriarchal system are deeply rooted in Nepalese households. Most of the Nepalese women suffer from domination, exploitation, suppression, oppression, subordination and discrimination by their male counterpart. Although biology is not and should not be the destiny but in practice the male centered process of socialization continue

to reproduce these ugly relationships between men and women that make belief that biology is the destiny in Nepal.

Social patterns are being changing and most women have started to work outside, the home continues to persist even in the face of drastically changed circumstances. Traditionally, the men are bread-winner, women used to engage in unpaid labor at home in washing, cleaning, cooking, etc. She was also traditionally regarded as the person with primary responsibility for the care of elder and children. In brief, such a male centered biased, controlled process of socialization results in the homo social reproduction of existing discriminatory and exploitative relationship between men and women.

Women's representation in terms of decision making is very poor in the whole of the south Asia especially in the countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Women's participation in various level of decision making is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of equality, development and peace. Women constitute 51.5 percent of the total population of Nepal but yet their participation in various level of decision making is very less.

Discrimination towards women still exists in society and in whole country. The rural women in Nepal could not have the access to decision making process. In such case, Amalchaur VDC of Baglung district also cannot be exception. No past study had been conducted regarding women's role in household decision making process in the area. So, this study will address socio-economic condition of women, role of job holder and non job holder women in decision making, problem faced by women in decision making process in this area.

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

The specific objective of the study is to examine the role of women in household decision making. The general objectives are as follows:

1. To examine the socio-economic status of women of the study area.
2. To explore the problems of women in decision making process.



## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

In the world as well as in Nepal; women cover more than half of the total population. They are back bone of society. They have equal roles and responsibilities to make society developed. Women should be the subject and also actors of development because women have major duties to maintain at household as well as in society, if women are not treated equally in society, it is impossible to achieve sustainable development and it will certainly hinder national development. There should not be gender disparity in the society.

Number of research studies has been done on decision making process. Although Nepalese women have been empowered in paper, they have not been wholly translated into a way of life. Hence the result is that only a few women are in the decision making position.

The issue of women's participation in household decision making process is very vague issues which cannot be studied at once. This study is concentrate to analyze the situation of women in decision making process especially in household, agriculture and socio-economic sectors. This study has its own importance because it explore and examine women's actual role in household decision making which will be helpful for proper identification of women's role in household decision making, for the planners and development participation so that they can make better plans, policies and implement them to uplift the Nepalese women's status and their role in development of country.

## **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

Each and every study based on a particular field. No study can cover all the area. So, each study limited to its some limitation. This research study cover only the selected area of Amalchaur VDC Ward No.1 of Baglung district because of proximity of the researcher. The researcher is close to the informants. The researcher could easily get required information. The study has focused to females, and the sample population was only 54 households in that places with limited time framework.

The study was time bounded. The researcher had only interviewed once to the women. The situation of the women while interviewing was not considered. The psychological and physical condition of the informant might have played some interference in this study.

Similarly, the study might have some financial factors as a constraint. The researcher might not apply all tools of data collection.

The issue of women participation in household decision making process is very vague issue which cannot be studied at once. This study is concentrate to analyze the situation of women in decision making process especially in household, agriculture and socio-economic sectors. The generalization of this study can be applied for other places in same subject matter.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This section deals with how the chapters are organized hereby. Altogether this report is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction which covers general background, statement of the problem, objectives, significance, limitation and organization of the study. Similarly, the second chapter discusses the review of the related literature which incorporates conceptual review and empirical review. The third chapter deals with the methodology adopted in the study. It contains the research design, rational for the study area, nature and sources of data, sampling procedure, technique and tools of data collection and data processing and analysis. Likewise, the fourth chapter is about presentation and analysis. Lastly, the fifth chapter summarizes, concludes and provides some constructive suggestion of this study.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE**

The majority of women in Nepal live in rural area. Rural women, as elsewhere play multiple roles. In domestic sphere they are household managers, mothers and wives, in community they maintain social and cultural services, predominantly on a voluntary basis and in economy, if they are not formally engaged as employees or entrepreneurs; they are active in family business and farms. But they have low access and control over income, wealth or property, which are the main causes of their low economic status. It directly affects their decision making power.

Nepali women are daughter, wives and mother but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity. Society has neglected women to the lowest rank. Confined to the home and form their responsibilities to their maternal function they are discouraged and prevented to take part in public life (Subedi, 1993).

Women participation in household decision making is less than men. Such power to make decision is associated with ethnicity, deprivation level, urban/rural classification, education and number of living children (Kabeer, Naila 1999).

Nepalese women perform basically triple roles; that of production, reproduction and community activity. Their work in daily life generally exceeds that of their male counterparts, rural women work 10 to 14 hours daily while 8 to 10 hours by men (Adhikari, 1999).

The patriarchal family structure and religious value explains the unequal decision making power between men and women in the household. Many women in Nepal hold the view that it is in their dharma, their religions, moral duty and universal law, to be obedient, respectful and pleasing to their husbands (Bennett & Lynn 1989).

Acharya and Bennett (1981) have singled out “decision making” from the multidimensional concept of status which reflects the internal dynamic of sexual stratification within the household. They developed some model from study of eight different village communities from

different status of women in Nepal. In this model, the village were more conceived to be operating in such four spheres of subsistence activities as household domestic work, agricultural production activities, work in village labor market and local bazaar and total employment in the wider economy beyond the village.

Acharya and Bennett (1981) give a wider overview of women's status in their decision making power in household. Acharya and Bennett claim that economic factors affect women's role in decision making both directly and indirectly. If women have a greater economic participation she has a greater power of decision making. Similarly, social and demographic factors also influences the role in decision making e.g. small size of family imply higher economic participation and consequently greater decision making power for women.

(Acharya, 1997) states that conservative social custom is one of the major reason obstructing women in participating women in economic development, which result low decision making power in women's hand. On the other hand, the social conception is that only women are responsible for reproduction and upbringing of child, which 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 men is very low.

National planning commission of Nepal has summarized that there are two major quantitative indicators of women status used the relative input into two areas of decision making via farm management and involvement in local market economy and domestic activities. The commission has also analyzed that Hindu society is largely confined to non-market i.e. domestic and subsistence production, displaying a less significant role in decision making. Women's participation in the market economy has improved their status and this is more conspicuous among Tibeto-Burman communities. Including economic factor, socio-cultural, political, educational and legal factors are also important in decision making process (NPC,1992).

Kaur (1987) in a case study carried out in Haryana state, emphasizes upon to needed to give due recognition of female decision making especially in te case of home and farm affairs among the rural families. She claims that women are never found as final decision maker in many except for cases of food and nutrition of children. Ironically women are not even free to decide about participating in women's organization such as Mahila Mandals. Financial decisions are found as

solely manipulated by husbands except in few cases. She concludes saying planned, programs should be designed which support women’s potential as capable and worthy decision makers.

Kaur goes on to emphasize education and access to educational opportunities as an important factor influencing women’s input in decision making process. She observes as “educated womens are better placed as compared to their illiterate counterpart” (Kaur 1987).

Ghimire (1997) had further emphasized on the importance of female education. He had mentioned that a boy is to education as individual, but to educate a girl is to educate the whole family and society. Education is therefore essential for women and girls to become self-dependent, more productive, skillful, creative and to recognize their right place in the society and to enter the mainstream of development of the nation.

Literacy rates are much higher for urban women than rural women. Literacy rate decrease as age increases for both genders because more Nepali youth are attending school today than in the decade prior. However, regardless of geographic location or age group, men have higher literacy rates than women. Although literacy rates are increasing, men's literacy rates are still higher than women's due to unequal access to formal education and enrollment in schooling.

**Table 1: Urban-rural gender disparities in literacy**

Location	Urban			Rural		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>15 years and above</b>	65.8%	87%	75.6%	39.1%	67.2%	51.3%
<b>6 years and above</b>	75.3%	89.4%	82.5%	53.9%	73%	61.3%

*Source: CBS, 2012, National population and housing census*

UNICEF Report (1987) depicts, that women's contribution to economic and social progress is still constrained by their limited access to education and information. For a large proportion of women, the written word still finds no meaning. Many rural women who do literate however, will lose their skill because there are a 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.

Out of the total paid employees in Nepal, only 26 percent are women. Only 8.3 percent of women in the labor force are paid. Women disproportionately represent low skill occupations such as craft work and service work because of their high levels of illiteracy and few years of schooling. Families' gender stereotypes and cultural norms also shaped women's participation in labor markets (Acharya, Sushan 2014).

UN(1995). Early marriage is another serious problem that some girls must face the practice of giving away girls for marriage at the age of 10 to 14 after which they must start producing children is prevalent among certain ethnic groups.

Married women are typically more responsible for caring for their husband's parents than her own. Many Nepali women move in with their husband's parents after marriage and usually do not have say in the matter. Therefore, sons are viewed as security for their parents during old age while their wives are viewed as unpaid care takers (Acharya, Sushan 2014). To prepare for their responsibilities after marriage, sons are then more likely to be sent to school in order to earn money for the future and daughters stay at home to perform housework. Such patriarchal norms lead to less female participation in household decision making processes.

Shtri Shakti, (1995). Women's public life is culturally restricted to the degree that it is casually related to the patriarchal social system which confines them to subordinated position. Religion, ethnicity, culture, law, tradition, history and social attitudes place sever limits on women participation in public life, and also control in their private life. These factors have both shape the cultures worldview and governed individual self image, subsequently affecting the understanding and practice of development. This fact is largely evidenced by the reality that a negligible number of Nepalese women are involved in professional, management and decision making process.

Dahal (1992) summarizes the information from the status of women in Nepal (CEDA, 1981) that among high cast groups. The authority structure is male dominated , women cannot make their own decision and they have no independent source of income and property. Among the women from 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 sources of property. Out of the, among the Newa of Kirtipur women cannot make her own decision to take her sick baby even to hospital, without prior permission of the senior adult male of the family (Dahal,1992).

A study on indigenous knowledge systems and practices, with gender perspective, on resource mobilization among Magars in Tanahun District has been conducted in 2005/06. The study found that male and female have different levels of understanding about the knowledge systems. Females have been playing important role in managing resources like forest, water but their participation is not more in income generation activities than males. Women do all household works but final decision of ousehold are left to male counterparts. Opportunities and empowerment is essential for women to enable for decision making in their involved sectors. (Thapa, 2004)

Women are more apt that their husbands make decision alone than to consider that they are making decision jointly with their husbands or those they have made decision alone. Women have simply nodding approved to accepting their husbands decisions without questioning does not mean that a decisions was made jointly; simply because they express their opinion does not mean that they make a decision (Shtri Shakti,1995).

The health condition of rural women is very pathetic as very have to get busy in agriculture, fetching firewood and drinking water. They are always over burdened with work. It is recommended medically that in last before delivery takes place a women should not be involved in physically strenuous work but in Nepal a pregnant women keeps on working even up to the last day of delivery (Majupuria, 1996).

The female contribution to the overall economy, particularly in agriculture is high throughout Asia. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam

have particularly high percentages of women employed in the agricultural sector, with estimates ranging between 60 and 98 percent (FAO, 2003).

Social patterns are being changing and most women have started to outside work, the home continues to persist even in the face of drastically changed circumstances. Traditionally, the men were bread-winner; women used to engaged in unpaid labor at home in washing, cleaning, cooking, etc. She was also traditionally regarded as the person with primary responsibility for the care of children and other member. Studies demonstrate that , when both husband and wife work full time , husband and family responsibilities still fall disproportionately on the women in the situation carry the entire burden of the family. As more women work the burden of two 'jobs' are paid and one unpaid at home, which has always confronted working women, has received more media attention (ILO, 2001).

Women's economic dependence on men, mainly stemming from the fact that men earns cash incomes, contributes to their social status. The few women who earn a salary are often held in higher esteem than women who do not (Gurung, 1998).

Discrimination between male and females start in their family. Females are not included in the decision making process, and the opportunities and benefits available in the society are monopolized by males. Women's participation in socio-cultural and political activities depends upon the attitudes of their husbands/ parents/ male relatives. (UNDP, 2003)

Even where women have been successful at decision-making at the community level and at certain aspects of household decision-making, the overall control of household, land, capital and other valuable resources is still male-dominant in South Asia. The grassroots women's create space for women to come together and discuss immediate problems and to seek help. The local level organizations are more aware of local social relations and social hierarchies that determine one's access to resources. Although patriarchal views and structures oppress women all over the world, there exists a class hierarchy even among the women and not all women share identical interests. Organizing women's groups at the grassroots level has been most effective for empowering women at the local level and for bottom-up development. (Gurung, 2004)

Acharya, et.al.2010, analyze that Women's autonomy in decision making is positively associated with their age, employment and number of living children. Women from rural area and Terai



region have less autonomy in decision making in all four types of outcome measure. There is a mixed variation in women's autonomy in the development region across all outcome measures. Western women are more likely to make decision in own health care, while they are less likely to purchase daily household needs. Women's increased education is positively associated with autonomy in own health care decision making ( $p < 0.01$ ), however their more schooling (SLC and above) shows non-significance with other outcome measures. Interestingly, rich women are less likely to have autonomy to make decision in own healthcare.

A study done by (Thapa, 2004) is focused to analyze the decision-making power in women in terms of social as well as household activities. The study concludes that women have lower decision making power than their men counterparts. They have sub-ordinate role in family and in society. They are deprived from their right and responsibilities. In the major household activities, men play dominant role. The women, who have higher educational qualification and employed have a higher decision making power than merely illiterate as well as economically dependent women. The women's decision-making power is positively related to socio economic status.

Despite their tremendous contribution to food production and well-being for the household, rural women are underestimated in development strategies (Murshid and Yasmeen, 2004). Thus, the lack of access to and control over productive resources is the main factor limiting women's equal participation in economic activities, thereby hampering the human development process (Acharya, 2003)

ILO (2016) conducted a study which undertakes to demonstrate that, for substantive gender equality to be achieved, it is essential that societies recognize both women and men have a right to work and care. Gender inequalities at work can be eliminated only by neutralizing the disadvantages stemming from women's reproductive function and promoting the equal sharing of unpaid care work between women and men, and between the family and society at large.

Chowdhury et al. (2009) observed that women are good partners of the socioeconomic development of the country in general and the family in particular. They can contribute significantly to the socioeconomic upliftment of the family if proper environment with facilities can be ensured. So, it is a crucial need to study into the matter and identify the major factors which the women are acute to encounter in the process of their work.

Gender refers to the socio-cultural definition of men and women; the way societies distinguish men and women and assign them social roles. The distinction between sex and gender was introduced to deal with the general tendency to attribute women's subordination to their anatomy.

For ages it was believed that the different characteristics, roles and status accorded to women and men in society, are determined by biology i.e. they are natural, and therefore not changeable. Once this is accepted as natural, there is obviously no need to address that sex is one thing, but gender is quite another. Everyone is born male or female, and our sex is determined simply by looking at our genitalia. But every culture has its ways of valuing girls and boys by assigning them different roles, responsibilities and attributes. All the social and cultural "packing" that is done for girls and boys from birth onwards is "gendering." Each society slowly transforms a male or female into a man or a woman, into masculine and feminine, with different qualities, behavior patterns, roles, responsibilities, rights and expectations. Unlike sex, which is biological, the gender identities of women and men are psychologically and socially, which means historically and culturally determined (Bhasin, 2002).

Dangi (2003), in his study entitled "Women's Participation in their Household Management: A Case Study of Chuhandanda VDC, Terhathum District, concludes that Nepalese women still remain underprivileged as compared to their male counterparts. The study states that, in rural context, they work 17 percent extra hours than those of men in domestic and subsistence economy, however their socio-economic status remains both less recognized and more inferior in comparison to their male counterparts. The study concludes that women play a greater role in household and domestic management process but they need final approval of their household head in this process.

According to Shrestha (1994) decision making power of women may increase with an equality of participation at all levels of planning and policy making not as recipient beneficiaries, labor input contribution and consultants but as active change agent at the concerned level. It does not mean the involvement of one or two women or the wives of the leaders but the involvement of women and men in the same proportion in decision making as their proportion in the communities at large.

The study of above reference shows that the decision making of women is influenced by various factors. In Nepal, women constitute more than half of the population with low status. More women are engaged in household activities without decision making power. They have to follow their male counterparts in most of the cases. The available literature also makes it clear that there is a persisting controversy regarding women's input in decision making process.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

In this study, both descriptive and exploratory research design is used. Descriptive research design is used to understand the socio-economic status of women in Amalachaur VDC of Baglung district. On the other hand exploratory design is used to describe the collected information about the gender work distribution pattern in study area.

#### **3.2 Rational for the Selection of Study Area**

The study site is Amalachaur VDC, Ward No.1 of Baglung district. It is rural area. The main occupation of people is agriculture and some people are engaged in teaching, civil service or in small business. Women have main role to maintain the household activities.

But there has not been done any kind of study on aspects of women participation in household decision making process in this area yet. Hence this location has been chosen.

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

In this study, both primary and secondary data have been used. The primary data has been collected from the interview with targeted informants, field visit and observation. The secondary data, on the other hand collected from related books, reports, journals and different website.

#### **3.4 Sampling Procedure**

The universe of this study was women participation in household decision making process of Amalachaur VDC, Ward No.1. There are total 165 households in the study area. The household

has been selected from this area proportionately. This study is applied purposive for area selection. From total women 54 respondents were taken from different community of same Ward.

### **3.5 Technique and tools of Data Collection**

The following technique and tools of data collection have been applied in this study.

#### **3.5.1 Household Survey**

Household survey was conducted among 54 HH by developing set of questionnaire. The survey mainly covered the socio-economic information of the women, their role in household decision making process and the problem faced by them on decision making process.

#### **3.5.2 Key Informant Interview**

To explore and validate the finding, key informant interview was done. Of the key informants, two school teacher, one civil worker, two local leaders, one business women and one vice-president of women's group. They were asked about role of women in household decision making process.

#### **3.5.3 Observation**

Field visit and observation method also had been used to obtain the accurate information. This method was applicable and helpful to collect the clear and reliable information for study. Each household selected in sampling were visited and observed during the study and data had been recorded while observing household. Also, during observation get information about infrastructural development done in study area and condition of women in society. Observation has been made about the physical condition and role of women in household decision making and in interrelation with family.

### **3.6 Data Analysis and interpretation**

This study was designed and modulated as descriptive study as well as exploratory based on qualitative and quantitative data originating from primary sources. All the data and information were collected from interview, observation and field visit. Interview question are systematically organized, data and information are summarized, processed and presented in tabulation, ratio and percentage. Descriptive method was used for qualitative data analysis.

## CHAPTER IV

### DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

The data and information collected from the samples are presented, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in this chapter for obtaining the stated objectives of the study. In particular, this section includes the analysis and interpretation of various variables. This chapter as a whole has been organized in to three different aspects as below.

#### 4.1 Socio-economic status of the sampled respondents

##### 4.1.1 Age Distribution

Age is an important demographic characteristic. It determines the social status of people and it makes difference in working hours, types of work, decision making roles, social relation and responsibilities. Therefore it may influence the decision making capabilities of women. For the purpose of analysis the age of the sampled respondent are categorized into four groups which is presented in the following table:

**Table 2: Age Distribution of the respondents**

Age Group	Number	Percentage %
16-25	8	14.81
25-46	25	46.29
46-59	15	27.78
60 & above	6	11.11
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

The above table shows the age distribution of respondents for this study. The data shows that 14.81 percent women are between 16-25 years of age. 46.29 percent women belongs to 25-46 years age group. Similarly, 27.78 percent of women are between 46-59 years and 11.11 percent women are 60 & above years.

#### 4.1.2 Ethnic Composition

Nepal is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic country where there are various castes and ethnic groups. Caste is also main factor in society which plays important role in social activities. Caste is also major factor which plays important role in women's decision making process.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Ethnicity**

SN	Caste/ Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage
1	Brahmin	27	50
2	Chhetri	15	27.78
3	Dalit	12	22.22
	Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Above table shows the ethnic distribution of respondents. Out of the total 54 respondents, the Brahmin has been taken in large portion for the study because we find large number of Brahmin in that place. They cover 50% of the total respondents. 27.78% of chhetri, 22.22% of dalit, are selected for the study.

#### 4.1.3 Marital Status



Marriage is the most important factor in human life. According to Hindu tradition, marriage is compulsion for all whether man or woman. A man's life is not considered complete without a wife and a woman has also no option. Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. In Nepalese society, marriage determines the social roles and responsibilities of people. It is essential for legitimate birth of children in society. Female's role, responsibilities also increase in family after marriage. After marriage, a girl/daughter turns in to sister in law and wife. Marriage itself is not the problem, but early marriage and forced marriage are not good, which we find in this society. It affect negatively in decision making process. So, marital status of affect the role of women in decision making process.

The following table shows the marital status of respondents:

**Table 4 : Marital Status of the Respondents**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Married	45	83.34
Separated	5	9.25
Widow	4	7.41
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey, 2017*

The above table shows the marital status of the respondents. Out of the total 54 respondents, 83.34 % are married, 9.25% are separated and 7.41% are widow. Most of the respondents are married. They engaged in house hold activities after marriage. Separated woman is left by her husband after marrying another wife. Divorce rate is less in the study area.

#### **4.1.4 Educational Status**

Education is an important element of life. It plays an important role for the development of person, nation and the world as a whole. It is a principal mechanism of fulfilling an agent for awareness and change. Therefore it is crucial factor to the process of empowering both men and women. The table below shows the educational status of respondents in this study

**Table 5: Educational Level of the Respondents**

<b>Education level</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Illiterate	4	7.40
Literate	5	9.26
Primary level	8	14.81
Secondary level	12	22.22
SLC passed	9	18.52
Intermediate	9	18.52
Graduate	5	9.26
Master	2	3.71
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

The above table shows the educational status of respondents. Those who cannot read and write are kept in illiterate, they are 7.40 %. Those who can write a little and can read but do not get any formal education are kept in literate, they are 9.26%. 14.81% have primary level education, 22.22% have secondary level, 18.52% have passed SLC and no further education, 18.52% have intermediate level, 9.26% are graduated and only 3.71% have post graduation.

Illiteracy and low level of education is generally found in Dalit community. It is because this community is backward in education. They don't have consciousness of educating their daughter. This community is highly based in agriculture. Family member engage them to agriculture for better production. If they send their children to school then there would be lack of worker to work in farm. They have low economic status. So, women could not get opportunity to go to school. Some children in the village were absconded from their school and run away in labor work to earn money for fulfilling their basic needs.

Similarly, the reason behind the low level of education in women is with the view point of traditional norms and values. In Nepal, it is said that educating one's daughter is like fertilizing one's neighbor's crop. Because daughter should be sent in others home after marriage. So,

parents do not want to invest for their education because daughter cannot contribute to their parents after getting married. Other reason is lower access of higher level education in there place. Because, family do not want to send their daughter far away from home for higher education. So, there is large disparity between educational access for males and females.

#### **4.1.5 Family Structure**

Family structure also has an impact on the responsibilities of both male and female in their household activities. Nuclear family is mostly seen in urban areas where as in rural area trend to be a joint family. But now in rural area also we can found more nuclear family. Women in the nuclear family structure are more liberated then in joint family and have less responsibility. The table below shows the family structure of sampled household.

**Table 6: Family structure of the household**

<b>Family structure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Nuclear	40	74.07
Joint	14	25.93
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

The above table shows that 74.07 percentage women are in nuclear family and 25.93 percentage women are in joint family.

#### **4.1.6 Distribution of respondents by Religion**

Religion is a kind of belief or faith on gods or worshiping system by the people. There are many people having faith on different gods or system. The society exists on the beliefs on religion.

The following table below shows the distribution of respondents by religion.

**Table 7: Distribution of respondents by religion**

Religion	Number	Percentage
Hindu	47	87.3
Christian	7	12.97
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey, 2017*

Above table shows the distribution of the respondents by Religion. Among the total respondents, Hindu is the highest. 87.3% are Hindus and 12.97% are Christian. Other religion are not followed in this area.

#### **4.1.7 Occupation and source of income**

Occupation and source of income is a vital factor influencing household activities. Household in which both members earn income tend to be more affluent than the household where earning the bread for the family rests on one person. The main occupation of all respondents is agriculture but some of them have other source of income like business, service etc. The table shows the distribution of sampled household by occupation and source of income.

**Table 8: Distribution of Respondents by Occupation and Source of Income**

Occupation	No. of Household	Percentage
Agriculture & Livestock Farming	30	55.56
Business	6	11.11
Service	15	27.78
Wage-earning	3	5.56
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Out of 54 respondents 55.56% are fully depends on agriculture for their income, 11.11% have business, 27.78% service in private or government organization and 5.56% depend on wage for their income.

#### **4.1.8 Possession of Land**

Nepal is a agricultural country where more than 75% dependent upon agriculture as main occupation. Land has great contribution in agriculture and it measure the economic status of people.

The following table shows the possession of land by respondents.

**Table 9: Possession of Land by sampled Household**

<b>Land(Ropani)</b>	<b>No. of household</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
0-5	25	46.30
5-10	15	27.78
10-15	9	16.67
15+	5	9.25
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Out of total 54 household most of the household have less than 5 ropani of land, 46.3% household have 0-5 ropani, 27.78% have 5-10 ropani, 16.67% have 10-15 ropani, and only 9.25% have more than 15 ropani land. Thus, it can be concluded that most of the household are small land holding.

#### **4.2 Participation of Women in Household Decision Making Process**

In every household there are certain responsibilities for both male and female members where as it is observed that female member tend to look after the household activities and male members

on the other hand are concerned with the responsibilities outside the house i.e. to earn money. Similarly, whenever it comes to make decision the final say is from male member and the female member play only the advisory role. There are various household decision to be made that could range from small bazaar expenditure to large investment, looking after the children and other many such activities. The research thus present participation level of women in household decision making they are shown below.

#### **4.2.1 Saving of Household Income**

Income is a key factor for happy life and saving is more prominent for living happier life. Thus, each and every family needs to save. The saving is crucial to control family disputes. Similarly, the family can satisfy with the needs and necessities only if there are saving in the family. So, it is very important to save at least a bit amount from their income.

The following table shows saving of household income of the respondents

**Table 10: Saving of Household Income**

<b>Household member</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Myself	14	25.92
Male member	36	66.67
Both	4	7.41
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

The above table shows the data on saving of household income. There were 25.92% women who save household income themselves, 66.67% male save the household income and in 4% household both male and female save their household income.

#### 4.2.2 Total Authority to Mobilize Saving

Generally the female members of the house have the task to keep money but to use the money is a totally different thing. It is observed that women usually have to make permission from men to use household saving.

**Table 11: Authority to Mobilize Saving**

Household member	Number	Percentage
Yes	15	27.78
No	39	72.23
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Above table shows the authority to mobilize saving of respondents. Among them only 17.78% have authority to mobilize saving while 72.23% have no chance to mobilize saving without the permission of male members.

#### 4.2.3 Household Expenditure

Women are considered to be main initiator for the expenditures of food and clothing in both urban and rural area mostly in developing countries. The decision regarding these kind of expenditures have to be made in a daily basis in every household, which require less amount of money. Men normally leave it to their wives to make these kind of decision and do not want to be bothered by it.

The following table shows the decision maker on household expenditure in the sampled household.

**Table 12: Decision maker of household expenditure (Bazaar Purchase)**

Decision maker to purchase	Number	Percentage
Male	5	9.25
Female	40	74.07
Both	9	16.67
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Above table shows that in 9.25% house male make decision for small household purchase, in 74.07% house female make decision and in 16.67% house both male and female make decision to purchase.

#### **4.2.4 Decision Maker for Medical Treatment**

Women in most of the developing countries are quite careless or unconscious regarding their health. They are more concerned regarding the welfare of their children and husband. Moreover women in countries like Nepal do not want to spend more money on their own illness and ignore their pain for luxury of other member of the family.

The table below shows the participation of women in medical treatment of family member.

**Table 13: Decision maker for medical treatment**

Decision maker	Number	Percentage
Male	26	48.14
Female	14	25.93
Both	14	25.93
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*



Above table shows that in 48.15% household, male member make decision about medical treatment of family member, likewise in 25.93% household female make decision and in 25.93% household both male and female make treatment decision. Generally, in case of normal kind of sickness women make must decision but in medical treatment which cost high then men or both make decision.

#### 4.2.5 Family Planning

At present, rapid growth of population in developing countries is creating big problem, which caused degradation of life as well as environment.

The family planning is getting popular now to maintain the family size. People don't like to create burden having large family, so they are attracted toward family planning. Family Planning is main factor for not only controlling birth but also enhancing the standard of living of people. In developing countries the food production is low and there is no proper utilization of available resources. Therefore, use of family planning is crucial to balance and manage population and environment properly.

The table below shows the knowledge about family planning of respondents.

**Table 14: Decision maker for Family Planning**

Household decision maker		Number	Percentage
No		15	27.77
Yes	Husband	12	22.23
	Wife	27	50
	Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

The question had asked to the respondents regarding knowledge about family planning and who use family planning tools. Where 27.77 % respondents have no knowledge about family planning and 72.23% have knowledge in which 22.23 % husband use FP tools and 50% wife.

#### 4.2.6 Determination of Number of children

Family is the basic unit of the society which plays important role in building society. Family size has crucial role in decision making process. There were found that female of small family has higher responsibilities for decision making than large or joint family.

**Table 15: Decision maker of the Number of children**

Decision maker	Number	Percentage
Husband	28	51.86
Wife	6	11.11
Both	20	37.03
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Regarding the number of children husband play dominant role. Here 51.86% husband decide the number of children, 11.11% women and 37.03% make discussion and decide the number of children. In Nepalese society the number of children mainly determine with the bearing of son in the family. We find in educated family both husband and wife make decision. Generally family became large with the expectation of son.

#### 4.2.7 Registration on Government Record

Different activities of family should registered in government. The family needs to be clear about who takes responsibility on different household government registration.

**Table 16: Decision maker of Registration on Government Record**

<b>Household member</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	25	46.29
Female	10	18.52
Both	11	20.37
Other family member	8	14.82
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

House hold government registration like birth, death, migration etc should be done in time. Above table shows that, in 46.29% house husband take this responsibility, in 18.52% wife do, in 11% both do and in 14.82% other family member take this responsibility.

#### **4.2.8 Education of children**

Education is the important factor for every human being. Education of children is an important decision to be made in every household. However discrimination exists regarding girls education. Following data shows the decision maker regarding children's education.

**Table 17: Decision maker on children’s education**

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	25	46.29
Female	10	18.52
Both	19	35.19
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

The above table shows that 46.29% husband make decision on children’s education, 18.52% wife has power to make decision on children’s education and 35.19% make decision by discussion both husband and wife.

#### **4.2.9 Attending social ceremonies**

There are many festivals in Nepali society. Nepalese celebrate many social ceremonies like weddings, bratabandas and different pooja. In these ceremonies they participate, help each other and enjoy it.

Table below shows the decision maker regarding these social ceremonies i.e. who shall attend, whom to invite, preparation to be made etc.

**Table 18: Decision maker to attained / invite in social ceremonies**

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Husband	20	37.03
Wife	15	27.78
Both	5	9.25
Other family member	14	25.93
Total	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Above table shows that in 37.3% household husband make decision and participate in social ceremonies, in 27.78% wife make decision, in 9.25% both make decision and in 25.93% .

#### **4.2.10 Decision for cropping system**

Mostly females are engaged in household chores or in agricultural activities. Involvement of women is high in decision for cropping system

**Table 19: Decision makers for cropping system**

<b>Decision makers</b>	<b>No.of household</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	20	37.03
Male	8	14.82
Both	26	48.15
Total	54	100

*Source:Field survey 2017*

Out of the 54 respondents, in 37.07% HH the decision for cropping system are made by females, while in 14.82% HH decision are made by males and in 48.15 % houses decision on cropping system are made by both male and females.

It is found that female is allowed to make decision when they have to engage in physical works. All the household responsibilities, managerial roles should be completed by women but it is male who decide and instruct to do. Male members go outside to earn money. They spend most of the time outside the home. But, women are reluctant to stay within house. So, women have to decide in the absence of the husband. But it is found that if there is surplus production that men makes most of the selling decision.

#### 4.2.11 Daily Household Activities

In Nepal, more women are engaged in daily household activities while very few males are engaged in these activities. In study area also, it was found that more females engaged in daily household activities than male. Females are mainly engaged in cooking, washing, caring children & elders, cleaning, collecting fuel, welcoming & serving guest etc.

**Table 20 : Participation on Daily Household Activities**

Activities	Female	Male	Both	Other
Cooking	48	-	6	-
Washing	50	-	4	-
Cleaning house	48	-	6	-
Child caring	35	-	9	10
Collecting fuel	36	10	4	4
Animal husbandry	21	-	25	8
Hospitality	26	8	6	14

*Source: Field survey 2017*

From the above we found that most of the daily household activities are done by women. A few number of male help on these activities, it is due to the reason that the female are also job holder.

#### 4.2.12 Views towards Women’s Decision Making Role

The views regarding overall decision making role of women was explored through the interview with the respondents.

**Table 21: View towards Women’s Decision Making Role**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Land ownership	12	22.23	42	77.78
Permission for abroad	20	37.04	34	62.96
Bank account	25	46.29	29	53.71
Participation on family business	22	40.74	32	59.26
Involvement in income	15	27.78	39	72.22
Freedom for own right	6	11.11	48	88.89
Involve in social organization	30	55.56	24	44.44

*Source: Field survey 2017*

Out of the 54 respondents 12% have land ownership, 37.45% can go abroad easily by taking family permission, 46.29% have bank account, 40.74% have participation on family business, only 11.11% have freedom for their right and 55.56% involve in social organization.

### 4.3 Problem faced by women in household decision making process

The women, who are spending their time almost in household activities, are doubly exploited. Firstly their unpaid labor at home is ignored and undocumented though it is crucial for maintaining family existence. Secondly, there is no opportunity to develop their personal capacity. They cannot participate in outer activities which empower them. They even cannot make decision in which they involve. Their role in decision making process is only advisory.

The women in the study area are not much involving in decision making process. The domination of male is practiced for ages. However, the changing concept on dealing the issue of household activities, the women also lead the family and men also participate in household activities. There are some unavoidable problems faced by women in household decision making process. The women were asked about their opinion regarding the factors affecting decision making process that is presented below.

**Table 22: Factors affecting on decision making**

Influencing factors	Respondent Women	
	Number	Percentage
<b>Illiteracy</b>	15	27.78
<b>Poverty</b>	12	22.22
<b>Conservative social norms</b>	14	25.93
<b>Lack of access &amp; control over land and property</b>	13	24.07
<b>Others</b>	–	–
<b>Total</b>	54	100

*Source: Field survey 2017*



Although the factors are interlinked with each other, respondents are asked to rank these factors on their view. 27.78% respondents give first position to illiteracy, 22.22% believe poverty is the main reason to make them less decisive, similarly 25.93 % gives conservative social norms first position, and 24.07% believe lack of access & control over land and property causes their low role in decision making process.

#### **4.3.1 Illiterate**

Education is an important element of life. It plays an important role for the development of person, nation and the world as a whole. It is a principal mechanism of fulfilling an agent for awareness and change. It is one of the most effective tools for changing the livelihood. Education develops the knowledge to understand different aspects of any situation and develop the power to handle every situation effectively. And educated person can convince everyone. Similarly, it is the education that changes a person to a good socialized and cultured.

In the study area, less than 50% women are illiterate due to poverty, conservative thoughts, lack of awareness about girls education. At the age to go to school they are forced to go work in house and farm. So, women of study area are not decisive as men due to lack of education.

Women's lack of education is a serious problem. Education is the first step towards women empowerment. When women get empowered then their decision making role can be effective. They can make right decision in every moment. There is a say that educating one woman is to educate a whole family. So, women education is very important. Illiterate women cannot express themselves properly and also cannot deal with the people outside the house therefore they depend upon their husband. Due to lack of education they are unable to get income through job or if they go for work they get only low wage labor work. So, to empower women their education level must be enhanced. If their education level increased then they can get better opportunity to participate in economic activities and make their income. Which also enhance their self respect. They can make effective household decision. When a woman get empowered and plays significant role in decision making, she can change her family, communities and lastly contribute to the country's development.

### **4.3.2 Conservative Social norms and values**

Conservative social norms and values are deeply rooted in rural community. Women of the study area are less decisive than men due to the conservative socio-cultural norms and values which discriminate girls. The opinion towards girls and boys are shaped on this sphere, which take long time to change. According to conservative thought women are considered weak, dependent, home oriented and less intelligent. Since the age, in Hindu culture it is believed that the women should be in control of father in childhood, husband after marriage and even in control of son in the old age. Classic epics also teach women to give up their freedom for being ideal woman, it teach them that women should not reject the husband decision. In Nepal, women's words are considered to be half true and are not treated seriously. Men and women both accept this societal attitude. Women's passive acceptance of their limited social status has resulted gender discrimination. Many women believe that this is the way it has always been and always be. This thought, affect negatively in household decision making process.

### **4.3.3 Involvement of women in domestic activity**

Involvement of women highly in domestic activities, causing less role in decision making in the study area. Though women work 11 hours for cooking, cleaning, washing, bearing and caring of children and elders, welcoming guest and work in agriculture farm and livestock. House hold activities are crucial to run the family, society and even nation. But their labor work cannot get money in return, and also not valued as contribution to economy of the nation. Sources of income or money is the main factor to run the family in this time. In the study area, it is mostly male who go outside to involve in income generating activities to run family. As a result, they decide what to purchase, what to sell, where to educate children, from where to borrow, whom to led etc. In this way women are back in decision making process.

### **4.3.4 Lack of access and control over land and property and other resources**

Though it is clearly mentioned in constitution that women have equal right to get ancestral property but in practice we cannot found it. Government also gave 20% discount to place land in

the name of women. Due to this reason now a day women ownership on land has increasing but they are not free to use themselves without their partner permission. Women are facing problem due to lack of access and control over ancestral land and property. If they get access in property, they do not have control over that. They cannot use the property according to their will. Their lack of control over property cause less role in decision making process.

#### **4.3.5 Early marriage**

Early marriage is another problem faced by women in the study area. The girls are forced to get married in the early age. So, they have to be dominated by seniors of their family. They are no given opportunities to lead the family.

#### **4.3.6 Gender disparity**

Gender disparity is one great problem of Nepal. By nature, male and female are born equally and have equal rights in society and Nation. But society did not give equal rights to male and female on the basis of their physical appearance. In the study area, people have lack of gender awareness. Due to which people discriminate men and women considering men as strong, wise, bread winner, successor of gene, more decisive, care taker of parents, and women are consider as weak, less intelligent, home oriented, less decisive and so on. The role of women is narrowed down within the sphere of house.

#### **4.3.7 Patriarchal Society**

Nepal is a patriarchal society. So, all the social norms, values, customs, rituals are set according to the male oriented concept in the study area. They are given importance in decision making process. Large numbers of houses in study area are male headed. So, they make there decision. But, the women are given less importance in important decision making process. As a result, women of the study area are less decisive.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1 Summary

The study entitled 'Role of women in household decision making process' is the key study to find out the women's role in decision making process in Amalachaur VDC of Baglung district. This study aims to examine the socio-economic status of women and to explore the problem faced by women in decision making process.

This research study was based on the qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The data were described on descriptive and exploratory method. Both primary and secondary data are used. Data collection technique like household survey, observation and key informant interview were applied to collect primary information from the field. Total 54 samples were taken to do study. Major finding of this study are as follows:

- Among the 54 respondents majority of sample respondents are married.
- Majority of respondent are Brahmin, chhetri and dalit. And more than 80% respondents follow Hinduism.
- Respondents are from 16-60 above age group.
- Among total respondents 7.4% are totally illiterate, 45% are semi literate, 18% have passed SLC same number passed intermediate only 9.26% have bachelor and 3.52% are masters.
- With regard to family structure, 74.07% have nuclear family and 25.93% have joint family. It is found that women in joint family have to work more household chores than nuclear family.
- All 54 respondents main occupation is agriculture some have other sources also 55.56% totally depend upon agriculture, 11.11% have business, 27.78% are engage in different government & private organization and 5.56% have wage-earning.

- Large respondents are small land holding. 46.3% hold 0-5ropani, 27.78% hold 5-10 ropani, 16.67%hold 10-15 ropani and only 9.255 hold more than 15 ropani.
- 20HH suffer from food deficiency.
- All total 85% houses are pakki which was observed during field survey
- 25.92% HH female save the household income, in 66.67% male save the income and in 7.415 both male and female save the household income.
- Only 27.78% women have authority to mobilize saving while 72.07% have to take permission.
- 74.07% women can make decision on purchasing daily household needs.
- High cost medical treatment is decide by men & normal medical treatment decided by women.48.14% male, 25.93% female and 25.93%both made decision on medical treatment.
- Among 54 respondents in 51.86% male make decision on the number of children, while only 11.11% female make themselves and 37.03% both husband and wife make decision.
- The decision related to children education 46.29% HH male make decision, in 18.52% female make decision and in 35.19%HH both male and female make decision respectively.
- In 46.29%HH male make decision for government registration activities, in 18.52% female make decision, in 20.37% both male and female participate in this task and in 14.82% HH other family member take this responsibility.
- Among 54 respondents in 37.03% HH husband participate in social ceremonies, 27.78% wife, in 9.25% both participate and in 25.93% HH other family member participate in social ceremonies.
- Out of the 54 respondents 12% have land ownership, 37.45% can go abroad easily by taking family permission, 46.29% have bank account, 40.74% have participation on family business, only 11.11% have freedom for their right and 55.56% involve in social organization.

### **Miscellaneous**

- More than 70% respondents are happy with their family members and environment.

- Most of the households ( 65%) have positive thoughts on women's decision making role whereas, 25% state the objection to give decision making role to women and 10% do not have any clear view on the very topic.

## 5.2 Conclusion

As this is concentrated to analyze the role of women in household decision making process, overall it can be conclude that the females have lower role in decision making process.

Women's participation in decision making process was related to respondents age, education, income and occupation. Also the decision making role of women at household level depends on the absence or presence of husband and male guardians, educational level, family type, employment and economic condition, involvement in the organizations etc. In household decision making, the women have been playing more roles in the absence of husband rather than in the presence of husband. With the absence of male members, women's role is changing from unpaid family worker to farm managers, a phenomenon termed as "feminization of agriculture.

Among the sampled respondents, role of both male and female are found significant in decision making at most cases. These types of cases are primarily on decide number of children, children education, possession of household income.

In the economic point of view, decision making role of the women depends on the amount of money. If the decision is associated to the small amount of money then she can decide alone but if it is about large amount of money then she cannot decide alone without consulting husband. The important aspect is found that they decide in the consultation of each other for all important cases of the families. Among the sampled respondents, a very few females have more authority for decision making process or they have been playing important role in decision making at household level. They take good position in household decision making in their families. It is mostly found in case of highly educated and job holder i.e. having good economic status women. The women who are illiterate and low economic status they are seen backward in decision making process.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

First and foremost, there must be the opportunity of education to the women. It helps empowering and conferring them a greater status within the household. This educational status would earn them the household decision making power on important matter since they would then be thought capable of making effective decision by their male counterpart.

Employment opportunities should be made available to encourage women in rural areas which would encourage their economic participation and elevate their status within their respective household.

Steps should be taken to create awareness to the people about women's right; to change the traditional values, norms and customs which are against women's development. Also steps should be taken to make men and the society itself aware regarding the capabilities of women as effective decision maker on important issue as well. The male member of the family should not restrict the mobility and freedom of women to take part in income generating and community activities.

Also women's access to basic economic resources such as land and property need to be improved. It helps them to enhance their economic status which is directly proportional to decision making power of women.

Reforms should be made regarding various women related government policies and programs. The existing laws, customs regulation and practices should be abolished which are discriminatory against women to establish adequate legal protection for equal right of men and women.

In order to improve the overall socio-economic constraints logistic supports such as health care facility, credit facility, need-based training & income generating projects should be introduced for women in rural area.

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## ANNEXES-I

### QUESTIONNAIRE

#### A) General information of Respondents

- 1.Name:.....
- 2.Age:.....
- 3.Caste/Ethnicity:.....
- 4.Marital status: (a) Married (b) Unmarried  
(c) Separated (d) Widow
5. Education: (a)Illiterate (b)Literate (c)Primary (d)Lower secondary  
(e)Secondary (f)Intermediate (g)Bachelor (h)Masters
6. Religion: (a)Hindu (b)Christian (c)Buddhist
- 7.Occupation: (a)Agriculture (b)Service (c)Business  
(d)Wage earning (e)Others
8. Type of family: (a)Nuclear (b)Joint
9. Number of family member:.....

#### B) Socio Economic Status of Women in Study Area)

1. Do have you have land in your name? If yes how much do you have?  
(a) Yes..... (b) No
2. Do you have total rights to use land youreself?
3. Who is land owner of your family?  
(a)Male (b) Female (c) Both
4. How much land do you have? (in ropani)  
(a) 0-5 (b)5-10 (c) 10-15 (d)15+
5. Does the food production is sufficient for your family for one year?

(a) Yes (b) No

6. If no how do you fulfill your deficit food?

7. What is your main occupation?

8. Do you save your income?

(a) Yes (b) No

9. Do you have total authority to mobilize saving? If No, why?

(a) Yes (b) No

10. Who decide to allocate & spend the household income?

(a) Myself (b) Husband (c) Both

11. Do you save household income?

(a) Yes (b) No

12. Who decide to purchase daily goods for household?

(a) Husband (b) Myself (c) Both

13. Who take response for treatment if any member are suffering from illness?

(a) Male (b) Female (c) Both

14. Do you listen about family planning?

(a) Yes (b) No

15. Who decide it?

(a) Husband (b) Wife (c) Both

16. Who decide the number of children?

(a) Husband (b) Wife (c) Both

17. Who decide to select school for your children?

- (a) Husband            (b) Wife            (c) Both

18. Who decide about government registration?

- (a) Husband            (b) Wife            (c) Both            (d) Other family member

19. Has your family attend/ organized any social ceremonies?

- (a) Yes                    (b) No

20. Who make decision?

- (a) Myself                (b) Husband            (c) Both            (d) Other family member

21. How do you make decision about your family's daily household activities?

<b>Daily household activities</b>	<b>Female only</b>	<b>Male only</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Cooking for family</b>				
<b>Cleaning house</b>				
<b>Caring children and elder member</b>				
<b>Washing clothes for family</b>				
<b>Collecting fuel</b>				
<b>Hospitality</b>				
<b>Animal husbandry</b>				

22. Who make decision for cropping system?

- (a) Male          (b) Female          (c) Both

23. Who decide to sale surplus agricultural production ?

- (a) Husband          (b) Wife          (c) Both

24. Do you have membership of any organization?

- (a) Yes          (b) No

25. Did your family allowed you to go abroad?

- (a) Yes          (b) No

If yes from whom you should took permission?

- (a) Myself      (b) Husband      (c) other male      (d) other female      (e) whole family

26. What do you think which factors is the most affecting factor for women to make household decision? Rank the following factors.

<b>Influencing factors</b>	<b>Numbering/Ranking</b>
<b>Illiteracy</b>	
<b>Poverty</b>	
<b>Conservative social norms</b>	
<b>Lack of access &amp; control over land and property</b>	
<b>Others</b>	